

Live Wire

Manchester Community College

November 14, 2005

free



Students Can 'Opt Out' From Uncle Sam

By Marcus Hatfield, Staff Writer

Kelly Burgess, a visual fine arts major at Manchester Community College, says she gets calls from military recruiters three to four times a semester, sometimes early on Saturday mornings. It didn't take long for her to figure out how the recruiters found her.

"I assumed that MCC was responsible, because [the recruiters] had all my information," said Burgess.

In fact, MCC and every other college or university that receives federal funding, does provide students' directory information to military recruiters to comply with a controversial law known as the Solomon Amendment. Recruiters may then use this information to contact students at home about the different branches of service.

Introduced by Rep. Gerald Solomon (R-NY), the Amendment allows the U.S. Defense Department to deny federal funding to colleges if they have in place any policies that prohibit military recruitment on campus, including the refusal to provide student information to recruiters upon request. Information that the Amendment entitles recruiters to includes names, addresses, and telephone numbers, as well as levels of education and academic majors.

"I wish you could opt out, and have them stop calling," said Burgess.

In fact, students uncomfortable with the practice can do just that. A 1974 law known as the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) does require the college to provide students with the ability to opt-out. However, the Defense Department will honor "only

those student 'opt-outs' from the disclosure of directory information that are even-handedly applied to all prospective employers seeking information for recruiting purposes," according to the interpretation of the law by the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO).

"A student can request that their information be made confidential," said Lourdes Cruz, the college's registrar. But such a request would make a student's directory information inaccessible to all third parties, including not only

military recruiters, but also employers looking to hire students, said Cruz.

To opt out, students can write a letter to the registrar asking that the student's directory information be made confidential. The letter must include the student's name, social security number, address and other identifying information and the student's signature. It can then be mailed to the attention of Cruz, or hand-delivered to the registrar's office. It cannot be e-mailed or faxed and it must be an original, not a copy.

But no one at the college at any point in time is going to ask a student if they want to opt out, for fear of going against the Solomon Amendment and jeopardizing federal funds, said Cruz.

"The College has decided that students should initiate requests [for confidentiality]," said Cruz.

The college's policy about informing the student body of its right to opt out is based on AACRAO's interpretation of the Solomon Amendment. While the text of the Amendment itself does not specifically bar explicit notice to students, giving such notice could be construed as a practice which "prohibits or prevents recruiting." According to AACRAO's Guide for Recruiters and Student Records Managers, "Colleges are advised not to print an announcement concerning the Solomon Amendment in their publications."

Brandon Greg, a communications major, is among the students unaware of the Solomon Amendment and its requirement that colleges give out student information.

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National Guard Student at MCC Helps Victims of Katrina

By Tish Wilson, Editor-in-Chief

Manchester Community College student and Airman 1st Class Ronald Miles put his life on hold because victims in the Gulf Coast region affected by hurricane Katrina needed his help.

Miles, who is a full-time member of the Connecticut Air National Guard's 103rd Security Forces Squadron, said he followed the path of Katrina from the first day it entered the Gulf. And later, when Katrina had departed, leaving cities like New Orleans and Biloxi, Miss., devastated and in need of help, he knew the Guard could get called on.

"My unit didn't get called right away," said Miles. "But I knew we were going to get asked. I had my mind set before I got the call. I told my family if I get the call and they ask us to go, I'm going."

Within a week after that conversation with his family, Miles' unit got the call from their supervisor asking for volunteers willing to travel to the devastated region. Miles, who is majoring in criminal justice at MCC, said his teachers understood his mission and wished him well.

"A lot of my teachers said 'Good luck, be safe, come meet with me when you get back and we'll discuss what's going on,'" he said.

Miles, 19, of South Windham became interested in public service at the age of 15. He said the aftermath of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, coupled with the heroic efforts of one of his father's friends, a New York City firefighter, inspired him to serve others.

"His company was one of the first on the

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MCC News

Annual Global Issues Conference Covers Scotland

By Amy Kendall, Layout Artist

Four experts from Scotland gave attendees of the 19th Annual Global Issues Conference an overview of the country and its importance to the global community at Manchester Community College last month.

Several hundred MCC faculty, staff and students, as well as members of the public, gathered at the SBM Charitable Foundation Auditorium on Oct. 22.

After opening comments from MCC President Dr. Jonathan M. Daube, Lord Rodger of Earlsferry, who was just Alan Rodger until he was designated a baron in 1992, discussed "Scots Law in a Time of Legal Globalization." Educated at the Universities of Glasgow and Oxford, he has published on the topics of Roman and Scottish law. Lord Rodger is one of two Scottish judges who sit as members of the House of Lords to adjudicate cases that come before it, similar to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The three other speakers were Thomas Devine, a research professor in Irish and Scottish Studies at the University of Aberdeen and director of the Centre for Irish and Scottish Studies, Sir Russell Hillhouse, who was until his retirement in 1998, head of the Scottish Office, the department then responsible for most of Scotland's internal affairs and the Very Reverend Professor Iain Torrance, who discussed the history of the Church of Scotland. Torrance has been president of Princeton Theological Seminary, a professional and graduate school of the Presbyterian Church, since April 2004. He is also a chaplain to Her Majesty the Queen in Scotland.

The forum also featured an authentic Scottish luncheon served in the Cheney Dining Room.

Campus Briefs

Manchester Community College has a new home page. The site was created by the college's Webmaster T.J. Szewczak. Students can register for classes or search the site for information on campus clubs and future MCC events. The address is www.mcc.commnet.edu.

The Cultural Programs Committee is seeking proposals from the college community for diverse programs aimed at enriching the cultural experience of students. The CPC meets every third Thursday of the month. For questions about the committee or on submitting a proposal contact K. Umesh Vig, Assistant Dean of Students, at 860-512-3204 or by e-mail at uvig@mcc.commnet.edu

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) meets every Tuesday and Thursday from 11 a.m. until noon. MCC students, staff and faculty are welcome. Meetings are held in the Room D229 of the AST. BYOLC - bring your own lunch and coffee. No meetings will be held during the holiday break and when the college is closed.

The Student Senate invites all students to attend up coming meetings. Meetings will be held on Wednesdays, from 5-6:30 p.m. on Dec. 4, in the room A108 in the LRC. The executive board will meet on Wednesdays, from 1-1:30 p.m. on Nov. 30 and Dec. 7 in the Student Senate Office, room L-154k in the Lowe building. Student Senate office hours are 11:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays.

The Cultural Diversity Festival is coming up, and volunteers are needed to join the planning committee for the Spring 2006

festival. Anyone who is interested can contact Joe Mesquita of Minority Student Programs and International Student Services at 860-512-3205.

The Criminal Justice Club is planning a trip to New Orleans in January to help Habitat for Humanity build or rebuild the home of a police officer in the area. In order to fund this trip the club will be holding fundraisers throughout the rest of the fall semester. The first fundraiser will be a bake sale on **Nov. 9**. For more information on upcoming fundraisers contact Sarah at 860-960-0844 or visit MccCriminaljustice@yahoo.com.

The International Association of Administrative Professionals, student chapter, is collecting no-longer used wireless cell phones and accessories from any service provider, in any condition for donation to "Hope Line," a program of Verizon Wireless that puts wireless services and equipment to work assisting the victims of domestic violence. Drop boxes for old phones are located in the MCC Library and the Admissions office from Nov. 1 through Nov. 22. For more information contact Kathy Grove at 860-512-3262 or Donna DeMarco at 860-512-2644.

Keyboardist Brian Culbertson will be performing in the SBM Charitable Auditorium Friday, Dec. 30. Culbertson, a songwriter, has released eight albums, including his latest "It's On Tonight," which is currently number two on the smooth jazz charts. The show will also feature saxophone player Eric Darius. To order tickets to the show go to www.jumpstartjazz.com.

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8th Annual Empty Bowls Project Raises Money for Food Share

By Crystal Tuttle, Staff Writer

The day was rainy and chilly, but inside the Cheney Dining Hall people were bustling about, chatting and eating delicious soup at the 8th Annual Empty Bowls Project event at Manchester Community College last month.

The project, which is run by the Food Share food pantry of Hartford, offers a simple way for people to donate to charity. The idea is simple: attendees purchase a bowl that was handcrafted at one of many potteries around the state and receive an unlimited amount of soup made and donated by area restaurants. All of the proceeds go directly to Food Share, which in turn distributes food to shelters, food pantries, and soup kitchens across the greater Hartford area.

"Some people pay \$50 for a bowl, eat their soup, and hand back the bowl saying, wash it and use it for next year," said Jeff Heidtman, CEO

of Fuss & O'Neill, a co-sponsor of the Oct. 15 event.

From potato to butternut apple, there was a soup to suit the taste of everyone. About \$10 thousand to \$15 thousand is raised each year by the event, said Heidtman.

Sue Ruggiero, of Andover, has been attending the event with her sister for four years.

"I like the variety of soups available, and I am happy it goes to a good cause," Ruggiero said. "It's a plus that I get to try soups I normally wouldn't have."

The bowls for the project were provided by several potteries, including Rusty Kiln, Greenleaf Pottery, Birch Mountain Potters, and MCC students.

"The most fun is picking out the bowl," said Barbara Andriks of South Windsor.



Karen Grava, director of public relations at the University of Connecticut, spoke to students in the Fireside Common on Oct. 13. (Photo by Keith Rugar)



Hartford Courant columnist Jim Shea spoke to faculty and students Oct. 27 in the Fireside Commons about his experiences at the newspaper. (Photo by Keith Rugar)

Speakers Forum Features Local Journalists

By Keith Rugar, Assistant Editor

Two area journalism professionals discussed their challenges and experiences with students during the "Journalism in the 21st Century Speakers Forum" at Manchester Community College last month.

The forum, sponsored by The Live Wire, featured Karen Grava, manager of media communications at the University of Connecticut, and Jim Shea, who is a columnist for The Hartford Courant. Grava appeared on Oct. 13, followed by Shea on Oct. 27.

Grava's presentation, titled "A Day in the life of a PR Person," brought her experiences as a journalist and public relations professional to MCC.

Grava began working as a writer and editor for newspapers in New Jersey and Colorado, before leaving the field of work to further her education at UCONN, where she became the editor of the college newspaper. In 1985, she was named as the first head of Institutional Relations at the university.

"I put issues into perspective," Grava said of her job.

When an issue pops up, like the problems surrounding the UCONN 2000 construction project or the arrest of two men's basketball team players for stealing laptop computers from dorms, Grava said it is her job, "to gather all of the facts. My main responsibilities are to write speeches for administrators, and write and distribute press releases to local media outlets."

"I am a bridge builder between business and the public," Grava added. "It is important for me to know how the media functions. I have to know who the reporters are, what they covered, and how they covered it."

For students interested in following her path, Grava had several suggestions.

"Good writing is important in public relations, and be objective," she said. "Any kind of reading helps with your writing. I'm a books-on-tape fanatic, but I read a lot too."

In contrast to Grava, whose job does not often involve humor, columnist Shea gets to write a humorous piece once a week. At MCC, he presented his outlook on humor, writing and life.

"The one thing about humor is you can't let it get away from you," he said. "There is a timing to humor, and sometimes you can get the timing right, but it's just not funny."

Shea, who grew up in Waterbury, received a bachelor's degree in political science from a college in South Dakota. His career path at the time was a long way from being a columnist.

