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College needs funds for new age

By GARY LASSETER
Staff Reporter

A bond election may be called later this year to raise money for an \$8.8 million "Learning Technology Center" as well as other improvements to campus.

Trustees for the college are planning to add a building with improved research technology, adjoining the existing library. "MCC stands at the threshold of an exciting new age in education," says President Dennis Michaelis.

"It's important to point out that the trustees will continue to discuss priorities before deciding which priorities will be a part of the final bond package submitted to the voters. Our job as administrators is to collect good information so that the board can make good decisions for the students and people of McLennan County," he said.

Also on the planning table are possible renovations to the Community Services Center, including the open area, the OPTIONS room, and the journalism facilities.

Funds are also needed for maintenance on physical plant infrastructure such as underground piping and electrical lines.

"We're getting down to the nitty-gritty," said Michaelis. "We're going to give board members tours around campus to help them visualize the changes to come. We are beginning to look at dates for projects. We may make a decision in March. We will definitely do so by the end of April."

New campus club boasts 30 members

By JACQUELINE HARVEY
Campus News Editor

The College Republicans, MCC's newest club, is in its first few weeks, boasting nearly 30 members and still growing.

The new club was recently granted its charter at the beginning of the semester. Under the direction of faculty member Orlando Bama, the club consists of a six member executive board led by Chairman Ryan Daily and Vice Chairman Kevin Susil.

Members have volunteered their services by working for the McLennan County Republican Party phonebank and assisting in the Gov. George W. Bush campaign. The group will be attending a state Republican convention Mar. 27 in the Forral Center at Baylor. Guests will include Gov. Bush and Lt. Gov. Rick Perry.

"Our goal at MCC is to share and promote the ideals of the republican party," said Chairman Daily, who also serves as SCIA vice president. "Hopefully our presence on this campus will lead to growth of our party."

Those interested in joining the organization may contact Bama at 209-8906.

Tartans leave for Czech Republic

By JARROD KEININGHAM
AND JAMIE JONES
Staff Reporter and Senior Associate Editor

This spring break, 12 Tartan Scholars and six faculty members will travel to the Czech Republic. They will be leaving Thursday and returning March 15.

In the form of seminars, the students, enrolled in the honors class "Introduction to Humanities," will be studying literature, society and culture while on the trip.

"We're moving into a global society and no longer do institutions of higher learning bare walls," said Jane Vargas, dean of instructional support services.

From Brno, they will travel to Cikhaj, Czech Republic, for a mountain retreat. There, Tartan Scholars will meet with Czech students

from Masaryk University for a four-day stay.

Sight seeing will be on the agenda as well. A few places that will be visited are the Monastery at Mendel Square, Old Town Hall and the Cathedral's of St. Paul and St. Peter.

The students going on the trip are Megan Bass, Jodi Christian, Uwe Carl, Thomas MacReady, Stephanie David, Tracy Lee Denison, Marquita Denise Davidson, Shannon Lynn Johnston, Jennifer Franklin, Torri Linda Wood, Alice Peper and Lakesha Whitfield.

"I am hoping this will be a rewarding experience for the students," Vargas said.

The students will be accompanied by instructors Lise Uhl, Marilyn Kelly, Linda Hatchel, Mike White, Jerry Jordan and Dean Vargas.

In preparing for the trip, the group will view the movie "Kolya" tomorrow night in Uhl's home. This movie, made in Prague, won an Academy Award for best foreign film.

"I think that the American students will see a noticeable difference between what Czech students find important and what our students find important," said music instructor Uhl.

While in Prague, Uhl will accompany the Tartan Scholars and instruct them on the opera, "The Marriage of Figaro."

Hatchel, English instructor, will instruct students on the theme of "American Society" with an emphasis on the "Literature of the Southwest."

Non-fluent in Czech, Hatchel will meet Paula Buchtova, who was an exchange professor at MCC last semester. Buchtova will be her con-

tact and guide in Brno.

"Czech students and faculty speak good English and enjoy practicing their English with English speakers," said Hatchel. However, she said the Czechs "speak British English, so they will have to get used to a Texas accent," she said.

In addition to the language, other differences are evident.

To seek out common bonds, Tartan Scholars are asked to bring pictures from home, a favorite CD and yearbooks from school. Czech students are asked to bring pictures and a CD as well. This material will be exchanged and act as an ice breaker.

While in the Czech Republic, Jordan will be teaching economics and business administration.

The trip is in coordination with the International Exchange Program and a humanities class.

