

Live Wire

Plug into the Live Wire

Volume 23, Issue 7

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Manchester Community College

free

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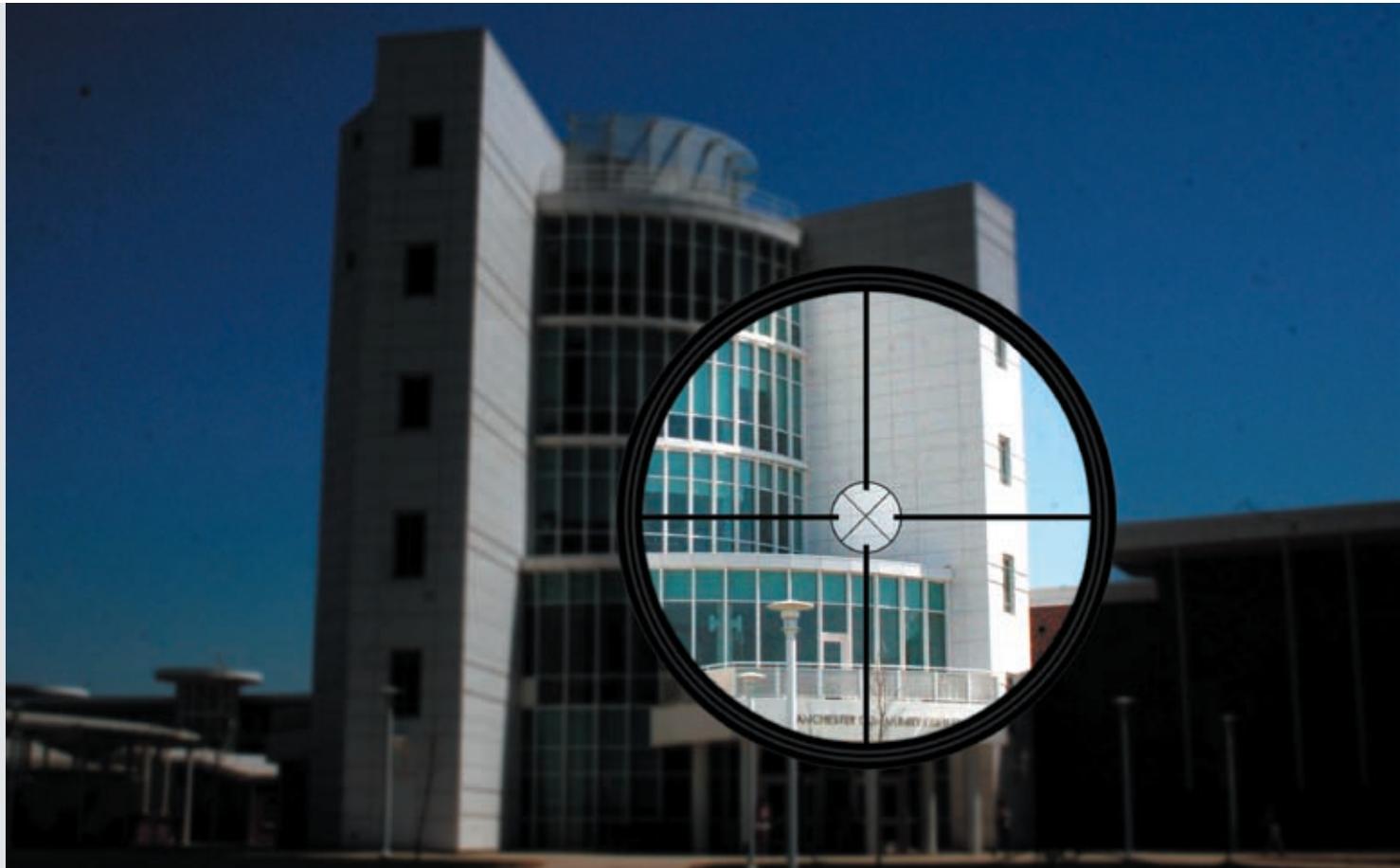


Photo Illustration By Saimir Bode

Massacre Raises Thoughts of Security Changes at MCC

By Keith Rugar and Robert Cooper

The massacre of students and faculty at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va., sent shockwaves through college campuses nationwide, and will likely be the catalyst for improvements to campus security. The security team at Manchester Community College works to stay up to date with its policies and procedures, even before 33 people were killed in what was the worst act of on campus violence in our nation's history.

Susan Gibbens who has been the campuses Director of Public Safety and Environmental Health for three years said the federal government sets guidelines on how institutions report incidents of violence.

"The way schools accomplish these requirements varies from school to school, due to the size of the campus, but all schools have to follow guidelines," she said.

MCC has a police force of three state certified police officers, and six buildings and grounds patrol officers,

who are the first responders at the scene of any on campus incident.

But many have said the fact that they don't carry guns limits some of their response capabilities. In the case of an incident where an armed response is needed Manchester police would be called and they would take control of the situation, said Gibbens.

"Even though they don't carry guns, there is a lot that our security team can do when reacting to an incident," said Thomas Bavier, the dean of administrative affairs, "by creating an outer perimeter around an incident, and setting up a means of communication."

Gibbens, who spent 28 years on the Manchester Police force before retiring in 2000 and coming to MCC in 2004, said the college has always had a good relationship with the Manchester police and fire departments.

As the chairperson of the College Health and Safety Committee, Gibbens collects information from the

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Student Senate Elections End with Controversy

By Robert Cooper, Keith Rugar and Allison Senecal

Allegations of impropriety regarding the candidates running for Student Senate president for the 2007-2008 school year held up the election results for six days. But after careful review of ethical concerns, Dean of Students Alfred Carter declared that there were no violations of the Student Senate Constitution and certified the election.

Voting took place April 18 and 19 and the results were supposed to be released April 20. But allegations involving current office holders campaigning for one candidate and trying to sway votes away from the other candidate led Carter to put a hold on the results while the allegations were investigated.

Linda Thomas, the advisor to the Student Senate, said the allegations amounted to nothing more than one person saying something and the other trying to get them back.

"But all allegations had to be investigated," she said. By the end of the week, the smoke had cleared and

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Campus Briefs

MCC Phi Theta Kappa chapter wins regional awards

The Alpha Upsilon Alpha chapter of Phi Theta Kappa here at MCC was recognized for their outstanding achievement and earned eight awards at the honor society's New England Regional Convention that was held March 9-11 in Newport, Rhode Island. The chapter was presented the Five Star Award for success in the highest level of the international competition. Other awards received include the Pinnacle Platinum award for increasing membership, the Spirit Award for contributing the most to the PTK fellowship at the regional convention, the Hallmark Award for leadership and service, and the Outstanding Award for the chapter's yearbook, newsletter, and Web site.

African-American Culture Club to start at MCC

A new club with the goal of exploring African-American heritage, culture, and history has been created at MCC. The African-American Culture Club, or AACC, will pursue the goal of enlightenment about African-Americans by planning shows, events, concerts, and hosting guest speakers. The club will start in the fall of this year with meetings being held mostly on Fridays. If anyone is interested, contact Alfred Carter at acarter@mcc.commnet.edu.

MCC voted Best Community College again

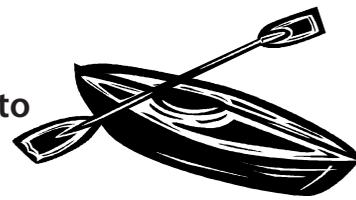
For the fifth straight year, MCC has been named Best Community College in the Hartford Advocate's Best Of reader's poll. MCC took first place, ahead of Tunxis Community College, which placed second, Capitol Community College, which placed third. Founded in 1963, MCC is the only community college in the country to be recognized for excellence by the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation. President Jonathan M. Daube, in the article that ran in the Advocate, said the reason for the winning streak is that MCC is "naturally amazing."