"When I returned from college I got many odd jobs, including a stint as an insurance agent," said Shea. "It was at this time that I decided to become a journalist."

Shea said his first job as a reporter was at The Bristol Press.

"At The Press, I covered local news around town, he said, "this is where the journalism bug bit me."

Shea worked for two years in Bristol, before going to the Courant. For 17 years, Shea worked as a sports reporter and editor. It was not until the late 1990's that he started writing his humor column for the features section.

In his columns, Shea covers everything from politics to the Boston Red Sox. Even though he uses humor, he said he still receives angry e-mails from people who don't think he is funny.

"In 2000, I received 250 e-mails after a column in which I said, people

in New Hampshire were stupid for voting for [President] George W. Bush," he said.

Shea, who said he considers himself to be an old-fashioned writer, said he often writes by longhand on a legal pad. Shea emphasized the importance of revising copy.

"I'll rewrite a column 30 times before I'll hand in the final copy," he said.

He also had advice for students.

"The key to being a good journalist is to know a little bit about everything, and read newspapers," he said.

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Ambassador Program Pays Off for Students and Manchester Community College

By Donnie Kendall, Staff Writer

If you think back to your first experience at Manchester Community College, you probably think about convocation and new student orientation. But your first real introduction to the school, aside from the bagpipes, was probably from a group of student volunteers known as MCC Student Ambassadors. A perky and outgoing group, they all share a dedication to the school.

The Program was originally thought of by Assistant to Dean of Students K. Umesh Vig and began in the fall of 2004. The first group of ambassadors volunteered for the love of MCC and to help ease new students' transition to the college. At the time, the program did not have any money to pay the ambassadors for their time. But Rae Strickland, an assistant professor, requested funding for the program from the MCC Foundation. The proposal was defended by Dean of Institutional Development Lillian Ortiz. All of

their hard work paid off and MCC Ambassadors now receive a \$200.00 scholarship for each semester they spend with the program.

The MCC Ambassador program has several requirements, but the most important is dedication and a willingness to succeed, said Vig.

"We have a GPA requirement of 2.7," Vig said, "but the most important thing is that they're trying hard and want to succeed. If someone has a slightly lower GPA but is working a full time job, taking care of a family, or has some other unusual circumstance I will work with them. We want to give everyone a chance to be successful."

The program requires a time commitment of 20 hours per semester, but students regularly work 40 or more hours per semester to make sure everything is done correctly, often starting weeks before the new student orientation, said Vig.

The greatest requirements to join the MCC Ambassador Program are a love of MCC and

a willingness to share it with new and potential students.

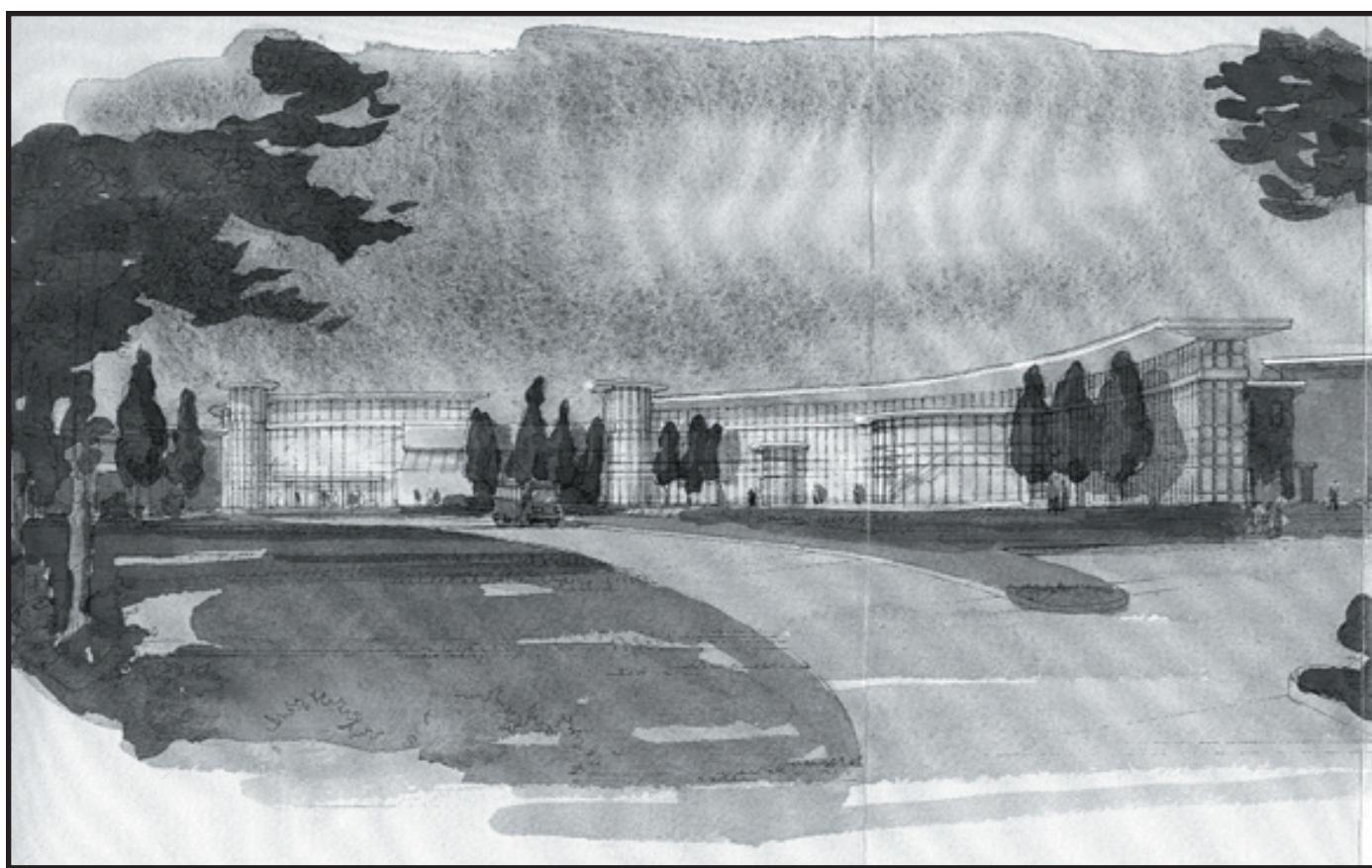
Daniellia Levy said that the two best things about being an ambassador are "working with the new students and introducing them to MCC," and working with the diverse group of other MCC Ambassadors.

Ambassadors volunteer all over campus, doing everything from working with the admissions staff to staffing tables at new student orientation to giving campus tours to new and potential students.

Eli Arzola, who has been an ambassador since the spring of 2005, is graduating in May.

"I'm really excited," he said, "but I'm going to miss being an ambassador."

For more information on the program or an application visit Room L287. Completed applications for the next school year are due by Friday, Nov. 25.



Great Path Academy Building Project Progresses

By Kayla McNickle, Staff Writer

Great Path Academy is in the midst of planning a \$28 million expansion that will give the magnet high school its own building by the fall of 2008.

The new facility, which would be constructed next to the Lowe Building, has been designed by architectural firm Tai Soo Kim Partners of Hartford. The new facility will be 75,000 square feet

and will feature computer and science labs, as well as a full size gymnasium.

Several changes will also be made to the existing MCC cafeteria in order to accommodate Great Path students.

According to GPA officials, Great Path will be able to increase its enrollment once the

new building is completed. Currently, about 85 students from Tolland, Hartford, Coventry, Ellington, East Hartford, Bolton, Manchester and Glastonbury attend the magnet school. But once the building is completed, it is projected that 325 students will be able to attend and enrollment will also be opened up to other towns, including Wethersfield, Andover, and Hebron. To help with the jump in the student body, Great Path plans on hiring three new teachers in each academic department once construction is completed.

Great Path's search for an architectural firm began in September of 2004. From the original 15 to 20 candidates, TSKP was chosen. Tai Soo Kim has won more than 35 international awards and competitions. Some of the firms most

noteworthy projects are the 21-acre U.S. Embassy compound in Tunisia, Africa, built in 2002, the 145,000 square foot Gray Cultural Center at the University of Hartford, and the 16-acre Learning Corridor campus in Hartford.

"The project requires a design approach that will result in a both a distinct identity for the Academy within the campus environment and a full integration into the life of the college, goals that are seemingly in conflict," said Whit Iglehart, a partner in the firm and GPA project director. "We look forward to exploring the opportunities for an architecture that supports the mission, while building upon the fabric of the existing campus."

Ground is scheduled to be broken on the project in 2006.

Communitas Helps Level MCC for the Disabled

By Sarah LaRocque, Staff Writer

Aspiring to become a writer, a woman with a disability has finally made her dream come true, thanks to a special organization.

Cathy Ludlam, 43, of Manchester, dreamed of writing a book and was unsuccessful because of her physical disability until one day she found the help she needed through Communitas, an organization at Manchester Community College that works with people with disabilities.

Partnering with this organization, Ludlam revised the book "One Candle Power," based on the series created by Communitas. The book illustrates the seven principles that enhance the lives of people with disabilities and their communities.

"I loved their [Communitas'] work and their approach, and I was able to move out and live on my own rather than living in a nursing home," Ludlam said. "I owe them a great debt."

Ludlam was born with spinal muscular atrophy, which has left her unable to use her hands and dependent on a wheelchair. She struggled with trying to live an independent life for several years before finding the support she needed at Communitas.

Communitas, established in 1988, is a non-profit organization housed at MCC. The people of Communitas highlight the abilities and contributions made by people with disabilities in the local communities surrounding Manchester. According to their mission statement, their goal is to "work with communities, agencies, and individuals in hoping to shift the perception from disabilities to abilities."

George Ducharme, current director of the group, and Pat Beeman are co-founders.

"My colleagues and I decided to [form] Communitas to focus our attention on the area of eliminating negative attitudes concerning people with disabilities," Ducharme said. "We wanted to focus attention on the gifts people with disabilities bring when fully included in community life."

Communitas is one of several organizations at MCC working with people with disabilities. The MCC Institute on Disability and Community Inclusion, was established by Ducharme in 1992 and is aimed at eliminating negative attitudes toward people with disabilities. The Institute plans and conducts seminars, a visiting scholar program, internships and scholarships, and other activities consistent with the mission of MCC and the philosophy of community inclusion of children and adults with disabilities.



Cathy Ludlam (photo courtesy of <http://inclusion.com/bkonecandlepower.com>)

"We walk with people, not work with people," Ducharme said, "helping them to make their dreams and ideas possible."

Communitas and The MCC Institute on Disability and Community Inclusion work with The Disability Specialist Program. Eileen Furey coordinates the program and is also an associate professor.

"MCC is the only one with a program [like this] in community colleges," Furey said, "It's been around forever, though."

The Disability Specialist Program offers an opportunity for students at the college who want a career working with people with disabilities to get their associate's degree or certificate in the disability field. Furey said students could pursue a course of study that will prepare them to assist children and adults toward the goals of community inclusion.

"They learn to make a difference in peoples' lives," Furey said.

All of these programs at MCC and in the surrounding communities come together as one to work with the disabled community. These programs and organizations were established in accordance to the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, which prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities and requires that workplaces and public transportation be accessible to them. This allows them to have a "right to a level playing field," Furey said.

Ludlam, a graduate of Central Connecticut State University with a bachelor's degree in English, lives in a Manchester housing development consisting

of both people with and without disabilities. She works as a consultant helping people with disabilities live more independently and does similar work at Communitas.

