

Highland Herald



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McLennan Community College, Waco, TX

January 24, 2003

New idea for parking

Dylan B. Smith
Staff Writer

McLennan Community College may have some new solutions to parking problems this semester.

Parking at MCC is at its worst at the beginning of the Fall semester, Chief of Campus Police Larry Radke said.

However, increased enrollment has meant parking this Spring is not much better, he said.

"It looks like the Spring semester (enrollment) is going to be large also," Radke said, noting that the Fall enrollment is usually larger.

Parking is scarce at the beginning of every semester, but "after the first probably two to three weeks, it kind of drops off," he said.

Over the course of the semester, as students either become more comfortable with their schedules or withdraw from classes, parking becomes more available, he said.

"The main problem that we have is that everyone wants to park right by the door where they have classes," which fills up the main lots, Radke said.

"It's a lot easier to go to Parking Lot M and wait 5 or 10 minutes for that bus to come by and drop you off by your class than to drive

around and around for 30 or 45 minutes and then you get mad and then you get frustrated. It's just a lot easier," he said.

MCC is taking additional measures to improve the situation.

"The first of the semester, we'll have our shuttle bus and at least two vans," he said.

The college has also negotiated a trolley service from Waco, Radke said.

Plans are underway to renovate Parking Lot I near the Art Center this summer to provide more parking spaces, and a plot of land on Powell Drive will be available for student parking when preparations are complete.

Another way MCC will face the parking challenges this Spring is to make it possible for students to take advantage of the nearly 300 parking spaces in the baseball complex.

"What we're going to have is what we call an Express Shuttle," Radke said.

The shuttle will run from the baseball complex to Lot K, which is by the Fine Arts and the PAC.

"That way people will have access to the main hub of the campus," he said.

Students arriving between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. should take advantage of one of the shuttles because "the main Parking Lots, B and H and I,



Digital image by Chris Wang

will probably be full," Radke said.

Students who want to park in one of the main lots should arrive before 9 a.m. or wait until after 11 a.m. to

find a parking place, he said.

Check <http://www.mclennan.edu/parking> for more parking information.

NISOD awards teaching ability

Kelly Coleman
Staff writer

Five McLennan Community College professors received the 2002-2003 National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development Excellence Awards.

Kurt Chunn, Karen Cummings, Douglas Gibson, Arvis Scott and Jamie Stanford were nominated by a NISOD committee at MCC to join more than 1,000 other community college professors recognized for teaching excellence.

The winners will receive their awards on the last day of the annual three-day NISOD conference at the University of Texas at Austin on May 25.

"It's a great honor to be chosen for this award," said previous NISOD winner Jim McKeown, English instructor and vice-president of the faculty council.

"Every college chooses their recipients differently, but MCC requires that a professor be nominated for the award and it's a good feeling to be nominated by your peers," he said.

Professors nominated for the award at MCC were required to answer questions about teaching habits, experiences, and teaching philosophy.

"Selection criteria are left to the discretion of each institution," Margot Perez-Greene, Director of NISOD, said.

"All individuals whose names are submitted by the institution are recognized as NISOD Excellence Award recipients," she said.

Winners of the award are treated to a video presentation to celebrate the recipients on the final day of the conference. All recipients are also featured in the awards booklet and presented with a medallion that has been cast in their honor.

"NISOD winners are encouraged to wear their medals at graduation to showcase their achievements," McKeown said.

Created in 1978, NISOD is an association of community colleges instructors who share a philosophical commitment to support teaching, learning and leadership, according to the NISOD website.

The excellence awards were added in 1989 to further support individual colleges in recognizing and celebrating their best teachers on a more public stage, the site states.

Kurt Chunn, Sociology profes-

sor, took a back road in the journey to become a teacher. He started off studying air conditioning and refrigeration program before he realized that wasn't his life's work.

"Even after I graduated with my bachelor's degree in sociology, I had to work for an electric cooperative, reading electric meters out in the country, because I couldn't find work with just a bachelor's degree in sociology," Chunn said.

He went on to get his master's degree and began working at Southgate Church of Christ in San Angelo offering marriage, family, and individual counseling for the community.

Five years ago Chunn began his teaching career and has been at MCC since 2001. He won a NISOD award in 2000 while teaching at Montgomery College.

"I feel honored at having been granted this award, but at the same time wonder how I won it with so many talented professionals around me," Chunn said adding, "I am humbled by the faculty members at MCC who do such a super job of being excellent instructors and providing great learning experiences for their students."

Karen Cummings could be called a professional student. She's attended classes for almost 40 years and has collected a number of degrees.

"I have two bachelor's degrees, in computer science and English/journalism, two master's degrees, in educational administration and business administration, and a doctorate in community college administration," Cummings said.

Cummings currently teaches computer information classes. In her spare time, Cummings is an avid runner, an animal lover and loves to remodel houses. She has been a faculty member at MCC for 17 years.

"Teaching computers is fun," Cummings said, adding, "MCC is a great place to be."

Douglas Gibson, Respiratory Care Director, said NISOD helped him discover better teaching methods.

"I attended the NISOD annual conference about 12 years ago and the workshops that I attended had a significant impact on my confidence as a classroom teacher," Gibson said.

Now the program director of the

See NISOD Page 4

Police Report:

Business as usual during holiday break

LaSonya Darby
Staff writer

After the fall semester ended, a variety of calls kept McLennan Community College Police Department busy through the holidays.

On December 20 of last year, an unknown person or group of people broke into the CSC Continuing Education Office.

"There still is an ongoing investigation because we have to interview all the people who have access to the office and those that work there," Chief of McLennan Community College Campus Police Larry Radke said.

CSC burglaries

Just a couple weeks after that incident an office break-in was reported by a faculty member from the CSC Building, section C.

Another burglary occurred in section A-9 of the CSC Building Jan. 8, police said.

The suspect jimmied a door and forced open a locked filing cabinet, but there was nothing in the cabinet, officers said.

Nothing else seemed out of place in the office, they said.

Auto break-in

A student's car in parking lot P was burglarized after the suspect broke the driver's side window and took \$20 from a purse on the passenger-side seat, according to the police report.

Drunk handled

Finally, campus police said they found a student of legal age intoxicated on campus Jan. 6, detained the student and later released him into the custody of his parents.



A warm welcome back

Erica Sanchez
Staff Writer

The Student Government Association welcomed students back to the spring semester with hot chocolate, hot tea, and cookies.

