



Search for New Academic Dean; Tough but Rewarding

By Danish Rehman
Live Wire Staff Writer

Recently, there have been some changes concerning the Deans at Manchester Community College. Not only have some of them been relocated, but also, one of them is retiring at the end of this school year.

Alice Savage, Dean of Academic Affairs, issued her retirement at the beginning of August 2008, said Associate Dean of Academic Affairs G. Duncan Harris. Harris is on the committee himself for the search for Savage's replacement. The academic dean is "the Chief Academic Officer, who is largely responsible for oversight of faculty, of our curriculum, and how we interface with the Department of Higher Education," Harris said.

The academic dean is just one of six deans at the college. In addition to Savage and Harris, there is also the Dean of Student Affairs, Alfred Carter; Dean of Administrative Affairs, Thomas Bavier; Dean of Institutional Development, Lillian Ortiz; and the Dean of Continuing Education, Melanie Haber.

Each dean has responsibility for crucial areas of the college, Harris said. Bavier is responsible for oversight of the college budget and finance practices, the physical plant, campus security, and information technology, while Ortiz orchestrates fundraising efforts of the college through the college foundation. She also has the responsibility for MCC's marketing and public relations programs, which include the web page and all print materials.

Haber oversees the extension credit free programs, like workforce development programs, credit free certificate programs, and College By Design. She also oversees youth excursion programs, which are classes for youngsters in grades K-12. They are offered in the summer and spring.

Carter, as Dean of Student Affairs, is the one many students have come in contact with during their time at MCC. He is responsible for the student service areas of the college, including counseling, admissions, financial aid, health services, student activities, registration, testing, athletics and fitness, the child

development center, international and minority student programs, and career services. Harris is responsible for oversight of the library, the Academic Support Center, Educational Technology and Distance Learning, Media Services, and Cooperative Education/College Career Pathways.

Replacing a member of the college administration like Savage takes time, Harris said.

"The whole thing is basically a yearlong process," he said, adding that the first step was advertising the opening in the Chronicle of Higher Education, a national publication. Of those who applied, six finalists were selected, he said. Those finalists each help open forums where they took questions from faculty, staff and students earlier this month.

A big part of this search process has been student input, and Lawrence Gohagan has been the "conduit to student participation," Harris said. Gohagan got a seat on the search committee through a recommendation from Harris.

Gohagan said that he gets personal satisfaction from being on the committee.

"It has been tough being on this committee and yet to give the time to this for the security of the school is a reward by itself," he said.

Gohagan said he does not have any special qualifications to sit on the committee.

"It's not something I need to be special in or different than anyone else because none of those conditions exist; only that I am a student and that I am concerned about what affects me and what affects me can possibly affect those that come after me," he said.

On Wednesday, March 18, MCC Pres. Gena Glickman announced that Dr. Joanne Russell was her pick to replace Savage as academic dean. Russell has been work at MCC since 1995, when she taught biology. Since 2006 she has been director of the Liberal Arts division.

"Dr. Russell is highly respected by her colleagues and has earned a reputation as a strong leader and excellent communicator," Glickman wrote in her announcement.

Glickman said the choice of Russell needs to be approved by the Board of Trustees of Community-Technical Colleges at its April meeting. If approved, Russell would begin her new position Aug. 1.



Dean of Academic Affairs, Alice Savage, will be retiring at the end of the 2008-2009 school year.
Photo by Rachel M. DePenning

The 'Drama' Begins at Manchester Community College

By Rachel M. DePenning
Live Wire Editor

Another new club has popped up on campus. Communications faculty member Albert Kim and English faculty member Kaarina Finegan have reformed the MCC Drama Club, a club that once thrived in the 70's.

"We have a great auditorium here," said Kim. "We just feel it needs to be fully utilized, and a drama club would be a great use for that space."

Having an extensive background in theater and perfor-

mance himself, Kim said he came up with the idea for the club after having a conversation with Finegan, who also has theater experience, about the disappearance of the old MCC drama club. The two, being very busy with their teaching, finally found time to organize the club in February this year, and decided to co-advise the club together.

Finegan and Kim held the first meeting on Feb. 24.

"We put together some surveys for the students who [showed] up, as to what kinds of specific things they'd be interested in," said Kim. "What do they plan on getting out of a new drama club on campus?"

Jen Lewis, a communication major in her second year at MCC, is the club's vice president.

"I decided to join the Drama Club because I've had an interest in theater as long as I can remember," said Lewis. "I haven't been involved in any theater programs since I graduated high school, two years ago, and I was eager to get back into it."

Lewis, a student of Kim's, said he encouraged her to join the club and become an officer.

"I wanted to become an officer because I wanted to have a lot of involvement in getting the

See **Drama**, Page 3



“One-Day College: All the World’s a Stage” Approaches

The One-Day College program will explore drama and arts for people of all ages interested in all areas of theater. It will be held Saturday, April 18, from 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. in the Fireside Commons. The One-Day College includes classes such as puppetry, dance, improvisation, poetry and mime. There is a \$25 course fee that will include breakfast and lunch. For more information, contact Continuing Education at (860) 512-2800 or visit www.mcc.commnet.edu.

Poetry Club Presents Two Chances to Hear Poetry

There will be an Open Mic night sponsored by the Poetry Club on April 1 at 5 p.m. in the Fireside Commons. All are welcome to attend and read their work. On April 29, the Club will present “Refined Fragmentation: A Poetry Exhibition” from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the SBM Charitable Foundation Auditorium. The event is free, but donations will be accepted for Manchester Community College’s Habitat for Humanity. Food and drinks will be provided. For more information contact the Student Activities office at (860) 512-3283.

Students Live in “Cardboard City” to Raise Money

In a mission to raise funding for Habitat for Humanity and bring awareness about homelessness to all that will listen, students will volunteer to experience homelessness from April 23 at 8 a.m. to April 24 at 8 a.m. HFH is a non-profit organization seeking to eliminate poverty housing from the world. Students who volunteer will be building and sleeping in a campus “city” made completely out of cardboard boxes. They will reside in their “cardboard homes” as if they too were homeless. All donations will go to the HFH and the homes that they are building for those less fortunate. To participate or donate in our mission, contact Lucy Hurston at (860) 512-2791, or email her at LHurston@mcc.commnet.edu. A little help goes a long way.

New Art Exhibit Opening on Campus

The Hans Weiss Newspace Gallery will host an exhibition of contemporary video works, LIQUID, from March 19 to May 1. The exhibit features works by four artists. The artists will make speeches at a reception on Thursday, April 9, at 6 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. For more information contact Susan Classen-Sullivan at (860) 512-2693 or via email sclassensullivan@mcc.commnet.edu

Welfare Fund Committee Accepting Proposals for Funds

The Welfare Fund Advisory Committee has a surplus of student activity funds and is accepting proposal of how to spend them through April 8. The money must be used for projects that will benefit current and future students. Completed applications should be brought to the Student Activities Office in Lowe 154i. Applicants of all proposals must present their proposal at one of the Welfare Fund Advisory Committee meetings scheduled for April. For more information, meeting dates and application guidelines, visit www.mcc.commnet.edu.

Scot Haney at 17th Annual An Evening of Fine Wines

On Friday, April 3, WFSB Channel 3 Meteorologist Scot Haney will be the emcee at the 17th Annual An Evening of Fine Wines at Manchester Community College. The event will run from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. There will be more than 100 different wines from all over the world for sale. Guests will have the opportunity to sample from 25 wine tasting tables and will also receive their own complimentary wine tasting glass. A wine and a non-wine silent auction will be held to raise money for scholarships and programs at MCC. Some of the silent auction items include merchandise and gift certificates. Tickets are \$75 per person and must be purchased in advance. For more information about the event or to purchase tickets, call (860) 512-2905 or visit www.mcc.commnet.edu/wine.

Earth Day Bottle Drive to Raise Money and Awareness

On Wednesday, April 22, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. the Outdoor Club will be collecting bottles in front of the Arts, Sciences and Technology building. Twenty percent of the proceeds from the recycling of the bottles will be donated to a local wildlife organization that will be determined at the next ODC meeting. The other 80 percent will go toward the costs of a planned upcoming Vermont camping trip. For more information contact Holly Mann at (860) 944-9552 or email her at Hollyberry63001@aol.com.