The International Exchange Pro-



gram was set up between the college and Masaryk University several years ago primarily through the efforts of Mike White, history instructor and Juan Mercado, psychology instructor.

"The exchange program has been

improving," White said. As another part of the send-off for the group, the Waco City Council are scheduled to proclaim the Tartan Scholars as "Ambassadors of Waco" this evening.

Highlanders swing from the fences



SOPHOMORE BRYAN KENT is greeted by his teammates as he crosses home plate after hitting a home run in the first inning against Northeast Texas, a game that the Highlanders won 5-4. The home run was Kent's seventh of season.

Baseball team slides over opponents for 17-1 start

By JULIAN L. RAMON
Co-Opinion Editor

Highlander baseball is off to a huge start, as the team has rolled over opponent after opponent.

After a three-game home stand over the weekend, the Highlanders are off to a 17-1 start. Head Coach Paul Miller is pleased with the performance of the team to this point. "So far we've been getting strong defense. The pitching has been solid, and the offense has been very good."

Landers pound NET
MCC baseball brushed off another opponent this past weekend, as the team pulled off a doubleheader sweep, this time over Northeast Texas. MCC pitcher Dennis Cervinka picked up his first win in a 5-4 win in the opener. Bryan Kent hit his seventh home run of the year and Daren Bertillion went 3 for 3 in the close contest.

In the nightcap, the Highlanders put the exclamation point on the day, beating Northeast Texas a second time, 10-2. Pitcher Lee Gwaltney won his second game of the season, and Tim Meadows went 3 for 4. The team won a third game over NET on the 28th to extend

their record to 17-1.
McMurry JV Routed
MCC won its tenth straight after a torching of the McMurry JV team on Feb. 23. Austin Cranford drove in five runs in the victory, and Patrick Beale hit a pair of home runs. Tim Meadows also added a homer of his own, as MCC easily won in Abilene, 15-2. Grant Gregg and Jason Scobie showed an impressive display of pitching, allowing only three hits in the contest.

Bucs walk the plank
The Highlanders took their record to 13-1 after a victory over the Blinn Buccaneers on Feb. 22. The Highlanders fell behind early in the game, trailing 12-5, but the pitching came through, as MCC was able to rally for nine runs in four innings. The comeback was highlighted by a game winning double from MCC's Austin Cranford which drove in Kyle Tidwell in the sixth inning. The Highlanders were able to blank Blinn in the last three innings to hold on for a 14-13 win.

MCC sweeps Ponies
In a doubleheader on Feb. 20, MCC picked up two more wins, with Panola College being the victim this time around.
(Continued on page 4)

'Ask an attorney' on March 16-17

By ELIZABETH E. MEYER
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Imagine being able to question an attorney. On March 16-17 from 10:00-11:30 am a local attorney will be presenting an "Ask an Attorney" session in the cafeteria that will enable students to ask legal questions free of charge.

Mark K. Morris is a graduate of Baylor Law School. He is a Board Certified family law specialist. He formerly worked at Heart of Texas Legal Aid and the Office of the Attorney General of the State of Texas.

Morris who now has a private practice in Waco has agreed to provide students with his legal expertise in a "talk-show-like" session at which Morris will answer audience questions. A public announcement system will be in use so that Morris' responses will be easily heard by the audience.

Note cards will be provided for those wishing to ask questions anonymously. These questions will then be compiled into a hat, from which Morris will randomly draw and answer the questions.

"We want to give students the opportunity to ask an attorney questions they normally wouldn't have the chance to ask, and for free," said Paul Hoffman, counseling specialist.

Nachos will be served during each session for 25 cents. The cafeteria will also be open.

Possible question ideas include, but are not limited to, rental problems, child support, divorce, wills/trusts, domestic violence, or employer concerns.

For more information regarding the "Ask an Attorney" session contact Paul Hoffman at 209-8402.

Is parking a problem or not?

Observation reveals another side to the problem

By JOE EISMA
Staff Reporter

Ask any student here at MCC, and it's obvious that the parking situation is a heated topic.

Many believe there is indeed a problem, and rally for more parking lots.

But, there are those who would dissent those views.

So it was clear that facts needed to be found.

At peak times, 9 a.m. on Monday-Wednesday-Friday, and at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday-Thursday, this re-

porter drove through the parking lots and counted available spaces.

In parking lot B, the main lot of the campus close to the Student Services Center, there were hardly any open spaces, but many cars were pulling out and opening up room for spaces.

Parking lots C and G, both near the Liberal Arts Classroom Building, were virtually full, as were lot K beside the Fine Arts Building and lot L behind the Health and Physical Education Building.