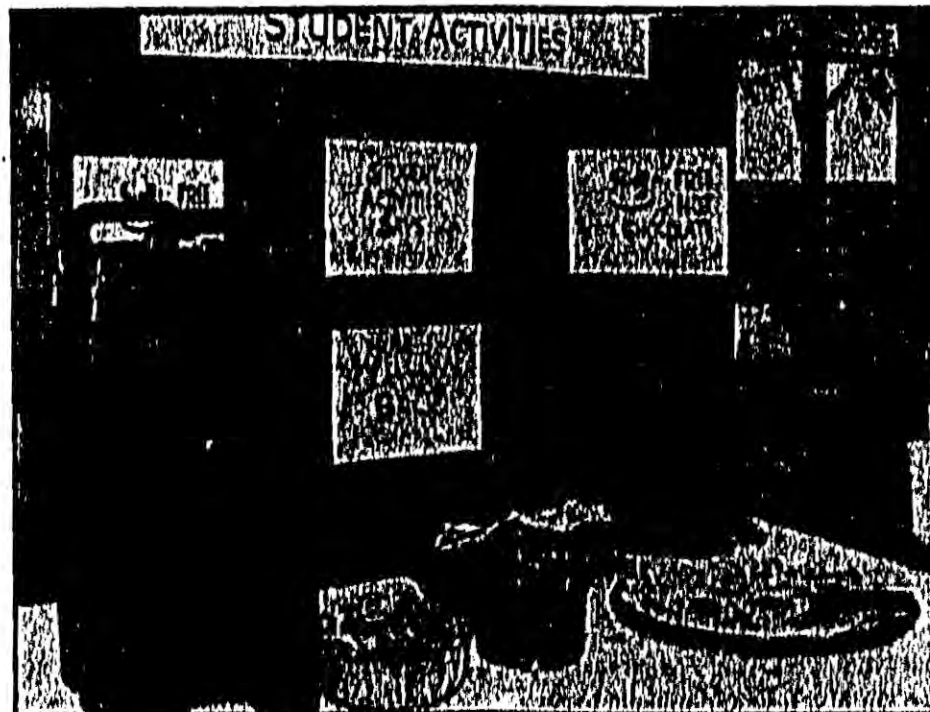
The welcome back party, which takes place at the beginning of each fall and spring semester, was on January 14 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the LTC.

Cold weather and lowered Spring semester attendance made for a smaller welcome back party this semester.

Alesha Vardeman, Student Activities Specialist, said that for the last two spring semesters monitored attendance at the welcome celebrations showed that less than 100 students attended both parties.

Last spring the welcome party featured a DJ, free sodas, and an activity called "Pucker Powder", which allowed students to make their own sour straws.

"It was really cool, but we just didn't have any kids over here be-

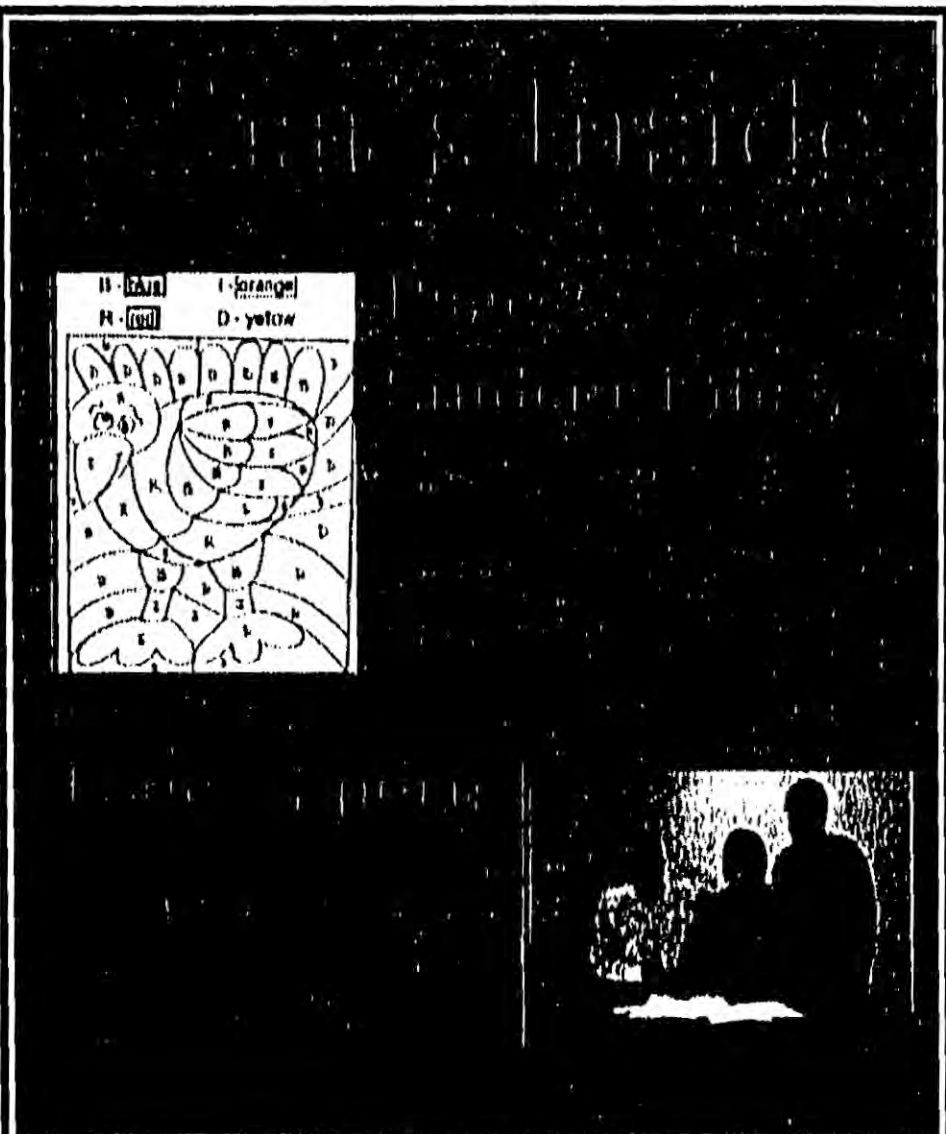


Digital image by Erica Sanchez

cause nobody was coming through this building (the Student Center)," Vardeman said.

