

Highland Herald

Volume 35, Number 1

Waco, TX

February 2, 2000



John Nobis helps Noorali Kabani register during last chance registration on Jan. 15 (left). Courtney Perdum and mom Barbara shuffle through lists of full classes (below).

Digital images by Marcos Garcia

TREG: best bet for registration

Leah C. Turner
City Editor

You thought phone registration's automated operator was annoying?

Didn't think you'd make it past the third option? Or maybe you forgot to push the ever-infamous 6 once you'd at last gotten

your schedule perfect. Whatever the case, automated TREG still reigned over last chance registration's organized chaos, Jan. 12, 13, and 15th.

An early count of 5,814 students enrolled this spring during TREG and last chance registration combined. Total enrollment dropped 2.5% from spring of '99, but increased

4.4% from spring of '98.

Students who did not register through TREG braved the college's dreaded "last chance" registration.

Although "last chance" stu-

dents could still enroll in classes they needed, chances of getting into their first choices are greatly reduced.

"A student can not expect

Please see TREG on page 2.



Digital image by Marcos Garcia

Baseball is coming into full swing for the new millenium.

See page 4.

PAC revamps timeless classic

Dylan Newhouse
Staff Writer

Chances are good that you have seen the 'Grease' motion picture, starring John Travolta and Whats-Her-Name. If you liked it, loathed it, or were basically indifferent to it is inconsequential. Fans and scoffers alike may well be surprised by MCC Theatre's upcoming production of the 'Grease' musical.

"There are a lot of differences between the film and the usual stage production," said Lee Trull, who will portray small town disc jockey Vince Fontaine in the musical. "And there are more differences between the usual stage production and what we are doing."

Often 'Grease' is played basically straight, without any onstage acknowledgment of the somewhat exaggerated 50's stereotypes. The MCC version promises to change that. "We completely understand the 'cheese' factor," explained Trull, "so we play to it. We



Digital image by Cassie Strickland

Curtie Howard doo-wops through a "Grease" rehearsal for the PAC's reprise of the Broadway favorite.

have fun with it."

In 'Grease', plot definitely takes a back seat to the music. 'Summer Loving' and 'Grease Lightning' are established parts of the history of American show-tunes. They are also un-

believably catchy.

MCC has plenty of vocal talent to give the production its backbone. Daniel Hronek will croon as Danny, while Andrea Burghart will give Sandy her 'dreamy' vocals. Wise-gal

Rizzo will be played by Amanda Allen on the first weekend of the run, and will hand over the reigns to Julie Linnard on the second. Amanda Totty will sing the show-stopping 'Prom Nite Song' as Paula.

Other cast members include Heather Mallory, Sarah Collins, Curtis Howard, and Lucy Glockzin, all familiar faces to those who follow MCC Theatre. Michael Simpson, fresh off his wonderful run as the titular character in last semester's 'Richard III', will do a dramatic 180 to portray crowd favorite Kenickie.

Sure, 'Grease' isn't exactly Shakespeare, but this version promises to be different for the right reasons.

Catch it for great tunes, good actors, and maybe even a few bits of self-deprecating humor. 'Grease: The Musical' plays March 16-18 and 23-25. Tickets will go on sale Feb. 28. Call the MCC Box Office at (254) 299-8200 for more information. Hey, it beats renting the video again.

Picture ID serves as cash card

Donielle Gonzales
Staff Reporter

New picture ID cards are intended to make life a little easier on MCC students.

The McLennan Access and Cash card (MAC), was introduced this semester to provide students with a more modern and useful ID card, said Summer Jones of the Student ID office.

The MAC card is good for as long as the student is enrolled at MCC and has all the benefits of the old ID cards, but offers a little more.

Like the old ID, the MAC card will serve as a student's library card. However, there is no longer a bar code attached. The new cards have a magnetic strip, similar to that of a credit card, that can be swiped through designated card readers to keep track of library use, she said.

The new ID also serves as a money card. Students may deposit money into an account to be used through the card at select locations on campus. There is a \$5 minimum deposit for the card, but students may

balance as much as they like.

The card is usable at the MCC bookstore, the cafeteria, the drink machine located just outside of the bookstore and two vending machines in the student lounge. With each use at the bookstore or cafeteria, students will receive a receipt showing their new balance. The vending machines will display the new balance electronically on the machine itself, Jones said.

Students interested can go to the Student ID office located right across from the Financial Aid counter in the Student Services Building to deposit money. The office is open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Fridays, she said.

Future programs for the card include using it for copying, printing and possibly door access. These programs are still in the works and there is no set date for their introduction, she said.

If a card is lost or stolen, contact the Student ID office at 299-8677.

There will be a \$10 replacement fee for the card.

SoRelle earns TETA award

Leah C. Turner
City Editor

Dr. Cindy SoRelle, now in her 19th year at the college, will receive the coveted Texas Educational Theatre Association (TETA) Founder's Award Saturday February 5 at the 50th annual Theatrefest.

She will be honored with the highest award given by the 2,500-member TETA, an association of Texas theatre educators from kindergarten to university.

SoRelle has served as secretary of the association, where she has been a member more than seven years. She also served as Program Director for the 1997 TETA convention in Waco.

SoRelle's theatre background includes a Ph.D. in Theatre History and Criticism from the University of Texas and membership in the Literary Managers and Dramaturg of the Americas. She is currently an active UIL one-act play adjudicator, serves as Dramaturg for McLennan Theatre and is the Dramaturgy Focus Group Representative for the Association for The Higher Education for 2000-2002.

