

The new president of Manchester Community College is **Dr. Gena Glickman**, the first female president of MCC.

Illinois Candidate Chosen to Lead MCC

After weeks of reviewing applications and interviewing candidates, a new president was selected for Manchester Community College earlier this month. Gena Glickman will become the college's fifth, and its first female, president when she takes over in July.

Glickman, 56, who holds a doctorate in education, policy and planning from the University of Maryland, College Park, Md.,

was chosen from among about 50 candidates from across the country.

Pres. Jonathan M. Daube, who will retire from leading the college after 20 years at the end of May, said he was pleased with the selection.

"She is smart and experienced and thoughtful and energetic, totally committed to the mission

Please see **Candidate** on page 4

Many in Greater Hartford Struggle With Life Without an Address



Above, the dormitory-style bedroom in a local area shelter. Photo by Jason Cunningham

By Jason Cunningham
Live Wire Editor

We ignore it everyday. We push it to the side. We make believe it doesn't really exist and we cram it into the back of our minds. Homelessness in the Connecticut area is a thriving monster, consuming thousands. In fact, the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness estimates that more than 4,000 people experience homelessness in Connecticut every day.

Most people don't think homelessness can happen to them. But people who live in the shelters know the truth.

"The past 16 years of my life have been leading up to this," said Peter F., a homeless man who currently spends his nights in a local shelter. Most shelter officials do not want the real or full names of their guests used because of the stigma that comes with being homeless. "I was well-educated, I had a good job, and a privileged life. I just kept drinking, and I stayed with the wrong woman. Now I've been convicted of a felony and I have no home."

Peter F. said his story is an example of how hard times can strike almost anyone.

"I was born to an upper middle class family of cops and firemen," he said. "If this can happen to me, it can happen to any body. I had a leg up on a lot of people, yet here I am."

There are 49 homeless shelters in

the state. Most are free, but some charge the guests a fee based on a percentage of what money they make from working or get from the government. Some shelters receive government funding and others, mainly those that are church-based, survive with private donations and volunteers.

"Without volunteers and private donations our shelter doesn't exist," said Chris Malis, director of the Cornerstone Lodge, a homeless shelter in Rockville. "Unfortunately, we're still turning away 30 to 60 people a month. It's first come, first serve. I wish we had enough beds for everyone who came to our doors."

Malis said more people who work in blue-collar or low-paying jobs are becoming homeless, including married couples and families. And as the country heads toward what some economists are calling a recession, more people are losing their homes. And affordable housing can be hard to come by in Connecticut.

"We don't want to ease it, we don't want to treat it, we want to permanently end it, and we'll do that through something called supportive housing," said David Blackwell, an attorney from Manchester, who is an advocate

Please see **Homeless** on page 5

WORD on campus

If the Presidential election were held today, who would you vote for?

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MCC is #1 Again

For the sixth year in a row, readers of the Hartford Advocate have voted Manchester Community College the "Best Community College" in the region. MCC will be featured in the paper's annual "Best Of" edition, coming out April 17.

One-Day College Showcases MCC Liberal Arts

Manchester Community College will host "One-Day College: Express Yourself – From Inspiration to Creation," Saturday, April 19, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Individuals can select from a variety of workshops within Liberal Arts, including artistic expression, literature and music. The event will also feature a presentation and book signing by Frank Delaney, best-selling author of the books "Ireland" and "Tipperary." The fee for the day is \$20 and includes a continental breakfast and lunch. Registration is required and the deadline is April 14. For more information and a registration form contact Kathleen Bottaro at 860-512-2668, or kbottaro@mcc.commnet.edu.

MCC Hosts Open House

Prospective students from across the region can meet MCC faculty, staff and students and get a first-hand look at its facilities, courses and program offerings during the annual Open House Wednesday, April 23, from 4:30 – 7 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. For more information call 860-512-3210.

Student Life Committee Seeking Students

The Student Life Committee is made up of faculty, staff and students and is looking for more student participation. We cannot discover, discuss and communicate students' most important issues without students' help. If you are interested in joining the committee contact Endia DeCordova-Murphy at 860-512-2914 or edecordova-murphy@mcc.commnet.edu.

16th Annual An Evening of Fine Wines Approaching

The 16th Annual An Evening of Fine Wines will be held Friday, April 4, from 7 to 10 p.m. This year's honorary chair is Stephen N. Finger, president of Pratt & Whitney. WFSB Channel 3 Meteorologist, Scot Haney is the event's guest emcee. The annual gala event is sponsored by the Manchester Community College Foundation, Inc. and combines a wine tasting and live wine auction with a silent auction of non-wine items to raise funds for scholarships and programs at the College. Tickets are \$75 per person and must be purchased in advance. For more information or to purchase tickets contact Linnette Velazquez-Welle at 860-512-2905 or visit the wine auction website at www.mcc.commnet.edu/wine

Attention!

Check out the Live Wire Web page available at mcc.commnet.edu/students/life/livewire.php.
New stories, photos, and blog available.

The President wants to hear from you ...

Before he retires Pres. Jonathan M. Daube wants to answer your questions in the last Live Wire issue of the semester. Send questions to us via email, livewire@mcc.commnet.edu, or drop them off in the office, Lowe 243. Questions are due by APRIL 16, 2008.

Correction:

In a brief on Page 2 of the Feb. 27 issue of the Live Wire, the frequency of stipends paid to officers of the Student Senate was incorrect. The stipends, of between \$600 and \$1,500, are paid once per semester, not once per month.

Live Wire

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Pres. Daube Earns Merit Award



The New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE) awarded Manchester Community College President Jonathan M. Daube its Connecticut State Merit Award for his work as leader of MCC. Above, Marc S. Herzog, chancellor of the Connecticut Community College System, gives Daube a plaque commemorating the award in the Fireside Commons earlier this month. Each year, NEBHE presents Regional Excellence Awards to individuals and organizations that have shown exceptional leadership on behalf of higher education and the advancement of educational opportunity. The organization also presents State Merit Awards to honor the innovative work of organizations, institutions or individuals in each New England state. *Photo by Endia DeCordova-Murphy.*

Students Can Now Receive Discounts with Photo ID's

By Elizabeth Ponchak
Special to the Live Wire

After months of work, members of the Manchester Community College Student Senate have successfully completed the Student Discount Project, which means discounts at local restaurants with just the flash of the MCC Student Photo ID.

Senate members have working on gaining the cooperation of area eateries since July of 2007, said Elizabeth Ponchak, Student Senate secretary. The discounts include: 10 percent off everything at the Whole Donut, except for cigarettes; free hot and cold counter beverages at the Cosmic Omelet; \$1 off all sandwiches at Blimpies; 15 percent off everything at Augies; and 10 percent off everything at Wendy's, Ruby's, Valentino's and Dunkin' Donuts. In addition, the Subway sandwich shop at 215 Spencer St., next to Ocean State Job Lot, offers 30 percent off all sandwiches' while the Subway located at 288 Spencer St., across from Shaw's supermarket, offers 10 percent off everything.

Narjis Xiong, Student Senate president, praised the project.

"The discount project is very

beneficial to students," she said. "It provides them with many choices of restaurants to choose from for a discount and it is a great way for students to save money."

But if you don't already have a Student ID you are no longer able to get one this semester. But students can renew their decals through the Student Senate office, Lowe 154k, Ponchak said.

Justin G. Tedford, associate director, of the Financial Aid department, said the discount project is a win-win.

"The Student Discount Project is a good way to include the community and businesses with the college," he said. "Businesses send a good message when they offer discounts to students because it shows that the community supports our college and everything we do here at MCC."

For more information about the project, contact Elizabeth Ponchak at 860- 512-3286 or Narjis Xiong at 860-512-3292.