However, an estimated 50 spots were available each day in lot E in front of the Highlands.

Lot I, by the Art Center, had

more than 60 available spots, not including the slots allotted just for patrons of the Art Center.

Parking lot H, on the eastern edge of the campus, also had 15-20 spots at peak time each day.

The two large parking lots near the Community Services Center, M and P, had more than 100 unutilized slots at the peak times. The shuttle van has several stops at these lots before heading across College Drive to the main campus throughout the day.

The shuttle van was never full any day of the investigation. This reporter counted no more than five on the van at any one time, and at

times it had no passengers.

Meanwhile, minutes after classes had started, drivers were still looking for parking places in Lots B, G, and H.

With an average of more than 225 open parking spots during the busiest times, and a shuttle van that has plenty of room, MCC strikes

quite a contrast to parking and shuttle travel at such major universities as Baylor and the University of Texas at Austin.

At the start of any new semester, parking is more difficult, but the difficulty generally decreases as the semester wears on.

"An estimated 50 spots were available each day in lot E in front of the Highlands."

Instructor teaches dual credit class see page 3

Teacher inspires youth see page 3

Looking toward tomorrow see page 3

Highlander March madness see page 4

Two birds; one stone

Instructor teaches dual credit classes to high school students

By CHelsea JACKSON
Staff Reporter

MCC part-time instructor, Steven Phillips, is teaching a dual credit course in national government to area high school seniors. Marlin seniors enrolled in the class not only earn credit to be applied towards their high school diploma, but simultaneously earn college credit hours through MCC.

Phillips said, "I think this class will have a positive influence on their attitude towards education and college."

One of his students taking the class said, "It really gives me an idea of what to expect in college. It also makes it easier because I am in college with my friends."

Though Phillips did express some concern that high school students haven't had the opportunity to experience the political process, he says they are excelling in their ef-

forts. Phillips attributes the success of the program in part to a students willingness to learn. He states that many college students experience "burnout" that can sometimes be frustrating as an instructor. He finds the enthusiasm of the high school seniors refreshing.

This is not the first time Phillips has taught a dual credit course, and he says it won't be the last. Phillips said that he believes the class provides a good transition from high school into college. The students

know what to expect when they begin their college studies, and have the opportunity to prepare for it.

Of the ten students currently enrolled in the class, over half expect to attend MCC in the Fall of '99 after graduation.

Phillips received his Ph.D. in Church-State studies from Baylor in the Fall 98' semester.

Phillips is MCC instructor and also teaches at another area junior college.

Volunteers recognized in a 'Western Way'

By SHELLEY STRINGER
Staff Reporter

Preparations are being made for the annual RSVP Recognition Event. The theme for this year's event is western and will include a gunfighters show and live music. The Recognition Event is scheduled for June 5 from 1-3 p.m. in the large open area of the Community Services Center. The event is to honor the service of seniors who volunteered for many different community services. Volunteers will be awarded service gifts and congratulated for their efforts.

Last year volunteers donated 138,000 hours of work to the community. Their time saved Central Texas taxpayers close to \$2 million. The Retired Seniors Volunteer Program has over one thousand seniors who volunteer through the office at MCC. Susan Copeland, program director says, "We motivate, coordinate and recruit senior adults to have an impact on their community through volunteer projects."

RSVP operates through federal and state funding, their sponsorship from MCC and with

money raised through the advisory council and volunteer efforts. A few of the services they provide are the Red Cross, Meals on Wheels and Headstart which is a program designed to help children of lower-income families.

Those who are interested in this program or would like any information concerning RSVP projects can visit the office at room A27 in the open area of the CSC or telephone RSVP at 299-8577.

"We motivate, coordinate and recruit senior adults to have an impact on their community through volunteer projects."

The supermom who does it all

By STEPHANIE HALLMAN
Staff Reporter

Super mom. Kids, school, and a job; a young woman who can do it all.

Peggy Pilant is a single mother of 3-year-old triplets—Cody Joe, Destiny Leona and Constance Marie. Besides being a mother, she is a rescue unit volunteer for the Lacy-Lakeview Fire Department.

When she isn't changing diapers or rescuing people, she is a cashier at the TETCO Mobil Service Station in Lacy-Lakeview, and a full-time student.

"I take 16 credit hours, work 25 to 30 hours a week, am a member of the Student Government Association, and am a full-time mom," Pilant said.

She is a mother, who doesn't ask for grants or scholarships to attend college. She pays for her own college with a little help here and there from her mother and father.