SoRelle is also the recipient of a NISOD Teaching Excellence Award and has served as operaturng for the Lyric Opera of Waco, a professional company founded in 1997. She now serves on the Board of the Art Center of Waco and on the Board of the college's Hearts in the Arts.



SoRelle

Financial aid office Announces scholarships

National Society of Accountants-

Application Deadline: March 10, 2000

Criteria- Students majoring in accounting with a B or better GPA.

American Chemical Society-

Application Deadline: February 15, 2000

Criteria- Transfer scholarship for students majoring in chemistry, chemical engineering, or environmental science.

Datatel Scholarship-

Application Deadline: February 14, 2000

Applications are returned to Financial Aid Office.

March of Dimes Helen Pearson Scholarship-

Application Deadline: February 16, 2000

Criteria- Students majoring in Nursing, Physical Therapy, Respiratory Therapy

Texas-Louisiana Administrative Professionals-

Application Deadline: March 15, 2000

Criteria- Students majoring in Business, enrolled in 9 hours, completed as least 18 hours.

Greater Waco A&M Foundation-

Application Deadline: March 1, 2000

Criteria- Students transferring to Texas A&M University in fall, 2000.

Tarleton State University-

Application Deadline: February 15, 2000

Criteria- 2+2 Degree plan on file in Career Development Office, completed requirements for MCC degree, 3.25 GPA.

MCC Foundation Scholarships-

Application Deadline: February 16, 2000

Criteria- MCC student or recent high school graduate, 2.5 GPA.

President's Scholarship to Baylor University-

Application Deadline: February 16, 2000

Criteria- Complete requirements for MCC degree, 2.5 GPA, Baylor degree plan on file in Career Development Office

Board approves plans

Lindsey Hayworth
Managing Editor

The MCC Board of Trustees approved architectural plans for the Learning Technology Center presented by President Dennis Michaelis during the Jan. 27 board of trustees meeting.

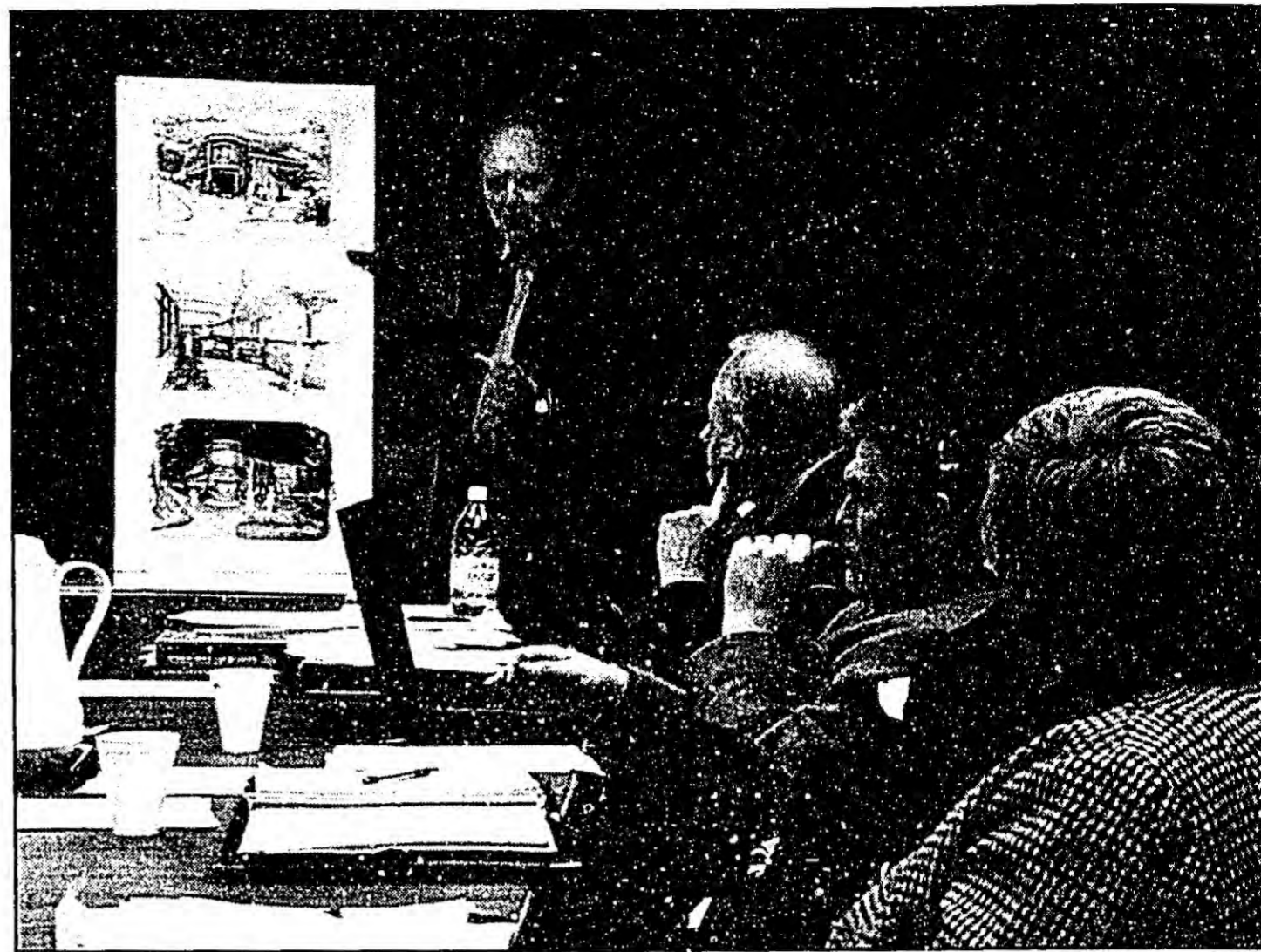
The new center will be built where the library is now. The plans include spaces for learning facilities, a new library, and study areas. The center will cover the entire library area and surrounding area.