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Open to the public, an international experience to explore the historical and treasure-filled paradises of Tortola, Puerto Rico and St. Thomas. The cruise is sponsored by the Hebron Lions. Discover for yourself why Blackbeard and 30 other pirates claimed Tortola for their home port; why Christopher Columbus chose to seek gold in Puerto Rico; and why the infamous Bluebeard built his Tower in St. Thomas.

The 9 Day/8 night cruise on the Carnival "Miracle" departs New York on Sunday September 14 and returns on Monday September 22nd, 2008. Prices are double occupancy-per person: Interior \$440; Ocean View \$590; and Balcony \$670, plus taxes, port and fuel supplement fees. These prices will be held through the end of April or until available cabin spaces are filled. For all cruise and travel questions contact Dr. William Levy (860) 647 -1195 (Hebron Lions) email:w.levy793@comcast.net. Optional bus transportation available between Hebron Fairgrounds and New York City Piers. All proceeds go to Hebron Lions Charities.

Questions and Answers:

How much to reserve my space? \$100.00 per person/double occupancy.

How much are the Taxes, port and fuel fees? \$283.43 per person

What is the cost of bus transportation to/from NY Pier? \$65.00 per person

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Continued from **Candidate** page 1... of the college,” said Daube in an email sent to the college community March 7. “She will do a great job leading what is already a very fine institution to new heights.”

Glickman is currently the vice president for instruction and student services at Elgin Community College, a large community college north of Chicago with 19,650 students. She is the chief academic and student services officer at Elgin, where she is a member of the President’s Executive Team and of the President’s Planning Council and Resource Development Team. Prior to Elgin, Glickman was Associate Provost and Assistant Provost, beginning in 1999, at the University of Baltimore, in Maryland.

In addition to her doctorate, Glickman holds a bachelor’s of fine arts from the Maryland Institute College of Art, and a master’s in Counseling and Education from Johns Hopkins University School of Education.

According to a story published in *The Hartford Courant* March 8, Glickman had been a finalist for president of community colleges in New Jersey, New York, Maryland, Michigan and Illinois. She withdrew as a finalist at Macomb Community College in Michigan after learning she’d been selected for the Manchester job.

“I was anxious to complete the Manchester search because it was my first choice,” she told the *Courant*. “I’m just absolutely delighted I was selected. It really was my first choice.”

David Blackwell, of Manchester, a member of the Community College Board of Trustees, served as Chair of the search committee for the presidency and worked with representatives of the college’s search advisory committee throughout the fall as they conducted a national search for the college’s new president. Blackwell said Glickman’s experience in academic and administrative leadership matched what the search committee was looking for in a new president.

“Her dedication to community involvement is notable and will strengthen the relationship of the college with the communities it serves by expanding its offerings to benefit the entire Manchester region,” he said.

MCC administrators were also pleased with the selection. G. Duncan Harris, associate dean of Academic Affairs, said when he talked with Glickman he was impressed with her vision for MCC’s future.

“Manchester Community College is already an exemplary institution due in large part to the leadership provided by President

Daube over the past 20 years,” said Harris. “In talking to Dr. Glickman, I get the sense, and am confident, that she is the type of transformative leader that can maintain the best of our proud traditions and established legacy, while leading us on a journey to the next level - national vanguard status.”

Dean Alice Savage, of Academic Affairs, said Glickman’s hiring fits in with a tradition at MCC of support for women.

“Dr. Glickman is a wonderfully qualified, warm, articulate, and talented person who is extremely knowledgeable about new ideas and directions in higher education. She cares deeply about students, and will make an outstanding President for MCC. The fact that she is our first female president is certainly ‘icing on the cake,’” said Savage. “MCC has long been an institution supportive of women’s success, whether as students, faculty, or administrators - there have been several female Deans of Academic Affairs; the Deans of Continuing Education and of Institutional Development are female; and so are a number of directors, including those in non-traditional areas such as the Director of Facilities Management and the Director of Public Safety.”

Savage said she was excited about the future of MCC now that presidential search process is over.

“Much of the success of women at MCC has been due to the support and hiring practices of Dr. Daube, our president of 20 years who is now retiring,” she said. “While it is with some sadness that we see him go, it is exciting to enter a new era, and I look forward to Dr. Glickman’s coming here as president.”

Mary Anne Cox, Endia DeCordova-Murphy and Jonathon Michals contributed to this story.

Fulbright Scholar to Visit MCC Next Month

By Jenna Adams
Live Wire Staff Writer

For three weeks in April, Manchester Community College will be home to a visiting Fulbright Scholar who will share his knowledge of today’s Muslim world. While here, he will visit other area colleges and several churches as well, said Fatma Antar, who teaches economics at MCC and will chaperone the visitor.

Saeed Amr Alamr, 52, who holds a doctorate in Modern and Contemporary History, will be visiting Connecticut in hopes of enhancing student’s understanding of Islamic civilization and the history, politics, and culture of today’s Muslim world, said Antar. In addition to MCC, he will also be speaking at Central Connecticut State University, Trinity College, Tunxis Community College, St. Joseph College, Asylum Congregational Church, Hartford Seminary, and several other locations.

The Fulbright Scholar Program offers an opportunity for U.S. colleges and universities to host specialists from countries with a large Muslim population for short-term programs of intensive lecturing, public outreach, and consultation. The chosen Fulbright Visiting Specialists lecture on and off campus in a variety of humanities and social science disciplines, including the arts, with a focus on Islamic society or civilization.

Alamr was selected from a

pool of several applicants, said Antar. After narrowing down the applicants to two, a group of MCC faculty conducted phone interviews with both finalists and then chose Alamr.

“What impressed us the most about Dr. Alamr, who is a historian from Saudi Arabia, is his wide knowledge of the Middle East and his openness to discuss and answer any questions,” said Antar.

Alamr received his doctorate from the University of Manchester in the United Kingdom, said Antar. He now teaches a variety of courses at King Faisal University, including History of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Modern Arab History and History of Islamic legacy.

In his correspondence with Antar, Alamr said he feels a responsibility to share his knowledge and education.

“This understanding (of different cultures) can only be achieved through the participation of academics and scholars who must take the lead in bringing about the understanding among nations,” he said. “As an academic, I believe that I should play a part in widening the ties between our two cultures whenever I find it possible.”

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Continued from **Homeless** page 1...

for the homeless.

Connecticut's Supportive Housing Program reaches out to families and individuals through a caseworker who helps rebuild the foundation under their lives, according to the State of Connecticut's website. Beyond getting families and individuals into affordable housing - defined as less than one third of the tenant's income - case workers also help them navigate government social service agencies, assist with job searches and keeping those jobs once found. The program targets people who have histories of mental and physical illness, including alcoholism or drug dependency, so caseworkers also make sure clients are receiving the medical and mental health care they need. In short, supportive housing can act as a bridge for the needy between shelters and becoming self-supporting. Still, there is more need for supportive housing than there are units.

"This year we're asking the governor and legislature to create 650 units of permanent supportive housing. We need 7,000 more to reach our goal of 10,000. If we could do that we'd make history," said Carol Walter, executive director of the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness, referring to how 10,000 units would make Connecticut a leader in supportive housing in the U.S.

According to The Coalition, almost every night, 2,000 people spend their evenings in homeless shelters. On average, more than 400 of those people are children. People were turned away from shelters in Connecticut over 30,000 times last year due to a lack of beds.

Many find the problem to be unacceptable, frustrated that our state has so many suffering homeless people in spite of its wealth. The most recent report from the U.S. Census Bureau reveals that Connecticut is the third richest state in the country, behind Maryland and New Jersey.