Correction

On page 1 of the Feb. 29 issue of the Live Wire incorrect information was given about the Inauguration Bus Trip to Washington, D.C. The trip was the idea of faculty members Rae Strickland and Kathleen Bottaro. Faculty member Lucy Hurston collaborated with them to make the January trip a reality.

The Live Wire



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“Meet the President and Deans” Session Chews Over Student Concerns

By Lakisha Hatton
Special to the Live Wire

While the Fireside Commons is usually a sanctuary for peace and quiet in the back of the library outside of class time, on March 9 it was the setting for college networking at its best.

“Meet the President and Deans” was a session held by the college to allow students to meet those administrators at Manchester Community College who make decisions about the school each day.

As students and staff arrived they mingled while nibbling at the spread of cookies, bruschetta, and other appetizers.

Pres. Gena Glickman was “late to class,” she said, but determined to make the most of this event, despite the broken microphone. She was joined by Alfred Carter, Dean of Student Affairs; Dr. Alice Savage, Dean of Academic Affairs, Lillian Ortiz, Dean of Institutional Development, Dr.

G. Duncan Harris, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, and Melanie Haber, Dean of Continuing Education, along with other influential staff members.

Don’t let their titles fool you. They are all down to earth people trying to help MCC students and “make this expe-

“It took me out of my high school mentality and put me on my ‘A’ game for college thinking,”

perience a good one,” said Carter.

Though the evening was dedicated to meeting the administrators, it was the students and their needs that was the focus. In attendance were many first year students looking for information. On their minds: advice on taking five classes while balancing life outside of school; information on a suc-

cessful transfer, as well as the pros and cons of the college.

So how did the panel weigh in? Student taking five classes should be mindful of the workload that each may require. Don’t burn the candle at both ends, your own health is important too. Strive for a 3.0 GPA, that’s what other colleges are looking for, especially if you are interested in transferring.

Other, non-academic issues came up too. Of course, someone whined about having to park way across campus, but it was pointed out by another student that compared to having to take a shuttle like on a big campus, it really isn’t that bad. One other concern was that some required classes are offered once yearly in one time slot only. This isn’t always feasible for students. It is the administrators’ hope that the amount of online classes increases. There is also a lack of social networking at the community college level, said student Ronald Lumbr.

The talk wasn’t all negative. Students said they are pleased with the number of teachers at the college who also work in the “real world.” Did you know WVIT News meteorologist Darren Sweeney teaches a section

of public speaking, or that author and Hartford Courant columnist Susan Campbell teaches a journalism class? Affordable tuition and flexible day and evening classes are also a plus. Another highlight of MCC is the STARS Program, which is dedicated to transitioning students.

“It took me out of my high school mentality and put me on my ‘A’ game for college thinking,” said one student at the session.

Although students were few in number, the discussions were bountiful. If you missed this event you can watch it online at the college’s website, www.mcc.comnet.edu.

Carter said change would come as a result of this meeting. At MCC they have redefined the definition of president and dean to simply mean “how can I help you?” The administrators urged students to make their presence known. As Glickman said to a young man by the name of Ziggy, “I’ll never forget you now, for better or worse.”

Cont. from Drama, Page 1
drama club going,” said Lewis. “As an officer, I hope to work with other officers to make this club expand [to] its potential, put on various activities, take suggestions from members, and recruit more members.”

Lewis said she also hopes the club will “increase a fan base for theater at MCC.”

Kim said that one of the first things the club will be rehearsing for is the improv/comedy workshop they’re hosting for the One Day College on April 18, a day of seminars for people in the community. Kim said he hopes they have a good turn out and that attendees and club members alike have a hands-on experience.

“Using your voice, using your body, motion, using literature to express yourself and to find a creative outlet,” said

plug in, in a creative way, in a fun way, in a unique and different way, then Professor Finegan and I are all for that.”

Kim said he also hopes the club will help students feel involved in the campus community. He said it’s a great way to meet new friends and develop a new social network. You can also learn about yourself and others by expressing yourself creatively, he said.

“You know what I really hope is that people say ‘oh man, drama club was really fun this week, I gotta bring some of my friends, I can’t wait to come back next week,’” Kim said. “And that that enriches their college experience.”

Short term, Kim said he hopes the club will be able to perform by the end of the semester. Longer term, he hopes to involve the club with



Graphic courtesy of Google

ICE Internet Radio, where they would produce some kind of radio drama. Kim also said that the drama club is already collaborating with MCC’s dance club.

“I think there are a lot of different groups on campus, students and faculty and staff, who would be very interested in getting involved in productions again,” said Kim.

Kim. “I think those kinds of clubs and activities on campus are just invaluable for students. It takes you out of the classroom and allows you to get involved in something more than just going to class.

Extracurricular activities are important at a non-residential college like MCC, Kim said.

“You can just be a commuter,” said Kim. “You could just come here, and take your classes and go home, and go to work or whatever. But you probably aren’t as plugged in at that point. So if there’s a way to plug students in, or give them the opportunity to

“And that kind [of] brings the campus together. It’s not just one club and a small group of students doing their own thing, it’s something that the entire community can be involved in.”

For more information or to get involved with the drama club, you can contact Albert Kim at akim@mcc.comnet.edu or Kaarina Finegan at kfinegan@mcc.comnet.edu. Or attend the next club meeting Tuesday, March 31, at 2:30 p.m. in the SBM Charitable Foundation Auditorium behind the Tower Café in the AST building

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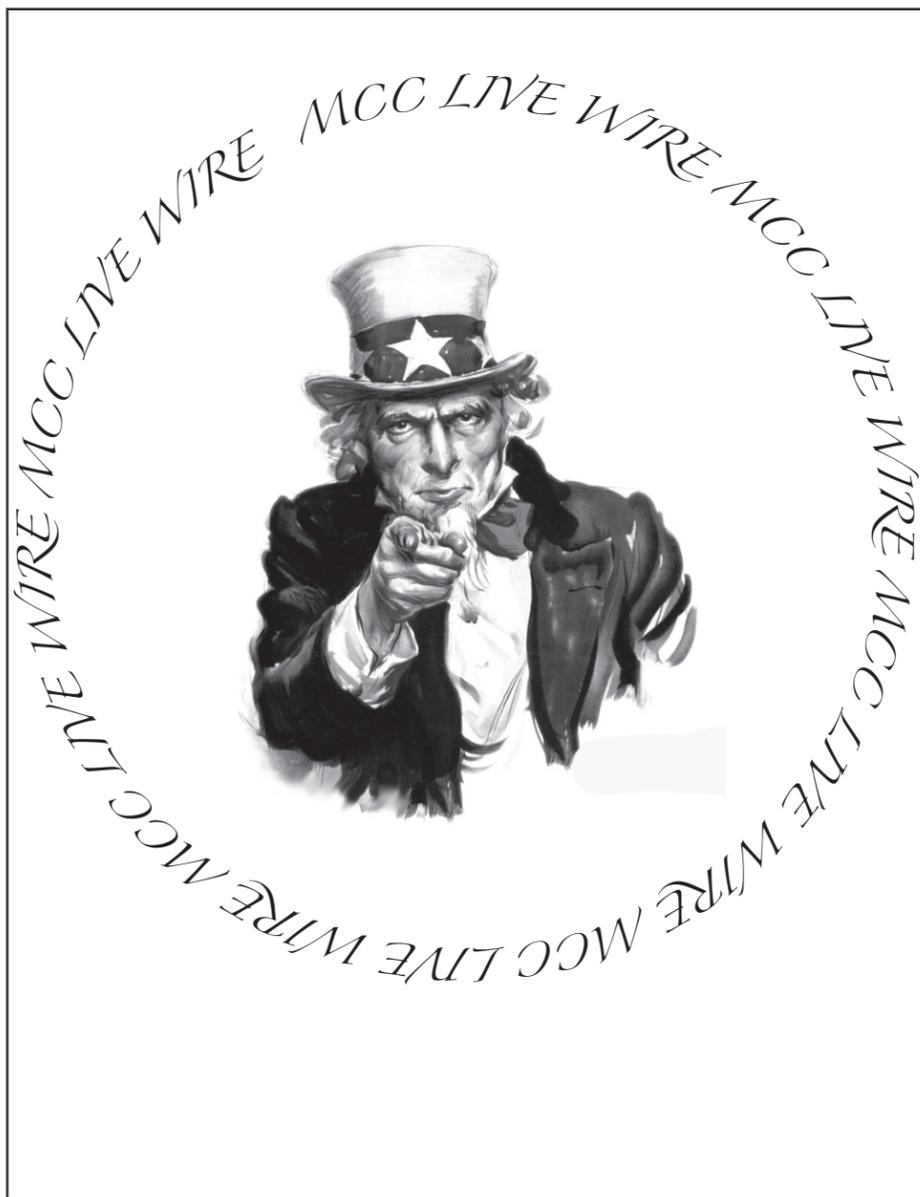
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Meet a Professor: Robert Kagan, Film Study & Appreciation, Video Filmmaking