"We hope that by accepting these new plans, we will be saving time and money in the long run. By making the necessary changes now, we will not have to go back and change what has been done," Michaelis said.

Alicia McCainbridge was presented as the new Student Activities Director.

McCainbridge will plan student projects and oversee the Student Government Association.

She said she plans to incorporate a new plan to include non-traditional students, help-



Digital images by Marcos Garcia

Dr. Michaelis displays plans for the learning technology center during the board meeting on January 27.

ing them become more involved around campus.

The Board also announced the new faculty members: Bill McNeil, Work Force Education; Diane Ogden, Director of Ca-

reer Services; Patricia Bliss, Student Financial Aid; Karen Talton, Upward Bound, and Kevin Tankersley, Public Information Office in charge of PR and sports.

Consent agenda items were discussed and those outcomes are presented in the minutes available on request.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 28 at 7 p.m.

Campus Announcements

Business tools course offered

Business owners, managers and employees can develop a range of critical skills and strategies needed to make their customer service and their business stand out in a highly competitive marketplace.

McLennan Community College offers The Service Difference as a seven-session program that will give participants the necessary tools to meet and exceed customer expectations. A preview of The Service Difference will be given at an open house from 8:30 to 11 a.m. Feb. 10 in Room E-233 of MCC's Community Services Center, 4601 N. 19th St.

During that time, business owners and managers can learn more about the program and how it can be adapted to their particular business. Admission to the open house is free, but a reservation is required.

To learn more about The Service Difference or to make a reservation for the open house, contact Jane Newsom at MCC by calling 299-8126 or by e-mail at jtn@mcc.cc.tx.us <<mailto:jtn@mcc.cc.tx.us>>. Hillcrest to host social work seminar.

Art Opening

The MCC art department will open its first display of the Spring 2000 semester Feb. 5 at the Art Center.

Curator Sarah Logan said 100 to 150 people are expected to attend the event which is set to begin at 6:00 P.M.

Featured artists John O'Fiel and Tim Huguen will speak at 7 p.m. in the main center. The two mid-career artists, both from Houston, have more than 30 years experience each in the field of abstract-expressionism. Their exhibit will consist of drawings only.

At the same time in the small gallery, Helen Kwiatkowski will open her exhibit. The appropriately titled "Little Helens" features self-portraits of the Temple-based artist.

The displays will remain in the art center until April 2. After Saturday night's opening, they can be viewed during the center's regular hours: Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Sunday 1 until 5 p.m..

The art center is open to the public at no charge.

ABE wins national award

MCC's Adult Basic Education program has been selected to receive the prestigious national award from the Department of Education: the Secretary's Award for Outstanding Adult Education and Literacy Programs.

This recognition is bestowed annually on only 10 ABE programs in the country based on their design, instruction, learning environment, achievement of learner goals, standards, evaluation, and professional development.

In a letter received last week from U.S. Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley, the MCC program is lauded for its "outstanding efforts to help adults get the basic skills they need as workers, parents, and citizens in the 21st century."

An awards ceremony is pending in January.

February 12, 2000

Be a Runner

AND ONE MILE RUN

McLennan
Community
College

1924 N. Valley Mills Dr. • Waco, TX 76710
741-0707

Hwy 84 and Hewitt Drive
741-1740

903 N. Loop 340
412-0022

3428 Franklin Ave. • 714-2660

1205 Speight at 12th Street • 752-5629

Med. Beverage and
2 Kolaches for \$1.99

Coupon valid until 12/31/00

**Poppa Rollo's
Pizza Place**

**That is where
we stuff our face**

From the President...

Making It A Great Semester!

Welcome back to a brand-new semester at McLennan Community College. I would like to congratulate each of you for being one step closer to achieving your educational goals and I hope that you will maximize this opportunity to learn and grow through your college education.

As I reflect on the recent megahype surrounding the Y2K changeover, it occurs to me how often we humans spend a lot of energy worrying about things that don't actually come to pass. It is estimated that American companies alone spent billions of dollars to correct the programming flaw that threatened computer operations when the year changed from "99" to "00". On top of that, who could accurately estimate the amount of money individual Americans spent on Y2K rations and other survivalist equipment? The evening, as it turned out, passed quietly, leaving us to wonder whether some of that money, effort, and worry was well spent.