2007 Graduation at MCC announced

The 43rd Commencement Exercises will be held on Thursday, May 24 at 5:30 p.m. at the Bicentennial Band Shell on the campus lawn. Marc S. Herzog, chancellor of Connecticut Community Colleges, will be the guest commencement speaker. Seats will be provided to graduates and family members. Guests are asked to provide their own lawn chairs or blankets. Graduates and guests should remain seated until all degrees and certificates have been handed out, and the program is finished. All graduates are required to wear, and may keep, the traditional blue mortarboards, tassels,

and associate's gowns. Students can invite as many guests as they like to the outside ceremony; however if it rains, only those with tickets may attend the indoor ceremony and reception.

Outdoor Club to Start



The MCC Outdoor Club will be starting in September 2007. If you like to go canoeing, kayaking or mountain or rock climbing, this club is for you. The club will be meeting in the fall. Anyone interested in joining the club can contact Holly Mann at HollyBerry63001@aol.com, or club advisors Michael Hiza, at (860) 512-2764, or Thomas White-Hassler, at (860) 512-2680.

Community Service Recognized

The Manchester Community College Paralegal Association was nominated for a Connecticut Higher Education Community Service Award by the Connecticut Commission on Community Service. The association was praised for its various community enrichment projects during the school year, including a food drive to benefit the Manchester Area Council of Churches food bank and a toy drive for the Connecticut Children's Medical Center.

Live Wire

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Success in Your Career Can Start at the Co-op

By Richard J. Sisca

Special to the Live Wire

Many students attend college to expand their knowledge and choose a career. Yet, how does one know if that's the right path to follow? Internships, also known as cooperative education, are one way to find out more about that career you're considering.

At Manchester Community College, internships are required to complete the associate's degree for many majors, including communication, criminal justice and hospitality. Social services requires two internships.

Regardless of how many are required, taking one, either during the summer or the school year, is a good idea.

"Co-ops are a great way to transition from student to employee," said Bob Henderson, director of Cooperative Education at MCC.

The most successful students have work experience on top of their education, Henderson said. An internship marks the first steps in a student's respective career, he said. Besides that, they also help students narrow down a field. Many students end up doing more than one internship or changing career paths after one.

Jake Gott, a communication major at MCC, interned at WTIC-TV FOX 61 last summer.

"Definitely do a co-op in our field," he said.

At FOX 61, Gott said he learned how news stories happen. One of the best experiences, he said, was traveling to different sports events like

covering the New Britain Rock Cats baseball team and the Hartford Wolf Pack hockey team training camp. After his internship ended, Gott was hired as an assignment desk editor. Later, he wrote a script for the weekly Sunday "Sports Ticket" show.

"I realized then that I had found my calling," he said, adding that he hopes on-air talent for a show in the future.

How do you get an internship? The first step is to go down to the co-op office in the Lowe building and visit Room 177, which is next to the bookstore. Next, make an appointment to see Henderson, who arranges interviews for internships. The sooner a student talks to him about an internship, the better the position he or she can obtain, Henderson said. In the middle of a semester is an excellent time to explore opportunities. Some of the companies that offer co-ops include ClearChannel Communication, Aetna Insurance, ING and many small companies in the greater Hartford area.

In the next ten years many jobs are going to be available in all kinds of fields. However, there will be intense competition for those positions.

"A successful employee has work experience," said Henderson. "Students who do co-ops and internships earn higher starting salaries and have an easier time finding employment."

To start your path to success, contact Bob Henderson at 512-3371 via email at rhenderson@mcc.commnet.edu or visit the co-op office at Lowe 1.

Student Soldiers Walk Among Us

By Ross Hilton
Special to the Live Wire

According to the Veteran Affairs office, 283 students currently attending Manchester Community College are veterans. Like everyone else, they all have unique stories and experiences that they will carry with them for the rest of their lives.

Benjamin Herrington, a communications major, is one such veteran. Herrington grew up in Hartford, and like many people, joined the Army when he was 18. At the time he wasn't thinking about college.

"It was a way not to go to college," he said.

After basic training, Herrington was assigned to Alpha Company 41st Army Corp of Engineers, which specialized in mine detection and removal. Shortly after turning 19, he was deployed to Bosnia. The Bosnian War was one of ethnic cleansing where Serbians killed off non-Serbs in eastern Bosnia. Herrington's job was clearing travel routes through mine fields for the Bosnian, American, and Allied troops. There were thousands of land mines in the area that left over from World War II. Herrington said once a week he'd hear of a child losing a limb or being killed by a land mine in the same fields in which they would play.

Herrington witnessed first hand the devastation of a land mine. During one such route clearance, he saw a lieutenant lose both of his legs. Now 20 years later, the experience is still not easy for Herrington to talk about. He ended up doing two tours of duty in Bosnia; the first for four months, and the second for three and a half.

"I believed then and still believe the purpose of the war was a good one. Nobody would have helped those people," Herrington said. "If I had the chance to do it all over again, I would."

William Ivey is a veteran with a different story. Ivey moved from place to place as a child and was not the best student in high school. He joined the Navy when he was 18, hoping his training would land him a career opportunity when he got out. Upon joining, he volunteered and was accepted as a submariner. Upon completing basic training, he was qualified as a subsurface Navigation Electronics Technician. Ivey was responsible for knowing the submarine's position on the map at all times. He indirectly helped control the sub's course.

"It was obscenely hard and non-stop," he said.

Ivey was assigned to the USS Emory S. Land, a fast-attack submarine. He referred to them as "...the Swiss Army knife of the Navy." A fast-attack sub can do it all, both reconnaissance and attack missions. Ivey would do seven years active duty in the Navy, spending nine months per year at sea. Although he was in the Navy when the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 occurred, and when the War in Iraq started, he was never deployed on a combat mission. He has visited 17 different countries, including the Philippines, where he helped rebuild a school as part of a military relations project. Now 27, Ivey is attending MCC to be an electrical engineer and hopes to specialize in photonic and wireless power transmissions as a career.

The Navy "...was fantastic experience," said Ivey. "Now I know exactly what I want to do."

Few can imagine the experience Paul Sinsigalli had. Sinsigalli grew up in Glastonbury and is the oldest of three brothers. After high school he spent some time working in heating and air conditioning before joining the Army when he was 25. The events of 9/11 played a big part in his enlistment, but he said his reasons were also because his brother had joined about six months prior, and it seemed like something fun to do. He signed up as an Army paratrooper. His training consisted of eight weeks of basic training, six weeks of advanced infantry training, and three weeks of paratrooper training at Fort Benning, Georgia. Of the 28 jumps he made, he said the first was "...scary as hell. It was defiantly the hardest landing too."

After completing paratrooper training he spent a year at Fort Polk, Louisiana. While he was there, he was picked to go to Ranger school to be trained in swamp, jungle, mountain and urban warfare in parts of Florida and Georgia, all preparing him to go to Iraq. During this time, he served with the late Pat Tillman and his brother. Tillman was the ex-Arizona Cardinals star who left football to serve his country and was killed in Afghanistan, allegedly by friendly fire.

Sinsigalli returned to and was deployed from Fort Polk to Iraq in June of 2004 and got a weekend to say goodbye to his friends and family. He was deployed as part of the 1/509th Airborne Battalion attached to the 10th Mountain Division for Operation Iraqi freedom. They were "gung-ho," Sinsigalli said.

"We were happy to serve our country," he said. "The camaraderie was amazing."

The battalion took a commercial airline to Kuwait and stayed there for a couple weeks getting acclimated to the weather before going to Baghdad. On the drive to Baghdad, his convoy went hours without seeing another person except for children begging for food and water.

Once in Baghdad, the unit used one of Hussein's old intelligence buildings as its base camp. Sinsigalli was now patrolling the streets and neighborhoods of Baghdad 10 to 16 hours a day, mostly at night. On patrol the unit would do house-to-house searches, looking for weapons and roadside bombs called Improvised Explosive Devices, or IEDs.