For more information about Communitas contact Ducharme at 860-512-2789; for The Disability Specialist Program contact Furey at 860-512-2792. For general information about services for students with disabilities at MCC contact Gail Hammond at 860-512-3325 or 860-512-3332.

Seven Principles that outline the work of the people of Communitas:

1. We celebrate developing good leaders rather than administrators.
2. We find capacities where others see disability.
3. We plan a positive future for individuals where others see no future.
4. We build Circles of Support with friends and families.
5. We build bridges into community life.
6. We start small - one step, one person, at a time.
7. And when necessary, we help change bureaucratic systems.

Coconut Tiger Prawn Curry

2 garlic cloves
1/2-inch peeled fresh gingerroot
3 fresh hot green chilies, serrano (use less if you want less hot)
2 1/2 cups thinly sliced onion
1/4 cup vegetable oil
1 1/2 tablespoons ground coriander
1 teaspoon ground cumin
1 teaspoon turmeric
1 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/8 teaspoon ground cloves
1 (14 - ounce) can unsweetened coconut milk
2 pounds jumbo tiger prawns or jumbo shrimp (about 24) shelled and deveined

Mince garlic and gingerroot. Finely chop chilies. In a deep 12-inch heavy skillet cook onions in oil over moderate heat, stirring occasionally, until edges are browned. Add garlic, gingerroot, chilies, and remaining ingredients except coconut milk and prawns or shrimp and cook over moderately low heat, stirring occasionally, 8 minutes. Stir in coconut milk and remove skillet from heat. Sauce may be made days ahead and cooled completely before being chilled, covered. Shell prawns or shrimp, leaving tails and first shell segments intact, and devein if desired. Bring sauce to a boil, stirring. Add prawns or shrimp and simmer, uncovered, stirring occasionally, until just cooked through, 3 to 5 minutes.

Note: if you are short on time or don't like shelling seafood, buy cooked, frozen shelled shrimp found in your grocer's freezer.

(recipe courtesy of Gourmet Magazine, found on www.foodnetwork.com)

Serves: 6

Editorials

Federal Military Recruitment Policy Invades Privacy

By Tish Wilson, Editor-in-Chief

As the editor of our paper, the Live Wire, this is my first official leadership position. I am learning daily that with leadership comes a great deal of responsibility. This responsibility should be taken seriously because, as a leader, I have the power to influence people. This statement does not discount the fact that every person has a responsibility to take care of himself or herself and to also be productive citizens and positive role models. But with leadership comes a greater responsibility. As the editor of this exceptional newspaper, my responsibility is to the readers. I made this statement in our Oct. 18 issue. I have restated it because I hold it of very high importance.

Now, you may be thinking, where is this editorial coming from and/or where is it going? Good questions, because I am getting to that right now.

I knew a story had to be written when I learned that military recruiters obtain information about students under the Solomon Amendment without their knowledge (See story on Page 1). It disturbed me to know that, by law, the college is not allowed to promote the fact that students' may "opt out" from

being on these lists because federal funding, which helps pay for scholarships, among other things, could be taken away.

As citizens of this great country, it is their right to choose if their name should be on lists or not. News outlets have reported on government "Do not call lists." Our government even has a national Web site for citizens to "opt out" from being solicited. Why is the law so secretive about disclosing the "opt out" policy to students? As citizens we have a right to personal privacy.

Military recruiters' duty to solicit new recruits is a job, just like any other job. This process reminds me of a marketing strategy: companies obtain consumer lists so their telemarketers can sell, sell, sell! Like telemarketers attempt to sell a product, recruiters attempt to sell enlistment in the military. The military is a business in a sense that they have enlistment goals just as a company has sales and profit goals. But infringement of personal privacy should not be a means to an end.

Even large companies, such as American Express and Citibank, send customers information about their privacy policies, a notice that informs their customers of the company's privacy practices, including to whom they may

disclose your information. Then they allow customers to "opt out."

My question, then, is why does the government limit the information that colleges may provide to their customers, the students, about guarding their privacy?

We must critically evaluate the practices and behavior of those in high positions. If left unchecked, they will believe they are above the law. Just look at the current situation in the White House: the vice president's Chief of Staff Lewis "Scooter" Libby has been indicted and there's an ongoing probe into Deputy White House Chief of Staff Karl Rove's alleged role in the criminal leak investigation of an undercover CIA agent. This, at the highest levels, proves that we must consciously consider our leaders' roles and motivations.

On a different note, I'd like to pay tribute to Rosa Parks for her calm and steady strength. Through her strength and the unification of an entire people, formal equality was birthed not only in the American south, but also across the nation. Words cannot express my gratitude for the debt she paid for my equality. Thank you, Mrs. Parks.

Letter to the Editor: The "Tower Café" Not Up to My Standards

Every Wednesday at 5 p.m., I walk into the AST Tower Café ready for a meal. Since I have been working all day, I am hungry. It's a little cold outside and I'm on a diet, so maybe I will get a soup and salad. I see the signs for Chili or Cream of Mushroom soup.

"Mmm, Cream of Mushroom, my favorite," I think to myself.

"Can I help you?" asks the server behind the Tower Café counter.

"I'll have a bowl of Cream of Mushroom soup, please."

"We are all out of soup," he says. Then I get a look like I'm inconveniencing the café staff by even asking. Sorry, I thought serving customers was your job.

"Ok, I will have a salad, Chicken Caesar, please," I say.

"We're all out of that," the server says.

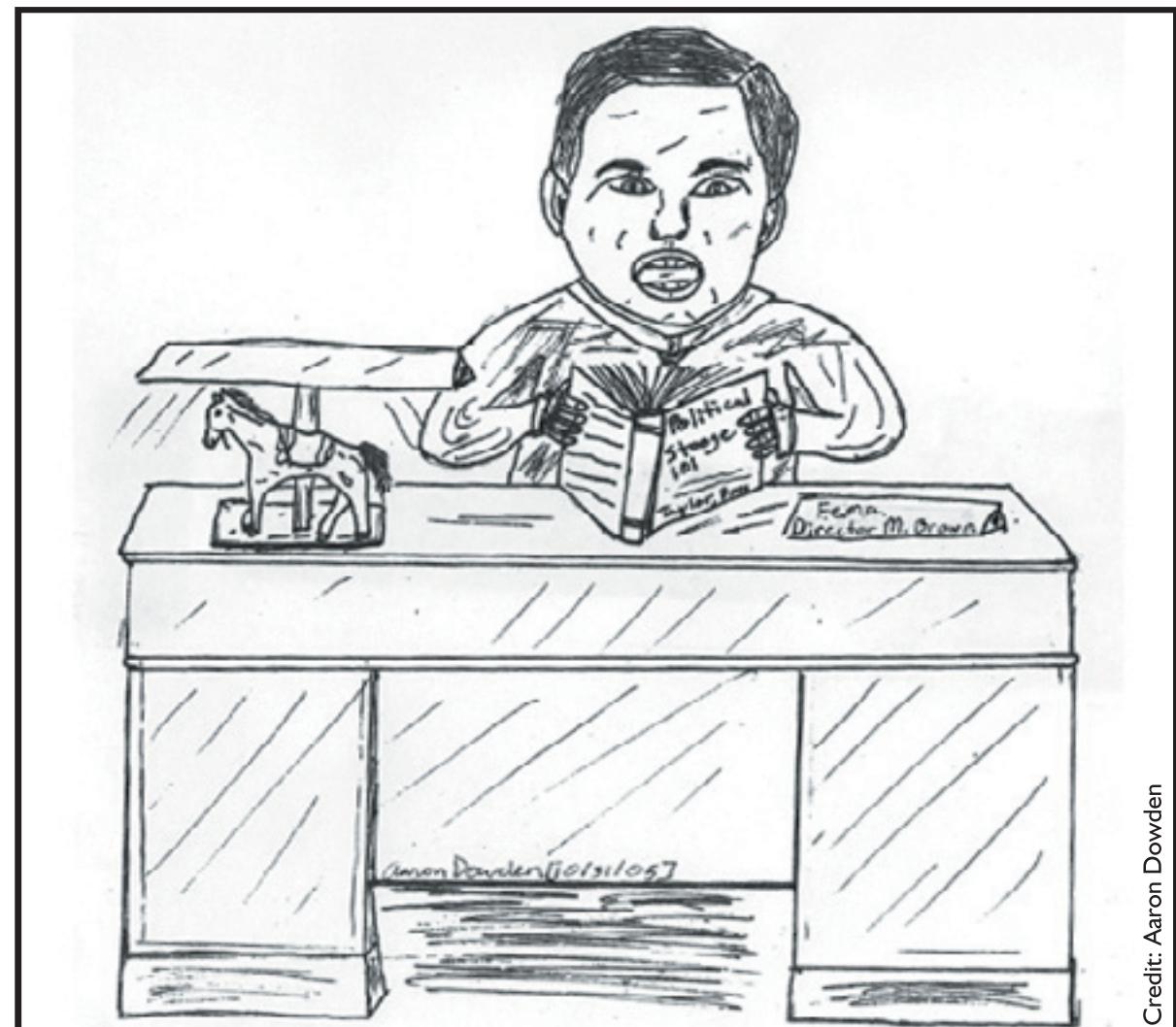
Now tell me, have you ever gone to McDonalds and they were out of hamburgers or to Dunkin' Donuts and they were out of coffee? This is a place of business. Items on the menu should not be in short supply. Please correct me if I'm wrong.

I do have credentials to discuss this. I have been in the restaurant business since I was 16 and was a manager of a pizza and grinder shop for a year. I would never run out of stock.

Back at the Tower Café, I think it looks like I will have to go with a sandwich. "Roast Beef on 12 grain bread, please," I say.

"We are all out of bread. All we have is wraps."

OUT OF BREAD! I didn't know that I was in my kitchen at the end of the week when there is no food left. I'm at a place of business, a deli for that matter, or whatever you want to call this nonsense.



Credit: Aaron Dowden

Unfortunately the book said nothing about hurricanes.

So I guess I really have no choice. I'm as hungry as a bird in the winter and there goes my diet, since wraps are very high in fat. Then, as if this should have happened, the lady doesn't even put a pickle on my plate. You know why? THEY'RE ALL OUT! And a pickle is supposed to come with the meal! I'm forced to get chips.

But enough about the food. How about the help? One server is wearing a uniform, the other is wearing street clothes. Sometimes they use two gloves to make your sandwich, sometimes just one.

In my experience, there is one server who actually cares about the customer; the rest of the staff would rather just stand there and pretend as if they are working hard. Then they give people looks of exasperation. When you want to order food, you're inconveniencing them.

Maybe next time, I'll just go off campus and down the street to Subway. I'm sure they won't be out of bread and salads.

By Matthew Gileau, MCC Student

Pro: A Step Towards Equality

By Amy Kendall, Layout Artist

Imagine that a loved one lies dying in the hospital and you are not allowed to see them. Imagine that the mother of your children dies and you're left with no legal rights to care for them. Imagine that, even though you work hard for your employer, you can't add the person who shares your life on your insurance in order to get them life-saving medical treatment.

These are among the rights that same-sex couples gained on Oct. 1, when Connecticut became the second state in the U.S. to recognize same-sex civil unions, and the first to do so through legislation and not by a court order. A little recognized fact about this legislation is that it also defines marriage as "the union of one man and one woman."