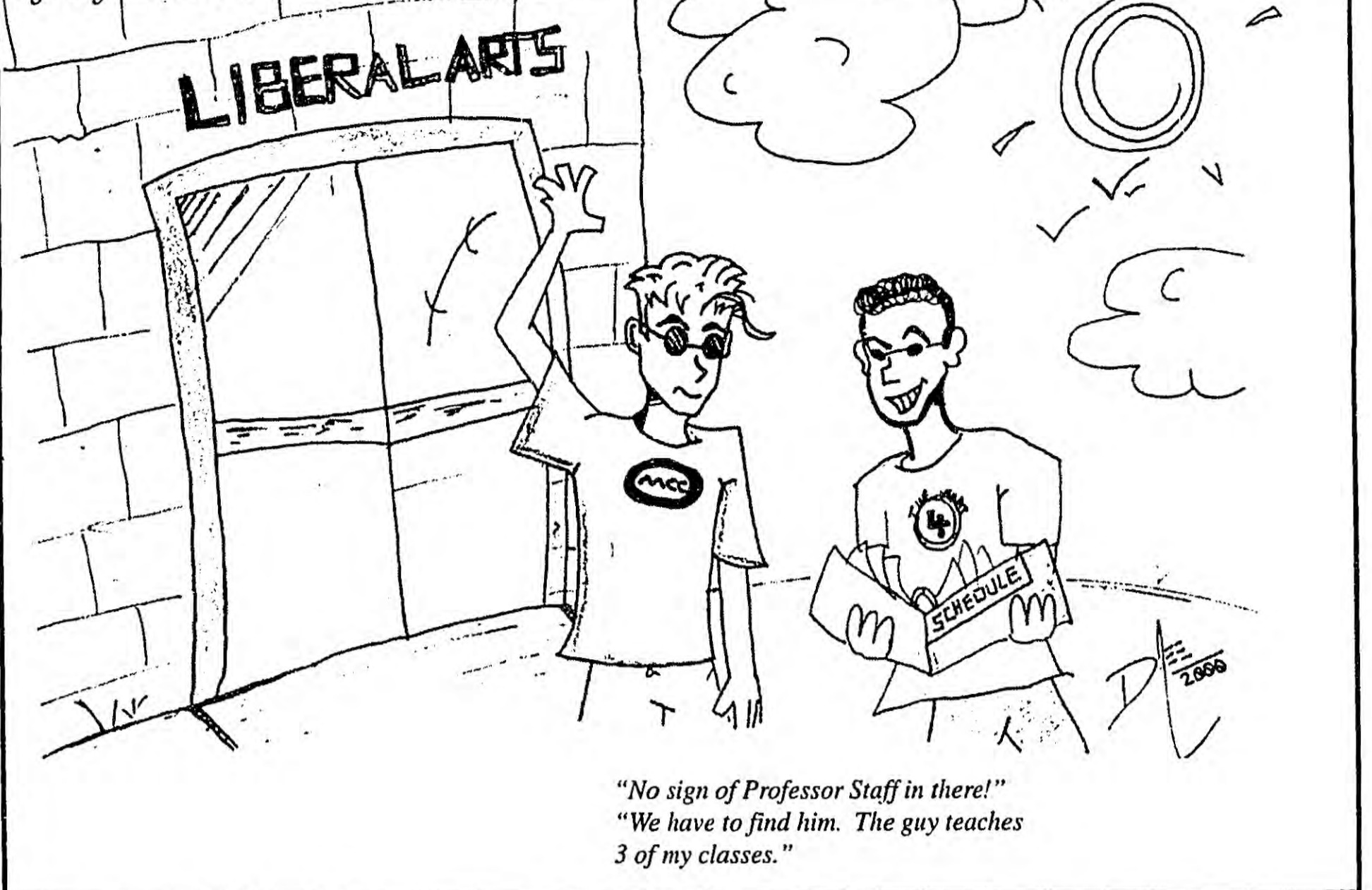
From my view, here on the other side of 50, time spent worrying is rarely time well spent. Most things we worry about never happen, and even if they do, the worrying doesn't help the situation one bit. I realize, however, that today's community college student has a lot to worry about. We currently are enjoying some of the greatest economic prosperity America has ever known, yet many of you worry each semester how you will pay the bills and afford the additional cost of your education. Many of you worry about your classes and your ability to handle college-level work. Some others of you worry about even larger issues such as single parenting, disabilities or personal problems.

MCC offers a full range of student services and programs designed to help ease some of these worries and enable students to direct their energy toward learning and success. Our highly skilled counselors can help you explore career or transfer options, learn study skills, tap into support for single parents, or navigate the sometimes complex financial aid picture. There are few student problems or concerns they have not seen before and many thousands of other students whose worries they have helped eliminate.

There is only one reason that we who work at MCC have a job, and that is to help students. I encourage you to take full advantage of the many student services MCC offers. If you don't know where to look, ask a faculty member or stop by the Information Center in the Student Services Building. With MCC's open admissions policy, low cost and financial aid opportunities, there is no reason today that anyone cannot go to college. With the many support services MCC offers free to students, there is no reason anyone cannot succeed at college. The worrying we did in relation to Y2K probably helped us be better prepared. Similarly, some worrying about how you can balance all the things going on in your life as a college student can probably be productive as well. As with almost everything in life, balancing the worries with strong preparation will most likely help you succeed. All of us at MCC consider ourselves to be your partners in helping meet the challenges you face. Together, we can make it a great semester!

What Comics?

by Dylan Newhouse



"No sign of Professor Staff in there!"
"We have to find him. The guy teaches 3 of my classes."

Green Scene...

Avoid techno-isolation

Mandolin Shannon
Staff Writer

Our world population has reached an astounding 6 billion. In many ways new technology has brought people closer together. However, most of us have never been more isolated and disconnected from others than we are now.

Most of us never consider the passing stranger in the hall on our way to class, or the person we bump into at the video store. The courtesy of a smile, or even simple acknowledgment, is no longer the norm when we meet people that we do not know. The only people that we are often concerned with are ourselves, our immediate family and close friends.