By Sally A. Garvey
Live Wire Staff Writer

What's your home town? Lynbrook, New York (on Long Island)

Where did you go to college? State University of New York (undergraduate); Syracuse University (master's degree).

Where have you worked previously? Four years of commercial television, then with the State of Connecticut in public affairs for seven years.

Why did you choose to go into teaching at the college level? It was an accident; I didn't plan to teach through all of grad school. Then I got a part time teaching position at MCC a week before the start of the semester, teaching filmmaking.

What event in the news interests you? Why? [Pres. Barack] Obama's inauguration. Pres. Obama is trying to change things and is facing a lot of resistance.

Do you have any pets? One dog, a west highland terrier named Peanut.

What are your favorite books? *The Human Stain* and *The Plot Against America*, both by Phillip Roth.

Who is your favorite movie director? Martin Scorsese

What is your favorite movie of all time? *Casablanca*

What type of music do you like? Americana/traditional roots

Who are your favorite artists? Lucinda Williams, Rosanne Cash, Levon Helm

What book should every MCC student read before graduating? *To Kill a Mockingbird*, by Harper Lee, because it shows the importance of tolerance and doing the right thing regardless of pressure on your family.

What's your favorite TV show? "Seinfeld." I watched it religiously when it was on the air and I still watch re-runs.

If you could live in any other time, when would you choose? Why? The 1950's when I was a child, it was a simpler time.

If you could have breakfast with five famous people from history or currently, who would they be? President Obama, Albert Einstein, Clint Eastwood, Harry Houdini and Don Imus

What do you like most about your job? I like that my job changes constantly and you always meet new people.

What do you like least? I dislike when students don't make an effort to give 100 percent.

If you could change one thing at MCC what would it be? That MCC would offer bachelor's degrees.



Photo by Josh Garcia

Meet A Professor was created to help Manchester Community College students better know their faculty. If you have comments or questions regarding this interview or would like to submit a question to be answered in a future interview, or would like to suggest a subject for a future column, send an email to Sally Garvey at ralphandfranz@aol.com, or to the Live Wire at livewire@mcc.commnet.edu.

How's your package doing?

Some of Your Questions Answered About the Stimulus Package

By Susan M. Garvey
Live Wire Staff Writer

If you were working last year and received a stimulus check from the IRS, you may be disappointed to find out that there will not be another round coming this year. That's because, unlike former Pres. George W. Bush, Pres. Barack Obama has gone for a more long term

approach in his American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, signed into law last month, in an effort to jumpstart the American economy.

In 2008, according to government officials, people who received checks for \$300 or more did not spend the money. Instead, they saved it and that did little to *stimulate* the economy.

So this year, if you are a working individual who makes less than \$75,000 per year you will receive a \$400 tax credit;

couples who make less than \$150,000 per year can expect an \$800 tax credit. In addition, your paycheck will be about between \$8 and \$10 dollars bigger each pay period due to reductions in paycheck withholdings.

MCC students who have joined the ranks of the growing number of unemployed people can expect their unemployment compensation checks to be \$25 greater thanks to the stimulus package. They will also have the

possibility to receive 33 weeks of extended unemployment benefits once they have exhausted the regular 26 week benefit period. Veterans who are receiving disability compensation or pensions and people receiving Social Security, Supplemental Security Income or Railroad Retirement benefits will receive a onetime payment of \$250.

For more information about the stimulus package and how it will affect you, visit www.recovery.gov.



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High School Artist On The Rise



Melissa Wright poses with her self-portrait, done entirely with charcoal and eraser, for her final project in Drawing I class.

Photo by Anthony Ettienne- Modeste

By Mary Elizabeth Cuva
Great Path Academy

For the final assignment in Drawing I, students were instructed to compose a self-portrait using whatever means desired.

Melissa Wright, a senior at Great Path Academy, chose to do her self-portrait

in charcoal and eraser. Though she knew her artwork would be displayed in the latest art show at Manchester Community College, she was still surprised to see her self-portrait hanging in the Hans Weiss Newspace Gallery in December.

Wright said she has always been interested in drawing, but that her self-portrait is one of, if not, the best piece of artwork she has done as well as the most time consuming, taking "all Saturday, probably around six hours."

When producing any artwork, Wright said her inspiration comes simply from the everyday things she observes. She not only enjoys the visual arts, but literary arts as well, specifically poetry.

In the fall of 2009, Wright said she plans to attend the University of Hartford, where she will be studying advertising and the fine arts. Though she intends to pursue a career in advertising, her dream would be to become an artist known not only for the visual arts, but the literary arts as well.

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GPA Students' Passions Include Sports and Academics

Story and Photos by Syreeta Crawford
Great Path Academy



Shayona Wright

Shayona Wright, also known as "Spazz" on her basketball team, was born in Manchester but currently resides in Hartford. She plays junior varsity basketball for

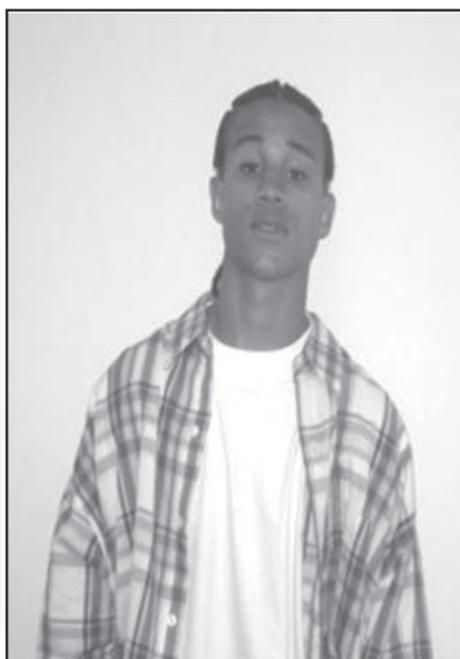
Weaver High School and even though she is the smallest on the team she never lets that discourage her. Wright describes herself as a unique, but silly and outgoing person. She enjoys drawing, writing poetry in addition to playing basketball. She said she was inspired to play by her role model, her Dad.

"Seeing him playing in hoop it up tournaments and winning all of those trophies is what caught my eye but I was really inspired because I had found an interest in something that he also found an interest in," she said.

Wright's favorite part of playing basketball is shooting fouls shots because they allow you to catch up to the other team and increase the suspense of who will win, she said. But she strongly dislikes bad referees who make bad calls and cost her team a game they worked so hard to win.

In the future, Wright said she looks forward to playing basketball in college and would like to play for the University of Connecticut. Even though she is unsure about her major, she said she wants to do something that will help make a change in people's lives.

"Seeing him playing in hoop it up tournaments and winning all of those trophies is what caught my eye ..."



Terrell Beckman

Terrell Beckman was born and raised in Hartford and is currently playing basketball for Bulkeley High School. In his spare time he also enjoys working out and

just spending time with his best friend, who happens to be his father. Beckman is about 5'8," and even though he isn't the tallest of the bunch he is still just as devoted and hard working as the rest of his teammates.