Many people see the homeless as a nuisance and a problem for the individuals. But it is a collective issue, said Steve Simsburg, co-artistic director of the Hartbeat Ensemble. The Ensemble is an acting troupe that recently performed "Life Without an Address," a play about homelessness, at several area venues, including Manchester Community College earlier this month.

"Recognize that homelessness is not their problem, it's a problem, one that we all need to work at fixing," he said.

Awareness of the problem can be increased if more people, especially young people, would volunteer in shelters, soup kitchens, food pantries and other places that try to help those in need, said Malis.

"It should be a college requirement for kids to volunteer with the homeless. It'd show them the real faces of people in need, merging youth and education with the needs of the homeless," he said. "It'd generate much needed community awareness and it'd help change the [community's] attitude towards the homeless."

But until that attitude, and the services available to the needy, are changed, more and more people will continue to struggle with life without an address.

"I've been homeless for about 11 years now," said John M, a resident of a local shelter, who has a job at a restaurant. "I've been searching desperately for a better job. "Every day is hard, shelter or no shelter, period... I just want to be a good member of society. I want a house, I want an education, I want a good job. Right now I'm just taking every step I can towards getting there. It's a rough road."

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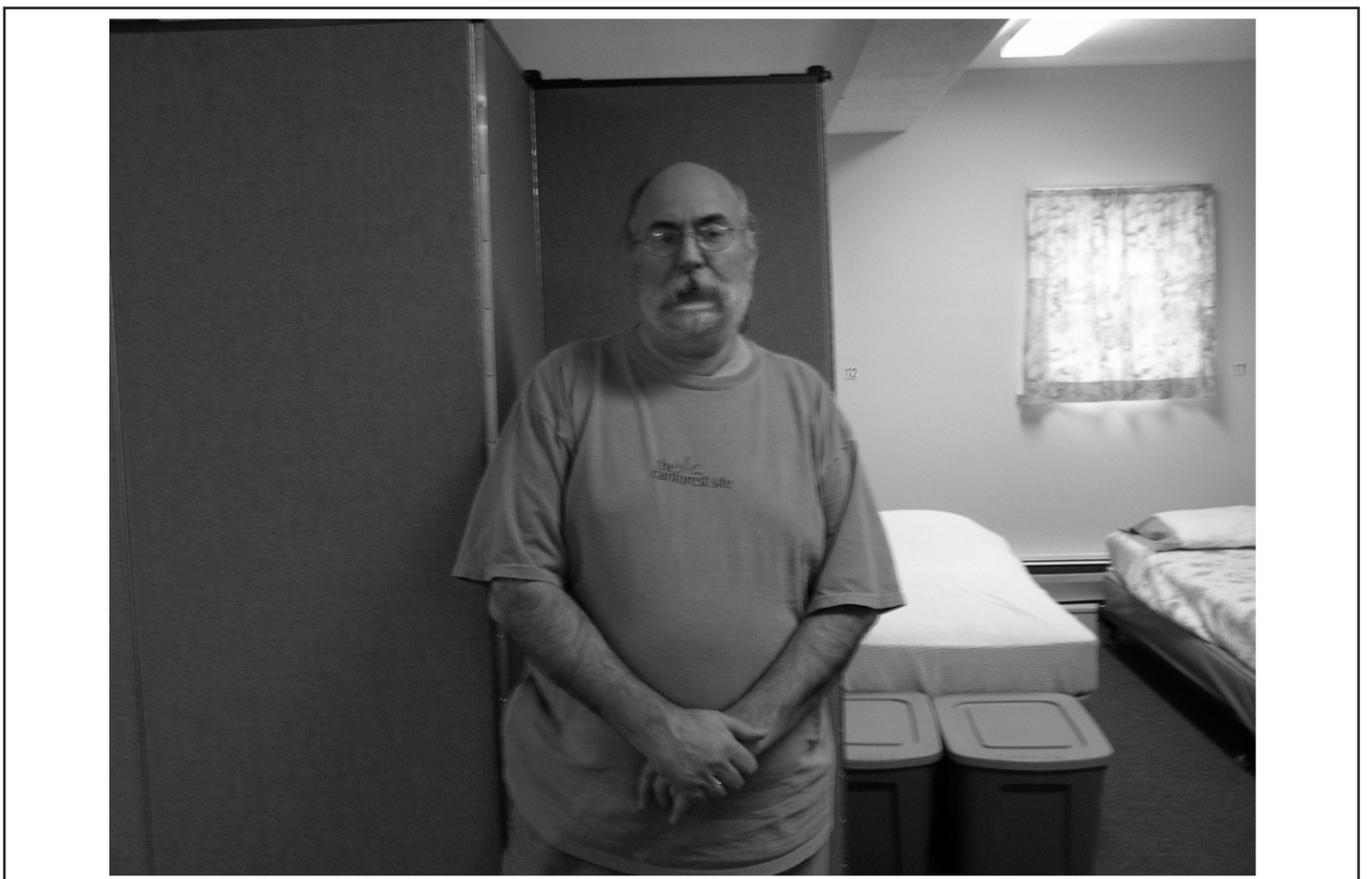
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Chris Malis, above, is the director of the Cornerstone Lodge in Rockville. *Photo by Jason Cunningham.*

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Ditch the Workout, Join the Zumba Party

By Jeanie Wright
Live Wire Staff Writer

Walking towards the fitness center recently, I heard excited shouts. "ZUMBA!" someone said, "Are you ready to dance?"

Then, all of a sudden, I heard loud, salsa music blaring from the studio and people started entering. I had a sip of water and headed into the studio to get ready for what would be one of the most amazing workout sessions I have ever experienced. I had entered the Zumba zone, where the latest trend in aerobic exercise was being vigorously practiced.

The music was upbeat and fun and Jeanne Warren, our instructor, started off with some basic moves. It was fairly easy to catch on and the moves were simple. Looking around the room, I was very surprised at the mix of people that were participating. Out of 16 people in the room, there were two male baseball players, eight female students, and other people who had found out about the class and fallen in love with it.

The music we exercised to ranged from salsa to meringue to rock n roll, to even a dash of country. Every dance had elements of working out different parts of the body, such as a twist to work on the waist, a salsa to work on the thighs, and basic upper body movements in dance form.

Warren, who also teaches at Martin Luther King Elementary, Gold's Gym and various other schools during the week in addition to MCC, said Zumba was created by accident. Beto Perez, the creator of Zumba, was an aerobics instructor in Columbia and was on

his way to teach a class when he realized he had forgotten his music. The only choice he had was to use the music from his car – a mix of Latin, rock and country. Much to his surprise, his students loved every second of it. Zumba has since spread to the United States and various other countries.

Towards the end of the class, the dance moves got progressively more difficult and I was truly feeling the burn. However, even as the dance moves got progressively difficult, I would barely miss a beat, seeing as all the moves were in a single, single, and double pattern.

Brittany Finger, a member of the Zumba class, said that one of the prime reasons she enjoyed the class was the teacher.

"She is always so enthusiastic and happily encourages others to move," said Finger. "Everyone should take Zumba."

If you take this class, don't expect your average aerobic workout with the cheesy 80's music and easy moves. This is freedom of expression to the max in dance form. If you have never taken a group exercise class, now is the time to start!

Zumba is taught in the MCC fitness center Tuesdays from 12:15 – 1 p.m. and Wednesdays from 5 – 6 p.m. For more information about group fitness classes visit www.mcc.commnet.edu/athletics/fitness, or call 860-512-3353.

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

Photos by Shalaya Shazel



By Allyson McGuire

Iris Rivera is the Spanish teacher at Great Path Academy. She said she has enjoyed working with each student enrolled in her course and she plays an active role in helping students become acquainted with the Spanish culture.