I think our isolation from society at large is an excuse to be apathetic to broader issues. Global issues which deal with

human rights, the world economy and our environmental resources are easily swept under the rug of our consciousness when we live our lives so individualistically.

Who cares if our next door neighbor can not afford basic health care for his or her family? What does it matter to us if the single parent down the street can not pay all the bills and still have enough money to put a decent meal on the table at the end of a long day at work?

Why should we care if all the world's forests are being clear-cut or if a bird in South America becomes extinct?

We hold to the idea that these issues do not impact our personal lives.

Most of us never give a second thought to the fact that millions of people in developing countries work in deplorable conditions to produce and

manufacture agricultural items and merchandise to sell to developed nations, such as America. Across the world one person dies of starvation every 3.6 seconds. Globally we are losing plant and animal species at an estimated rate of one species every twenty minutes to one hour.

Many of us might admit that these issues are serious. However, most of us would argue that there is nothing we can do individually to solve these problems, so we just ignore them.

The truth is that we all play a role in what is going on in our global community. When we turn a blind eye or a deaf ear to these issues we are allowing them to continue and to perpetuate.

Many Native American tribes made individual and personal decisions on the basis of

how their choices would impact, not only current tribal members, but how it would affect those to come in the next seven generations. Sioux tribes believed that we are all relatives. They coined the term Mitakuye Oyasmin which simply means we are all related. Their deep concern for those around them extended to the natural world as well. These societies are admirable.

Native American author Jamie Sams once said that, "until all of the tribe is doing well, in truth none of the tribe is doing well."

If our modern global community would adopt these values of unity and compassion, I believe we would all be facing a brighter future. It starts with each one of us. In order for these changes to occur we have to let them start within ourselves. Mitakuye Oyasmin.

The Highland Herald Staff

Leah C. Turner
City Editor

Lindsey Hayworth
Managing Editor

Marcos Garcia
News Editor

Jennifer Holomek
Feature Editor

Reporters:

Mandolin Shannon
Donielle Gonzales
Aaron Smith
Matthew Schampers
Cassie Strickland
Charles Furr
Dylan Newhouse
Leon Darden

D'Lee Garza
Nancy Brasher
John Halsell
Rachel Hunley
Cedric Iglehart
Deginald Watson
Corey Furrar

Letters Policy

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

All letters become property of the Highland Herald, and it's staff reserves the right to edit them for content, taste, grammar and spelling.

Classic cartoon ignites controversy

Leah C. Turner
City Editor

For all the parents out there, I just thought I'd comment on the issue of violence in cartoons.

Recently, I heard that one of our students was not allowed to watch the Wile E. Coyote and Roadrunner cartoons when he was young. With the post-Super Bowl showing upon us, I thought I'd end that pointless boycotting right now in case this ridiculous phenomena continues with parents of young children today.

The Roadrunner ruled my TV when I was a child and I grew up completely devoid of violence. The Roadrunner proved only to teach me lessons of good morale and thinking skills.

Think about it. When Wile E. Coyote attempted to lure the roadrunner into his traps by putting out bird food, his plot always backfired. Moral: Being nice to others for selfish purposes will always come

back around.

Moreover, when the Roadrunner figures out the coyote's plan; he uses his brain to outsmart the coyote and protect himself. The Roadrunner only responds when being attacked and always manages to escape the trap without killing his attacker. Lesson: Use your brain instead of panicking.

Finally, when Wile E. Coy-

ote devises a scheme to capture the Roadrunner, but does not think it through thoroughly, his plan always goes haywire because he missed some important detail. Moral: Always think things through before acting.

These are morals we all try to instill in our children.

I hope this has laid to rest anxieties over what your chil-

dren should and should not be allowed to watch.

I will admit that the Super Bowl's version of the cartoon will probably be much more rough and tumble than the original.

After all, this is the biggest rivalry of the year and the tension is best let out or pumped up with cartoons instead of real people.

Disgruntled Starving Artist...

My short ride on the short bus

Matt Schampers
Staff writer

Three times a week I find myself riding the proverbial "short bus."

Every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday morning I have class in the CSC building. Fifteen minutes later, I have class in the Liberal Arts building. On a normal day, walking the distance between the two isn't a problem. However, I seldom have a normal day.

Last Friday I walked out of the CSC building only to find that the MCC shuttle bus had already departed for destinations unknown. Leaving me behind to walk a mile to class, uphill, and in the snow. As I walked, my parents' sobstories echoed from my past.

I've heard rumors about a Trolley, however I have yet to see it. My friends speak of it as if it were a UFO sighting. They all think they may have seen it, but cannot be sure. I've actu-

ally heard a few stories about people being abducted, but it never happened to me.

Yeah, so I ride the "short bus." So what? It beats walking, and it beats having to fight Joe, the sixth year sophomore, for a parking spot. He has an advantage. He lives in his truck.

I'm tired from the walk. I am frozen from the waist down, and I can't feel my face. Uncle Sam, the State of Texas, MCC, someone owes me a ride.



Sports Day



Baseball moves towards center stage

Lindsey Hayworth
Managing editor

With all the action going on in the college's basketball, it's not hard to overlook the fact that we still have baseball to look forward to.

After a season that brought record-breaking stats, (.367 team batting and a record tying 98 home runs,) the Highlander baseball team is working to prepare for a new season that begins in early February.

In order to build on last season's success, the Highlanders will not only rely on a team that has only 6 returning players, but a team that now has to

depend on a number of freshmen to develop their roles quickly. Improving on a 47 - 10 record and a 3rd place 1999 national ranking is one heck of a task.