Photo provided by Paul Sinsigalli. Sgt. Paul Sinsigalli, who was stationed in Bagdad, as part of the 1/509 Airborne Battalion attached to the 10th Mountain Division, is seen here, center, with Iraqi children and local citizens.

During a Sunni and Shia Muslim holiday call Ashura, busloads of men, women, and children were brought in to attend a nearby temple. Sinsigalli's squad was initially called to the scene because an Iraqi police car was blown up by an RPG (Rocket Propelled Grenade). Nothing would prepare him for what he was about to witness. A suicide bomber had blown himself up on bus full of people. Moments later another suicide bomber blew himself up in a crowd of people about 100 meters away from Sinsigalli, killing more than 50 people, including one soldier, and injuring five others. Shortly afterwards, stray dogs were carrying off body parts of the victims.

"That much death is a lot to take in," Sinsigalli said. "I was just numb a kind of disbelief."

Sinsigalli spent nine and a half months in Iraq and a total of three and a half years active duty. He received the Army Commendation Medal for participating in more than 150 combat patrols. He has been out of the Army for about two years, but is still in the inactive reserves, with the chance of being called up again. Now 30 and married, he is attending MCC for liberal arts and will go to the University of Connecticut to pursue nursing in the fall.

Coming home from Iraq has been difficult for Sinsigalli.

"It was a culture shock going there and coming back," he said. He now suffers from post-dramatic stress syndrome, as many with combat experience do. He also suffers from depression and intrusive thoughts and nightmares of suicide bombers.

"It's a long, constant adjustment," Sinsigalli said. "I may not be living in Iraq anymore but in a way, I still am."

All of these people spoke about how they benefited from the military in some way. It gave them structure to their lives and opportunities for the future. Especially during this time of war, it is important we honor the veterans we go to class with every day and recognize the sacrifice they have made to make the place we call home safe.

"You don't have to support the war but definitely support the soldiers," said Sinsigalli.

MCC Students React to the Virginia Tech Shooting

By Keith Rugar and Shamiq-Amir Muhammad

The killing of 32 people by Seung-Hui Cho, a student, at the Virginia Tech campus on April 16, sent shock waves across college campuses nationwide, including at Manchester Community College.

One person who decided to do something about it was Clifton Roberts, who has worked at MCC for five years in the Facilities Management and Planning department.

He came up with the idea of creating a condolence card for Virginia Tech that could be signed by anyone at MCC.

"I felt like everybody else was more in shock. I wanted to provide something for the students as a way for them to vent," he said. "I thought that it would be the right thing to do at the right time."

Roberts brought his idea to Susan Classen-Sullivan, an art teacher, who passed it on to her students.

Ashley Karaushaar said she sat down with other art students to design the card.

"We discussed what the first sentence would say to the students. We didn't want it to be cheesy," she said. "We wanted it to be true."

The top of the card reads, in bright green, blue, and red ink, "Our deepest condolences for your losses from us here at MCC."

In the week since the card was placed on a table in the AST Lobby, two sheets of paper have been filled with thoughts and wishes.

Roberts said he was pleased with the response.

"The good thing is that students can put down what they really feel," he said.

Darren King
Occupational Therapy
"I think that what happened at VTech was an unfortunate situation that leaves us uncomfortable because we, as a nation, have no control over it and it can happen anywhere in the world so we have to appreciate every day we have."

Antoine Alexander
Journalism
"I believe that the tragedy could have been prevented if security acted on the first set of shootings. That many people should not have been victimized by this crazed shooter. We all across America should try to help keep college and high school campuses safe for our future generations."

Krystal Caron
Journalism
"The Virginia Tech shooting is not going to be the last shooting. A major part as to why is because of our absurd gun laws. Basically, you fill out a form and show 3 forms of ID and you are handed a gun. Our nation needs to wake up and support an illegal gun policy."

Allison Senecal
Communications
"The VT shootings are scary, but unfortunately a part of our society. The trend of massacre shootings has been with us for years and is only going to get worse. If a college isn't safe, is a day care, a church, a home?"

Ross Hilton
Journalism
"This was not a tragedy, it was a massacre. This is not cancer or a car crash. It is an example of the violent times we live in. It is all too common these days. It makes you wonder if it could happen at our school."



photo by Robert Cooper/Live Wire

Student Senate President Sandy Jackson and Richard Browne III sign the condolence card for VA Tech.

Student Reactions continued

Jaclyn Ricks

Sophomore

“It was sad.... Many innocent people got hurt. The university didn’t handle this issue in the right manner. They should have canceled classes for the day, locked down the campus and notified the students. As a result of this, I don’t feel safe here at MCC. We have an open campus, there’s not enough security and they’re not armed. Anything can go wrong.”

Immanuel Gyebi

Sociology

“It’s sad that culturally and socially we wait to address these issues until it’s too late, and this is the consequence for ignoring people and their problems. We need to change our social polices and care more about one another.”

Scott Zemantic

Journalism

“I am deeply saddened by the Virginia Tech event. It’s hard to accept that at this day and age such a heavy act of violence could occur in an institution for learning.”

Andy Kanaris

Journalism

“The Virginia Tech massacre made me think about how I approach people, how my attitude is. Cho was a troubled kid who probably suffered a lot from bullying and rude comments. If someone could just smile or say what’s up and really be sincere about it, maybe it will show people really care. Kindness is all that is needed.”

Ben Herrington

Communications

“I feel like the Virginia Tech incident was an unfortunate situation that turned into a tragedy due to the poor response by the local police.”

Jason Cunningham

Communications

“I think my initial feeling was that of horror and shock. Anyone could go around shooting people. I felt like any area with guns lying around and sick minds at hand wasn’t safe.”

Jake Gott

Journalism

“I think the events are pretty tragic. For me it hits a little closer to home as a friend of mine, Brian Bluhm, was one of the victims of the shooting. I just hope this doesn’t start an uproar for a security craze. Just because one kid at one college goes haywire, it doesn’t mean everyone everywhere is a possibility.”

Eddie Calderon

Business

“In regards to the tragic events of the Virginia Tech shootings, I feel very sad. I can understand what the victim’s families must be going through, it’s a very tragic event and I hope that it will never happen again.”

Sean Barile

“The Virginia Tech shooting isn’t even surprising. At this point it’s barely emotive. Seems like there’s something every few months, but nobody take a cue and tries to change anything. Guns, drugs and solitary living have produced a society desensitized to violence. It’s like a bigger, badder Columbine and I guess somebody will want to outdo him [Cho].”

David Serkosky

Business

“What happened was a tragedy. What can’t be taken back, but what bothers me the most is the racial backlash that is occurring after the fact. We’ve seen this before, one person did this, we need time to heal not to hate...”

Jamar Johnson

Communications

“I feel like the VA Tech massacre was obviously deeply saddening as well as extremely scary. A college campus is supposed to be the safest, calmest environment for an individual. To have your life tragically cut short so randomly just puts chills down my spine.”

Security continued from page 1

various campus departments and sets campus safety policies and procedures, and reports any changes to Bavier.

Bavier said the attack in Virginia will lead to changes at colleges all over the country, including MCC. But added that improvements to MCC’s communication system were already in the works.

“We were working on our systems even before the Virginia Tech incident,” Bavier said.

A year ago Gibbens noticed a weakness in the campus’ ability to communicate with Manchester Police, so she met with Police Captains Mark Montminy and Patrick Reeves from the department and asked them what the campus could do to improve their ability to respond to anything that happens at MCC. They cited the lack of a Public Address system, which gave them no way to get a message to students, faculty and staff at once. From this conversation the team decided to improve the campus phone system.

Bavier said new phones, with such a system, will be installed this summer.

“The phones are going to be placed in all classrooms and corridors, and will have the ability to work as an intercom if the campus had to be evacuated,” he said. “With the current phone lines already in place, the new phones will be installed by the fall semester.”