"There is nothing to dislike about basketball, I love everything about it, especially because of the competitive aspect of the sport," Beckman said. "What can I say, it's like an adrenaline rush."

Beckman began playing basketball when he was four years old. As a result of him growing up with all of his older siblings playing basketball and going to college for basketball he had no choice but to follow in their footsteps. He said he looks forward to playing basketball in college just like his older sisters and brothers and hopes to get accepted into a historically black college where

"There is nothing to dislike about basketball, I love everything about it..."

he can obtain a political science degree.

Beckman is committed to his academics as much as he is to basketball and his dedication is what sets him aside from other young men and it is what will take him far.



It's Time for Gays and Straights to Align and Beat the Discrimination

By Rachel M. DePenning
Live Wire Editor

On Feb. 24, Manchester Community College held Club Day, an annual event that gives clubs an opportunity to promote themselves and recruit new members.

As I was walking through the AST Tower, where the event was being held, I overheard some members of the P.R.I.D.E. club – which stands for People Respecting Intimacy and Diversity Everywhere – saying only two people had signed up for their club. I felt terrible about this. Why? Because this world needs more of an alliance between gay people and straight people in order to obtain equal rights. And it reminded me of how terrible our country is for not granting homosexuals the same rights as everyone else, in regards to marriage and adoption.

As of right now, most states don't allow gay couples to adopt children together but

as a single person. However, there have been cases where homosexuals who try to adopt as a single person are denied. How unethical is this? I mean, seriously. How is it right or just that we deny anyone from getting married and being parents?

Last spring, I wrote an editorial about a 14-year-old boy from California who was shot and killed by a classmate because he was gay. Since then, same-sex marriage has been legalized in Connecticut; Proposition 8, California's measure to eliminate same-sex marriage, was (wrongfully, in my opinion) passed; and actor Sean Penn won an Oscar for his role as Harvey Milk, California's first openly gay politician elected to office. Homosexuality is part of our world and it's never going to go away. So why continue with this bias against homosexuals?

In 1920, women were granted the right to vote. African-Americans were freed from slavery in 1865, and then granted equal rights in 1965 with the Voting Rights Act and, in 1964, with the Civil Rights Act. Now, what about homosexuals? Why haven't we grant-

ed them the right to marry and adopt?

Honestly, all the religious reasons for why people are against homosexuality are crap. If God really meant for a male and a female to be together, then why does homosexuality exist? Some people think it's a choice. But honestly, with all the bias and negative outlook on homosexuality, why would anyone choose to be gay? Homosexuals have to live their lives in the face of constant ridicule and torment. They're not allowed, in most states, to get married and have children, a common dream people share. So tell me, who would choose that kind of life?

Since the 1960's, gay and lesbian rights activists and groups have fought hard to obtain equal rights and remove the bias. But some groups, like MCC's P.R.I.D.E. club, are formed to raise awareness about GLBTQ, - Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender & Queer - issues and provide a safe space for GLBTQ students and their allies to come and hang out.

The high school I graduated from, Manchester High School, had a Gay-Straight Alliance club. Many of my friends, both gay and straight were members. It's these kinds of groups that bring society one-step closer to acceptance of homosexuality.

I really feel that it's important for those who are gay and those who are straight to come together and celebrate diversity. Not only does it showcase individuality, but it brings harmony to a world already so divided by religion, politics, class and race. We need more of it – harmony that is. My hope is that more people become involved with groups like P.R.I.D.E. I just think this world would be better off and much more peaceful if this bias was eliminated. Unity, in my opinion, is the key element to making a change.

So let's all unite and destroy this discrimination against homosexuals. Let's break down the conservative mold of tradition and allow these very normal people to get married and have children together. Let's grant them what we granted women, African Americans and other minority groups so long ago – equal rights.

**“let's all unite and
destroy this dis-
crimination against
homosexuals”**

Have something to say? Write me! Submit a 'letter to the editor' at livewire@mcc.commnet.edu, or stop by the office in Lowe 253.

Another Food Recall Raises Fears about ~~Safety~~

By Jonathan Stankiewicz
Live Wire Assistant Editor



Illustration by Sean McNamara

Another food scare, another problem. Now our peanut butter is under attack. As of March 7, 2009, federal officials have said that 677 people have been sickened and nine have died from salmonella-tainted peanut butter. Nine people.

It all started in the Georgia and Texas plants of the Peanut Corp. of America. The Federal Department of Agriculture inspected the PCA plant in Georgia on Jan. 9. The voluntary peanut butter recall didn't occur until Jan. 10. Reports began to come in from Midwest states that people were getting sick. The FDA traced the illnesses to salmonella in the peanut butter. The FDA quickly warned people to stay away from peanut butter, but to also steer clear of: cake mixes, pet foods, ice cream, certain frozen meals, snack bars/snack mixes, and toppings.

The most disturbing part of the outbreak is that the company knew that what it was selling was contaminated. The FDA report says that the company was aware of a positive test for salmonella with a private laboratory. Unfazed, they tested it again and were notified that their test came out negative for salmonella so “the product was shipped in interstate commerce.” The plant

had done this numerous times over the last two years. And to add to this mess, the FDA report goes on to say, “There were no records to document the cleaning of the peanut paste line after salmonella was detected in peanut paste manufactured on January 25, 2008. The firm continued to manufacture peanut paste in this system.” This is alarming, for consumers and everyone alike.

I love peanut butter, don't get me wrong, but these outbreaks have to stop. We had the pet food recall in 2007 and the E. coli spinach catastrophe in 2006. Now we have peanut butter killing people. What is going on here?

“I believe the food safety system is broken. It's collapsing,” said U.S. Democratic Rep. Rosa DeLauro of Connecticut's third district to CNN in May 2007. “We're unable to protect the public health. We're unable to protect public confidence in the food supply.”

That was then, and this is now. “We're not safe yet -- 99.999% of the food you buy is safe, but we can still do a better job,” said Katherine Fedder, director of the Food and Dairy division of the Michigan Department of Agriculture to the Detroit Free Press in March 2009.

DeLauro is now proposing a House bill that would create a separate agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to oversee food safety issues the FDA cannot handle. Over the last couple years our food has had disastrous problems. The FDA has unfortunately

proved that it cannot take the lead in making our food safe.

I cannot say that “we are safe” yet. Now with peanut butter I can guarantee that another will happen. I hope that our government can get

things rolling. Bills have been springing up across the country so that states are protected from contaminated food.

Even Pres. Barack Obama is upset. “That's what [youngest daughter] Sasha eats for lunch probably three times a week. And you know, I don't want to have to worry about whether she's going to get sick as a consequence to having her lunch,” Obama said on NBC's “Today” show.

We have a dilemma here. We need to fix it. Now! What we eat must be safe. We shouldn't care what the food executives think or want. It's their products that are making us sick. We need change.