Thus far, the team has participated in a number of scrimmages in preparation. The new recruits have shown signs of inexperience, but have still impressed.

"We've won a number of scrimmages, and in the ones we've lost, we still stayed competitive, and kept them close," Paul Miller, head coach said.

The 'Landers have some depth in the pitching staff, with the returns of Lee Gwaltney,

Karl Makowsky, Dustin Lansford, and Dennis Cervenka. The arrival of pitcher Brett Cooley from Round Rock brings strength to the bullpen.

In the lineup however, only outfielder Austin Cranford and 2nd baseman Patrick Beale are back.

"We look good, but if I had to pick an area we need improving in, it would be the bats," Miller said.

The upcoming season gets underway Thursday, February 2, at home at 2:30 p.m.

"We have a very young, but enthusiastic team. I've seen a lot of talent during the fall

workout," Miller said.

Miller said he hopes that the team will improve everyday and get to a point where they are competitive each time they step foot on the field.

"If we are behind in a game I want to be able to come back in the last innings and pull out a win," Miller said.

"We are focusing not only on the physical aspects of the game, but also the mental aspects. The first game is only two weeks away and the players have had a month off. We need to focus on having a game day mentality which includes bunting and offensive

playing," he said.

The Highlanders are a very young team, the youngest yet, Miller said, but he added that he sees improvements in the team's game at almost every practice. He said they are hard workers and seem to be doing everything that needs to be done to gain the knowledge of experienced players.

"This is their first college level competition," he said. "I need to prepare them for the changes between high school and college."

As for softball, the Highladies finished a competitive series of scrimmages, ending with the Baylor

invitational in October. The 'Ladies, like the Highlanders, are now working on conditioning, getting ready for the new season which starts February 5. With 13 freshmen on a 23-player team, the season promises to be interesting.

For Carmack Berryman, the new softball season will be one to look forward to.

"It's going to be a new and refreshing experience," Berryman said. "Right now we're still finding ourselves and our identity as a team." With 10 teams in the conference, the Highladies have their work cut out for them.

Bring it on...

End of NFL?

Lindsey Hayworth
Managing editor

What's the deal with NFL coaches this season? Before you know it they will be gone.

Basketball is barely surviving as it is and if not for the Sosa- McGwire standoff, baseball would find the only slot open on ESPN2 at 3 a.m. Football seems to be the only lasting sport, but I am not so sure anymore. Would great coaches such as Shula or Landry make it through this minefield? Back in the 70's coaches out lasted the players, but now the opposite is the case. Players seem to be out-lasting coaches.

I think it all started with the Cowboys, some people change their underwear less frequently than the Cowboys change head coaches.

Then this season it was more like a chain reaction with Rhodes, head coach of the Green Bay Packers, leading the way. We were just left in the wings betting on which coach would hit the fire next. I am sad to say that my beloved

Patriots also fell into the trap when they got rid of Carroll. I can't say that I blame them, but come on, someone needs to put a stop to all this before players start boycotting football, just as they did baseball and basketball in the past.

Parcells has my only positive vote, he was not fired, but he knew it was his time to step down. Unlike Johnson, Parcells is leaving the game with much dignity and pride. Johnson on the other hand was almost scared out of his coaching job. He could never live up to his firing, so why not quit when all the chips are down? That is the cowardly way out. Why not go out on top if you are going to go out at all?

We all saw the firing of Chan Galey coming, but what is the point in hiring his defensive coordinator? Are they not one in the same?. What about the great Ditka? Come on now, just because your coach gave up all of your first and second round draft picks for the next couple of years to get one player who was not even able to make it through one game, is that any reason to fire him? This is the one time that I agree with the decision. He took a risk, and it didn't work out. Just like anything else consequences always follow.

Is this the infamous Y2K problem all the experts predicted? You be the judge.

Teen accused of field vandalism

Jennifer Holomek
Feature Editor

Burglary and criminal mischief charges are pending against an 18-year-old TSTC student stemming from damage to the MCC baseball field.

Because the field had been undergoing renovation that involved taking down the fence, officers said the suspect drove his truck onto the field sometime between midnight and 5 a.m. December 2 and "ran donuts" in the sod for what appeared to be at least an hour. The officers said he broke out the security lights, ripped off the doors of the equipment shed and stole equipment.

Maintenance personnel said the rut damage is still being repaired.

"The damage on the field is

upsetting because it is a reminder of what happened here and probably will not be gone until this summer when the Bermuda grass grows back," Paul Miller, head baseball coach said.

"It really disappoints me to see something like this happen after so much time and effort has gone into this field. Not only that, but to see an 18-year-old young man have to spend time in jail," he said.

Miller added that the baseball team was upset by the vandalism as well.