Pilant started college 12 days after graduating from high school. She plans to graduate this fall with

an associate degree in criminal justice.

Also in the fall, she plans on going to the police academy. Pilant is working toward getting a doctorate in criminal anthropology.

While she is in school, her mother or her best friend Annette Hollingsworth takes care of the children. Pilant's mother does everything to help out as much as possible.

Pilant said she envies her mother. She doesn't know how she could do everything without her mother.

She also goes on to say, "I am totally devoted to my children. I won't do anything without my children."

Pilant said she and her triplets love to watch movies together, each child having their own favorite movie. Cody Joe's has to be anything with Winnie the Pooh. Destiny Leona's favorite movie is "Dumbo," while Constance Marie's is "Flubber." Pilant's favorite movies are "Hope Floats" and "Titanic."

Peggy Pilant said she is constantly on the go, but she will get through in life, if she sticks to what she wants.

Training academy for juvenile corrections officers begins...

Students learning to rehabilitate, supervise young offenders

By CALEB HAGOPIAN
Staff Reporter

A training academy for juvenile correction officers started last month in the Community Services Center. Sponsored by the Texas Youth Commission, the academy will run from Feb. 16 - May 6. The academy is 11 weeks long, covers 88 hours of training, and costs \$169 dollars.

Upon completion, graduates will work within Texas Youth Commission facilities as juvenile correction officers.

"The TYC was established in 1957 with the intentions of combating juvenile crime and rehabilitating delinquent offenders. TYC facilities hold the top 2 percent of juvenile offenders.

A 1996 report by the U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice states that in the last decade, juvenile crime increased by 45 percent over a four year period, and will continue to rise in the future.

It is the responsibility of a juvenile corrections officer to supervise,

resocialize, and rehabilitate these offenders. Prerequisites for the academy include:

- A high school diploma or GED
- Ability to pass a criminal background and drivers license check
- Completion of a Red Cross CPR/First Aid course before graduation

In addition to these requirements, a juvenile correction officer needs to have patience and a desire to work with children.

"We do not want any John Wayne types, we use powers of persuasion over force," said Joyce Sims, director of health/human services, and the academy instructor.

The market for juvenile correction officers is wide open. A 330 bed facility, due to open in Mart this fall, promises many opportunities.

The starting pay for a juvenile correction officer is \$15,000 plus state benefits.

MCC will also be offering the program to students over the summer semester and next spring. For more information contact Joyce Sims at (254) 299-8547.

Students discover

'environmental voice'

Internet course puts them in touch with their surroundings

By MANDOLIN SHANNON
Staff Reporter

Students are learning how they impact the environment, and that the environment plays a role in their personal standard of living.

Environmental science instructor John Burton says that while environmental issues can seem overwhelming, "students need to understand that they are involved with the environment and, that they have a voice" in regard to environmental issues.

Burton said that people "must take these big problems and break them into smaller problems that can be handled by individuals." "These challenges will not simply go away or get simpler by ignoring them."

For instance, students are learning about the food chain and how their diet choices can impact local and world ecosystems. Later in the semester, students will study water and air pollution and how they can help clean up these natural resources. Also, students will learn how individual recycling efforts change global energy and resource consumption.

Burton says that the class "pulls many sciences together." He says this helps students relate more strongly to things going on around them.

Burton noted that the face of environmental awareness has changed dramatically over the past 20 years. For example, when the class was first offered 10 years ago he had about 40 students per year. Today, he has about 150 students

taking the class each year.

Burton said that "more people are concerned about environmental issues now than they were 15 or 20 years ago."

Jeni Franklin said that she took the class because she "likes to study science, particularly biology."

Franklin said water pollution and water quality are personal concerns she has about the environment.

Franklin added that she was amazed at the relation between environmental issues and world wide poverty. She said it is hard to believe how many people live in deplorable conditions. She is also concerned that "more people are not aware or simply not interested in this tragedy."

The environmental science class is also offered as an internet course. This is the first semester the class has been offered via computer. Burton is pleased with how this class is going.

He said that there are some trade-offs compared to a traditional class. One example is that students miss class discussion. However, students have the opportunity to explore more environmental links over the internet. A few popular links are

- <http://www.sierraclub.org>
- <http://www.edf.org>
- <http://www.ige.npc.org/audubon>
- <http://econet.npc.org/taf>

Burton says that he wants to see students get more involved with environmental issues. He said he would love for students to "work toward having a presence in the community as a school; by forming an environmental club or becoming active with environmental activities as a group."

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