**“I believe the
food safety sys-
tem is broken.
It's collapsing”**

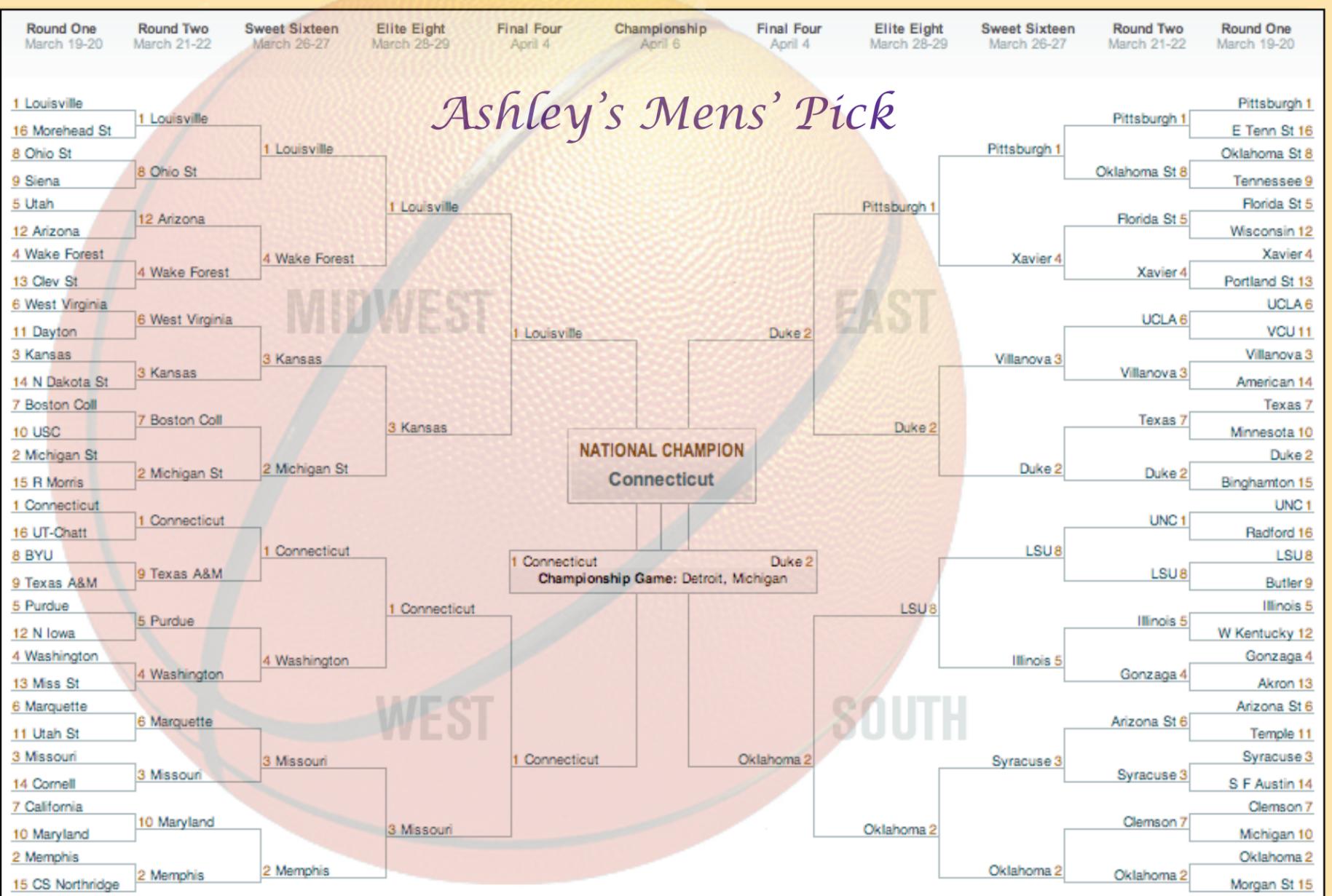
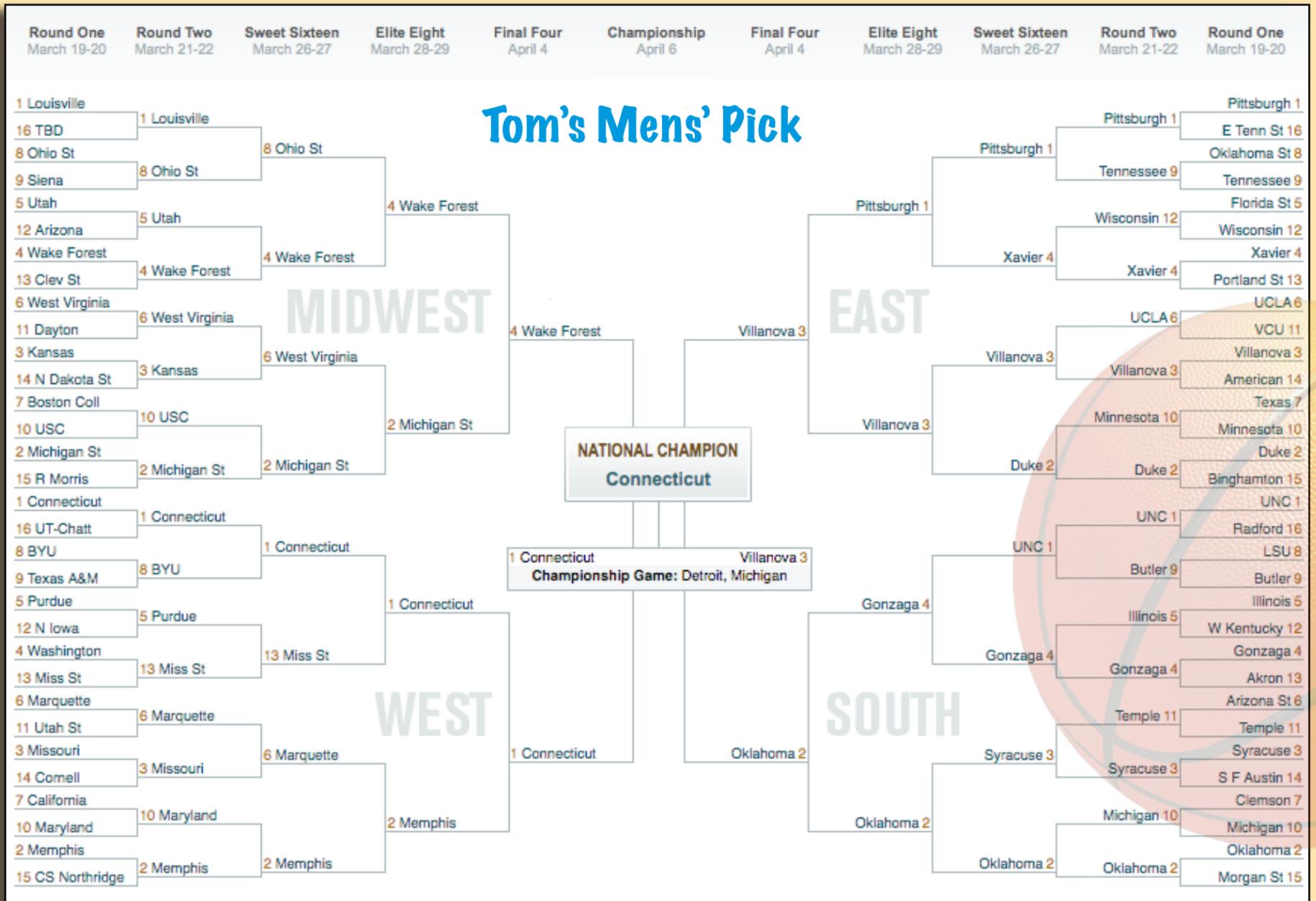
March Madness Hoops

By Tom Sullivan
Staff Writer

March Madness! Every year at this time, printers and copiers all over the

country, in offices, homes, and schools, get over-worked due to people frantically printing out countless brackets for their harmless, friendly, gambling pools that everybody so enjoys. This is a special time

each year, especially in Connecticut, as our beloved Huskies from the University of Connecticut go into both the men's and women's tournaments with high expectations. For this reason, we at the *Live Wire* de-