Civil unions give same-sex couples the rights of marriage under state law, including hospital visitation, inheritance, worker's compensation and family leave and the right to own a house jointly. However, the unions of these couples are not recognized federally, so other marriage rights, like joint income tax forms and some health insurance rights are still unavailable.

While this is a step in the right direction, in my opinion it is only that: a step. Same-sex couples deserve the same rights enjoyed by any other married couple. It wasn't so long ago that there were other restrictions on marriage, like a prohibition against interracial marriages. Furthermore, whether it is a same-sex union or a same-sex marriage, these people deserve to be recognized in every state.



Rosie O'Donnell embraces partner Kelli Carpenter after their wedding at San Francisco's city hall in February 2004. (Photo courtesy of google images.)

The Constitution guarantees, in Article Four, Section 1, that all states must give recognition to the laws and judicial decrees rendered in other states. As an example, if a couple is married in California, they are legally married in any other state. This applies to marriage; it applies to divorce, and it should apply to civil unions.

If you're against same-sex couples enjoying their rights as Americans, ask yourself why? Do you have a religious aversion to same-sex couples? If so, while I respect your right to whatever religious beliefs you wish to hold, this country is based on the separation of church and state. A citizen's rights should not be trampled on by any religion's dogma.

Do you feel same-sex couples are out to destroy families? This one always confuses me.

How does a stable couple who loves and cares for their children destroy anything, regardless of orientation? It would be better for children to be in a family with traditional parents who hate each other, abuse their children, or neglect them? I have to disagree.

In 1896's *Plessy v. Ferguson*, the Supreme Court decided it was acceptable for some people to be treated differently because they were different than the people making the laws, that is to say, white. In 1954, the Supreme Court struck down this idea of "separate but equal" in *Brown v. Board of Education*.

It is 2005, and it is time for America to realize that equality must extend to *all* Americans, not just the citizens whose lifestyle you agree with.

Con: Mommy, Why Do You Look Like Daddy?

By Eric Hahn, Business Manager



Above is the logo for the Miami Dade County Christian Coalition's campaign against same sex marriage. Judges in Florida, Louisiana, and Indiana all upheld their respective states' Defense of Marriage Acts, which define marriage as the union between only one man and one woman. (Source: http://www.mdccc.org/Home_Images/protect_marri-age.jpg)

We are all aware of the new civil unions bill that took effect on Oct. 1 in Connecticut. Although I strongly disagree with the bill, it is my intention here to broach the topic with the utmost courtesy and respect for those who disagree with me.

There are so many factors that come into play when deciding to express a controversial opinion, including upbringing, exposure to different knowledge bases, life experiences and peer-pressure, which can all influence the formation of our presuppositions. Instead of jumping right to my conclusions, I would ask that you look with me at some of my presuppositions, to better see how I come to my conclusions.

I would first like to quote Brian Brown, the executive director of the Family Institute of Connecticut, in a speech he gave in front of the

Connecticut Judiciary: "Let me first say that the Family Institute of Connecticut affirms that all human beings should be treated with dignity, love and compassion -including same-sex couples. Our belief that marriage must be defined as the union of one man and one woman derives instead from the overwhelming evidence of social science and common sense."

The first presupposition I have and would like to examine with you is that men and women are different. I don't mean at all that one is superior to the other overall, they are simply different. Both have different strengths and weaknesses. Women are superior to men in certain ways because they are different. Men are superior to women in certain ways because they are different. We know this to be true, but avoid any mention of its truth. Comedians joke

about our differences, how it's difficult to understand each other, and in almost all cases our physical makeup is drastically different. In spite of these facts, it has come to the point in a politically-correct society that it is impossible to see the world as it actually is, everyone must be treated the same, and yet everyone is different.

I think this is because people have come to think that being different is bad, but that is for another discussion. I would argue that there are simply some fundamental differences in the characteristics of men and women, and as such men and women combined make up a balanced representation of the human race. If an alien were stranded on an island with a man, it would get a very different idea of what humans were like than if it were stranded with a woman. Men and women make up the human race; without both of them you misrepresent the human race. Because of the basic fact that men and women compliment each other, it is only logical that a man and a woman bringing up children should be the base of society.

Same-sex unions damage what we have valued in our country in the past.

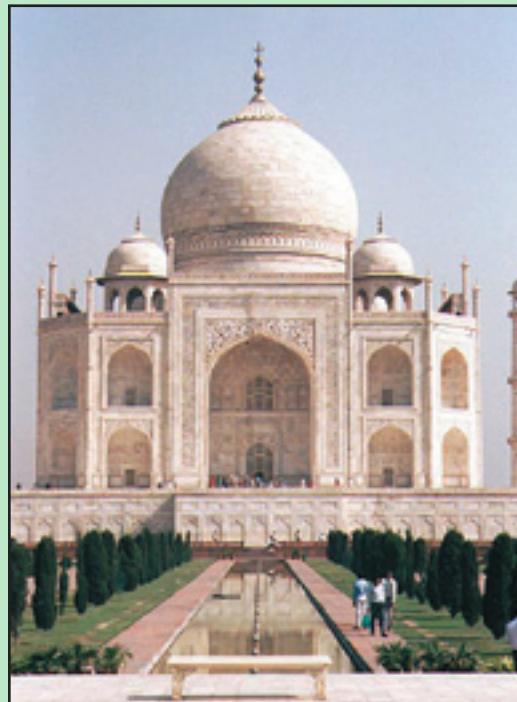
Simply put, there is stability in the natural way we are born, raised, and go through life when both parts of the human race are present, a man and a woman. Sure, it can be done different ways, but you can get to the same end different ways with a lot of things. How do we decide, in the end, which way is best?

Well, with a topic like civil unions there are so many different beliefs that come together to form this opinion, it is hard to say. However, a proper understanding of the core differences between men and women provides the biggest single clue that men and women raising families together is the most successful and fulfilling way to bring up America's next generation.

gumbo

By Doreen L. Balimidi

GUMBO! A thick, stew-like, Creole dish that originated in Louisiana, right? Not at the Live Wire. GUMBO stands for “Gaining Understanding of Many Cultures By Openness.” This column is devoted to expanding our knowledge about the many cultural influences that make up the recipe of what is America.



Cardamom, curry powder, cumin and turmeric are spices that bring to mind descriptive adjectives such as pungent and vibrant. These are mainstays in a world renowned cuisine that only reveals just a hint of what truly is the Indian culture.

When we think of India, more familiar to us may be the Taj Mahal, a favorite childhood read of Rudyard Kipling’s “The Jungle Book,” or the practice of yoga. Once considered the British Empire’s “jewel in the crown,” India is noted in history as having one of the oldest civilizations in the world. And because of its richness in natural resources such as spices, teas, gold, jewels, and craftsmanship, India was often the target of invasions from neighboring countries. Even today, you can find traces of Portuguese, Turkish and British influences throughout the country.

Did you know that India was the only source for diamonds up until 1896, according to the Gemological Institute of America? The famous 186 carat Koh-i-Noor diamond, one of India’s most prized gems, was given to Queen Victoria during her reign by the last ruler of Punjab, Maharajah Duleep Singh, after the British annexed his country and he was dethroned. It was said to mark the 250th anniversary of the founding of the East India Company by Queen Elizabeth I. The Koh-i-Noor diamond can now be found as the centerpiece of the Queen Mother’s crown worn for state events, which gives a whole other meaning to the term “jewel in the crown.”

Shalini Sharma, an adjunct professor at Manchester Community College, who teaches general psychology, said that the best thing about Indian culture is the spiritual and peaceful nature of its people. Sharma was born and raised in Meerut, a small town outside of New Delhi, the capital of India. She has recently become a U.S. citizen. One of the leading misconceptions about Indian culture is the “arranged” marriage, she said. “An arranged marriage does not mean a forced marriage,” Sharma explained. “Indian women do have a choice or say in to whom she marries. The couple meets beforehand to talk and get to know one another before they decide. Love is a gamble in any culture, just as marriage is.”

Another misconception about the country is that cows roam freely there, Sharma said. Although cows are considered sacred in some Indian religions, she said cows do not walk around freely, especially in the larger cities and towns, but maybe in small villages or remote areas.

India also holds several festivals each year, which celebrate the culture’s strong sense of family. Three notable occasions are Diwali (Dee-valli), Festival of Lights, Holi (holy), Festival of Color, and Rakhi (Ra-key), which is more of a tradition. Rakhi is when a sister will tie a colorful band on her brother’s wrist to symbolize affection between siblings. Brothers take a vow to protect their sisters and the sisters will pray for the well being of their beloved brothers.

Holi, which occurs in March, is similar to when Americans have Spring fever. For Holi, revelers traditionally wear white. But they have to be wary because everyone chases everyone else around, throwing brightly colored powder (gulal) and water over each other. By the time you reach safety, you

may look like a rainbow spectrum. Diwali has been compared to Christmas. Lights are hung and candles are burned around the house. Traditions include opening the windows to allow the good fortune for the year come in.

If you would like to attend a Diwali celebration, EKTA – Indian Student Association of the University of Hartford, is sponsoring a Diwali event on Nov. 19 from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Tickets are \$10, \$8 with a student ID. There will be food, live music and dance presentations. Contact Madhurima at 860- 967-2052 for tickets. Check out the group’s Web site for details at <http://www.uhaweb.hartford.edu/ekta/>. In order to extend the knowledge and love of her Indian culture, Sharma also teaches non-credit courses at MCC, including Ayurveda, which is the study of life – mind, body and soul – through food, exercise and meditation. She also teaches the art of henna, which is an herbal paste used for body painting which has become quite popular in the U.S. recently. In Indian tradition, a henna ceremony is held for the bride a few days before her wedding. Women, mostly family members, will paint intricate designs on her hands. This procedure is like having a temporary tattoo with no toxic effects. If you are interested in learning more about these classes, you will find the listings in the new winter session catalog.

Finally, the Indian culture is known for its food. Indian food can be spicy and hot depending on what you are ordering. Spicy in Indian terms does not necessarily mean hot, so ask for assistance if you are just experiencing Indian food for the first time. You can also ask for the dish to be mild, which would be good to start with. In any case, ask for a sweet or salted Lassi with your meal. It is a drink made with yogurt that will cool things down a bit. There is also Cucumber Raita which also has the same effect. Don’t forget to have a cup of Chai (Tea) before you leave to finish off the meal.



A Diya (candle) surrounded by a rangoli, which is a colorful design using flour, rice or chalk to welcome guests to a Diwali, or Festival of Lights, celebration. Photo source: Google Images

For authentic Indian food, here is a sample of restaurants in your area. Most of them have buffets so if you want to try a variety without breaking the bank, this would be the way to go.

Ambassador of India, 2333 Main Street, Glastonbury, (860) 659-2529

Taste of India, 320 West Main Street, Avon (860) 284-4466

Haveli India, 1300 South Main Street, Middletown (860) 347-7773

Taj Mahal, 575 Talcottville Rd, Vernon Rockville (860) 871-4911

Priya Indian Restaurant, Silas Deane Highway, Rocky Hill (529-5252) (specializes in South Indian cuisine)

Nearby Indian Grocers

Patel's Grocer, Spencer Street, Manchester

Cosmos International, 770 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford, 232-6600

Balaji Asian Grocer, 775 Silver Lane, East Hartford

There are 26 States in India and although Hindi is the official language of the country, there are 14 other languages that are officially recognized as well: Bengali, Telugu, Marathi, Tamil, Urdu, Gujarati, Malayalam, Kannada, Oriya, Punjabi, Assamese, Kashmiri, Sindhi, and Sanskrit. Here are a few Hindi words you can practice:

Hello or Goodbye/Namaste or Namascar (formal)

How are you?/Aap (op) Kaise (ky-say) ho?