Last January the LTC had just opened and Student Activities didn't have permission to host events there, Vardeman said, adding that indoor welcome parties attract fewer students than outside celebrations.

See Welcome Page 4



Student Life

The taboo of taxation

Dylan B. Smith
Staff writer

The words "state income tax" strike fear into the heart of anyone aspiring to any kind of future in Texas politics.

As of now, more than half of the state's revenues come from the 6.25 percent state sales tax (another 2 percent can be added locally, as is the case in McLennan County), and the Texas legislature seems determined to keep it that way.

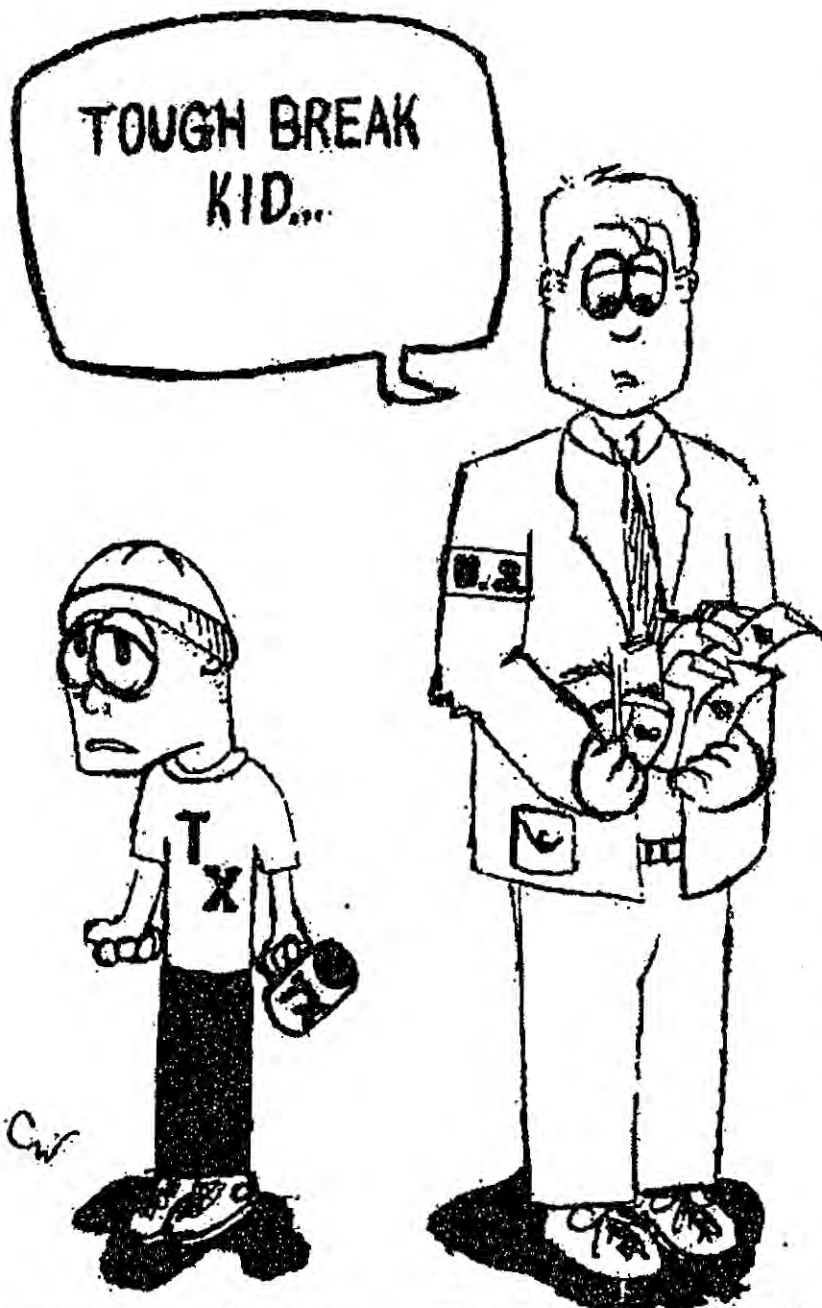
Sales tax is applied to the purchase of everything from food to clothing to school supplies, and the burden is always overwhelmingly carried by the poor. The wealthy are hardly burdened, but the lower your income, the greater the share of it is taxed. In numerical terms, the poorest one-fifth of Texans shoulder over 17 percent of the state and local tax burden while the wealthiest one-fifth pays little more than 5 percent of it.

The obvious remedy to this imbalance is to eliminate the regressive sales tax and use a method of taxation that distributes the tax burden fairly across the class structure. The most familiar method is an annual tax on personal income, similar to the federal income tax system. However, voters' negative associations with federal income tax makes it easy for Texas politicians to dismiss the possibility.

However, in states with an income tax, people can deduct their state tax payment from their federal income taxes. In other words, anyone who pays their share of federal income tax would pay no more with a state income tax than they currently do without one. And anyone who currently pays sales tax would no longer pay.

This tax system would put more money into the pockets of the people who are most likely to spend it: the low- and middle-classes. And that would be a boon to a slow economy that is at the root of the budget problem.

Texans have had less money to



Kasia Redden
Staff writer

An uncomplicated, fair system of taxation where everyone is happy and no one goes without.

What a pretty idea, except for one little problem: IT'S NEVER GOING TO HAPPEN! There is no such thing as fair AND uncomplicated, and since most politicians prefer uncomplicated over fair, there isn't a lot of point in arguing about it.

I will concede that things SHOULD be more fair and equally distributed across the income levels. I will also concede that there are perfectly legitimate arguments for considering a state income tax.

However, I spent four years in a high school debate program where, among other things, I learned that you can construct a "perfectly legitimate" argument to prove or disprove just about anything.

I also happen to live in a beautiful place called "Reality," where "should" and "ought to" are just lovely, mythical ideas that people like to throw around to sound caring and active.

My purpose is not to bash the idea of a state income tax, or any proponent of such an idea. It is simply to say, "Yes, that's nice. Now, let's move on to more realistic ideas."

I am simply saying that if there is little likelihood of the issue being considered, why should we waste our time on it when we could better spend that time trying to come up with other options? It's like trying to teach a pig to sing. It frustrates the teacher, annoys the pig, and it doesn't work. Why wait to think of other options until the situation gets critical?