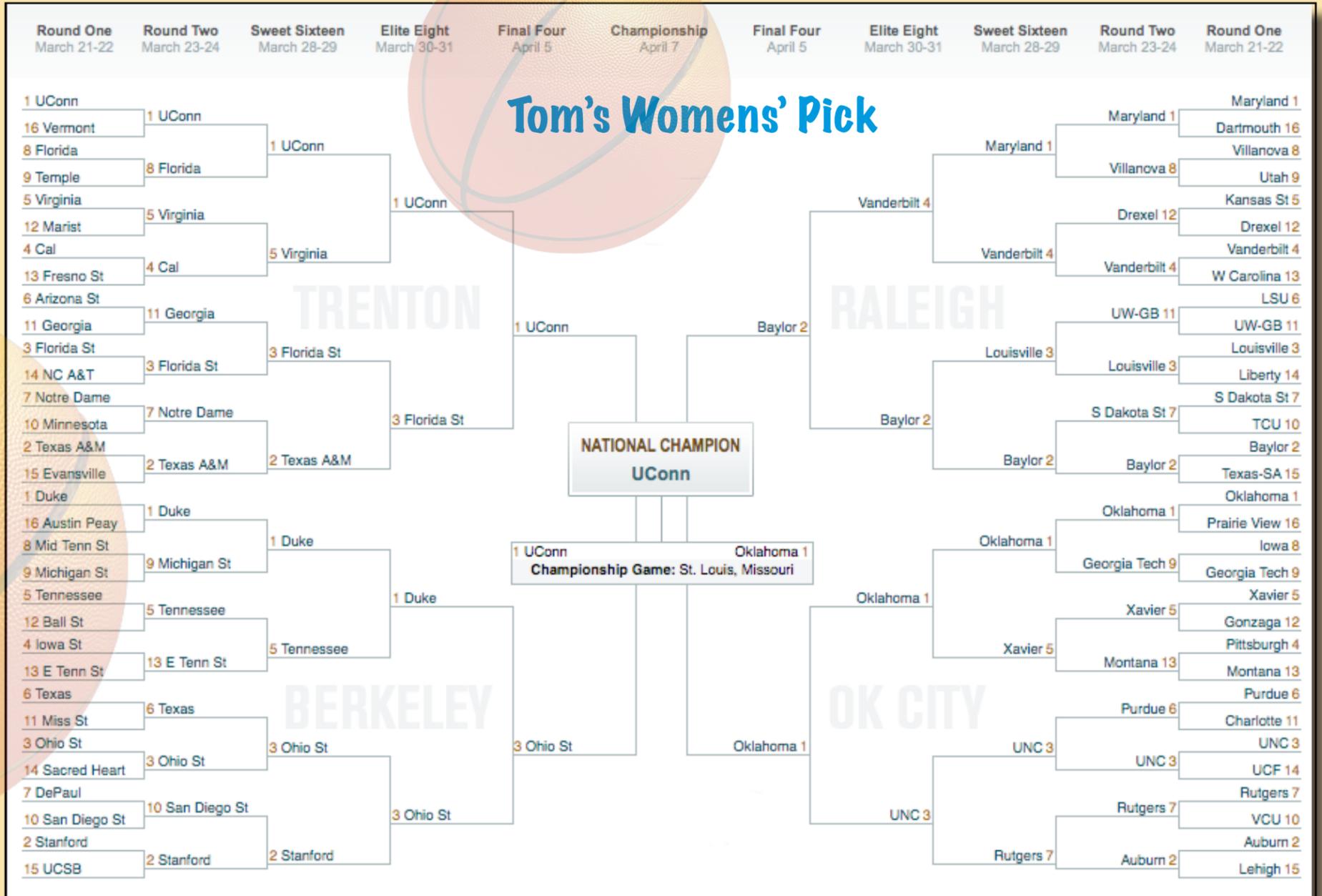


its Live Wire Staff

cided to do our own picks. I will be going head-to-head with Ashley Lang, our Layout Editor, who had absolutely no prior knowledge of college basketball, in our own little NCAA Bracket pool. We will each fill out a

bracket for both the men's and women's contests, and we will see who prevails. The scoring is simple: one point for each correct pick in the first round, two for the second round, three for the third and so on, all the way to

six points for a correct champion. Should Ashley somehow defeat me in either pool, I will allow her to accept victory as graciously as she pleases, in my next Sully on Sports column.



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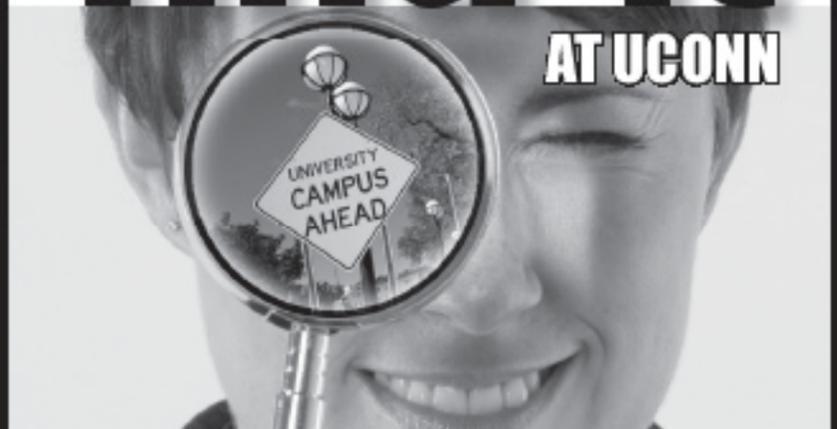
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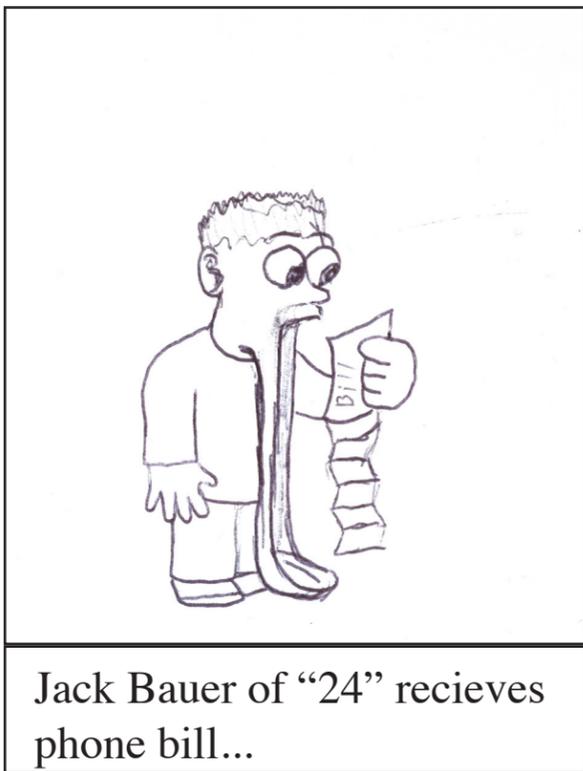
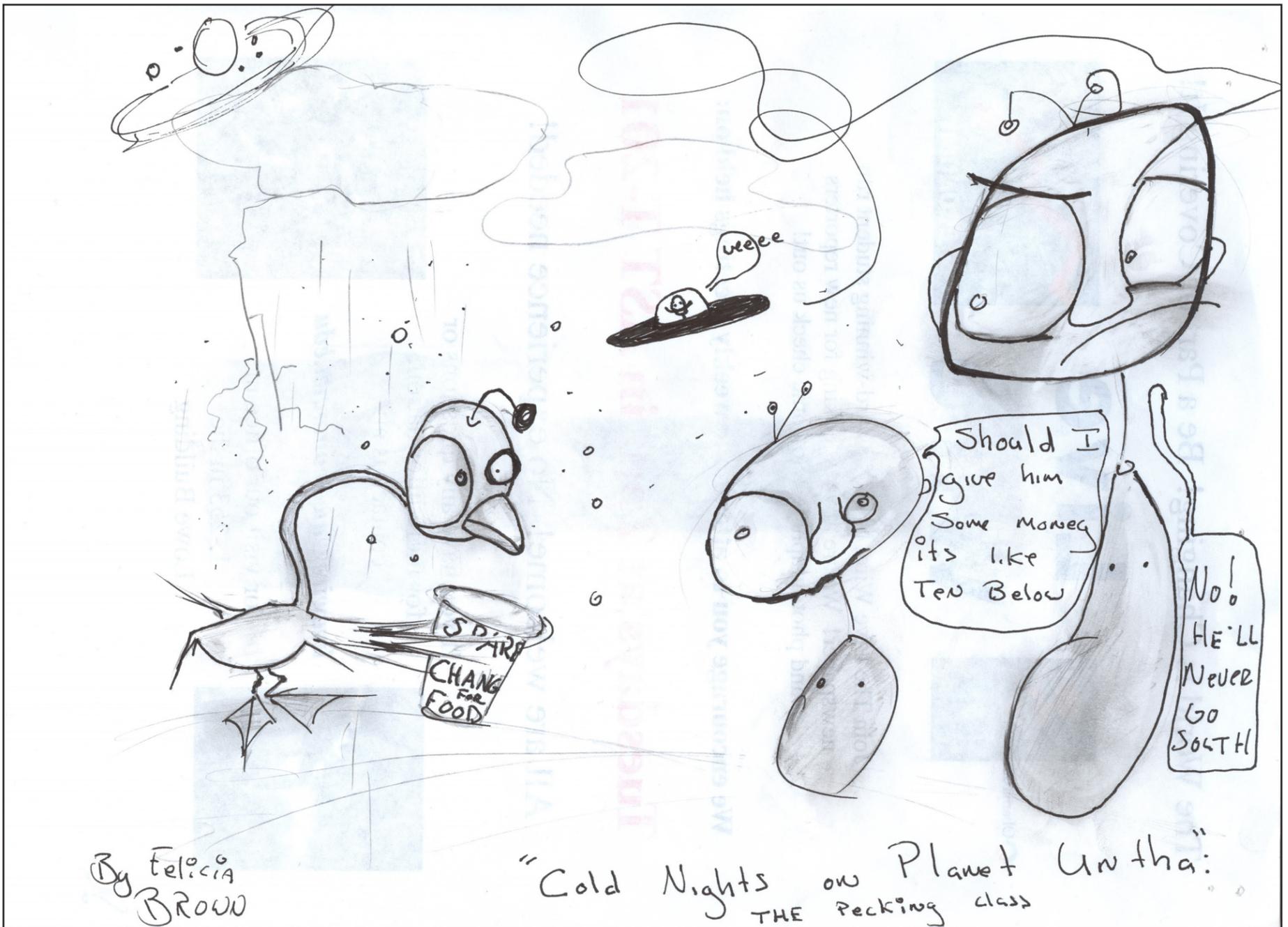