Thank you/Shu (shoe)kri ya or Dhanya (Donya) –waadh (vaad)

My Friend/Mere (meri) dost (dough- t)

Web sites to check out:

www.tourindia.com – general information

www.garamchai.com – general information

www.wordanywhere.com – language

www.indianfoodsco.com – recipes, foods, Ayurveda information

www.raaga.com – music

Check out page 5 for a great Indian recipe to try!

Rosa Parks, “Mother of the Civil Rights Movement,” Dies at 92

By Tish Wilson, Editor-in-Chief



Photo courtesy of google images

Just 50 years ago, one act of civil disobedience by one woman changed the framework of American history forever. Rosa Parks was that one woman who, by refusing to give up her seat, propelled the civil rights movement that ultimately resulted in equal treatment for blacks in America.

Parks, 92, heralded as the “Mother of the Civil Rights Movement,” died in her Detroit home on Oct. 24. In death, she also became the first woman to lie in honor at the U.S. Capitol Rotunda, a privilege she shares with former presidents Abraham Lincoln and John F. Kennedy.

“Rosa Park’s power and strength came from her genuine humility... I think that is, at least in part, why she inspired so many people, including myself,” said MCC President Dr. Jonathan Daube. “In an age when it is very tempting to be cynical about things, it is wonderful that the first woman ever to lie in honor within the Capitol should have been a simple seamstress who wasn’t looking for glory.”

More than 30,000 people passed through the rotunda to pay their last respects to Parks, according to the Associated Press.

And those who didn’t travel to D.C. spoke highly of Parks’ legacy.

“Oftentimes people today take for granted the sacrifices that people made that have come before us,” said G. Duncan Harris, an MCC counselor. “She is one of those people who had the courage to ‘sit

down’ for everyone.”

And sit down is what Parks did. On Dec. 1, 1955, she boarded a Montgomery, Ala., bus and sat in the first seat of what was designated as the “Colored Section,” under the Jim Crow laws then in effect. When the bus driver commanded that she move farther back so that a white man could sit, she quietly refused. This single act of passive resistance was one of the catalysts of the Civil Rights Movement of the late 1950s and 1960s.

“She made people realize that segregation was unjust,” said political science professor Angelo Messore. “She was an ordinary person who became tired and fed up and took a stand. It was a simple act that provided a spark.”

Parks, then 42, worked as a seamstress for the Montgomery Fair department store and was also secretary of the local N.A.A.C.P. before her arrest. Her simple demeanor and quiet strength endured the examination of the judicial system, the press, and the public. She was the ideal person to fight for equality. The Women’s Political Council distributed 35,000 handbills calling the people of Montgomery into action. It said:

“We are...asking every Negro to stay off the buses Monday in protest of the arrest and trial ... You can afford to stay out of school for one day. If you work, take a cab, or walk. But please, children and grown-ups, don’t ride the bus at all on Monday. Please stay off the buses Monday.”

The protest that was expected to last one

day turned into a successful 381 day boycott, led by the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. On Dec. 21, 1956, segregation on public transportation in Alabama officially ended. This victory gave black people across the country hope for more equality.

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said that she was a child during the boycott, and did not realize then how Parks’ defiance helped her today, according to an article published by the Associated Press covering a speech Rice gave in Montgomery on Oct. 30.

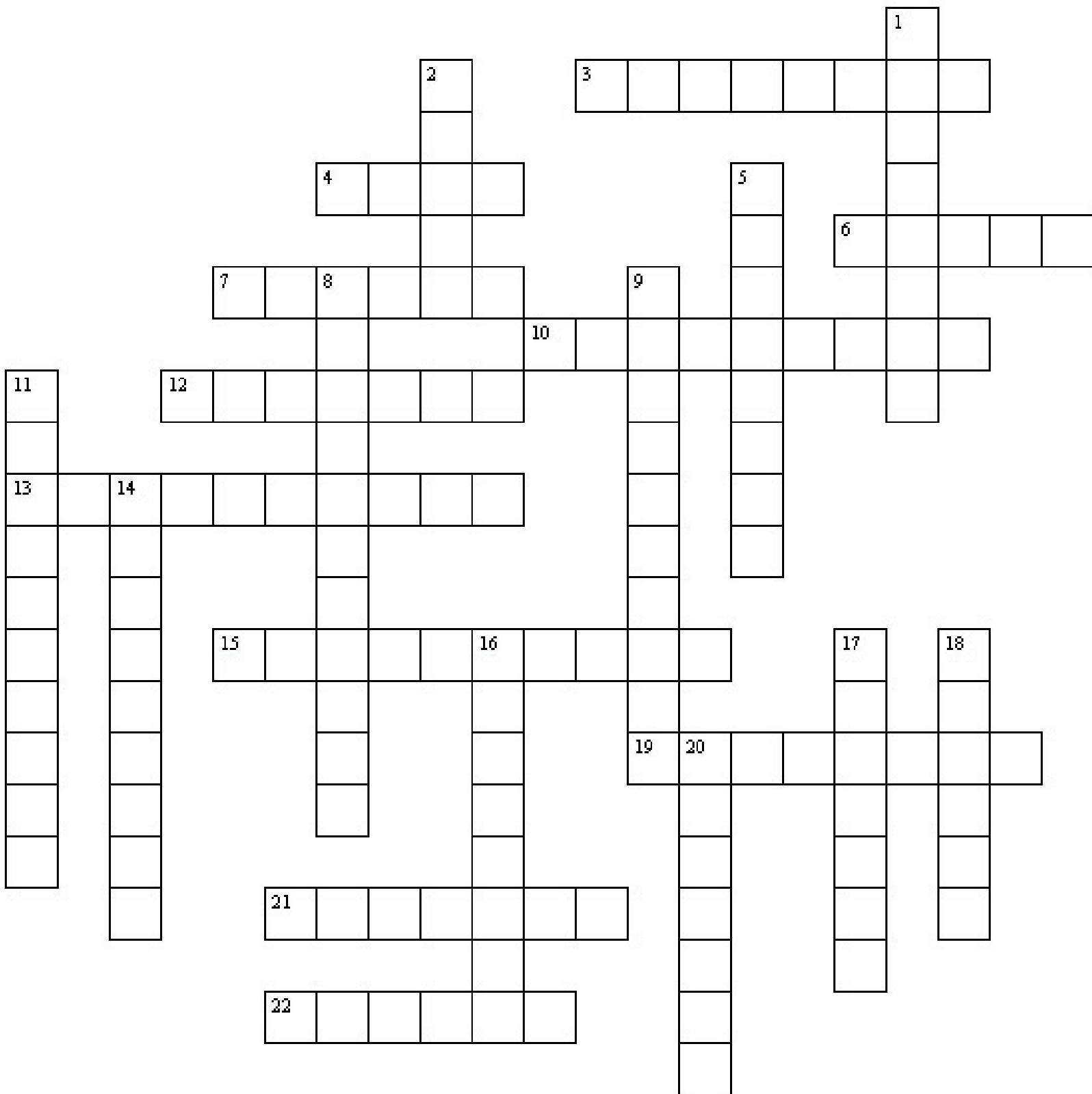
“I can honestly say that without Mrs. Parks, I probably would not be standing here today as secretary of state,” said Rice.

Back in 1999, Rita Dove, a 1987 Pulitzer Prize winner for poetry and former U.S. poet laureate, said in an article in Time magazine that “One cannot help wondering what role Martin Luther King Jr. would have played in the Civil Rights Movement if the opportunity had not presented itself that first evening of the boycott—if Rosa Parks had chosen a row farther back from the outset, or if she had missed the bus altogether.”

Joseph Lowery, who co-founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference along with the Rev. King and the Rev. Jesse Jackson, said blacks could carry on Parks’ legacy by urging Congress to renew the Voting Rights Act of 1965, in a recent Associated Press article. Lowery said the act, which comes up for review in 2007, is in jeopardy.



Rosa Parks, Dec. 21, 1956 on the day the Montgomery, Alabama, transportation system was integrated. (Photo courtesy of <http://nieonline.com/detroit/images/bus.gif>)



Test Your Knowledge Try the Live Wire Crossword

By J. Ashley Odell, Staff Writer

Done reading the issue? See how much you know about the stories – and MCC in general – by completing this crossword puzzle. No looking back through the articles for answers! Pick up next month's issue for the answers.

ACROSS

- 3 Month in which the Student Senate is offering a free bus trip on the 3rd to NYC
- 4 " _____ into the *Live Wire*."
- 6 Name of the *Live Wire*'s new cultural column
- 7 Dean of Student Affairs
- 10 Team that travels around the region for debate competitions (two words)
- 12 Professor of Political Science and Economics who was interviewed for a cover story
- 13 Disability-friendly organization based at MCC
- 15 Work program many students complete as part of their studies
- 19 Celtic nation the Global Issues conference focused on this year
- 21 Nickname for MCC's athletic teams
- 22 Actor some people want to run for the presidency in 2008

DOWN

- 1 Type of phone that can be used with a hands-free device
- 2 President of MCC (and rumored fan of the *Live Wire*)
- 5 First two words in the name of MCC's largest honor society
- 8 _____ Care students promote healthy lungs
- 9 New clubs must be approved by Student _____
- 11 People your personal info can be blocked from with your written consent
- 14 _____ Athletic Complex
- 16 Hans Weiss _____ Gallery
- 17 Collective name for the six smaller buildings in the MCC courtyard
- 18 Day of the week Live Wire meetings are held in LRC B213 from 3-4 p.m.
- 20 Student Senate event each semester showcasing various student groups

New Cell Phone Law Brings Controversy

By Stephanie Olsen, Staff Writer

Amy Grigitis, a 25-year-old student at Manchester Community College, always takes her cell phone with her when she leaves the house. Often, Grigitis said, she uses the long drive from her house in Massachusetts to school to talk on the phone with friends, call her Mom, and kill the time while waiting in traffic. But as of last month, Grigitis, and others who like to talk while driving, must use a hands-free device or face the consequences.

The Connecticut law, effective Oct. 1, prohibits the use of hand-held cell phones while driving. According to the law, drivers must use a hands-free device or be fined \$100 if caught driving and talking with the phone up to their ear.

Grigitis said the new law has made her life more difficult because now she can't simply pick up the phone and make a call.

"If I see a cop, I just tell whoever I'm talking with to hold on and I put my phone down until I pass him," she said.

According to a study issued by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, motorists who use cell phones are four times more likely to get involved into a serious accident than drivers who do not use cell phones while driving.

These statistics are part of what led state Rep. Richard Roym a Democrat who represents Milford, to propose a cell phone law in Connecticut. Similar laws have been passed in New York and New

Jersey.

However, there has been some debate as to how effective the law is.

"I suspect that a headset may keep drivers more focused on the road, but a conversation of any kind...has the potential to reduce driver concentration," said MCC Liberal Arts professor Michael DiRaimo. The radio, chatty kids, and drinking coffee also cause driver distractions, he said.

While a headset does not require the driver to take his or her hand off the wheel, a phone conversation is still a distraction, said James Kidney, 57, an accounting major at MCC.