For some students, those measures may not be enough to make them feel safe.

“I feel safe, but not safe enough. They should start using metal detectors at every entrance,” said Tameka Bailey, a Criminal Justice student. “They should also have all the security guards meet and greet people so they can recognize who is a student and who isn’t. They should take more initiative knowing students at MCC, even the high school students.”

Other students say such measures are overreactions.

“I feel safe here. I think there are a lot of instances of school violence that have happened, but it’s not a widespread problem. You can’t be afraid to live your life, it is what it is,” said Erik Campbell, a Business Management major. “They could put a metal detector in, but where there’s a will there’s a way. They could also get more security guards, but that would increase the tuition due to paying for them.”

In response to the shooting at Virginia Tech, Gov. M. Jodi Rell has called for a summit of top administrators and security officers from all Connecticut colleges to review and improve security measures and response plans.

“At the community college level all 12 schools will be asked to submit a report to the Connecticut Community-Technical College System office, to gather information in anticipation of the Governors meeting,” Bavier said.

Bavier could not comment on any possible changes in the campus police force, but did say that with the expansion of Great Path Academy, any changes in the amount of police on campus would take additional funding.

MCC Pres. Jonathan M. Daube said he understands the difficulties in keeping a college environment safe.

“As with all open access communities we believe that people should have a choice, we also believe that people should be safe, it is difficult to reach a balance,” he said. “I do believe that the campus is safe, nothing is 100 percent. But I believe it is as safe as it can be.”

MCC News

MCC Student Already Heads Booming Biz

By Christiana Raby
Special to the Live Wire

Finding a guy in college right after high school is nothing out of the ordinary, but it is pretty spectacular when he is also running more than one business and working part time at a special needs school.

John Wisniewski, a current Manchester Community College student, owns and operates Lawrencium Clothing, a line of shirts, hoodies, women's underwear, and soon, men's bathing suits and embroidered hats. He already has a spring and fall line that was released in 2006 and will shortly be releasing a new summer line for 2007. His designs can currently be found at Unite, in North Hampton, Mass., and Channel One, in New Haven, both boutiques that appeal to skateboarders and others.

Wisniewski graduated from Enfield High School in 2005 and started at MCC that fall. He began as a design major, but has since changed to General Studies because, he said, when he graduates from MCC he plans to major in child psychology in Boston.

Wisniewski was always creative; he loved to color as a child, he said, and later branched out to making shirts for himself and others, including the Breast Cancer Foundation, which provides funding for research, education and breast cancer screening and treatment. When Wisniewski expressed his desire to design and sell clothing for skate shops, his parents loaned him \$1,000 to help him finance the venture and he made back their investment within 6-8 months, said Wisniewski.

His uncle then further financed him, enabling him to expand. Due to the growing demand, Wisniewski hired his friends to help with the different aspects of business and is currently rebuilding his Web site to



photo courtesy of John Wisniewski

Clothing designs by John Wisniewski, current MCC student and owner of Lawrencium Clothing

accommodate the demand. He draws his designs from every day ideas based on individuals, and even includes some haikus from his own poetry, for example:

Design trails visions,
faceless we represent this
footstep above sound

Many of Wisniewski's MCC classes have been directly applicable to his company's success. He is using skills learned from a Web Design course to rework the Lawrencium Clothing site and he credits his design professors for spending personal time with him to adapt their teachings to his vision.

For anyone interested in starting their own small business, Wisniewski recommended having an experienced mentor to learn from and to be humble about learning. Even though Wisniewski doesn't consider himself an organized person, he said he believes anyone can be successful with motivation, time management and focus on priorities.

"Multi-tasking and harnessing your creative abilities is a good way to start gaining your focus," said Wisniewski.

He said his favorite part of being a small business owner is running on his own schedule, adding that he knows what needs to be done and likes to do things on his own time.

In addition to running Lawrencium Clothing, Wisniewski also does screen printing for local businesses and organizations at Superior Screen Printing in his hometown of Enfield.

Wisniewski's future plans are to grow his business so he can sponsor and work at a summer camp for special needs children. He said he was inspired to do this by his mother, who holds a master's degree in special education and works at a special needs school in Windsor. He also works there nine hours a week. The school teaches social and physical skills, like reading, telling time and using currency, to students requiring practical knowledge. The summer camp Wisniewski envisions would appeal to all aspects of the learning process in addition to providing a fun environment for the children.



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MCC Library offers InfoAnytime

By Bridget Gaddy
Special to the Live Wire

Have you ever had a question and needed an answer immediately? For example,

what's the chemical composition of alcohol? Well, you can ask a librarian at anytime, thanks to the new online service, "InfoAnytime." Manchester Community College is one of several schools in the state that piloted the service and the first to begin using it.

InfoAnytime was piloted in 2005-2006, according to a press release, by Asnuntuck, Capitol, Gateway, Housatonic, Manchester, Three Rivers, and Tunxis

community colleges. It can be accessed from all computers in any library that subscribes to the service. More than 130 public libraries and, 30 academic libraries in Connecticut subscribe.

There are a multitude of benefits to this service. First, it is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The site is staffed by librarians who help students with all kinds of questions and it can even be accessed in the Spanish language.

Students have found it user-friendly.

"I like it very much," said industrial engineering major Mauricio Ojeda. "It makes it easier to find the things I want to find."

You can access the service in just a few simple steps. First, type in the web address www.infoaytime.org. After typing your question in the appropriate box, an online librarian responds with an answer. Users can get a transcript at the end of each session via email. The site can also be accessed through the MCC home page, www.mcc.commnet.edu. Click on "24/7 help" from the left side menu.

Senate continued from page 1

the winners were announced on April 25. Narjis Hussain became Student Senate president in a close race where she received 251 votes to Nate Lare's 229.

"I worked so hard to become president, and I'm really excited to work with my new team and I'm looking forward to a new year," said Hussain. "Nate is a great guy, and I hope to work with him, and hope he will stay involved with the student senate."

In the other contested race, Lindsay N. Payne beat out J. Ashley Odell for Social Vice-President 228 votes to 94. Odell, however, will remain the Student Representative on the panel for the MCC Foundation.

In the uncontested races, Anthony Goiangos became vice president, Elizabeth Ponchak became the new secretary, Richard Y. Browne III became treasurer, Omar Khan will be Executive Senator I and Executive Senator II went to Michelle Forrester.

During the Student Senate debate earlier in April, Goiangos said he was "stoked" about the opportunity to connect with the student body.

"The title of vice president means very little in comparison to the responsibility," Goiangos said.

The responsibilities are in fact staggering. The student council acts as the liaison between the student body and the college. Each member is required to devote 10 – 20 hours weekly to their office.

Browne said during the debate that he wants to be part of a "new wave of change" here at MCC.

"Titles get in the way," he said, "people get forgotten. I'm here to represent people."

Hussain said she has a lot of issues she wants to tackle this coming year as president, and is hoping to make MCC an even more enjoyable school for students. "I hope to have more themed events here at MCC that students can relate to, events that the students will say 'Wow what's going on?' I also want students to know their rights, try to get cheaper bus passes for students, and to improve safety here on campus," she said.



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Evening *of* Fine Wines

More than 700 people from the college and surrounding areas came to campus for the 15th annual Evening of Fine Wines event April 13. The event features wine tasting, food prepared by MCC students in the Culinary Arts program and both silent and live auctions and raises money for scholarships for current and future MCC students. This year more than \$100,000

was raised for scholarships, said

Linnette Velazquez-Welle,

who works

full-time

planning

and

organizing

the event.

By Keith Rugar, Christina Lewis,
Christiana Raby, Bridget Gaddy and Jessica Avery

Photos by Robert Cooper

WFSB Channel 3 weather forecaster **Scot Haney** holds up his wine glass as master of ceremonies during the live auction.