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Cartoons



By Eric Valad



By Eric Valad

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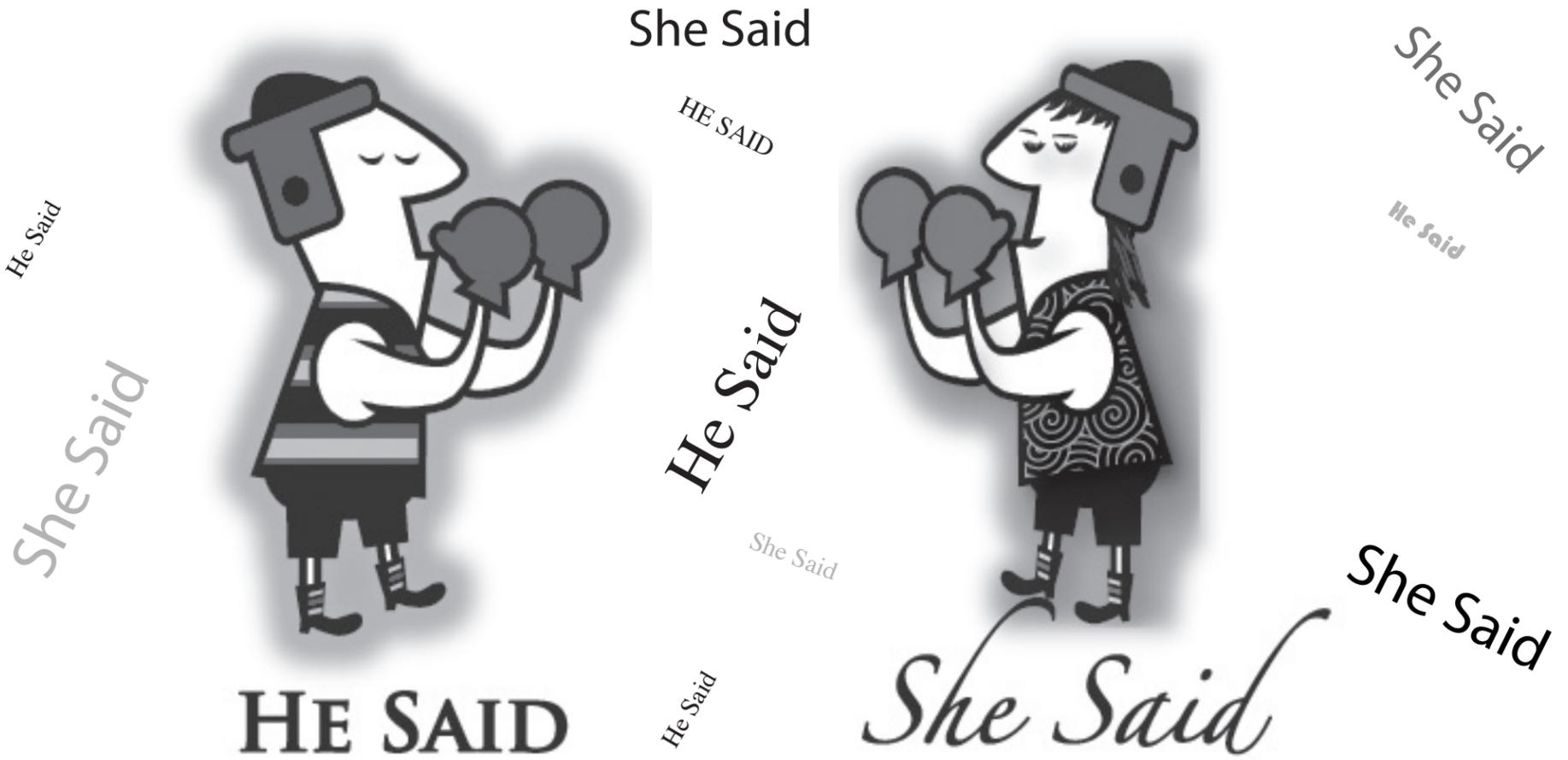


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“When should a new couple share their first kiss?”

Kiss her. Make sure she is ready and kiss her. If you and she are ready, what are you waiting for?! Kiss her.

Jonathan Stankiewicz

There is no set date for a first kiss! If you are comfortable, as uncomfortable as a first kiss is, then go for it! Kissing is fun. Most people are more worried about the anticipation of their first kiss more than the actual kiss itself...who is going to make the first move, how to make the first move, where to make the first move; after the date, during, in the beginning of the date. My advice: stop thinking about it so much, grab a mint, and go for it!

Ashley E. Lang



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Sully on Sports: MLB Preview, Connecticut Style



By Tom Sullivan
Live Wire Staff Writer

Spring is here, and that can only mean one thing! Time to preview the Major League Baseball season. It always amazed me the type of passion there is for baseball in this baseball hotbed right between Boston and New York City.

The argument comes up every year: "Who is the team to beat, the Boston Red Sox or the New York Yankees?"

May I remind you that there is a third team to represent in this argument. They wear blue and orange, they play in the senior circuit, and according to Sports Illustrated's 2003 study, I am part of 12 percent of Connecticutans who love the New York Mets.

To preview this season I decided to focus specifically on our three teams, but to avoid an EXTREME Mets' bias, I interviewed some of my Live Wire comrades. Rob Parrott is a lifelong season ticket holder, and a member of the infamous "bleacher creatures" at Yankee Stadium. Joe Cavanagh is a card-carrying member of Red Sox Nation and a fan of all things Boston.

I asked each of my friends the same seven questions, and then I answered each for myself, check it out. **Which off-season move your team made is going to have the biggest impact this season?**

RP: C.C. Sabathia will have the biggest impact, because he should win 20 games this season. He won 11 out 13 starts last season with the Brewers, so with the Yankee's lineup he should be lights out.

JC: While it was only a re-signing, catcher Jason Varitek was the most valuable move the Red Sox made this off-season. The front office realized they needed one more year to bridge the gap to his successor. There were available free agents who are better hitters and younger

than Varitek, but it's the way he handles the Red Sox pitching staff that clinched the deal.