I am all for standing behind something if you truly believe it will work, but I also believe that you should never put all of your eggs in one basket. If your idea continues to be refused, or ends up failing after all, then you need something to fall back on.

Oh, pardon me. I slipped out of "Reality" for a moment and referred to another American governmental rarity, common sense.

spend in recent years so businesses have made fewer profits. With the sales tax no longer in place, businesses would make more money from consumers thereby increasing state tax revenue.

Texas politicians have shamefully omitted discussion of an income tax from the public debate, and any mention of it provokes, from all sides, harsh diatribes completely devoid of logical argument.

In campaign ads, opponents are denounced for supporting an income tax; accusations which they deny without exception.

The issue has become taboo.

But with a state budget that is expected to fall short of government expenses by \$9.9 billion, Texas needs some new ideas.

Given the overwhelming benefits of a state income tax, this low level of support for a fair and equitable system is undeniably the result of misinformation on the part of Texas politicians.

The current tax system is structured to favor the wealthiest sectors of society, but the poor and middle class are not taken into account. This is because of the profound influence money has had over the political process. Texas officeholders mislead voters about a state income tax because they are indebted to their campaign "donors" who prefer the current regressive tax system.

And as long as politicians are allowed to prostitute the government to the highest bidder, our state's tax policies will continue to lean heavily in favor of the wealthiest in society.

Living a color by numbers life

Jorge E. Trujillo
Editor in Chief

Our parents begin shaping lives from the moment we are born. Even the little things turn out to have so much meaning later on in life, if you just stop and think about it.

Why are we taught to color inside the lines? Because it's prettier or because it's safer? Do some parents do more harm trying to give their children a "normal life"?

What can be described as a normal life? Is it living a basic existence seeking common goals, trying to color in the lines? Or is breaking the norm, and making that scribble you think is a cat green because that is the ideal color for your new imaginary pet.

Some people couldn't color if they didn't have those lines. They need the guidelines.

I always believed it was a test. They put the line in to see who will go out on the limb and make the sun a triangle. Not to mention to know how much more creative I was than the person who made those silly pictures. Any dog I pictured had 4 or 5 legs and even sometimes flew. That's me right there with the purple dog and triangle sun on my paper.

By no means was mine prettier but I believe I had more fun doing it; so what counts: more the result or the experience?

How can you tell which you were, and probably still are? Think of an object and what crayon would you would use to color it. Dog-Brown, Sun-Yellow, Sky-Blue. Well then it's pretty obvious already who you are,

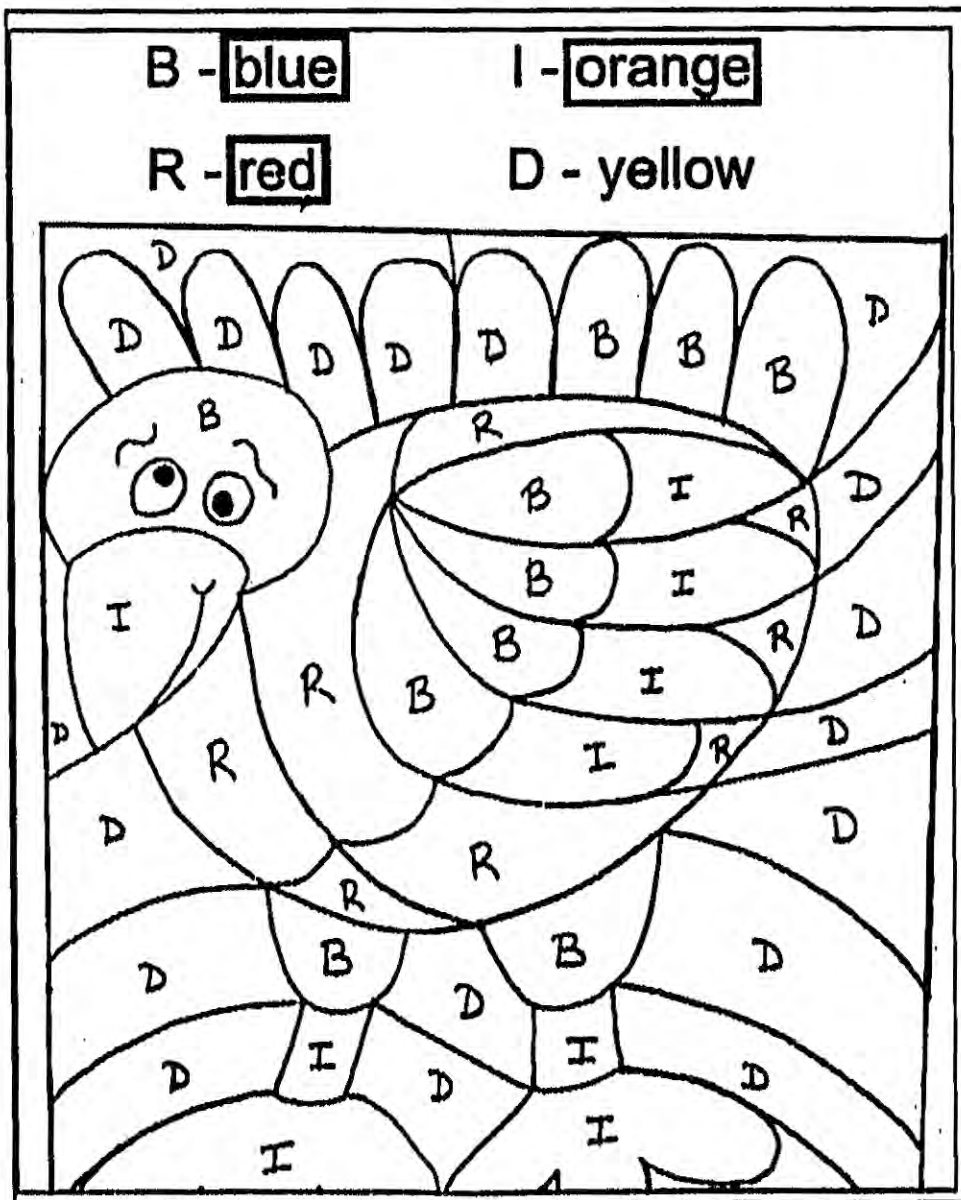
which is not a bad thing actually its pretty common thing.