MCC faculty and staff, from left, **Darlene Mancini-Brown, Cynthia Zeldner, Duncan Harris, Cynthia Washburne, and Eileen Stern**, enjoy the evening.



A waitstaff volunteer prepares hors d'oeuvres in the **Culinary Arts** kitchen.





Aaron Gillberto offers hors d'oeuvres to guests.



Guests review and bid on trips, art and other items during the **Silent Auction** portion of the evening.

“One of the things that I like about it is that it brings the campus community together for a common cause,” said Glenn Lemaire, who teaches in the Social Science and Hospitality department and is one of the co-chairs of the event. He acts as sommelier, or wine expert, during the evening.

But, Lemaire stresses, it takes a concerted effort to launch the event.

“It takes a lot of planning, and many volunteers to coordinate the many aspects of the Evening of Fine Wines event,” he said.

“Every year students, faculty, and staff work hard to make it happen.”

And many of the attendees were appreciative of the effort.

Nancy and Tim Larson, of East Hartford, have attended the event several times.

“It’s a good time and shows the true potential of the college,” said Tim Larson. “It [MCC] is a diamond in the rough.”

Gary Crump, owner and winemaker of Priam Vineyards in Colchester, was one of several wineries hosting tasting tables at the event.

“It is a high-end crowd,” said Crump, who has been participating in the event since 1998. “If you are going to support a charity event, this is the one.”

The Evening of Fine Wines event was started by Peter

Nagerola, who was the college’s buildings and grounds supervisor and came up with the idea of holding a wine tasting to raise money for the athletic department. Lemaire, who has long been interested in wine, supported the idea and the first event in 1992. Over the years the event has grown, and by 2006 had raised \$1 million in scholarship funds.

The evening is also a showcase for students in the culinary arts program. From Duck L’Orange and coconut shrimp to Viennese desserts and watermelon carvings, the food stood out. Preparing the meals encompasses students and former students of the program, who volunteer each year.

Julie Noonan, who was executive front of house chef and in charge of the front culinary area, gets no credit for this. She is a volunteer.

“You must keep on top of things,” she said. “This is about learning.”

A learning experience is also provided at the live auction, guest hosted each year by Scot Haney, a meteorologist at WFSB Channel 3 in Hartford. Known for his funny lines during his stint as auctioneer, auction attendees have had to learn when he is joking and when he’s being serious. During the live auction, 270 bottles of wine were auctioned off, some for as much as \$800.

“This is one of the only events that I host year after year after year,” he said.

“It’s a good time and shows the true potential of the college.”

Guests enjoy the wide assortment of food prepared by students in the **Culinary Arts Department**.



Steve Slota, a wine distributor from Connecticut Distributors Inc. Merchants Division, pours wine for guests.



Editorials



Guns and a Free and Open Society

Keith Rugar

The United States has had a long history of gun violence, from stories of the outlaws of the west in the 1800's to the gangsters of the 1930's, guns have been a way to gain the upper hand and give a feeling of safety and security. As a country we are far past this period of the romanticized outlaw or gangster. We now consider the U.S. to be a civilized country built on laws that protect the rights and freedoms of individuals. These laws keep us safe within our own communities. However, at times certain events make us question just how safe we are as a nation, and the recent massacre of students and faculty at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va., on April 16, is certainly one of those events.

When Cho Seung-Hui killed 32 people and himself many people asked just how safe are we on our college campuses. The answer is that we are no safer there than we are anywhere else. This incident also brought to light many problems within our college campuses, such as how far should a college institution go to provide counseling to someone who is thought

to be mentally ill? What is the role of campus police forces? And, perhaps the most important, is what should be the role of gun control laws in the United States?

According to an April 20, 2007, New York Times article, Cho was deemed by a court judge in 2005 to be mentally ill, and ordered to seek outpatient therapy. Because of this incident, Cho should not have been allowed to purchase a gun under federal gun laws. But his mental status never showed up on the background check. This, according to the article, shows that there is a problem with states not submitting information to federal authorities.

Cho purchased two guns, one a Glock 19 semi-automatic firearm from a local gun shop. He was able to purchase the gun because Virginia's firearm regulations do not limit the sale of semi-automatic weapons. Virginia state law also refers back to the 10-year federal ban on the sale of these weapons that President George W. Bush did not reinstate after the ban expired in 2004. I believe that the fact that this ban was not reinstated, and that Cho was able to use this weapon to kill 32 people, shows that we as a nation should have a debate on the need for gun restrictions in the U.S.

Semi-automatic weapons are not used for hunting, so in my opinion they have no actual

purpose in our society. Pro-gun activists argue that any form of gun control is an infringement of the Constitution's guarantee in the Second Amendment to bear arms. But I believe that this is not a freedom that should apply in the 21st century United States.

I mean, we are no longer at war with the British, and we have a trained citizen army to fight our battles. So why should everyday citizens be allowed to own such weapons?

When you carry a gun in public you are putting yourself in the position of power over others, like a bank robber takes over a bank. Cho in his actions not only took the lives of 32 people, but he also infringed on the freedom of all individuals to live in peace and go about their lives safely.

I believe that if gun control is not a part of political debate in the months leading up to the 2008 presidential election, then our elected officials would be doing our nation, and those who died in Virginia a great disservice. I hope that this issue becomes part of the political discourse, because this incident points out that we need restrictions on the right to bear arms. If not, that sense of safety many of us felt before April 16 will never return.

livewire @mcc.commnet.edu

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I find it a few steps beyond ironic that in February's issue of *Live Wire*, Keith Rugar's editorial piece, "Free Speech Doesn't Dictate Good Taste" was directly preceded by Ask Dr. Cooper's advice column, in which Mr. Cooper advised an anonymous gay male looking for peers, and inadvertently, all queer MCC students in a similar predicament, to [Go to] prison. I'm sure you will have no problems meeting friends there" [Feb. 23, 2007, page 6].

This is a college institution. I'm sure every GLBT student here has endured an overabundance of taunting, harassment and intimidation at their last venue of education and hoped not to re-enter the hailstorm of humiliation which, being different in any significant manner, visits upon high school age youth. I would also expect, and not merely hope, that anyone given a regular public voice at MCC would be sensitive to such concerns and be respectful enough of all their readers to not make light of their very real and valid anxieties. I'd expect t(he)y would be informed enough to know that MCC Pride, a club for GLBT students on the campus, has been in existence for over two years. I would also expect that if t(he)y were not capable of doing either, that t(he)y would simply not touch the matter rather than write something as condescendingly offensive and otherwise pointless as what was published, something tantamount to saying "if it weren't for prison rape, how would gay men ever know the joy of companionship with a man who isn't going to crucify him afterwards?"

I am not asking that Mr. Cooper bite his tongue in the future. However, I am expecting that whenever I open the MCC *Live Wire*, I will not be greeted with dismissive degradation. To paraphrase Mr. Rugar, the issue of sexual orientation is not funny sarcastically, literally, or fictitiously. I thought we all had long learned such lessons, but I'm afraid some of us may not have learned a thing.

Alvin Burgher

Treasurer of MCC Pride

Dear Editor,

We write to express our surprise at controversies generated by Dr. Cooper column in the Feb. 23, 2007 issue of the *Live Wire* [page 6].

The social contract of this great nation (U.S.A), written in The Declaration of Independence states, "all men equal" and everyone is entitled to the "pursuit of happiness." We believe each and every MCC student is bound by the contents of this document and, for that matter, commend and fully support the MCC Pride Club, which provides a comfort zone for most gays, lesbians, transgender and bisexuals in the college.

Opinions, however, are like onions, and people are bound to agree or disagree on certain social issues. We therefore think it unnecessary the letters received as a result of Dr. Cooper's advice to a lonely student who asked him if he liked men. Especially in the case of Miss Kjellquist, [Letters to the Editor, March 26, 2007 issue, page 4] bullish. We have been wondering what crime or immoral act he committed in suggesting other places as venues for meeting men. On second thought, maybe, Dr. Cooper would have added MCC Pride meetings, which he is probably mad at himself for not thinking about.