Sully: The Mets made a lot of moves this off-season to try to cleanse themselves of the foul stench of failure lingering from the past two seasons. The most important move, in my opinion, was the signing of utility infielder Alex Cora. The Mets have had zero depth in the infield lately and a platoon of aging second baseman has plagued them, so Cora will provide some much needed consistency. **Which player's success in 2009 means the most to your team?**

RP: A.J. Burnett, because when he's healthy I think he can be a top 10 pitcher. He led the American League in strikeouts last season. If he's healthy he can win 20 games. The Yankees' success this year is centered on the pitching staff, not the lineup, and with C.C. as the ace, Burnett can win 20 games behind him. If that happens the Yankees are guaranteed to win the division.

JC: If David Ortiz can stay healthy and drive in 115 runs and hit 30 home runs, the Red Sox will go from contenders to favorites. He connects the top of the lineup to the meat of the order. As long as he keeps the line moving, the Red Sox will continue to have a top-tier offensive attack that takes pressure off of the pitching staff every game.

Sully: While David Wright is the Mets' best player, who always comes up big, the Mets' success begins and ends with Jose Reyes. Reyes as the leadoff hitter is the pace setter for this team and he provides the spark that keeps the Mets going in those long, summer games. **What is the biggest question mark facing your team going in to the season?**

RP: Centerfield, and whether or not Mariano Rivera can bounce back from off-season shoulder surgery. There are

three guys for one job in centerfield, but Damon is going to primarily play left field, the other two (Cabrera and Gardener) will platoon. The Yanks just need these guys to play their position and hit consistently from the 9th spot.

JC: The contributions they will get from various off-season pitching acquisitions, most of whom are veterans in need of proving they still have what it takes to pitch for a contender. Brad Penny and John Smoltz have contracts that are based on their performance. Takashi Saito is another veteran with an impressive resume coming off injury. If these guys can provide consistency or at least a few stretches of quality outings, they'll have improved upon a pitching staff that just missed the World Series a year ago.

Sully: The Mets' answered most of the questions that needed to be addressed in the off-season, but the only area in question now is the depth of their starting rotation. Can John Maine and Mike Pelfrey outlast a full season? Can Oliver Perez stay out of his own head and find some level of consistency? And who is the fifth starter?

Which team, other than yours, is the best in the Major Leagues?

RP: The Chicago Cubs. They have a great all around operation, great manager, solid infield with Derek Lee and Aramis Ramirez, great outfield with Alfonso Soriano, and an unrivaled pitching staff.

JC: With their signings of J.J. Putz and Francisco Rodriguez, the Mets have become the best team in the NL. Signing both guys, as the closer-setup combination, takes the pressure off of the starting rotation. There is no greater way to knock the wind out of a ball club than to blow games with your bullpen. Nobody knows this better than the '07 and '08 Mets.

Sully: Here it is: I find it hard to say it's any team other than the Yankees. The Bombers lineup, as always is the most impressive on paper, and their starting rotation looks stellar. The problem the Yankees are faced with every year, though, is living up to the Herculean expectations.

Give me one dark horse team that is going to surprise people in 2009?

RP: The Atlanta Braves. Derek Lowe and Javier Vazquez were key additions, and they have great pitching, so I think they'll win more than 80 games.

JC: Watch out for the Kansas City Royals. They've really sucked the last couple of years, and it would really look good if they had a breakout year.

Sully: Joe took the words right out of my mouth with this one. I love the Royals young roster, but another team to look out for this season will be the Oakland Athletics. They may have the pieces that could help them challenge the Angels in the AL West.

Why is your team the best?

RP: Because they had the best off-season in the history of Baseball. [GM Brian] Cashman put the team on the field; it's time for Jeter and the Yankees to get the Job done...no excuses!

JC: With a young lineup touting an MVP, all-stars, and flexibility all around, the Red Sox again have one of the top offenses in baseball. There is no pressure on the starters with a possibility of having seven quality starters in Beckett, Dice-K, Lester, Penny, Wakefield, Smoltz and Buchholz, not to mention the possibility of moving Justin Masterson to a starter's role. This pressure-free atmosphere extends to the bullpen.

Sully: The Mets are the best because it is year four of the Reyes, Wright, Beltran, Delgado era, and it's time

for these guys to get it together. They had great success in year one, and maybe took that for granted a little. Manager Jerry Manuel, with his cool demeanor and thick skin, has what it takes to get these guys back to that level of success.

What's the World Series match up and who wins?

RP: Mets vs. Yankees, Yankees in 6

JC: Tampa Bay vs. Mets, Mets in 4

Sully: Wow, I guess I know that Joe is my new best friend, showing the Mets a lot of love. I think all three teams have a great opportunity to be there in October, but we'll have to wait and see. That's why they play the games. My World Series prediction: Mets vs. Yankees, Mets in 7.

LET'S-GO-METS!

MCC Baseball Team Looking Ahead to another Successful Season

By Robert Parrott
Live Wire Staff Writer

The Manchester Community College baseball team is gearing up for what looks to be another successful season, said Coach Chris Strahowski recently.

The Cougars are looking to build off last year's success of making it to the Division III World Series.

"The goal for this year's team is to win the conference, and make our way back to Tyler, Texas for the Division III World Series again," said sophomore pitcher, Robert Brown.

Strahowski said he agrees with Brown, but at the same time he doesn't want to get ahead of things.

"I think we need to get out of

the box early and get some games under our belts," said Strahowski. "We play three or four top 15 teams in the country in the first month of the season. It will be a good litmus test to see how good we really are."

Strahowski said he will look to his offense for big things this season.

"Our offense is more balanced that it has been in recent years with speed and a little power," said Strahowski. "They should be fun to watch."

Alan Frederickson, who just committed to North Georgia College, will be the center of the offense this year.

"He is moving from the lead-off spot to third in the order and I believe his run production could be tremendous," said Strahowski.

Just like their offense, the team's defense is really coming together as well. "We have a fast outfield that can cover a lot of ground," said Brown. "We also have a quick and agile infield as well."

Strahowski couldn't agree more with his pitcher.

"We have always prided ourselves on defensive play up the middle and this group is among the best," he said.

With a powerhouse lineup and

strong defense there is only one question left and that's pitching. It doesn't matter how good the offense is. When it comes down to it, pitching wins championships and this year's staff looks very strong.

"We have a lot of hard throwers that have pinpoint accuracy to boot," said Brown. "And for the pitchers who don't throw as hard, they've got the pitches that move in all sorts

of directions."

Strahowski said he knows that his team has to throw strikes in order to win. The staff has been throwing strikes the past couple years so he just hopes it continues.

"Our relief core is going to be tested early with our schedule," said Strahowski. "They

performed well in the fall, so we are cautiously optimistic."

From a baseball point of view, things are shaping up nicely. The weather however, is what you can expect this time of year in Connecticut. There is only so much you can practice indoors because of space issues.

"Our pitchers and hitters are generally ready, but the defense takes a little while to gel with the lack of an indoor facility," said Strahowski.

The Cougars are eagerly awaiting the completion of the Great Path Academy as it will greatly contribute to their preseason workouts.

"The completion of the new gymnasium will be a tremendous help to our program," said Strahowski.

Regardless of the conditions, MCC will rely heavily on teamwork this year in order to repeat last year's success.

"We expect 100 percent out of each other everyday," said Brown. "We as a team expect excellence."

As for Strahowski, he said he's just looking to improve every day and qualify for the postseason. Either way it promises to be an exciting year for MCC baseball.

**"We expect
100 percent
out of each
other every-
day,"**

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Word on campus



Anthony Ridzon,
Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation

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Alis Cartagena,
General Studies

“ Can’t change my cell phone when I want to, and shopping.”



Isaiah Ramos,
Accounting and Business

“ Definitely shopping is number one, and number 2 is hair cuts, I don’t get my hair done as much, and going out to eat.”



Khorysha Good,
General Studies

“Going out to different places and shopping.”



Robert Lumbr,
Marketing

“ I had to give up a lot of traveling and I don’t attend as many music events or buy as much nice clothes.”



Stephaine Hicks,
Social Work and Music

“ Shopping! Basically that’s it.”

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