Now if they ask you what color the ocean is and you say green and purple because that is what you think the ocean off the coast of Puerto Rico is on a clear sunny day, then you too most likely drew orange turtles with long tails. We are not as common as the others but our numbers are on the rise.

And if by some freak accident you used to enjoy color by numbers, then you have more issues than I can mention in this article and probably go to BAYLOR! (DISCLAIMER: THE IDEAS AND VIEWS STATED HERE ARE NOT THAT OF MCC OR EVEN THE HIGHLAND HERALD, WHO ONLY OF A BITTER CHILD THAT ONLY HAD A DICTIONARY TO COLOR IN!) Sorry for that cheap generalization. We all know that no generalization is true including this one.

I mean, I just believe that a color by number defies all logic. The scene is just handed to you. Blue-1, Yellow-2, Red-3. SHHH! Why not just hand a child a finished picture? Then you could tell him or her to pretend to be coloring. That way you don't even have to worry about making a mess with the crayons.

Some parents are still doing this, and sometimes its not even too discreet. Kind of like being handed a BMW for Christmas so you have a way to get to school in the morning. Compared to me, and some people here who have been working, trying to save up for a vehicle; we have to find my own way through town. We will all get to school in the morning but the difference is that most of you knew



Graphic courtesy of <http://www.colorbynumbers.com>

that when you went to bed last night, you knew you would make it to class.

I don't. I could have sat on my couch all day because I missed the bus, or because all of my friends have already left for school. You will be in your class all this week, won't you? It's the third week of school. It's too early to take a vacation. Me, I could be in Mexico to see if the Margaritas are better there, or I could be in class behind you. Not so much that I'm trying to be less

responsible I'm just trying to enjoy life. You only get one chance at it

There is nothing wrong with either of these lives. Sometimes I'll admit that I crave the stability of a color by number life, but that doesn't work for me. I have a problem with anyone trying to tell me what color the sun should be. And if someday everybody agrees that the sun should be purple; then all I will have left to say is... WHATSUN?

New coordinator for Tartan Scholarship

Magen Rigdon
Staff writer

The Tartan Scholarship's new coordinator, Dr. Arvis Scott, said she hopes the organization will be like a support group for new students.

Scott said she is promoting monthly meetings that include all Tartans, "to just socialize and gather to get to know one another."

The fall 2002 luncheon, the Toys for Tots drive during Christmas, and the upcoming lecture and book signing by Victor Villasenor, author of "Rain of Gold" is scheduled 12:30 p.m. on March 26 in the lecture hall.

The Scholarship pays up to 18 hours in tuition and fees, with a \$200 book allowance.

Students apply in the spring and should submit a general scholarship application at the Financial Aid office on campus by Feb 10.

The applications go to the general scholarship committee. The committee determines whether applicants meet all criteria.

The first scholars chosen are Presidential scholars. The remaining applicants become Tartan Scholars.

One staff member, administrator, and instructor make up the committee that chooses 20 students to be the new Tartan scholars.

Current MCC students are encouraged to apply and many awardees are seniors in high school.

Students chosen in the application process are brought in for interviews.

Applicants from different MCC departments and backgrounds are taken into consideration.

There is a general requirement of a 3.0 GPA, but they also look for enthusiasm and leadership qualities, need and a desire to mentor, do community service or take Tartan Honor classes.

The Tartan Scholarship's first coordinators were Dr. Marilyn Kelly and Dr. Gilbert Montemayor. Scott, now the third coordinator, assumed the direction of the Tartan Scholarship in the fall of 2002.

Baptist Student Ministry

Phone: (254) 754-0989 Web Page: bsm-waco.org
E-mail: bsmmctstc@clearsource.net

Monday Night Praise and Study:

7:00 p.m. at the BSM

Wednesdays Free Lunch and Bible Study:

12:30 - 1:30 p.m. under Student Center

Friday Challenge Breakfast:

6:30 - 7:30 a.m. at the BSM

Coffee House: Every third Thursday of the Month

BSM Hours: Monday thru Friday 8 am - 4 pm

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The Highland Herald welcomes letters from the students, faculty, and staff of McLennan Community College.

Please keep letters brief. All letters become property of the Highland Herald, and its staff reserves the right to edit letters for content, usage, grammar, and spelling.

Please e-mail letters and comments to highland@mccestudents.mcc.edu, or drop them off in room B42 of the Community Services Building.

Phone number: 299-8524

Sports

M. Jones Signs with UNT

Courtney Griffin
Sports Editor

McLennan Community College All American Michael Jones signed with University of North Texas Nov. 13, 2002.

Jones's basketball career as a Highlander started in 2001 as a 6-7" 208 lb. forward.

Since then, Jones has contributed an average of 19.4 points, 9.4 rebounds, and 5.2 assists per game. Jones led the 'Landers to a 37-24 record in two seasons, while receiving honors such as McLennan Community College All American as well as 2001-2002 runner-up for Conference Player of the Year.

"I feel good about playing for Coach Johnny Jones, he is one of Coach Hudson's close friends. And I also get to play with my old teammate Michael Degrate," Jones said.

Jones said he had nothing to prove to UNT.

"I have already proven myself to the coaching staff, and that is the reason why they were recruiting me," Jones said.

"Mike is a complete player," Coach Wendell Hudson said.



Left to Right: Wendell Hudson, Michael Jones, and Teresa Lopez

"He plays hard on both ends of the court and is an outstanding three-point shooter. Mike doesn't do anything he can't do, but still gets the job done. If you need a key basket, he'll make it, and if you need a big rebound, he'll get it," Hudson said.

"On top of his abilities as a basketball player, he is one of the best individuals you will ever be around. I feel like he made a good choice in North Texas and North Texas made a good choice in him because he is outstanding both on and off the court,"

Hudson said.

Jones said he plans on going into social work because he enjoys working with kids.

Jones said his goals include graduating from MCC and North Texas along with being the best player he can be.

Super Bowl Trivia

How well do you know the game?

Which NFL player guaranteed his team would win Super Bowl III the week before the big game?

- * Don Shula
- * Joe Namath
- * Johnny Unitas
- * Earl Morrall

Who performed in Super Bowl V?

- * Vickie Carr
- * Marvin Gaye
- * Anita Baker
- * Al Hirt

Which coach won Super Bowl XII?