During the year, Rivera has helped to broaden the students' horizons by assigning unique research projects and papers and providing cultural cuisine opportunities within the classroom. During the spring break vacation, Rivera and a few students will be traveling to Spain to study the culture. Rivera is a native Spanish speaker born in Puerto Rico. Rivera said her parents always set a good example for her and taught her to strive to do your very best despite what you are given in life.

Rivera said she wanted to teach at GPA because of the diverse atmosphere and the positive opportunity that the school had to offer students.

"It is important to have high school students focus on the future and what lies ahead of them," she said. "Great Path Academy provides an environment in which a student can truly excel."



By Brittany McGuire

Mary-Anne Brady is a new teacher this year at Great Path Academy. She is currently teaching two sections of chemistry and one section of pre-calculus.

Brady began teaching in 1990 and has worked at many various places in between, while also taking time off for her children, Ali, who is in first grade, and Caitlin, a fourth-grader. One of the schools she previously taught at was Tai Keio Academy of New York, a Japanese high school located north of New York City. Most recently, she taught evening classes to adults in Hartford.

"I like it very much," she said about her job at GPA and the middle college experience. Brady added that she enjoys the size and flexibility of GPA and that she believes in the middle college philosophy.



By Carlese Welcome

Samhita Das (Shong-hita Das) is a new GPA math teacher. She is originally from Kolkata, India, formerly known as Calcutta. She came to the United States in 1975.

"I decided to become a teacher at least 35 years ago," she said, adding that she first started teaching at Loreto Roman Catholic School, which is led by Irish nuns, back in India. "Great Path is a great school with great staff, students and principal, of course."



By Mary Elizabeth Cuva

Bonnie McKenna is a biology, human anatomy, physiology and nutrition science teacher. It is her first year here, but not her first as a teacher. McKenna said she loves teaching at GPA and "enjoys the challenge." She said she feels that the middle college high school program is a great opportunity for the students and especially likes how their curriculum is aligned with that of Manchester Community College.

McKenna lived in Boston, Mass., until the age of eight, when her family moved to Maine. After completing high school, she attended Northeastern University, earning a bachelor of science in medical technology. She said her interest in teaching was influenced by her own teachers, and later, while she taught swimming over the summer.

"I've always been interested in science and I was inspired by one of my science teachers who made learning fun," McKenna said.

Before becoming a teacher, McKenna worked as a registered medical technician. She conducted parasitic and other lab work and studied hematology, microbiology and chemistry. Before coming to Great Path, McKenna was a substitute at RHAM Middle/High School and an elementary school in Hebron.

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Get Out and Here's a Guide to t



Name: Hillary Rodham Clinton
Age: 60
Party: Democratic

Higher Education - Clinton plans on increasing the maximum Pell Grant and strengthening community colleges through a \$500 million investment. In one of her speeches she assures the public that she knows, "Higher education has never been more of a financial burden."

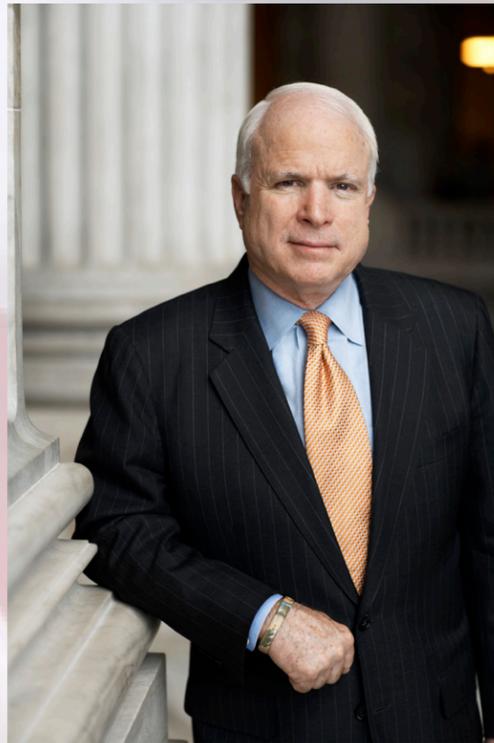
Healthcare - Clinton's American Health Choices Plan would cover all Americans and improve health care by lowering costs and improving quality.

War in Iraq - If Pres. Bush does not end the war, Clinton has said that, if she is elected, she will. "Our message to the president is clear. It is time to begin ending this war -- not next year, not next month -- but today."

Economy - Clinton has a plan to address America's energy and environmental challenges that will establish a green, efficient economy and create as many as five million new jobs.

For more information about Hillary Clinton visit www.hillaryclinton.com.

- Nicole Brewster



Name: John McCain
Age: 72
Party: Republican

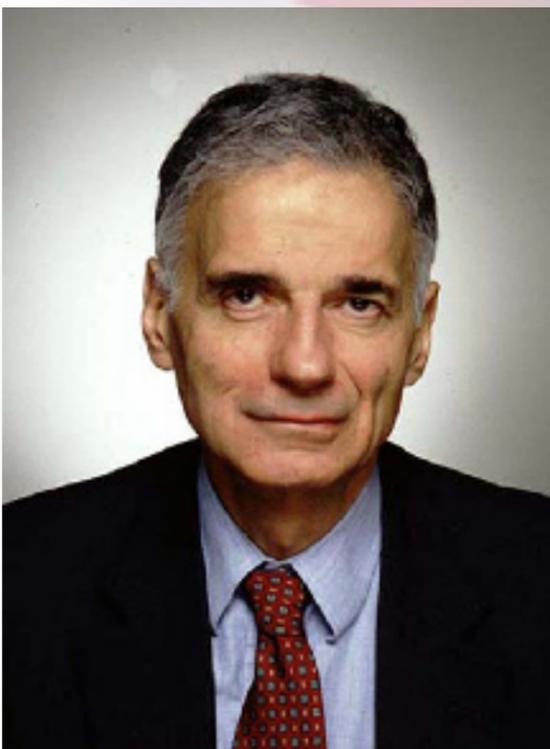
Higher Education - McCain prepare young people for college. "... better able to meet the critical resp they'll face in the world they'll lea

Healthcare - McCain supp taxpayers and want to offer better a tax credit of \$2,500, \$5,000 for to take away the bias toward givin to reward having insurance no ma

War in Iraq - McCain does us home. "If you leave (Abu Mus what they're after -- this is now p consume us for the rest of this cen

Economy - McCain supp your taxes. I intend to cut them. I corporate tax rates from 35 percen

For more information about John



Name: Ralph Nader
Age: 74

Party: Though generally thought to be part of the Green Party or Reform Party, he is actually not a member of any party.

Higher Education - Nader would abolish standardized testing, increase Pell grant and Stafford loan funding, as well as capital improvement funding. "The federal government must not impose an overemphasis on high-stakes standardized tests. Such testing has a negative impact on student learning."

Healthcare - Nader is for a single-payer healthcare system with a 3.5 percent payroll tax to fund it, and he wants fair drug pricing and full federal prescription coverage. "The government should finance health care, but keep the delivery of it to private nonprofits, and allow free choice of doctors and hospitals for patients."

War in Iraq - Nader is for the rapid and responsible withdrawal of U.S. military from Iraq, and he wants to stop the so-called "saber rattling" against Iran and start negotiations. "The U.S. must... take up Iran's serious proposal in 2003 to negotiate all outstanding issues between the U.S. and Iran."

Economy - Nader would increase the minimum wage significantly, cut unnecessary military spending, and focus on infrastructure, poverty, and preventive health. "Half of our federal operating budget is now military spending. There's no more Soviet Union. Communist China is not our threat--they want our jobs and industry, and our corporations are obliging."

For more information about Ralph Nader visit www.votenadar.org or www.votesmart.org.