He doesn't like men as intimate friends and relays it to this lonely gay student.

We want to know if Miss Kjellquist would prefer a hypocrite to a straight talker who would lead students on by suggesting things they want to hear instead of what they need to hear.

With regards to partiality, would a not impartial "Dr." ignore that whole question rather than answer it? Where does Miss Kjellquist's impartiality lie, in proposing he stops writing for our beloved *Live Wire*, because he varies in opinion. Is this not a case of power (as an Educational Assistant), and intimidation? Gays, lesbians, transgender and bisexuals are entitled to differ from straight students in their sexual orientation, and so Dr. Cooper is allowed to differ in opinion without unnecessary intimidation.

As stated in the Constitution "all men are created equal" and everyone is permitted "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." We should be enabled to have healthy disagreements without needless controversies.

Sincerely,

Kofi Sowah and Sean Toli

MCC STUDENTS

Editorials

Other Opinion

A Young Activist Speaks

By Ja Mychael Luther
MCC Pride President

In the *Live Wire*, there was a recently published article that strongly suggested pursuing homosexual activity in the Polo Club and in jail [Ask Dr. Cooper, Feb. 27, 2007, page 6]. There are two gay bars: the Polo and Chez East. Both serve as meeting places for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, Queer and Intersexed, or GLBTQQI, populations. Both locations acknowledge and embrace “straight” people and those who choose to live in “mainstream” society. However, both primarily focus on being a location offering entertainment and music for individuals in our diverse subculture who share the same beliefs and experience the same adversity. Both the Polo and Chez East allow us GLBTQQI people to forget the binary ways of thinking, to live in unchecked gender boxes and to eliminate social bias and norms. Once in those doors, everyone is embraced as family.

There are many magazines and gay activists in these bars every day who fight for change and actively take part in the “movement.” Organizations such as *True Colors* and *Love Makes a Family* are two main groups who advertise upcoming functions that the general public may enjoy participating in. By nature it is a bar, people do “hook up,” but it is more than just a typical “gathering place,” it is a network. It is necessary to appreciate and respect these locations as such because, in our community, it is one of the major outlets and attractions we have. Special events held in these locations include drag shows and both local and out-of-town performers doing shows. These shows may be stand-up comics, open mic or singing. There are also many other popular events like pool tournaments, Bingo/Scrabble night and evenings of poker. Connecting and communicating with others who share the same interests at these functions allows all of us to unite and strengthen the bonds within our community.

With little tolerance comes little acceptance. As times change, so do people. It is unrealistic to believe that total elimination of ignorance about our community is possible, but writing something as simple as this article will eliminate the ignorance that has already risen. My goal at MCC is to educate myself within the walls of this institution and apply the knowledge in “real life” that I have obtained from here. What I learn in college and in real life is mine forever, but I have the ability

and responsibility to share what I have learned with others in a very direct way. With education comes understanding and with time comes acceptance. Personally, I am tired of waiting.

At this time, I would like to thank Mr. Cooper for allowing me the opportunity to speak about these issues. If matters were handled by him differently in the February edition of the *Live Wire*, a situation such as this would not have presented itself.

I take pride in my culture and myself and enjoy celebrating my life as an out and active genderqueer both in school and in the community. I struggle with issues involving my lifestyle every day, and that is why I found the need to address Mr. Cooper’s response made in the *Live Wire*. What he said in his column not only hurt and disrespected me, but everyone who is part of the GLBTQQI community in both a direct and indirect way. The adversity I face on a daily basis is very much a part of my reality and I do not appreciate anyone making a mockery of it. I am enraged and find it inappropriate to publish degrading comments about the GLBTQQI community to the college campus, in our very own school paper. I think Mr. Cooper forgot that “we are everywhere” and in fact read the *Live Wire*. I chose to speak out and be noticed because no one will listen if there is nothing to hear. To be passive about this situation is to show that Freedom of Speech is tolerable even when it is at the expense of others, and, for the GLBTQQI community, would create another silent moment in “Our” history because we did not unite and stand up for ourselves. Empowerment is not power, but rather using education wisely. I would much rather be hated for who I am than loved for someone I am not, and I encourage all students, and “Dr. Cooper,” to attend our MCC Pride meetings on Mondays from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in room L120b in the Lowe building.

Letters (cont.)

Dear Editor,

As secretary of MCC PRIDE, I am writing to you about the answer your columnist wrote in response to a person trying to meet other gay people [Ask Dr. Cooper, Feb. 23, 2007, page 6]. I thought the response, while probably meant as a joke, was not an appropriate answer in a college newspaper, or any for that matter. It was not only offensive to people, it was unprofessional and not a very mature answer for a college paper. Whoever was trying to get an answer probably felt rejected and maybe insulted by the columnist’s suggestion to “try prison.” Hopefully, in the future, the columnists will try to have a more professional and helpful approach.

Sincerely,
Ashley Morrissey,
Secretary of MCC PRIDE

Editor’s note: If you would like to submit an editorial piece or Letter to the Editor, bring it to the *Live Wire* office, Lowe 253, or email it to livewire@mcc.commnet.edu. The *Live Wire* reserves the right to edit all submissions for grammar, spelling, content and length.

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Arts & Entertainment

Ask Dr. Cooper

Greetings ladies and gentlemen, this is the last Dr. Cooper for the semester. I would like to thank those who have sent questions to me to be answered. I answered all the questions, no matter how crazy they may have been.

How come students here on campus do not attend functions such as guest speakers at lunch time, or club sponsored events?

There could be a number of reasons why students don't attend these functions. There are a lot of students who happen to be in class during those events, making it hard for them to attend. Other students have to work during the day, and only come to campus for evening classes. There could also be poor promotion of these events. It takes more than just a flyer posted on a bulletin to get the attention of students. You must also find a way to have teachers tell students about these events, possibly even pass out flyers to their students, and announce them in this very paper, the Live Wire. If none of these things work, then maybe you have to look at who the speakers are or what the event is. If it's something that is boring, like somebody talking about ferns, then I'm sorry, I can't help you with that.

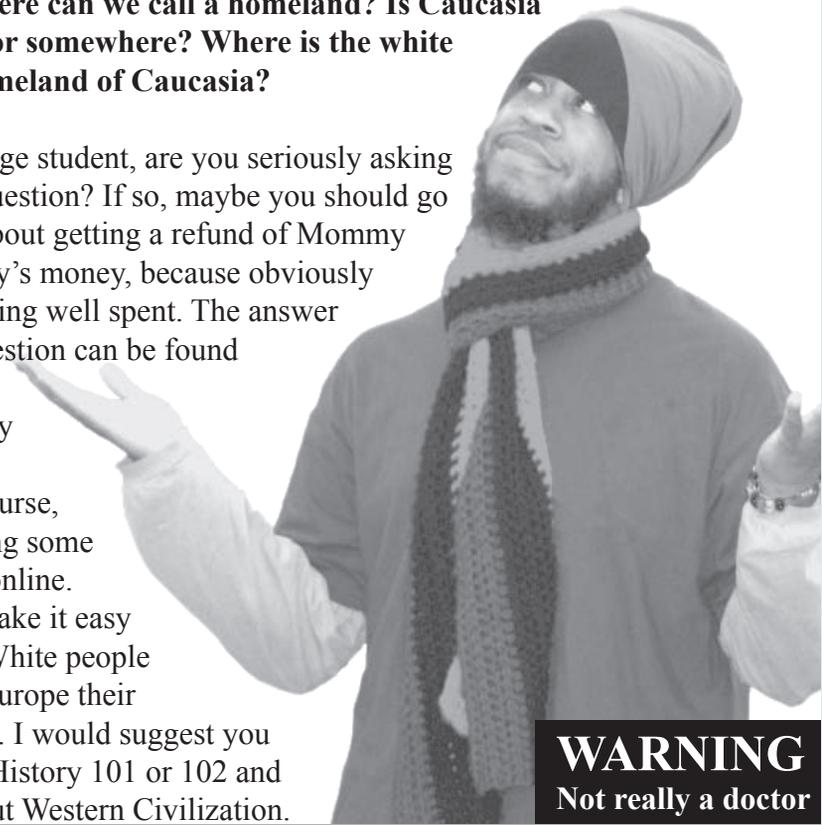
What to do....When an Egyptian fellow asks you to marry him. All I want to do is see a peck two or three in addition before jumping the broom to marry. You'd like to investigate his soul and peck or two. (I think there is a cultural issue, I'm not Egyptian).