"There are some people who can't even drive with three hands. But, the whole issue is not that you are keeping your hands on the wheel, but that you are keeping your eyes on the road and focusing on your driving," he said. "Well, it will free up one of your hands for coffee."

On the other hand, there are many people who believe the law is both helpful and necessary to improve public safety.

"Hand-held cell phones take both physical and mental ability," said Paul Gilligan, a police officer for the town Manchester, "It's a distraction that takes away from the driver's ability to focus on the road. This is a law that was enacted to help the public. There's definitely a greater purpose than to make people mad."

Gilligan works in the traffic unit and said that he believes the new law will help make the roads safer.

Kathy Bottaro, an MCC professor of Liberal Arts, also favors the law.

"Many people have had near-accidents only to realize that the other person was talking on the phone," she said. "I am waiting anxiously to see if the law will be enforced. That is the only way people will take it seriously."

Others are on the fence about the new law.

"I think the new cell phone law has its ups and downs," said Kate Miceli, a 19-year-old journalism major at MCC. "It depends on the person using the phone. Some people are smart when it comes to using a cell phone while driving. Sometimes a person just needs to make a two-second phone call. If they are paying attention, what's the harm with that? Other people will try to have conversations while driving, and that is just unnecessary."

Miceli added that she doesn't think the new law will be in effect for long.

"These days, cell phones are like pants. People feel naked without them," she said. "When people who use the headsets are crashing into utility poles, the new law will be gone."

To purchase a headset, go to a local cell phone service provider such as Sprint, Cingular, T-Mobile or Verizon. Prices range from \$24.99 to \$39.99 for a basic headset.

Walken for President? Why Not?

By Eric Tamiso, Staff Writer

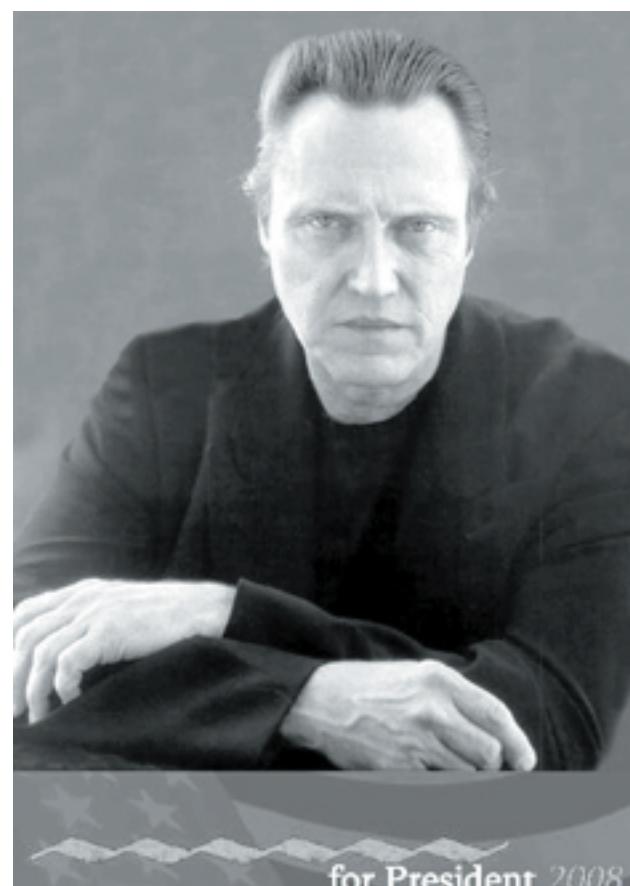
In the middle of August, actor Christopher Walken announced on his Web site that he was running for president of the United States. Another celebrity throws their name into the hat of this political process.

For those of you who don't know, Walken is an actor that has appeared in movies since 1969. Because of his unusual look, he usually plays oddball characters. In 1977, he won an Academy Award for best supporting actor in "The Deer Hunter," a film about a group of soldiers who fought in Vietnam. He has been in almost 100 films, from masterpieces like "Annie Hall" (1977) to total bombs like "Gigli" (2003). He also has hosted the sketch comedy show "Saturday Night Live" on many occasions, playing oddball characters who said things like "needs more cowbell." To best exemplify what Walken brings to the screen, here's a quote from his wife, Georgianne Walken, courtesy of www.rosenbaumcreative.com: "It's very interesting being married to a man who is constantly playing a different person. You're always living with a different person. He never tells me what part he's playing when he's getting ready. It just descends on me one day."

Before I get your hopes up too much, I must inform you that this entire idea is an elaborate hoax. The Web site, www.walken2008.com, that looks genuine in every sense and includes political views and an entire platform, is all a lie. Walken has nothing to do with the site, nor does he plan to run for president. His publicist, Mara Buxbaum, said to the *Los Angeles Times* that she thinks whoever put it together must've gotten the idea from the movie "Wedding Crashers," where Walken played the U.S. Treasury Secretary. Many people are giving credit for the hoax to the members of the Internet message board General Mayhem.

Whenever I mention the Web site to someone, they all give a smile and say that if it's for real, then Walken gets their vote. People I know who didn't vote in the 2004 Presidential Election say that they can't wait to vote for Walken in three years. Keep in mind, they all say this while laughing.

Walken's run for president, if it were for real,



Comedian Christopher Walken (photo courtesy of <http://www.walken2008.com>)

would do more to bring young people to the polls than Paris Hilton and P. Diddy wearing T-shirts that say "Vote or Die," which was not very successful in 2004.

So, would it be a logical move for Walken to be a presidential candidate? Just imagine what the campaign trail and administration would be like.

He would give a SNL-esque monologue at each stop. If, by some small chance, he was elected president, think about how the first dance with his wife of 36 years would be. It would be like the music video for Fatboy Slim's "Weapon of Choice" all over again, where Walken is dancing through a hotel room like he just won the lottery. As for a balancing the budget, well we could definitely cut defense spending.

What country or organization would want to attack a country whose leader looks that scary even while smiling? Just look at some of the quotes from the Web site, for instance. What standard candidate would say, "Words are like little bombs, and they have a lot of energy inside of them."

Walken's agent, Toni Howard, also told the *Los Angeles Times* that Walken is very apolitical. She says it's absurd to think that he would ever run for office.

I wonder about how this country and its fascination with Hollywood will lead us through this century. There's already been a president who was an actor: former President Ronald Reagan. Now, thanks to the 2003 Gubernatorial Recall in California, Arnold "the Terminator" Schwarzenegger is governor. Other celebrities who have held political office include singer Sonny Bono, basketball star Bill Bradley, and wrestler Jesse "the Body" Ventura. Other well-known people like real estate magnate Donald Trump and the Rev. Al Sharpton have run brief campaigns to be president of the U.S. So if these people can run, why not Christopher Walken in 2008? I say if it's a question of political experience, than that doesn't matter. Just look at the current president.

The political process in this country needs to be overhauled. People vote for candidates because they're cool, or they feel comfortable with them instead of another candidate. If this country's most prestigious job is going to be some high school popularity contest, than all of our values should be re-examined.

During last year's Presidential Election, I asked a friend of mine which candidate he was going to vote for and why. Quickly, he blurted out Bush, but then took awhile to give a reason. After a minute or two, he told me the reason was because of Bush's moral views and his religious background. I think people's votes should be based on the issues, not on a candidate's smile or personality. I'd rather have a competent president with a mole on his head the size of Rhode Island than what we have now.

It's a good thing that Christopher Walken isn't running for office, because it would make yet another mockery of our country's political process.

Arts & Entertainment

A Celebration of What's "Down There"

By Amy Kendall, Layout Artist

The Little Theater of Manchester's production of the *Vagina Monologues* took its audience on a journey from the hilarious to the heart breaking, all celebrating the complexity of female sexuality. What began as a one-woman off-off Broadway show in 1996 has since become a cultural phenomenon, translated in to more than 24 languages and performed around the world.

The *Vagina Monologues* originated with interviews conducted by author and playwright Eve Ensler. During the course of the interviews, Ensler met with more than 200 women of various ages, races, nationalities, creeds, and sexual preferences.

"At first women were reluctant to talk," Ensler wrote in an explanation that appears on the Web page of Random House, which published the book in 1998. "They were a little shy. But once they got going, you couldn't stop them."

The serious *Monologues* topics include sexual abuse, divorce, rape, and domestic violence. The lighter topics range from reclaiming of the four-letter "C" word, to my favorite, "My Short Skirt." In this monologue, the actress takes a defiant stand, informing the listener that just because she wears something revealing does not mean she is "asking for it."

"My short skirt is not an invitation," she proclaims loudly. "My short skirt has nothing to do with you."

Vocalizing women's deepest fears, fantasies and memories, the 16 stories in the current *Monologues* production recall tales of joy and heartache, elation and disappointment as well as the celebration of life and of the fear of death. Described by some critics as "witty and irrelevant, compassionate and wise," the *Monologues* will change the way you think about a woman's body and sex in general.

As a result of the success of the play, a campaign arose called "V-Day." According to the official *Vagina Monologues* Web site, "V-Day's mission is simple. It demands that the violence must end. It proclaims Valentine's Day as V-Day until the violence stops. When all women live in safety, no longer fearing violence or the threat of violence, then V-Day will be known as Victory Over Violence Day."

The Little Theater's production of the play ran for seven days at Cheney Hall at the end of September and start of October as part of the LTM After Dark Series. The cast, directed by Debi Freund and co-director/actress Gretchen Wiede, included Karen Balaska, Nicole Giguere,

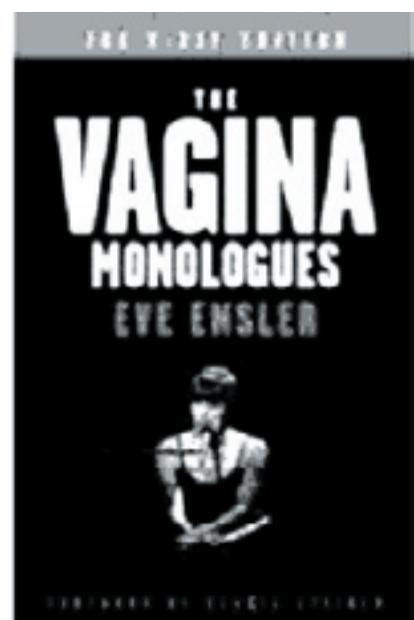


photo courtesy of slate.msn.com

Melinda James, Marsha Karp, Toni Fogarty, Mary Garcia, Carol Hewey, Janet Kaminsky, and Heather Stanton.

For more information on future productions at the Little Theater of Manchester or Cheney Hall, visit www.CheneyHall.org. For more information about Eve Ensler, the *Vagina Monologues*, or V-day, visit www.vday.org.

Serenity is Another Whedon Success

By Donnie Kendall, Staff Writer

I'm going to get something out of the way right off the bat. I'm a bit of a geek. Well, a lot of a geek, depending on who you ask. I like the *Star Trek* series and films, some of the *Star Wars* movies, and other things of that ilk. You've been warned. You may or may not be exactly like me, but at least you know where I'm coming from now.

Serenity is the first movie in Joss Whedon's *Firefly* universe. It's possible you've heard of *Firefly*; it's also possible you haven't. Fox canceled the series after 12 episodes in 2002, much to the chagrin of fans everywhere. Fox also ran the episodes out of order, resulting in a lot of confusion to less hardcore fans. This probably didn't help the series' popularity either. Regardless, as soon as the

show was canceled there was a massive (relatively speaking) uproar of fans that didn't have any outlet. That is, until *Serenity*.