- Jonathon Michals

Vote in 2008

the Main Candidates



Name: Barack Obama
Age: 46
Party: Democratic

Higher Education – Obama has said he will create the “American Opportunity Tax Credit” to cover the first \$4,000 of a college education for most Americans, make community college free for most students and streamline the federal financial aid process. “I’ll tap the tremendous resource of community colleges, which educate half the undergraduates in this country. We’ll help schools determine what skills and technical education are needed to help local industry; we’ll expand new degrees for emerging fields; and we’ll reward schools that graduate more students.”

Healthcare – Obama would institute affordable and portable subsidized coverage with guaranteed eligibility and the option to purchase regulated private insurance. Coverage of children would be mandatory. “If you are one of the 45 million Americans who don’t have health insurance, you will have it after this plan becomes law. No one will be turned away because of a preexisting condition or illness.”

War in Iraq – Plans to have all combat brigades out of Iraq within 16 months. He said he will press Iraq’s leaders to reconcile and take control of the country, while the U.S. continues to offer humanitarian support and will use aggressive diplomacy to help stabilize the region. “I spoke out against what I called ‘a rash war’ in Iraq. The full accounting of those costs and consequences will only be known to history. But the picture is beginning to come into focus.”

Economy – Obama would provide tax cuts for working families, fight for a fair trade policy, work on job creation, ensure the right to unionize, and reform bankruptcy laws. “We are all in this together. From CEOs to shareholders, from financiers to factory workers, we all have a stake in each other’s success because the more Americans prosper, the more America prospers.”

For more information about Barack Obama visit www.barackobama.com.

- Jonathon Michals

in supports improving the elementary and secondary schools to better to make our public schools more accountable to parents and responsibility they have to prepare our children for the challenges ahead.”

ports lowering the cost of health insurance to businesses and quality care to veterans. “I believe that everyone should get families, if they have health insurance. It is good tax policy giving workers benefits instead of wages. It is good health policy matter where your policy comes from.”

not support pulling troops out of Iraq. “These people will follow (ab) al-Zarqawi, if you leave (Osama) bin Laden, if you see part of this titanic struggle between good and evil which will endure.”

ports tax cuts. “Senator Clinton and Senator Obama will raise will start by making the Bush tax cuts permanent. I will cut it to 25 percent to keep industries and jobs in this country.”

on McCain visit www.johnmccain.com.

- Mallorie Maker



Name: Ron Paul
Age: 72
Party: Republican

Higher Education – Paul supports the “Make College Affordable” Act and supports a full tax deduction for undergraduate college tuition and advocates ending the federal education monopoly. “The federal government does not own our children, yet we act as if it does by letting it decide when, how, and what our children will learn.”

Healthcare – Paul has said he would reform licensure regulations so that pharmacists and nurses can perform basic functions to increase access to health care and lower the cost and make medical expenses tax deductible. “[The government] is more involved in medicine than many other areas and you see a skyrocketing of prices.”

War in Iraq – Paul thinks the country’s soldiers are spread too thin, that the U.S. has soldiers in 130 countries and we need to bring them back to America and focus on securing America first. “The only proper way to go to war, the only legal way to go to war, the only constitutional way to go to war, [is] by the congress, not by the President. The people should be behind it.”

Economy – Paul believes that the government burdens taxpayers with inflation tax. The more money that the government creates the less value it holds. “Day by day, every dollar you have is being devalued. You pay an inflation tax without even realizing it...”

For more information about Ron Paul, visit <http://www.ronpaul2008.com>.

- Ashley E. Lang



HE SAID/ SHE SAID

What do you think of a woman as President of this country?



By Jonathon Michals
Live Wire Assistant Editor

This is a difficult question to answer for a number of reasons, the most significant being the most obvious; I cannot speak for all men. But therein lay another problem, as well as part of my answer. The problem is that there is still a strong line of bigotry and sexism in the male population (and certainly in the female population as well, but on a smaller scale), though it tends to be more hidden or subtle nowadays, and it trends towards an older audience. Even the question itself, or the fact that some feel it needs to be asked, is a strong indication that there are standing elements of gender hierarchy in our society. I am not trying to insinuate that you hold these feelings, as this has been an active question for decades, especially as the number of other developed countries with female leaders, past and present, increases. The fact that I cannot speak for all men also leads to part of my answer, though in an admittedly skewed fashion. No man is exactly the same in thought or mind, and neither is any woman. Equal rights, opportunity, and treatment are important and fundamental to a healthy to society, but that is not exactly the same as equality. In fact, I believe, by pure definition, that no two people are equal, for the very reason that one will always have an advantage at something over the other. I don't believe, with the exception of certain anatomical and biological issues, that one gender has anything specifically over the other. Therefore, the question should not be

whether a woman is right for the job, but, rather, whether this woman, or this person is right for the job.

So, despite my verbosity (I tend to be a longwinded person), perhaps I've taken the easy route in answering the question. Of course we are ready for a female president. We have always been ready. What is gender but a differentiation in chromosomal arrangement? I'll leave you, reader, with a quote from seminal civil rights activist Florynce Kennedy that I think sums up the issue pretty succinctly: "There are very few jobs that actually require a penis or vagina. All other jobs should be open to everybody."

By Ashley E. Lang
Live Wire Layout Editor

I believe that being a woman should have nothing to do with someone's ability to become president. Women have struggled throughout history, and even up to this very day, to break down the barriers that separate women from men. Women are continuously fighting against the glass ceiling that places men above women in the work force and the fight is an ongoing battle. The fact that a woman is running against a man is monumental all by itself. However I do understand the importance that having a female president in office would be, but I do not believe that people should focus solely on the fact that a woman is running for president simply because she is a woman. I would rather instead focus on the issues that each candidate stands

for and what they hope to achieve while in office and what they will do to fix our current economic situation. I don't feel that a position as powerful and important as the American presidency should be decided based on gender alone. While I am a woman, and I do feel that it is important for women to have equal opportunities as men and not be judged based on our gender alone, I feel that when deciding on a position as substantial as the presidency we should place gender aside and focus on how the issues that we face currently and in our future would be handled by each of the individual candidates, regardless of what of their genders are.

Montreal Offers Plentiful Food, Culture and Nightlife on a Budget

By Rachel Freeman
Live Wire Staff Writer

Falling in love with Montreal is not difficult to do. With its fast paced atmosphere and wonderfully quiet retreats, it is no wonder four days seemed hardly enough time there.

Three good friends and I took to the streets of Montreal in search of a wonderful Spring Break earlier this month. We took a Greyhound bus from Hartford to Canada. The whole trip took about eight hours, most of it in the U.S.. From the U.S./Canadian border it was another hour and a half to the city of Montreal in Quebec. We stayed in the lively Latin Quarter in a loft-style hotel on Ontario Est.

The second-largest city in Canada, Montreal is a diverse metropolis welcoming many cultures and embracing them thoroughly. A walk through its Chinatown is evidence enough. Shops line a wonderfully tucked away street bustling with business and pleasure. Authentic herb shops embody the culture and prove to be a great learning experience. Sweet aromas permeate the senses and draw you into a bakery with wonderful treats ranging from Japanese cheesecake to buttery sweet coconut rolls.

A quick metro ride (\$2.75 one

way in Canadian currency) is all it took for us to get from our hotel to other exciting locations. The U.S. dollar was only worth \$0.98 while I was in Montreal, but the value can change at any time. Many establishments also take American currency, but it is a good idea to exchange it to Canadian currency since there are some places that will add on a percentage to accept American currency. Taking a walk down Crescent Street is one way to find an exchange.

One great place to go using the metro is the Biodome museum, truly a sight to see. The building houses four distinct climates to walk around in and learn about. The most exiting of the four is the Rainforest exhibit. The lush vegetation and steaming humidity give the Biodome its real life quality. There is also exotic animal life; including fire-red birds and orange monkeys. Completing the surreal scene is a calming waterfall. For about \$12, for students, you can see all of this and, for a flat rate of \$20.25 there is also an Insectarium, and Botanical Garden to visit in the same vicinity.