Okay let it be known first and foremost I didn't understand a thing in this letter. Okay let me rephrase that, I understood bits and pieces, but what in the hell is a "peck"? As for not being ready to marry yet, I would suggest you tell him that you are not yet ready to "jump the broom," and

you need time to get to know him, or investigate his soul, as you put it. There may be a cultural issue between the two of you that could make a serious relationship hard, but then again, there are relationships between people of the same culture who have problems. Marriage is an everyday work in progress, and if two people love and respect each other, no differences can come between them. So good luck and get a peck or two.

I've been wondering this for quite some time. See, Black people have Africa as a homeland, Asians have the whole continent of Asia, and Latinos have South America. But what about white folk? Where can we call a homeland? Is Caucasia a planet or somewhere? Where is the white folk's homeland of Caucasia?

As a college student, are you seriously asking me this question? If so, maybe you should go and see about getting a refund of Mommy and Daddy's money, because obviously it's not being well spent. The answer to this question can be found in an elementary school history course, or by doing some research online. But I'll make it easy for you. White people can call Europe their homeland. I would suggest you enroll in History 101 or 102 and learn about Western Civilization.



WARNING
Not really a doctor

“Loneliness and Melancholy”

Exhibit Explored Human Emotion

LONELINESS & MELANCHOLY



March 29 - May 1, 2007

By Molly Mitzman
Special to the Live Wire

Depression is a growing problem in our country, to the point where it is even referred to as the “common

cold” of psychological disorders. If this is true, perhaps it explains the persistence of mildly unhappy to wildly disturbing themes present in most, if not all, artistic mediums. The prevalence and intrigue of the less joyous human states have certainly been enough to bring attention to the latest show on display in the Manchester Community College's Hans Weiss New Space art gallery, titled “Loneliness and Melancholy.” The show ran from April 5 to May 1.

The pieces in the show all explore these topics in very unique ways, often taking back doors and alternate routes to describe the feelings that people live and work with on a regular basis. Unorthodox subject matter and selective use of color provide but a few avenues for expression in this show.

Artist Dana Frankfort explained her piece, “Despair/call me,” a screamingly yellow piece that is eye-catching and flamboyant, with a subtle, saddening message buried underneath its bright colors, at the opening of the exhibit.

“It's not every day that you get to feel bright, intensely yellow,” she said.

Subject matter, in the form of donuts and pastries, also provides a unique look at human emotion through the use of metaphor. Simplicity

please see **Art Exhibit** on page 13

Solution to March Sudoku

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

May Sudoku

Solution on page 15

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

Arts & Entertainment

Summer Movies Feature Characters Old and New

By Matt Swayner
Special to the Live Wire

In the upcoming summer months there will be several big-budget blockbuster movies coming to theaters. Most of the films are either adaptations of different types of media, such as the Transformers movie, or sequels, such as "Spider Man 3."

The much anticipated "Spider Man 3" is set to open in American theaters on May 4, and has already been released in Japan. Starring Tobey Maguire and Kirsten Dunst again, the movie pits Maguire's Peter Parker, a.k.a. Spider Man, against the Sandman, a new villain that has the ability to transform into any shape of sand he desires. Parker must also battle his friend, Harry Osborne, who seeks revenge for his father's death at the hands of Spider Man in the first film of the franchise. It seems Parker will not be able to battle both foes at the same time. A mysterious black substance binds with his suit and makes him more powerful, but at the same time the power may wreck his relationship with his love, Dunst's Mary Jane. The same black substance also binds with Eddie Brock, a rival photographer, to create Venom, a villain that mirrors everything Spiderman can do. Parker must battle his foes as well as himself this time.

Another eagerly anticipated sequel due out shortly is the third "Pirates of the Caribbean" film, subtitled "At World's End." Due out May 25, it features Will (Orlando Bloom) and Elizabeth (Kiera Knightley) rescuing Jack Sparrow (Johnny Depp) from the Kraken. Now Jack must call together the Pirate Lords from all the corners of the map together to stop Davey Jones and Lord Cutler Beckett from wiping out the Pirates and ruling the seas.

The third installment of the Shrek series is due to be released May 18. The plot for "Shrek the Third" has the green man possibly next in line for the throne of the land of Far, Far Away when his father-in-law falls ill. But Shrek does not want to leave his beloved swamp behind.

"Oceans 13," starring George Clooney and Brad Pitt, is due out on June 8. Clooney's Danny Ocean rounds up the gang one more time for an intricate heist when one of the original 11 is double crossed by a Las Vegas casino owner.

Another sequel is from the "Die Hard" series starring Bruce Willis as tough New York Police officer John McClane. Due out June 27, the fourth installment, "Live Free or Die Hard," has McClane fighting a group of cyber-terrorists who are trying to destroy America by bringing down the country's computer structure.

For younger moviegoers there's the movie "Transformers" scheduled for release July 4. The plot is that two alien races, the Autobots and the Decepticons, come to Earth disguised as everyday machines but transform into larger beings to battle each other and may destroy the planet. The "Transformers" was a popular cartoon in the 1980s and '90s, and fans have been awaiting a live-action movie for years.

Another popular cartoon making a jump to the big screen this summer is "The Simpsons," which has been running on the FOX network for almost two decades. In the plainly titled "Simpsons Movie," loveable oaf Homer Simpson must save the world from a catastrophe that he started, with many recurring characters showing up along the way.

Altogether there will be many eagerly anticipated films coming to theaters this spring and summer, so moviegoers will have many to choose from.

Art Exhibit continued from page 12

appears to be the tactic of choice in this show, rather than explicit detail.

Interestingly, not all the pieces in the show take a negative view of the theme.

"For the artist, being alone isn't necessarily a bad thing," said artist Emily Eveleth at the gallery opening. "It's just everyday."

Accordingly, some of the pieces make quieter, calmer statements than might be expected. Through personal photographs and paintings, the artists show the tranquility of being alone, or alone with another person. We are reminded of what it is like to be silent in a world of loud and busy things.

In juxtaposition to the monologue of the melancholy pieces is the riveting cry of the projections and the films. These pieces had a distinctly different feel, emphasizing thick black lines, quick, subjective forms, and eerie movement that so resemble the forming and dissipation of a thought or a dream recall the maddening shifts of mood and feeling that we all experience throughout life.

Collectively, the works of Marek Szczesny, Monika Weiss, and Bill DeLottie could be said to represent the darker side of melancholy, perhaps depicting the thoughts we do not usually attempt to explain in public. In various pieces, one can see the frustration of being trapped in ones thoughts, the thrill of expression and contact, and all the steps in between.

Sleeves By Jason Cunningham



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Arts & Entertainment

“Waking Up” is a Breath of Fresh Air

By Evan Shaw-Mumford
Special to the Live Wire

Singer and songwriter Bethany Dillon has to be one of the hardest working musicians in the industry. At the age of 18, Dillon has so far released three albums, performed at sold-out concerts around the country, been featured on several compilation albums and motion picture soundtracks, and sponsored relief organizations such as Gospel for Asia. The constant updating of her Web site has helped Dillon become one of the most prominent singers to in the Christian music genre.