You may think that there's a bit of back story to catch up on, given the 12 TV episodes and three comic books happening before the start of the movie. However, director Whedon spends the first 15 minutes or so of *Serenity* filling in some back story for people that have little to no experience with the universe or what's going on. You don't learn everything, but I went in with only the first two episodes of *Firefly* under my belt and did fine. I do, however, now want to buy the rest of the DVDs so I can see what I missed.

If you've seen any of Whedon's other work

(the television series *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and *Angel*), you know what kind of writer he is. His characters have a depth that's unusual for science fiction movies, without being whiny. You care about these characters; you want to know what happens to them. There's real magic on the screen here.

The film follows the travails of the rogue crew of the space freighter *Serenity* as they evade and deal with agents of a totalitarian galactic government. The government wants River Tam back, a child prodigy who was the victim of secret experiments, which improved her and made her more than just human. River was rescued from a government research facility by her brother Simon and had been on the run from the relentless government ever since.

Serenity is, quite simply, amazing. If you're a sci-fi nut (like me), you've been waiting for this movie even if you don't realize it. This is what *Star Wars* could have been, if George Lucas wasn't in charge of it. The visuals and effects are great, but they support the story instead of overwhelming it. You never feel like you're watching a two-hour long videto game.

You'll notice that I'm not going into hardly any details on the story. There are twists and turns, and surprises, and any more than a rudimentary plot summary would give to much stuff away. Suffice it to say that the movie is involved; it's nearly two hours of solid plot. There are both high points, and low points, and Whedon's writing pulls you back and forth between the two without missing a beat.

If you like sci-fi, you want to go see this movie. If you haven't seen *Firefly* yet, don't worry about it. Go see the movie anyways. After you leave, and go buy the DVDs (you probably will), you'll catch even more of the small little details that only come out with 15 hours of character development behind them, and you'll like the movie even more.

Here's to hoping that the whispers I've heard about two more movies, and a new TV deal with the Sci-fi Channel are true. I am hooked.



photo courtesy of www.browncoats.nl

Hartford Stage Hosts *Floyd and Clea*

By Tish Wilson, Editor-in-Chief, and Crystal Tuttle, Staff Writer

A once famous but now washed up country singer, Floyd Duffner, is unable to deal with life but finds hope through a young woman, Clea Johnson, who is optimistic about life and has become a star all figured out. The irony occurs when Clea needs saving grace from Floyd. Their play, "Floyd and Clea Under the Western Sky," is filled with the real life experiences of unconditional love, success and failure.

The Hartford Stage theater featured the East Coast premier of the play last month. Written by David Cale, who plays Floyd, this country-rock musical is set in country bars and the big outdoors of Montana and Texas. The play also features music by Jonathan Kreisberg and Cale. Michael Wilson, Hartford Stage's artistic director for the past eight seasons, directed *Floyd and Clea*, which ended its run Nov. 13.

The play opens with Floyd in the good ole' days when he was singing on stage, accompanied by his four-piece band. But three years later he's down on his luck. Floyd's worldly possessions include a liquor flask, an old Studebaker, which he calls home, and \$200 in his pocket. After his car brakes down and it starts to snow, Floyd sends a desperate prayer to God. Shortly after his prayer, Clea shows up with her carefree personality and some food—just what Floyd needed. They engage in a brief conversation about their lives and Clea lets loose, in her strong rhythmic voice, singing the song "Greedy." The song is a great choice for the strong voice of Sarah Glendening, who plays Clea.

Later on Clea convinces Floyd to sing with her for a 'gig' she has at a local school, but Floyd runs off the stage before he completes his song. Clea finds him drunk and despondent.

"I can't deal with life," Floyd tells her when she asks about his drinking. Concerned about his mental state, Clea offers him "a cousin of Prozac," to which Floyd responds "I don't like chemically altering my metabolism." Then she breaks the news to him: she is moving to California to follow her dreams of stardom.

Clea is a sassy, quick-witted, rough and tumble kind of girl that just wants to help Floyd enjoy life. When she leaves for L.A., Floyd realizes he let the woman he loves go. Clea becomes a huge success on the West Coast, yet finds herself in trouble. This time it is Floyd, who, thanks to her, has gotten back on his feet, now does the comforting.

The show drew sizable crowds throughout its four-week run.

"I enjoyed the western," said Paul Shipman of

Loose Cannon

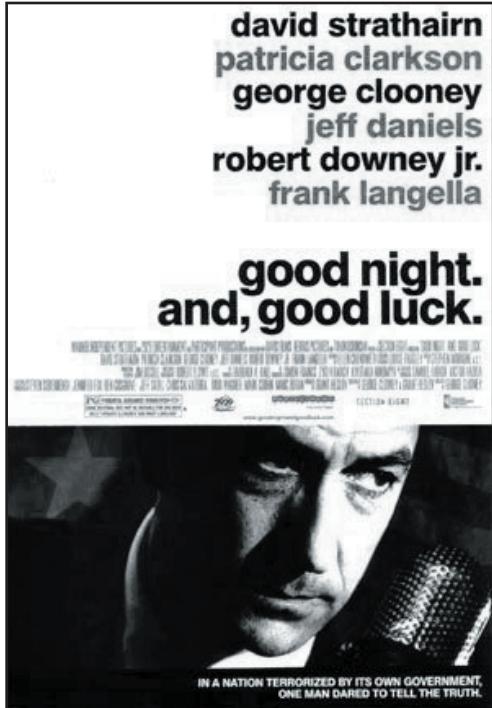


photo courtesy of www.ksmena.pl

West Hartford. "The two people kind of redeem each other. [Clea] is sure of herself in the beginning but it's Floyd who's the strength at the end."

Jacqueline Petrella from Simsbury said that it's a good story and it shows that "you can lean on each other."

Overall, the production was beautiful and chock full of amazing vocals and moving music. The role reversal between Clea and Floyd was refreshing for the fact that hard times can fall on anyone, yet if you have someone who loves you around, you'll be fine. The end leaves you happy, comfortable and longing for a pair of cowboy boots and big Montana sky.



photo courtesy of www.hartfordstage.org

Good Night, and Good Luck: A Good Film About a Bad Time

By Eric Tamiso, Staff Writer

Actor George Clooney makes a return to the craft of directing in "Good Night, and Good Luck," a movie about the CBS News team's coverage of the Communist witch-hunt in America during the early 1950s. The film is pieced together very well and will keep anyone, history buff or not, entertained for the full hour and a half.

The basis of the movie is that Edward R. Murrow, the legendary news reporter, suggests the idea to do a story about the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations being conducted in Washington, D.C., by Sen. Joseph McCarthy from 1950-1956. The hearings were ostensibly about discovering people who were Communists or Communist sympathizers who were a threat to American democracy. But they were really more about punishing people who disagreed with U.S. foreign policy at the time.

Anyone who questioned what McCarthy was doing was in danger of being accused of being a Communist themselves. Despite the danger, Murrow still wanted to cover the story. After enduring some hardships along the way, Murrow and his colleagues crafted several stories that were aired within weeks of each other, with each one leading to more pressure put on Murrow and the rest of the people at CBS from network executives, McCarthy's friends and the public.

But even with the added heat, Murrow continued to shine light onto the baseless accusations that McCarthy spewed.

The movie is in black and white and starts with a tribute dinner held for Murrow in 1958. He gives a speech to colleagues and others in attendance, as he takes us back to the time in 1953 when he and the rest of the group at CBS News tangled with McCarthy. For a viewer of the film who has limited knowledge on the historical period, the movie informs the situation very well. There is so much footage and clips delivered in the movie that were from back during these perilous times, that it almost feels as if the viewer is back in 1953.

Many of the narratives spoken by actor David Strathairn, who plays Murrow, are directly from the television shows from that period. No one plays Senator McCarthy. He is shown throughout the film in past reel footage from the Congressional hearings.

There are also several subplots looking into the lives of the people who worked at CBS News, including a problem with the characters played by Robert Downey Jr. and Patricia Clarkson. Clooney acts along with directing, playing Murrow's right hand man in at the station. Alex Borstein, Frank Langella, and Jeff Daniels give other notable performances.

by Anthony L. Holden

60 Grit Stands Out Among Death Metal Bands

By Becky Silver, Staff Writer

CALLING ALL METALHEADS!! A new local band has emerged, standing out among the rapid influx of mainstream and pop-punk bands. 60 Grit, a five-member death metal band from right in the Manchester area, threatens the existence of all the weak and talent-less wannabe bands that local metal supporters are quickly tiring of.

Many Manchester Community College students and friends got to see 60 Grit perform for the first time with their new singer Chad Velez on Oct. 1 in Newington. The band played five of their 13 original songs, ending with the soon-to-be death metal anthem "Brutal Pipe Beating," which sent the crowd into a Styrofoam pipe beating frenzy.

Along with Velez, 60 Grit is made up of Eric Pytanowski on lead guitar, Dylan Marquie on drums and MCC students Gary Frye on bass and Kristian Grimaldi on lead guitar and vocals.

Kristian answered some questions before the show.

Q.-How did you and the rest of the band come together?

A-I went to high school with Eric, Dylan, and Gary. My girlfriend met Chad at a party, and when she found out that he was a death metal singer, she told him about us. As soon as we had our first practice he clicked perfectly with our style.

Q-How long have you been playing in 60 Grit?

A-Two years. I have been playing the guitar for 10 years.

Q.-Do you play any other instruments?

A-I have been playing the alto saxophone for 10 years.



Q-What got you guys started?

A- We were just sick of hearing numetal and mainstream rock. We're all fans of old school death metal and we want to keep it going.

Q.-Who are your influences?

A-Opeth, Cannibal Corpse, Slayer, Pantera, Hatebreed, and Suffocation.

Q.-Have you played a lot of live shows?

A- About 30.

Q-Do you have a favorite memory from playing live?

A-Once I jumped up during a song and tripped on the pedal board and knocked over the PA system. It was really funny.

Q- What do you do when you're not playing music?

A-Besides attending MCC, I also have a business installing wood floors. I like to work out, too.

Q-How long have you been at MCC?

A-Three years. I like it here.

Q- How would you describe your music?

A-State of the art Connecticut death metal.

The band's next show is Nov. 19 at the Knights of Columbus Building at 138 Snake Hill Road in Coventry.

For more information about 60 Grit or to get a copy of their DVD and demo, e-mail the band at Deathmetal60grit@aim.com.

UFC Returns to Connecticut Casino

By Eric Tamiso, Staff Writer

For fans, the Ultimate Fighting Championship is the Mecca of mixed martial arts competitions, and through its new exposure on basic cable television, the UFC is beginning to explode in popularity.

On Oct. 7 the "UFC 55: Fury" came to the Mohegan Sun Arena in Uncasville. There were eight bouts, including a Heavyweight Title Match between Heavyweight Champion Andrei "The Pit Bull" Arlovski and Paul "The Headhunter" Buentello. As the fighters were announced the crowd of thousands was cheering for a brutal knockout. The fans got it when referee "Big" John McCarthy called an end to the fight after just 15 seconds.

Arlovski landed a stiff shot to the head of Buentello and he was dropped. On the side of safety, McCarthy stopped the fight. The crowd booed for several minutes, not because Arlovski retained his title, but because the fight was so short. As soon as it started, it ended.