- * Mike Ditka, Chicago
- * Jimmy Johnson, Dallas
- * Tom Flores, Oakland
- * Don Shula, Miami
- * Tom Landry, Dallas
- * Barry Switzer, Dallas

In Super Bowl XXII who trailed in the final quarter?

- * Baltimore, 13 - Dallas, 6
- * Washington, 17 - Miami, 13
- * Giants, 19 - Buffalo, 17

Super Bowl IV: In site of Kansas City - Minnesota game has hosted the most Super Bowls. Where was the game held?

- * New Orleans
- * Miami
- * Pasadena
- * Houston

Two things that has never occurred in a Super Bowl:

- (1) No team has appeared in five consecutive Super Bowls
- (2) There has never been a Super Bowl played in a month other than January.

2002-2003 Highlassie Softball Schedule

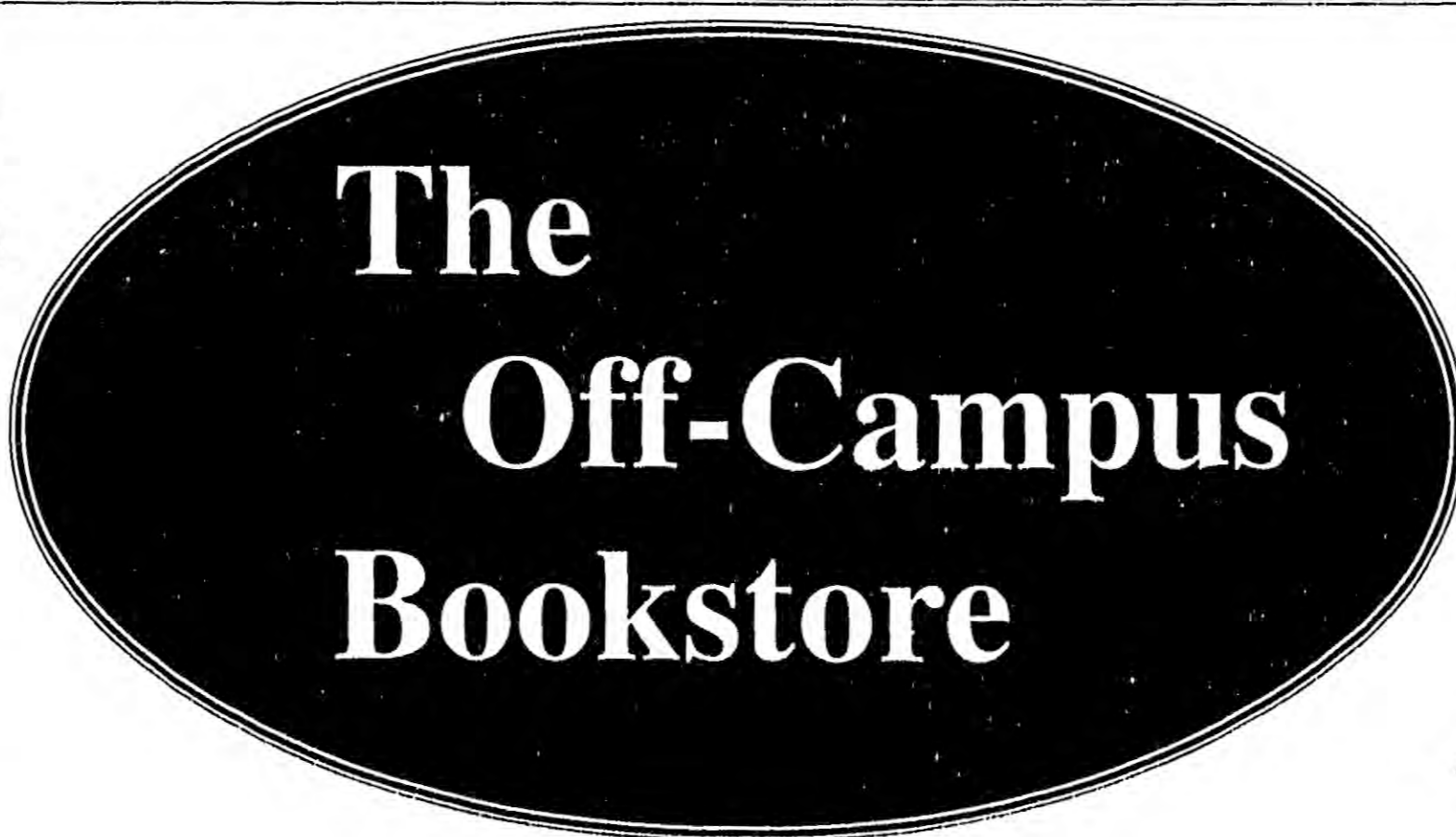
Game Time	Opponent	Place	Feb 24 1:00	Navarro	Waco
Feb 1 1:00	Blinn	Home	Feb 26 1:00	*North Central	Away
Feb 3 1:00	Loni Morris	Home	Mar 3 1:00	*Clisco	Home
Feb 11 1:00	Loni Morris	Away	Mar 8 1:00	*Brookhaven	Home
Feb 14 TBA	Temple Tournament	Away	Mar 10 1:00	Navarro	Home
Feb 15 TBA	Temple Tournament	Away	Mar 12 1:00	*Collin	Away
Feb 18 3:00	Blinn	Away	Mar 19 1:00	*Ranger	Home
Feb 21 TBA	Cowtown Tournament	Away	Mar 22 1:00	*Vernon	Away
Feb 22 TBA	Cowtown Tournament	Away	Mar 24 1:00	*Temple	Away

2002-2003 Highlander Baseball Schedule

Game Time	Opponent	Place	Feb 22 12:00	*Grayson(7&9)	Home
Jan 31 2:00	*Panola	Home	Feb 26 12:00	*Temple(7&9)	Away
Feb 1 12:00	Angelina(2-7s)	Away	Feb 28 12:00	Angelina(2-7)	Home
Feb 5 2:00	Cedar Valley(1-9)	Home	Mar 1 12:00	*Ranger(7&9)	Home
Feb 8 12:00	Northeast(2-7s)	Home	Mar 3 2:00	Navarro(1-9)	Home
Feb 9 1:00	Northeast(1-9)	Home	Mar 5 12:00	*Vernon(7-9)	Away
Feb 12 TBA	TBA	TBA	Mar 8 12:00	*Collin County(7&9)	Away
Feb 14 12:00	Panola(2-7s)	Away	Mar 12 12:00	*Hill(7&9)	Home
Feb 19 2:00	Cedar Valley(1-9)	Away	Mar 15 12:00	*Brookhaven(7&9)	Away

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19th & Lake Shore
in the College
Plaza.