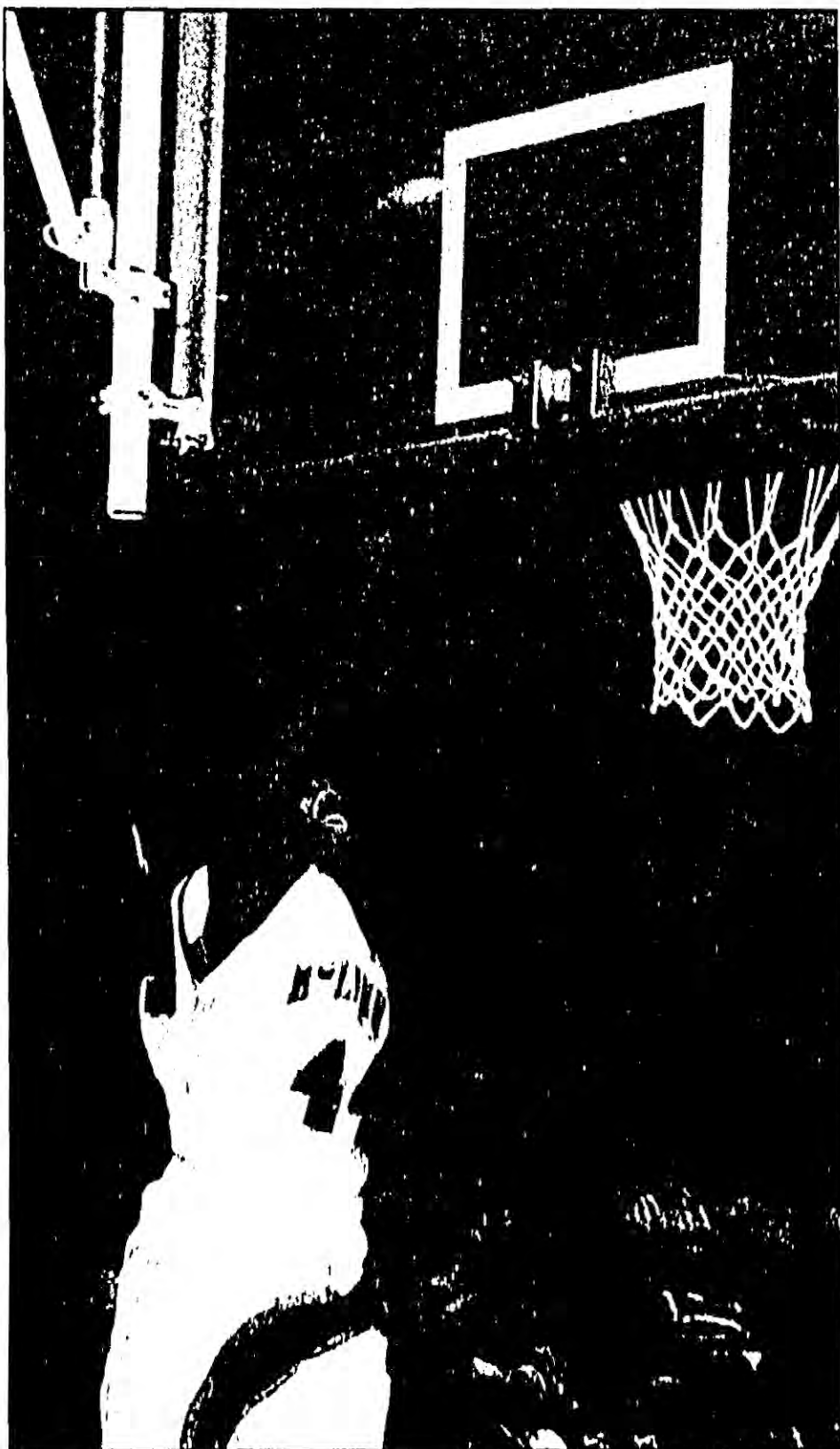
He also said that although no damage estimate has been assessed, "we have had to flatten out the trenches, top dress the whole field, and reseed all of the ruts by hand. In addition to this we have had to replace the pitching mound, equipment

shed doors, and the right field fence."

MCC campus police said they detained the suspect on Dec. 14 as he attempted to do the same thing near the CSC building. Police said he also had the equipment with him that was taken from the shed. He was later arrested at the intersection of 18th and Mitchell after police obtained an arrest warrant.

Aaron Arnett, 18, of 4400 North 19th Street was charged with two felonies, criminal mischief over \$20,000 of damage and burglary of a building in connection with the incident and was placed in McLennan County Jail, police said. Both offenses may be punishable by prison sentences, police said.

Highlanders hold on to hopes for a post season showing



Lindsey Hayworth
Managing editor

As the season winds down to an intense stretch of conference games, the Highlanders find themselves still fighting for a winning season.

Despite 11 games in the losing column, the Highlanders are still very much alive and in the hunt for a post-season berth.

During the holidays the team suffered costly defeats to Navarro, Temple and Collin County. The Highlanders also dropped a conference game at home January 20 to Weatherford, 79-70.

Despite their tough losses, MCC did pull out a few impressive victories: a throttling of Ranger at the Highlands 91-68 and a nail-biter over Grayson 72-70 on January 9.

The Highlanders' resurgence has sported some impressive scoring outputs by the likes of Kendall Garland who averaged 12 points and Steve Helm with a 10.8 per-game tally during the stretch of conference games.

The Highlanders still have plenty of work ahead of them, with more make-or-break

conference games.