Although Dillon’s music is Christian-based, her work has become more mainstream over the few past years thanks to motion picture soundtracks and radio airplay. She has written music for “The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe,” “Amazing Grace,” and the Dakota Fanning film “Dreamer.” Even with her growing résumé, Dillon still found time to release a new album in early April.

Waking Up shows that not only has Dillon’s voice matured, so have her songwriting skills. Acclaimed by listeners and critics alike, *Waking Up*’s lyrics are personable and original, and it’s Dillon’s best album yet. Most of the songs sound like potential radio hits. Memorable songs include the upbeat tunes “Waking Up” and “Let Your Light Shine,” and the love song “You Could Be the One.”

Dillon has always had a knack for surprising her audience with her ability to write lyrics far more mature than her age. On the first track and first radio single, “The Kingdom,” Dillon writes from the perspective of a woman struggling with her faith. Dillon sings, “It tapped me on the shoulder today when I got home. I saw everything collecting dust, it made me hope there was something more. I pour over the pages desperate to find out why the cripple at your table has what I’m longing to find.”

Some of her songs, however, were inspired by real life experiences. Last year, Dillon went on a mission trip to India with Gospel for Asia, a



photo courtesy of Bethany Dillon

Bethany Dillon, who released the album *Waking Up* in early April.

ministry whose goal is to help the poor while spreading the gospel. During the trip, Dillon wrote the song “Beggar’s Heart” and other references to the mission on other songs, such as “Waking Up.”

Waking Up is the most refreshing album I have heard since Jars of Clay’s live CD, *Furthermore*. Dillon has matured so much since her previous two albums, *Waking Up* makes you wonder what is yet to come from the relatively new artist. The album was produced by Ed Cash, who has worked with Chris Tomlin, and John Alagia, who contributed to the works of Lifehouse and John Mayer.

Tracks from *Waking Up* can be heard on Dillon’s Web site, www.bethanydillon.com or her MySpace page, www.myspace.com/bethanydillonmusic.

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Timbaland Presents Shock Value

By Kristoffer R. Venezuela
Special to the Live Wire

After a great year in 2006 as one of music’s most popular producers, Timbaland has stepped back into the recording booth to create “Shock Value.” The album is a boarder-line hip-hop/pop experience with a futuristic sound that shows off more of Timbaland’s sounds and collaborations than his ability in rapping or singing.

With an all-star cast of artists, including 50 Cent, Justin Timberlake, Fall Out Boy, the Hives and Elton John, “Shock Value” can appeal to a wide fan base. For the majority of the album, the other artists leave plenty of room for Timbaland and his famous hooks and instrumentals.

Tim doesn’t make it feel as random and indistinct as many albums by producers using all-star lineups do. This has always been one of Timbaland’s styles, being able to create a unique stage for him and his artists, and make it so that everyone has an equal share of the limelight. Coming off a year where his producing helped Timberlake and Nelly Furtado sell millions of CDs, this album has the ingredients to do the same.

With tracks such as “Give It To Me,” which is the first single from the album, the classic Timbaland sound is there, and the assistance of Timberlake and Furtado make the song a great pop hit. “Shock Value” also has the surprising sound of electric hip-hop and rock on the track “One and Only.” It’s an automatic hit since it features Fall Out Boy and can appeal to both hip-hop and punk rock fans.

With a CD full of superstar musicians, futuristic sounds, and a mastermind behind the microphone and producer board a single truth emerges; Timbaland’s taste is neat as a new pin. So since “Shock Value” is a disc of collaborations, Tim will retain the shadowy-genius reputation that follows him, and that he so richly deserves.

Sports

Former MCC Student Starts NEFL Team

By Brett Asselin
Special to the Live Wire

The New England Football League (NEFL) has awarded a new expansion team to former Manchester Community College student Jeff Hurlburt Jr. Hurlburt will serve as owner, general manager and a player on the Middletown Spartans, the newest addition to the 36 team league. At age 27, Hurlburt is the second youngest owner as well as the second Native American owner in NEFL history.

Hurlburt is a member of the Dena'ina Athabascan tribe, which is native to Tyonek, Alaska, but he was born and raised in Middletown. He is married, with four children, and works for the state at Connecticut Valley Hospital in Middletown as a mental health worker. He is also Central Connecticut State University, where he is studying physical education.

Hurlburt played football in high school at Middletown High and in college at Southern Connecticut State University. He is also familiar with the NEFL, having played for the Connecticut Storm in 2005.

"I always dreamed of starting my own team, however I thought it would happen when I retired from the state and not when I was so busy," said Hurlburt.

The NEFL is the largest semi-pro football league in the country, with 36 teams in three divisions, A, AA, and AAA. The Spartans will play in the league's A division. The Connecticut Thunder is the only other team from the state they are based in Baltic.

The Spartan's practices have begun in Meriden, but Hurlburt said he hopes a long term practice field in Middletown will come available.

The team is allowed 45 players and around 30 players have been practicing consistently. The Spartans will play four home games this season, which begins at the end of July. They will play their home games either in Berlin or in Middletown at Wesleyan University or Palmer Field. Some potential fans are already excited about the Spartans.

"If the team was competitive and fun to watch I would go see them," said MCC student and avid football fan Chris Angeloni.

Hurlburt said he is hoping to get sponsors for the team from the Middletown community. Sponsors pay for ad space in the football program and that money goes to cover some of the team's costs for travel and equipment.

But Hurlburt is enthusiastic about the team's potential.

"I believe with a good coaching staff, players and sponsors this team will be competitive," he said.

More information on the Spartans and the NEFL can be found on the Spartans Web site, www.geocities.com/middletownspartans/.

Attention

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Contact the Live Wire at (860) 512-3289

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This summer, students in **SOC 100: Community** travel to New Orleans to work with Habitat for Humanity.

Habitat is making an effort to rebuild not only housing, but also the culture of New Orleans. The worksite is called Musician's Village. These houses will go to displaced New Orleans musicians and their families.

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Get involved with "ICE" -
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Solution to May Sudoku puzzle appears on page 12

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

WORD

on campus



Lemar Hunt
General Studies

"[Actor] Seth MacFarlane, because he would bring a lighter note to a very stressful period in our lives. He would bring a little bit of humor to our last days of school."



Nikesha Anderson
Liberal Arts

"Kim Harriet, who teaches at Fox Middle School. She's an MCC graduate who spoke at the new student orientation this year. She also worked here, and knows a lot about the challenges students have faced, and has been through it all."



Rhonda Ransom
Accounting and Business Admin

"Oprah Winfrey, because she's very intelligent, and powerful. She shows leadership, and encourages people to look for a brighter future. She's also very strong, and stands for what she believes in. She's a believer in God, and inspires people."

If you had your choice of guest speaker for MCC's Graduation Ceremony, who would it be and why?



Sabina Karunanidhi
Liberal Arts

"Patrick Sullivan and Lucy Hurston. They are both very educated, and they talk and do everything in a fun way."



Stella Ofoedu
Real Estate

"[MCC] President Jonathan M. Daube, because he's a very intelligent man."



George Ebo Quarshie
Engineer Sciences

"Dean Alfred Carter. He's a great man who doesn't discriminate. When you have a problem, he helps you out, and encourages you to go forward in your career."



Talent Nite Shines

Photos by Robert Cooper

The 3rd Annual MCC Student, Staff, and Faculty Talent Nite, was held April 20, in the SBM Charitable Auditorium. The event featured dancing, singing, and modeling. Ashley Waggoner, above right, and Jaclyn McLean, above left, took first place in the talent contest for their performance of "Take Me or Leave Me," from the musical "Rent." In photo at left, Frankie Huertas and Lela Villegas model the latest in fashions from their own closets. Villegas won first place in the fashion contest. Donna Chambers, below, sings "I Will Bless the Lord."