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Textbooks at
great prices, and
we buy books
everyday.



New store
for MCC students!

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visit us.

The best
smoothies in
the world.

Beer, babes... Bible?

Christians groups launch annual Spring Break mission

Kasia Redden
Staff writer

Spring Break hot spot South Padre Island has made a permanent mark on the "Girls Gone Wild" movie genre, but not all scholars who migrate south for spring break this year will be spending the day basking on a beach, sipping drinks and resting up for a night of club-hopping along the Texas coast.

College Christian organizations from all over Texas and a few other parts of the country will travel to South Padre to minister to an estimated 50,000 vacationing peers.

Beach Reach 2003 will begin March 8 and last until March 21.

Founded in 1980 by Buddy Young, Director of the West Texas A&M University Baptist Student Ministry, Beach Reach has expanded from a small group camping in tents to include more than 400 students nationwide.

Local participants will begin the required five-week training on January 26.

Beginning at 8:30 p.m. at Park Lake Drive Baptist Church, students from MCC and TSTC will learn how to initiate a conversation with peers about Christianity as well as how to handle some of the difficult questions they may be asked during the trip.

A midnight pancake breakfast will be offered Sunday through



Thursday from midnight until 3 a.m. in the Louie's Backyard Bar parking lot. Beach Reach students will, according to the Beach Reach website, discuss religion, and offer free rides to intoxicated students leaving the club.

During the day, participants will comb the beaches with the other spring breakers.

From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. they will hand out sunscreen and talk to people about their beliefs. Sand sculptor, Randy Hofman will elaborate biblical scenes on the beach to spark interest and conversation.

"People (last year) were open to

hearing conversation," Amy Allen, local Trip Coordinator, said.

Another Beach Reach opportunity to connect with students is the Free Rides program. Using vans provided by churches all over the country, the group offers free rides to any location on the island.

A hotline will be set up and cards printed with the phone number will be distributed on the beach.

The program provides a designated driver for those who wish to drink, and an opportunity for the driver of the van, a Beach Reach participant, to talk to the passen-

gers about religion.

This will be the second year in a row that MCC-TSTC BSM Director, David Dover, has taken a local group to Beach Reach Allen said.

"Last year, about 49 students participated," she said.

This year she said she expects at least 30 or 40 students to be on board when they leave from March.

The cost will be \$280 per student, thanks to a church in South Padre that will allow the students to sleep on their floor.

Is there any place still safe

Baptist Student Ministry house broken into before break

LaSonya Darby
Staff writer

Computer and video equipment was taken in a Nov 26 nighttime break in at the Baptist Student Ministry's MCC offices at the intersection of Northwest 19th Street and Powell Drive.

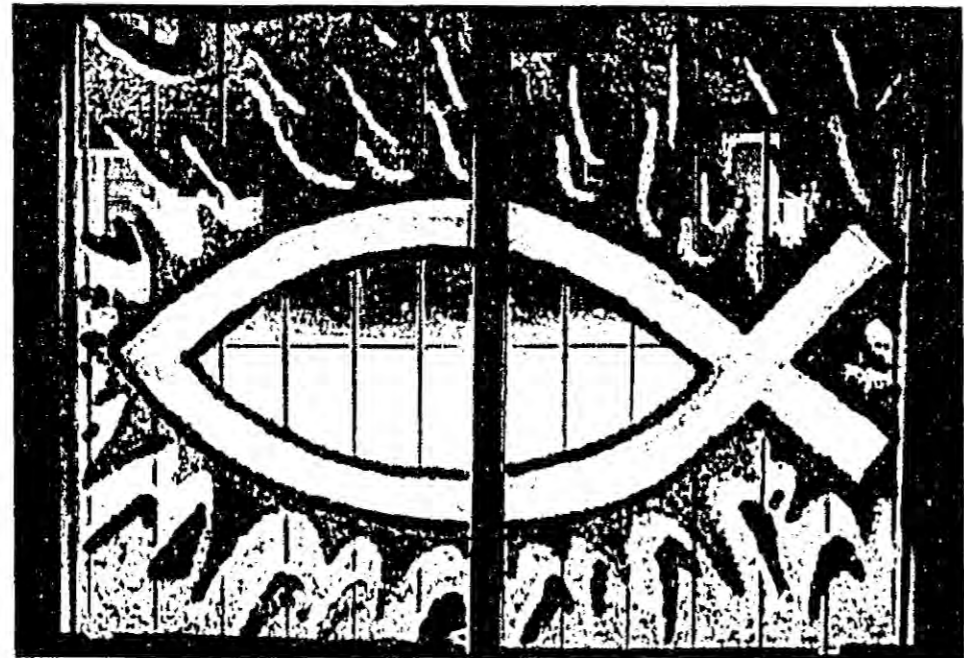
"I came over Saturday night to get something and noticed that the door was kicked in and ajar, I did not touch anything," Dave Dover, director of Baptist Student Ministries, said.

"I used my cell phone to call the police and they came right over and started the investigation," Dover said.

A computer, a VCR, three disc CD changer, and a 12 pack of sodas were the only items reported taken.

"Everything that was stolen was an item donated by a former student, when they graduated and got a real job left these items for other students to use," he said.

Police said they believe at least two people in a rush came in and



grabbed whatever was in sight.

The items were apparently thrown over a white brick wall on the north side of the building where police said they found cans of sodas and a computer panel in the neighbor's back yard.

"It's kind of hard to deal with but we are over it. God's provided replacements for almost ev-

erything and we are insured and it all worked out," Amy Allen, summer mission leader, said.