There is no shortage of restaurants in Montreal. After working up an appetite, there are many great places to choose from



Cabana a Sucre, above, offers maple syrup treats in Montreal.

Photo by Rachel Freeman

no matter what your preference. A delightfully quaint breakfast place in Old Montreal is Galiano's. Its menu features many American dishes with a French twist. Instead of pancakes, you get crepes, but the concept is the same and the taste is magnificent. Many tourist shops can be found in the European-style buildings surrounding the restaurant if you are looking for a reminder of your trip. Everything from sweatshirts to shot glasses can be found among these shops, all with either a maple leaf or the country's name itself. A sweet tooth is easily satisfied at Cabane a Sucre. This stand is home to unique and tasty maple syrup treats.

French Canadian is the national language and so it is spoken extensively in Montreal. I do not

know any French whatsoever and I did not have a problem speaking to people. Most spoke English and French, so it is easy to ask for help or strike up a conversation with the locals.

Dinner at Zyng, an Asian noodlery, is also a delight. For about \$10 you can build your own rice or noodle bowl from start to finish. The atmosphere is comfortable and fun and the service is helpful and attentive. When our meals were done, our waiter gave us directions to a couple of streets that were known for the night scene. They ended up being about a 10 minute walk from our hotel.

This is the heart of the city, on streets named Saint Laurant and

Please see **Montreal** on page 11

Continued from **Montreal** page 10...

Saint Catherine. Every local we spoke to made sure to direct us to this area. Night clubs and pubs line the streets and make for a fun evening. Of all the pubs, one stands out: La Distillerie. Its location happened to be on Ontario Est., the same street as our hotel street. Housing a truly inventive drink list - Jazz a' Razz, a deep red Jack Daniels-based drink, and Electric Lemonade, an ice blue Vodka lemonade, just to name a few - the place was packed with fun people and good music. Everything from classic rock to dance remixes shuffled up, along with the occasional French song. The bar's Ten Commandments, written on the wall, are a true testament to the owner's commitment to having a good time.

They include "Make sure to spread the word of your experience" and "Enter as a customer, leave as a friend."

With so much to do and see, there truly will never be enough vacation time for it all. Hitting these key places though is a good start.

While also taking in the Times Square feel of this area. The street is flooded with many name brand stores, bright lights, and an even bigger surplus of people. I would definitely recommend a trip to Montreal to anyone looking to have a good time. Grabbing a map, metro ticket, and comfortable shoes is sure to lead to success in this beautiful city.

"Temporary Truth" Provokes Thought and Laughter

By Jason Cunningham
Live Wire Editor

Peter A. Di Pietro, or should I say Beat Waydown, as he's known by his pen name, which he came up with, in part, as an homage to the Beat Generation poets, provides readers with a critical look at the roots of revolution in his book "Temporary Truth," self-published Nov. 1, 2007.

An excellent piece of satire based on commonly held political and religious misconceptions, it has the quality of being extremely humorous, while still making you think. He incorporates numerous ideas from the history of philosophy.

He basically deconstructs current day politics with his wide scope of philosophic conceptions. He uses a wild cast of fictional characters, parodying events in Russia from the 1841 potato revolts, spanning to the political intrigues of 1918. He doesn't waste his time attempting historical accuracy, only using his precious pages to convey ideas, unloading what we want lingering in our minds.

Set in Russia, the plot features Pietor Ugamovich, the main protagonist, who keeps to himself, often deep in thought. He is a potato picker by trade, but has kept away from the fields. He was orphaned as a child and the memory of his lacking youth haunts him. He plays his violin in the town square, collecting small amounts of money, so he won't have to return to the

potato fields. Throughout the book he is barely avoiding starvation.

The supporting cast features Grav Diggerova, who spends his unemployed days playing cards, Bigadella Ulluzionavich, who is a power-hungry woman who uses her femininity to her advantage, and Axle, who is a young soldier in love with Bigadella, longing for attention and a sense of warmth from her.

Even though the book deals with serious subject matter, it has the ability to remain funny throughout. The biggest problem this book faces is that it aims for a small audience with its sophisticated literary, philosophical and historical references. Di Pietro uses themes, concepts, and references that some may not be able to understand without prior exposure to the information. This book certainly isn't for the average reader. "Temporary Truth" reads as if essayist Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote in Beat poetry, but strikes you like the works of philosopher and author Franz Kafka. But this novel is the whole package for any adult interested in philosophy.

Di Pietro, 49, resides in South Windsor, where he runs a bike repair shop. He is a former professor of philosophy at Manchester Community College, where he first taught in 1988, and then again in 2003. "Temporary Truth" retails at \$12.95 and is available on Amazon.com and other book-selling Web sites and some bookstores.

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Mary J. Blige Shows Growth with “Growing Pains”

By Stephanie Bond
Live Wire Staff Writer

From depressed, desperate, heartbroken and anxious to confident, mature, appreciative and stable: artist Mary J. Blige has definitely gone through some growing pains to get there.

While her new hit album is appropriately titled “Growing Pains” we all knew Mary when she was “Going Down” after her messy public break up with singer K-Ci from Jodeci and when she was searching for “Real Love” back in the day. This CD shows the new, mature, confident Mary as she lets the world know she has indeed grown up into the woman she always desired to be.

With the track “Grown Woman,” Mary boldly states she is extremely confident and proud of the woman she is today, now happily married to producer Kendu Isaacs. With

catchy beats and her classic melodic voice this CD shows her fans that she is no different than us. She connects to you on a level that makes it seem as if she wrote the song for you, the listener. Many women can relate to this CD on one level or another, whether it deals with love and relationships, trust or people trying to hold you back.

Even though this album expresses that Mary has grown a lot, it also shows signs that she is still a work in progress. Songs like “Hurt Again” and “Fade Away” display that she still has her down and out days, but what woman doesn’t? This album is a lady’s must have, but fellows you can learn a thing or two from it as well.

“Growing Pains” features guest appearances from Ludacris, Lil’ Mama, and Usher, and the variety



Photo courtesy of google

makes it guaranteed to be a compact disc of choice in your car for the upcoming summer. This album shows sides of Mary that she hasn’t revealed in

awhile. She keeps it as real as real can get and gives us her all. It is definitely worth your \$15, so don’t go bootleg it, support Mary.

“Middlesex” Digs Deep Into the Search for Identity

By Ashley E. Lang
Live Wire Layout Editor

Jeffrey Eugenides created another masterpiece for generations of bookworms with *Middlesex*, a coming-of-age page-turner. No wonder Eugenides was awarded the 2003 Pulitzer Prize for fiction for this stunning book and talk-show host Oprah Winfrey chose it as her book club selection last summer. He is also the author of *The Virgin Suicides* (1993).

Middlesex, published in 2002, creates an almost too overwhelming but raw and emotional journey that will leave readers begging for more. A page-turner in most respects, Eugenides tells the story of personal growth and triumph set against the backdrop of a developing Detroit beginning in 1960 and continuing 40 years down the road.

The novel’s main character is young and naive Calliope Stephanides, who serves as both a narrator and protagonist while reciting the key events in her family’s ancestry, dating

back to ancient Turkey. The events eventually lead to her self realization and self acceptance in a very conservative era.

Calliope takes readers on a journey looking back on the decisions that her grandparents, and her own parents made, which, in the end, return to take revenge on her. As a young girl, Calliope begins to show abnormalities that were more consistent with male puberty rather than female. She finds herself falling in love with her best friend, whom she only refers to as “the object,” and developing male physical features instead of a typical developing young woman’s.