The Light Heavyweight match that came right before the main event was more exciting. Forrest Griffin, star of the "The Ultimate Fighter" show on Spike TV, fought Australian Elvis Sinosic. Throughout the fight they stood toe to toe, and that's how Griffin wanted it because of his extensive stand up skills. Griffin won by TKO 3:22 into the first round, continuing his climb up the Light Heavyweight ladder.

The first six under card matches were rather tame. One ended in a no contest call because of an accidental groin kick and every other match ended in a TKO or submission victory.

The event at Mohegan was broadcast on Pay-

Per-View, which UFC does about a six times a year. UFC has expanded with its television contract with Spike TV, where they offer up a "The Ultimate Fighter" reality show and also several "Ultimate Fight Night" specials each year. With fans being able to see the exciting product of mixed martial arts for free, the UFC is close to becoming the next big boom in entertainment. Like poker is to ESPN and the Travel Channel, the UFC is to Spike TV.

The quick finish to the title bout was reminiscent of the early UFC matches, which tended to end in the first minute or two. Since its inception in 1993, the UFC has gone through a makeover while still remaining a true contest of mixed martial arts. The idea of the first UFC was to see what martial arts style was the best. There was an 8-man tournament with men large and small fighting for pride. In that tournament, a slender man named Royce Gracie proved to be the winner, not by using brawn but a specific style of fighting called Gracie Jiu Jitsu. This style takes the fight to the ground, getting the opponent into submissions for victory.

The first UFC fights were brutal compared to what is seen on cable today. Then the only rules were that a fighter couldn't bite or eye gouge. Everything else was legal, and was definitely used.

Over the years, rules have been put into place to protect the fighters. In 1999, the UFC stopped using tournaments in favor of a card with the top fighters in the world. In 2001, a five weight class system was implemented to transition the UFC from a brutal competition into a legitimate sport. Also, there are now three-round non-title fights and five-round championship fights. Each round is five

minutes long and consists of a one minute break between rounds. Before these rules were put into place, a 350 pound man could fight a 200 pound man and, most of the time, would end up in a brutal knockout.

The presentation of the UFC is now more similar to boxing, being licensed by state athletic commissions and even having scantily-clad women walk around the octagon-shaped ring between rounds. However, the UFC is very unique, just like its fighters.

Current Middleweight Champion Rich "Ace" Franklin is a fighter who has taken a different route to the octagon than others. Franklin has a bachelor's degree in mathematics and a master's degree in education from the University of Cincinnati. Franklin was into karate since the age of 12 and still trained, even when he became a math teacher. He later had to quit teaching so he could train full time. He's been fighting since 2000 and has a 20-1 mixed martial arts record, boasting victories over legends Ken Shamrock and Evan Tanner.

At "UFC 56: Full Force," which takes place Nov. 19 and will be broadcast on PPV, Franklin will defend his title against another star from "The Ultimate Fighter," Nate "The Rock" Quarry. This will be Franklin's first title defense since he won the title in June.

"I am focusing solely on Nate. Much respect to him and we are going to have some fun on Nov. 19th, where I plan on putting my weak chin to the test again," said Franklin on his Web site, www.richfranklin.com.

OPTING OUT

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"I knew they were up to something, because I've had recruiters show up at my house," said Greg.

Currently, disclosure of the college's compliance with the Solomon Amendment consists of a statement under the "College Policies" section of the Student Handbook, as well as a paragraph on page 17 of the 2005-2006 Manchester Community College Catalog. Both refer students to "a complete statement about this subject [which] is available for inspection" in the registrar's office. The statement in question is in the FERPA manual, and, while the registrar does not hand the manual out, students may review it in the office if they ask to, said Cruz.

Burgess said she feels that the college ought to inform students about the policy.

"They definitely need to tell people they can opt out. I didn't know at all you could," she said.

Greg said he does not have any objections to military service itself, but is critical of the college's compliance with the Solomon Amendment.

"If a kid wants to go into the Army, that's fine, that's noble," he said. "But if [the policy] is just about money, that's wrong."

Military service has strong appeal for many college students, particularly community college students, who are attracted by the military's financial incentives.

"You'll find that quite a number of students are in or have been in the military," said Messore. "The military helps pay for college."

That point is often made by recruiters in their calls.

"If you tell them, 'I don't want to join the Army,' they'll be like, 'Are you sure? We can pay for college,'" said Burgess.

NATIONAL GUARD

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scene," said Miles of his father's friend. "He didn't die, but he risked his life to save others."

Miles began to explore his career options during his senior year at Windham Regional Vocational Technical School (WRVTS). A U.S. Army recruiter spoke to one of his classes and Miles said he later asked the recruiter about other military options. He raised his right hand and enlisted when he was 17.

"My parents had to sign me over," he said.

Miles, who at one time thought about being a chef, said both the culinary classes he took in high school and the classes he's taking now at MCC to become a police officer both have made him a better member of the Guard.

"The biggest similarity that I can pull from my cooking classes, [as well as college and the guard] is keeping everything organized...that really helps out in getting stuff done...When I went to [WRVTS] our class was a giant family," he said.

Comradery and teamwork is another element that links Miles' school and Guard experiences.

"There is no individual, you work together as a team to survive...," he said. "I have so many people ask me 'if you were to go to war what would you do?' I can honestly say that if

Cougar Sports Update

By Kyle Dorau, Staff Writer

**Men's Soccer**

The Manchester Community College Men's Soccer team is playoff-bound. The Cougars finished their regular season with a record of 9-5-1, good enough to be ranked the 12th best team in the nation for Division III of the National Junior College Athletic Association.

The team looks to go deep into the playoffs, and coach Jim Insinga expects to be in the hunt come time for the Championship Finals, which take place Nov. 12 and 13 at Herkimer County Community College, in Herkimer, New York.

Women's Basketball

The Women's Basketball 2005-06 season begins Dec. 10, when they take on Dean College. Manchester Community College plays their home games at East Catholic High School, where they look to regain their clout in the NJCAA, attempting to return to the national championship caliber they were at just a few short years ago.

The opponent on the schedule that stands out is Bunker Hill Community College. They are ranked 10th in the nation in the preseason polls, coming off a season with a 23-2 record. The Cougars will take them on twice, once at home on Dec. 17, and on the road Jan. 22.

Manchester will look to improve upon last year's record of 11-9, under the tutelage of coach Peter Harris.



just duct-taped and pushed outside the house."

The Louisiana locals treated them well, Miles said.

"The hospitality was great. They really appreciated what we were doing. They appreciated the fact that we took time out of our lives for them," he said.

In between assignments, Miles works in the Guard as a security forces police officer. He said he plans to advance in the Guard but does not want to become an officer.

"I like getting out and the field, getting dirty," he said. "The officers sit behind the desk."

The Guard pays for Miles' education, but since he returned from the deployment he has had to make-up assignments, withdraw from his classes or receive an incomplete for this semester, he said. But upon graduation he plans to transfer to Eastern Connecticut State University, Central Connecticut State University or the University of Connecticut and pursue a degree in criminal justice.

Through his experience in the Gulf, Miles said, he learned one valuable lesson.

"You should never give up, no matter how bad the circumstances are," he said. "I'd met people down there and they could've lost their house...they said 'we just have to rebuild.'"

Word on Campus

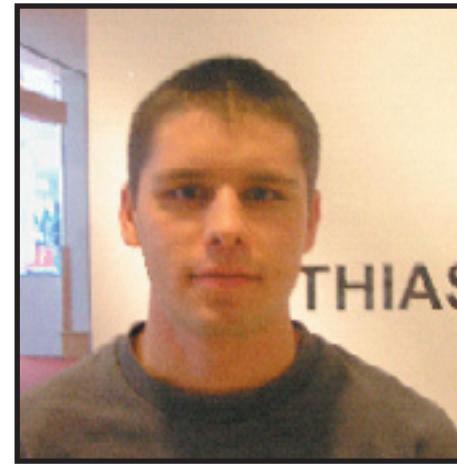
Are you obeying the new cell phone law?



Monica Sanders

Criminal Justice major

"It's a good law, but I'm still going to do it until they catch me."



Ronnie Nadeau

(no major given)

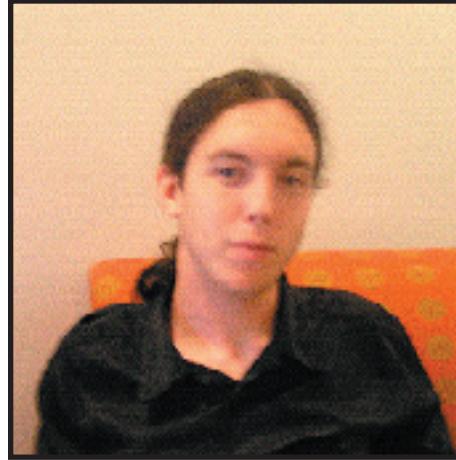
"I don't have a cell phone, so I don't have to worry."



Dominique Nelson

Criminal Justice major

"No, it's a waste of time. You've always got to pull over to talk."



Nathan Bourke

General Studies major

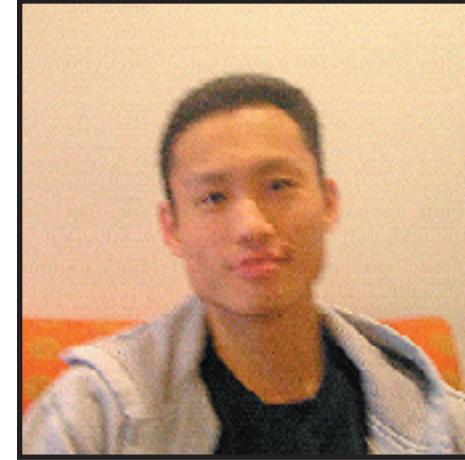
"No, but I do like the law because I got in an accident while talking on the phone."



Shanyia Kenney

General Studies major

"Yeah, basically what I try to do is not talk while driving. I have to really try hard to ignore it when it rings. It's the law. I don't want to get in trouble."



Andrew Zadany

General Studies major

"I have the headphone thing, it's not that bad. It's convenient that I can just reach over and not have to pick it up."

A Message to Students from the Dean of Students



I take this opportunity to welcome you all to your first year or a continuing year of study at Manchester Community College.

Like you and your studies, I am experiencing many challenges as I collaborate with colleagues in working and planning to assure you of an exciting, interesting, and valuable co-curricular program.

One of the major challenges is to respond appropriately or effectively to a population of students whose greatest critical mass is under the age of 22; a population that is increasingly full-time and thus spending more time on campus; a population that

is increasingly diverse socially and economically; a population with increasingly varied interests.

I am reaching out to you to assist me in responding to this challenge by seeking your feedback and wisdom as to what you want to see in the form of programs and activities that will garner your participation and your interest.

What are your suggestions for activities that will help you spend your time between and after class that will assist me in avoiding some of the non-productive, and sometimes confrontational, experiences we have had to respond to in the first part of the semester?

You can communicate with me by submitting your questions to The Live Wire at livewire@mcc.commnet.edu, or at acarter@mcc.commnet.edu. I will respond to any submissions in the Dec. 12 issue. You may also make an appointment with me in my office, L287, in the Lowe Building.

In the meantime, commit to your studies, enjoy your college experience and assist me in maintaining a safe and comfortable environment for you all by mutually respecting each other as well as the faculty and staff of MCC.

Until the next edition, this is your Dean of Students, Alfred Carter, welcoming you to MCC and looking forward to working with you to maintain the best college experience and environment we can.

Alfred Carter
Dean of Students