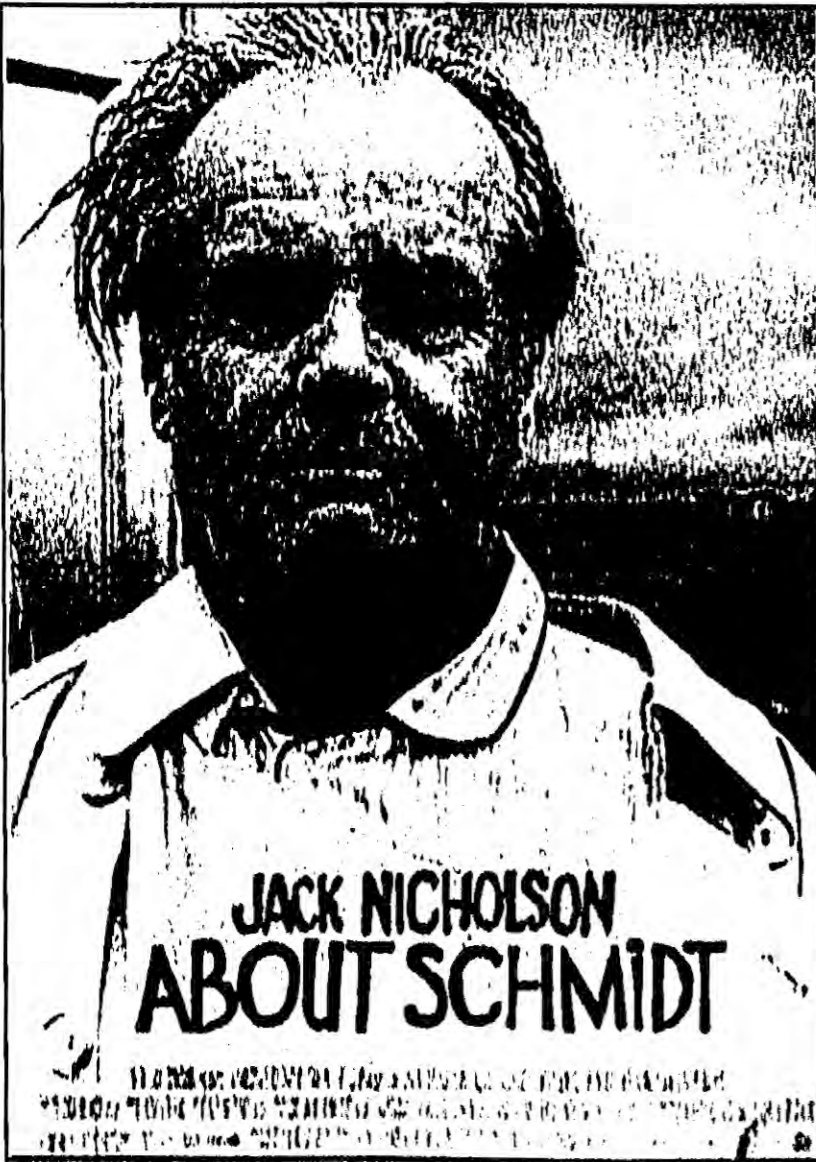
"It pulled us all together proving that we are able to get through something like this," Allen said.

"It's just stuff really, prayed that no one got hurt, just looks like there's no place safe anymore, and everyone needs to realize that

you better make sure you know what you believe because we are constantly being challenged on our planet," Dover said.

Nicholson does it again

'Schmidt' sweeping up nominations and awards



Patrick Berry
Staff writer

The recently released New Line Cinema Production of the big screen adaptation of Louis Begley's novel "About Schmidt" is creating an award nomination frenzy.

It has already won the Los Angeles Film Critics Association Award for Best Picture and been nominated for eight other awards including five Golden Globe nominations.

Jack Nicholson creates a sublime, you-can't-help-but-love-him character in Warren Schmidt.

The story begins with Nicholson's character retiring from his long time job as a Nebraska insurance actuary; then the ensuing tragedies begin.

Schmidt's daughter, Joanne Schmidt, played by actress Hope Davis is to wed the ignorant waterbed salesman, Randall Hertzog, actor Dermot Mulroney.

Kathy Bates gives an almost too colorful performance in her role as Randall Hertzog's mother, Roberta Hertzog.

Go see it. It's a wonderful film and more than worth the admission.

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respiratory care program Gibson said that his favorite memories from teaching all involve students overcoming obstacles.

"I like to see how well students can do and exceed the challenge that is presented to them in the different courses that I teach," Gibson said.

In addition to teaching at MCC, Gibson has worked at both Providence Health Center and Miller (Baptist) Health Center.

For the last three years as a respiratory therapist, Gibson said, adding, "I love my job."

A veteran MCC teacher for 26 years, Jami Stanford, Office Technology/Careers, says that she enjoys seeing insecure students develop into confident students.

Seeing confident students who graduate from the office technology program and become excellent office professionals in the business world are her favorite memories, Stanford said.

Though she says she does not have much free time, Stanford said she likes spending time with her husband and two daughters.

Welcome from Page 1

now, after allowing for an out-of-the-rally party featured a live DJ, event activities set up on the grass, including various student clubs, and the distribution of books.

Guido parties can feature more events, Vardeman said.

The MCC area will allow food service to be sold in the LTC, as mandated in a contract, Vardeman said.

The small welcome back party allowed for the preparation of a larger state fair, Valentine's, Crash Party, and a promotion of various upcoming events throughout the semester.

The Valentine's Crash Party will feature a contest to make your own unique video set up, along with balloon bouquets, carnations, cake sale, and much more.

Student Activities are also preparing for several other events throughout the semester.

Baptist Cultural Club (formerly the American Indian and Indian Student Association) will hold the first annual Shyenne Falls Memorial Scholarship Powwow January 25 from 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. in the Student Center.

The powwow will benefit the Shyenne Falls Fund in honor of Shyenne Falls, a woman and an

of Kim Roppolo, who passed away. The Black Student Association will sponsor activities in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. and Black History Month.

An MLK celebration, theme, "The Power of Education" will be held January 22 at 11:15 a.m. on the second floor of the LTC.

The celebration will feature Reverend O.C. Mack, a local pastor, MCC student Gregory Johnson, who will recite King's "I Have a Dream" speech, the president of the BSA performing a dance and reciting King's ecology, and Ruth Ann Patterson singing.

The Black History Month events will begin on February 7 at 8 a.m. with a Gospel Festival in the Student Center, featuring MCC students and local talent.

The events will continue with the appearance of Joyce Ann Brown, author of "Justice Denied." She will speak in the Lecture Hall at 12:30 p.m. on February 10. Following the speaking, there will be a reception and a book signing.

MCC at the Abolition will be held on February 28 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Student Center. Performers for the event can sign up through Student Activities.

The Hispanic Heritage Festival will be held on March 23 at 4 p.m. in the Bosque River Stage.

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