I liked *Middlesex* because it is both an enlightening and empowering novel that will leave readers questioning our society today. Eugenides creates a strong willed heroine - or should I say hero - whose search for an identity submerges readers into a twisted tale of the ancient

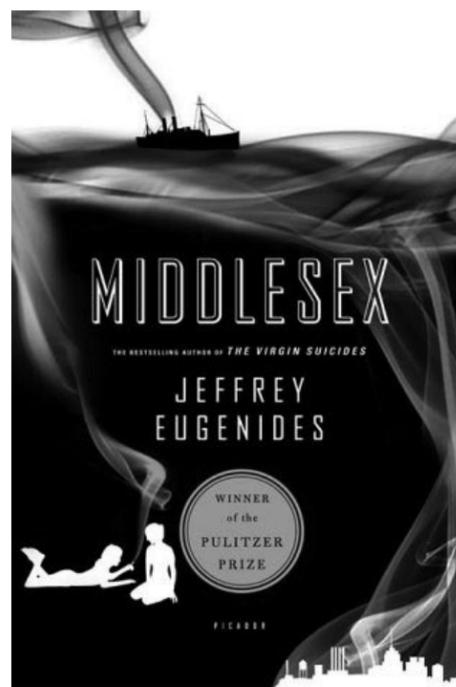


Photo courtesy of Google

Greeks, forbidden love, sex, and understanding that all eventually play a role in morphing Calliope into Cal. His novel dives deep into the core meaning of the individual, who we really are beneath our outer extremities.

Published by Picador, *Middlesex* is available at Barnes & Noble and other bookstores and on Amazon.com for \$15. Eugenides latest book is a collection of love stories titled *My Mistress’s Sparrow Is Dead: Great Love Stories, from Chekhov to Munro*, published in 2008.

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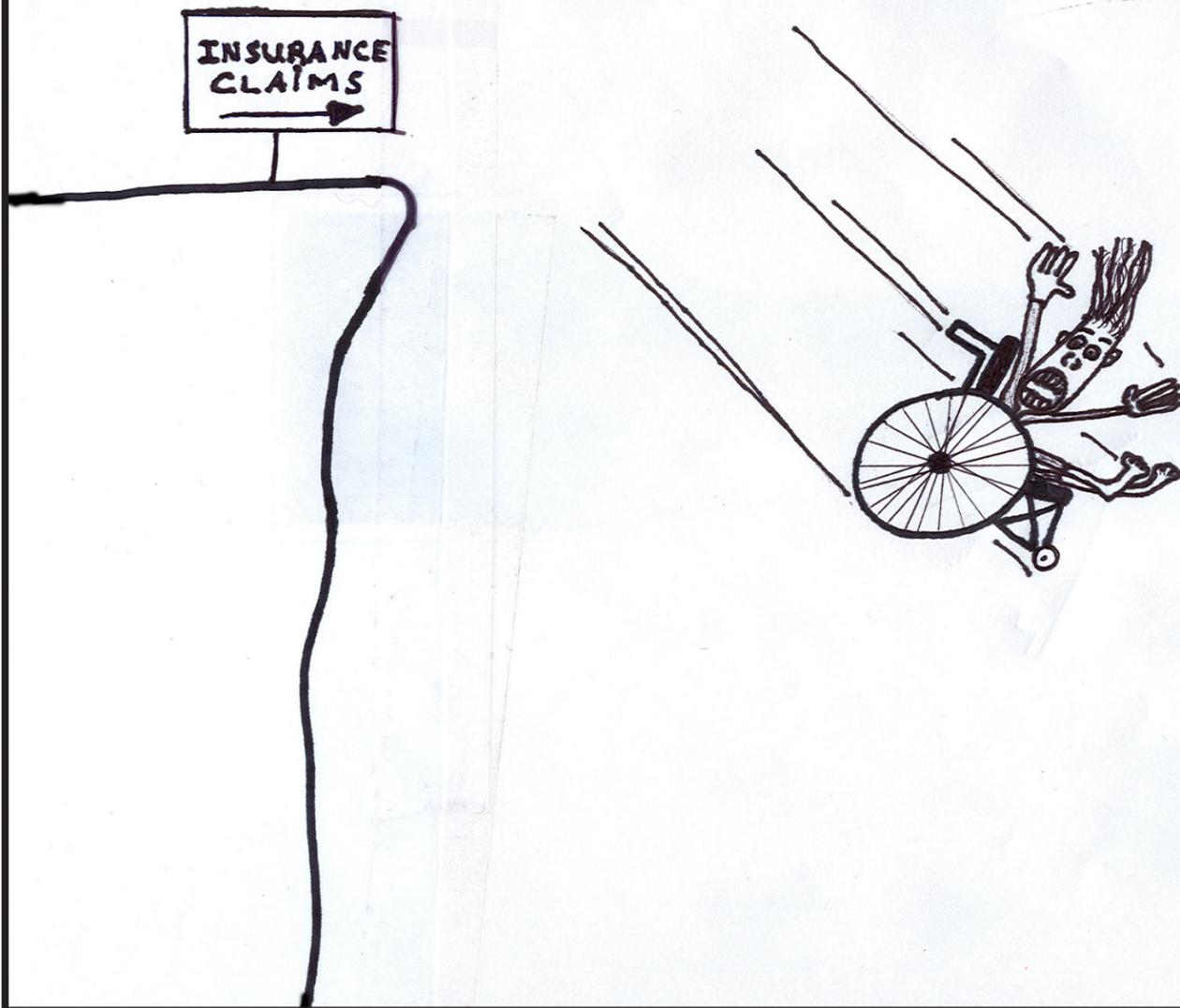
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Can't We All Just Get Along?

By Jason Cunningham
Live Wire Editor



Certain things just don't make sense to me. One of those things is terrorism. When I think of people hurting each other based on differences in beliefs and values it leaves a cold, empty space in my heart. Violence in today's world is a weight tied to the ankle of a child swimming in the deep end of a pool.

I was thinking about this recently while on my way to the National College Newspaper Convention in San Francisco with three other representatives from Manchester Community College Feb. 27 to March 2. We left from Bradley International Airport and once we got there we had to check in, get our tickets, drop off our bags, wait in line, take off our shoes, and put all of our possessions into little bins, all in the name of safety. Everything had to be checked. We were even put into a little booth at security that smelled and analyzed all of the different scents on our

bodies to check for the presence of explosives. I heard one elderly man mumble something sarcastic about terrorism as he sat on a bench to put his boots back on. Every 15 minutes or so an announcement would come on:

"Report any suspicious activities or individuals in the airport or airport parking lot to airport security," said a warm, but stern male voice over the Bradley intercom.

Everything about airport security reminded me of something science fiction novelist George Orwell would write. I boarded the plane feeling disturbed, saddened that our country is in such a state of fear that we need all these security measures.

The possibility of our plane crashing ran through my mind, but I would still never expect it to be because of an act of terrorism. I feel as if that would

be the very last thing I'd expect. People killing others in the name of a belief or an idea seems so unrealistic to me, yet it happens every day.

The most personal parts of a person's identity, where they place their faith and their values, should be personal. Everyone should be entitled to feel what they want, to believe what they want. There should be no fear of harm based on what country they come from, what religion they practice, or what their sexual orientation or race is.

What's even worse is the idea of the Patriot Act. This Act, passed in 2001 was supposed to make us feel better about the risks of day-to-day life by giving the federal government unprecedented freedom to monitor, detain and question "suspicious" individuals. Yet, instead of bringing a feeling of safety, it only provides more fear. It's as if Joe McCarthy,

the senator famous for his search for alleged Communists in the 1950s, was resurrected to perform more witch hunts in the name of our government. It's an eerie thought, one that scares me.

People are going to disagree and have conflict. But we live in a day and age where everyone should be able to get along despite their differences. It shouldn't matter what you feel or believe. Human beings should never have to be in fear of each other, but especially not because of things that are personal. If everyone killed every other person that disagreed with them about one thing or another, everyone would be dead. Our bodies would be bones in the ground or ash in the air.

Not everyone will ever accept diversity and it's an unfortunate pain we all bear. I feel that those of us who are tolerant must march on, or else the human race as we know it will fail. Love your fellow man, before we're all poltergeists haunting the earth.

Moses, Muhammad, Jesus, and Buddha ask "Can't we all just get along?"



Comic by Jason Cunningham

What Flavor of the Month Is It?

By JoHanna McCashland
Live Wire Staff Writer

January is for new beginnings. February is for love. March is to march into spring. April is for mayflowers. Within those days of January, February, March, April, and the rest of the months of the year you can decide what flavor of the month it is. In our modern society, we have dedicated the month of February to Black history and the month of March to Women's history. Again, January is for new beginnings. If we do not appreciate our collective history and respect our diversity we are bound to repeat history. Black history month and Women's history month are important mechanisms to remember our history and those who struggled for equality.

First, let's face it, everyone has a little bit of black and white in their life. Sometimes the bad is not always the bad. Sometimes the good is not always the good. Superficially, we walk by each other in the hallways and byways of Manchester Community College and may make assumptions based on looks. If we are smart, we may go beyond looks and inquire about modes of transportation. My point is that, for years, people of different ethnicities or colors were assumed to be inferior because of their superficial characteristics. But the quality of an individual cannot be gained through neither mandatory testing nor superficial characteristics. Our collective "herstory" is not all bad, but it is

not all good either.

Next, let us admit women birth nations. For this ability, modern society has recognized her inalienable right to pursue life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. She has fought for the abolition of slavery and inhumanity. And for this, a month has been set aside to commemorate the pink, yellow, black and brown women who have fought for equity. Yet pink, black, yellow, and brown variations of males were acknowledged to have the right to vote before that of females. The 15th amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which allowed all men to vote regardless of race, was ratified in 1870. But women had to wait until the 19th amendment was passed in 1920 before they could

exercise their right to vote. After it was passed, women such as Septima Poinsette Clark and Francis Perkins marched and organized for a more equitable society. Still today, there are inequalities of education, economics, and the perception of an individual's worth. Our society is not all bad but it is not all good either.

January is the month for new beginnings. Each day is a new beginning! Choose what flavor of the day you'd like it to be. Remember the challenges of the past to prevent mistakes of the past from reoccurring. Black History Month and Women's History Month are good ways to do that.

Cell Phones are Classroom Distractions



By Joe Marandino Jr.
Live Wire Staff Writer



It is amazing to me how an unfortunate amount of classroom distractions occur and continue to disrupt the learning environment. Cell phones are at the top of the list, followed by food related disturbances.

On the first class of every semester, a course syllabus is handed out to all of the students. Part of the syllabus explains the rules and regulations to which students are expected to adhere. College is a mature adult learning atmosphere and some basic etiquette, manners and respect – including refraining from cell phone use during class – are all expected from everyone attending any college. A little common sense would help too. Rude cell phone interruptions during class can totally throw off your whole serious concentration while you are trying to absorb difficult

course material.

Some students have learning disabilities and some have challenges learning the material because they have been out of school for many years prior to going back to college. Other students have a little difficulty learning because they are exhausted and fatigued from balancing a family, work and college in an effort to better themselves. It is so blatantly rude, unprofessional and careless when someone's cell phone goes off in class while the volume is turned all the way up and an idiotic ring tone plays. As a continuation of this major classroom distraction, the rest of the class usually gets to listen to the commotion of the digging through the purse or backpack in the violent rush to get to the phone, followed by the numerous amount of apologies. It would be acceptable for an

individual to put their cell phone on vibrate and then leave the classroom when an unexpected and valid emergency call comes in, wouldn't it?

Other phone-related distractions include texting and the general noise created when a student regularly digs for their phone, checks it, loudly snaps it shut and then puts it away. It is a fair assumption to say that if you are so important that you can't go an hour and a half without using your phone, perhaps you shouldn't enroll in classes and make everyone's class experience unpleasant.

Also, I am pretty sure that all of the "NO CELL PHONES ALLOWED" signs that are posted all over the library, Fireside Commons and all computer labs are there for a reason. Every time I have been in Fireside Commons, which is supposed to be a quiet study area, or a computer

lab, I am distracted by someone's cell phone ringing and then having to listen to that person ramble on ever so rudely. There is absolutely no excuse for cell phone use in these areas.

Cell phone use is a very serious epidemic that is plaguing this prestigious community college learning environment. The cost of tuition, books and fuel, along with the effort and time invested in our education here, gives us every right to complain about these distractions that can hinder our learning experience. The rules regarding cell phone use on campus need to be continually reinforced by college faculty and staff. And there should be strict disciplinary action implemented to enforce the rules. It is a matter of basic etiquette, manners and respect for everyone on campus.

WORD on campus

If the
Presidential
election were
held today,
who would
you vote for?



Jaime Dolan
General Studies

"Definitely a democrat. I would pick Hillary. I feel that what her husband did was awesome for the economy, and I know that she went through the same schooling that he did, and she was right there during his presidency. When some people say that she doesn't know or can't do it because she is a woman that is BS."



Kyle Shuh
"[Dennis] Kucinich, because I agree with most of his ideas."



Chris Trudeau
Computer Networking Technology

"I would vote for [Barack] Obama, because he seems like he would do things a little differently than Hillary Clinton would. And I think a little diversity would help us out in the United States. It's nice to actually have a president who wrote a book before his election."

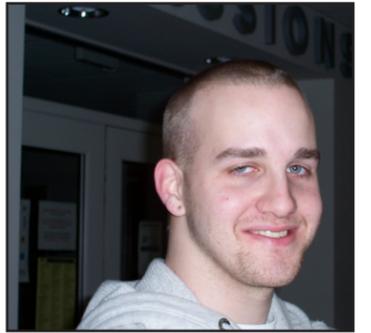


Jennifer Cowles
Liberal Arts

"I find it very difficult to choose a single person to vote for, because a lot of them have some things that I like, and a lot of things that I don't. I would probably vote for Mitt Romney. I do tend to vote more Republican, but even Romney has characteristics that I don't care for."



Rebecca VanHoudt
Drug & Alcohol Counseling
"I would vote for Obama, because I definitely would go along the Democratic side because I hold all those viewpoints."



Brandon Getty
Criminal Studies
"I wouldn't vote for anyone, because I don't follow politics close enough."



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Noon – 1:30 PM	Luncheon
1:30 PM – 3:00 PM	Celebration and Tribute
3:00 PM – 4:00 PM	Dessert Buffet

Speakers include:

- The Honorable M. Jodi Rell, Governor, State of Connecticut
- The Honorable John B. Larson, Member, United States Congress; former President, Connecticut Senate
- The Honorable David M. Bartley, former Speaker, Massachusetts House; President Emeritus, Holyoke Community College
- E.R. Braithwaite, author of *To Sir, With Love*
- Reverend David L. Cannon, former Chair, community college board of trustees
- David G. Carter, Chancellor, CT state universities; former President, Eastern Connecticut State University
- The Honorable Melody A. Currey, Mayor, East Hartford; former Deputy Speaker, Connecticut House
- Carol W. Eaton, President, Frederick Community College, Maryland; former Dean, MCC
- Marc S. Herzog, Chancellor, CT community colleges
- William J. McGurk, President, Rockville Bank; community college trustee
- Stephen Joel Trachtenberg, President Emeritus, The George Washington University; former President, The University of Hartford
- And others