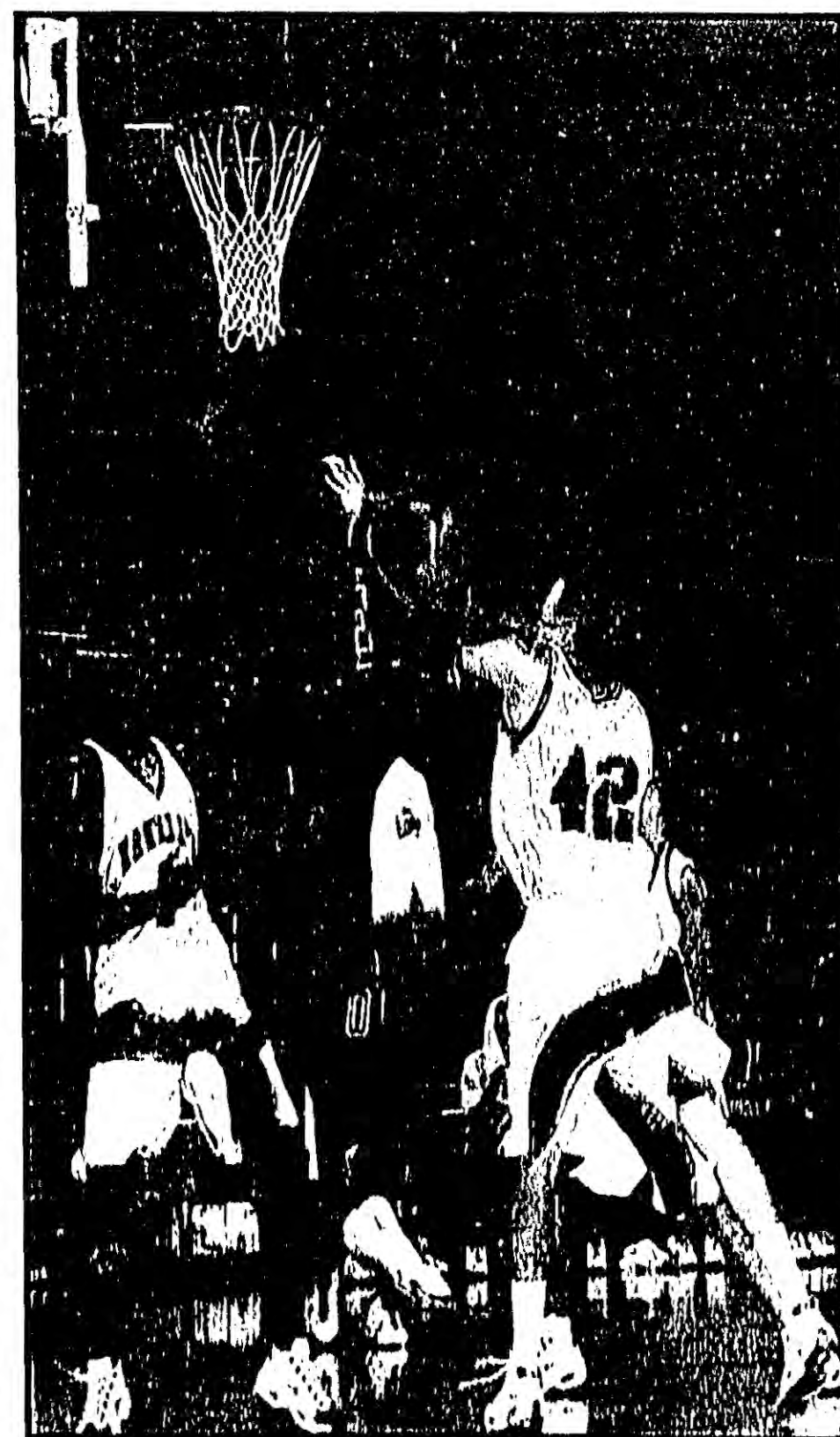
"I know we can make it to the post-season, we just have to stick together as a team", said Steve Shields, head basketball coach, adding that he believes the team needs to win at least seven of the remaining games.

Only five players out of 14 have suited up for every game so far. The Highlanders have suffered many unprecedented injuries. Cedric Palmer, JB McGee, Jason Russell, and Christyan Rios have all been sidelined with injuries. Rios is out for the season with a knee injury. Palmer, the main inside scorer, has missed the last two games. McGee has a stress fracture on his tibia. He will play with some pain and discomfort, Russell is back, but his injury is still fresh on the Highlanders' minds.

"If we are going to make it happen we need to become better offensively. We have been very good defensively, but we have not been consistent throughout the year," Shields said.

The men should get plenty of rest after the cancellation of Thursday nights' game.

Look for results of future Landers' games in the next issue.



Freshman starter Cedric Palmer scores two points for the Landers.

Dax Kuykendall fights under the boards.

Drought still lingers in area

Mandolin Shannon
Staff writer

Area officials said last week's rain, though beneficial, did little to abate a lingering two-year drought in Central Texas.

Rain totals were about 10 inches below normal for 1999. It is easy to see the lack of rain when you look at local surface water ways. Army Corps of Engineers data indicates that Lake Waco is about 6 feet below normal. Usually the lake's level is 455 feet above sea level, right now it is at 449.25.

Lake below capacity
Information and Support Di-

vision Manager Mike Bukala of the Brazos River Authority, BRA, said that Lake Waco is at 74% water supply capacity right now. He said area lakes are low because it hasn't rained, but there is not a water shortage at this time. Bukala said "all of our water supply contracts will be met for as long as we can project; even if we have a continued drought this year."

Bukala said the effects of the drought are most severely felt in the agricultural market. Last year's drought devastated many local farmers and ranchers. Bukala said local farmers "depend on Mother Nature to

get water to their crops." Without adequate rain their crops will fail.

For the birds

Local Audubon Society member E.G. Whiteswift said the 1999 drought has significantly reduced local bird populations. Whiteswift said that area creeks are running dry, and birds which populate those areas are not around this year. Whiteswift also said that the lack of rain produced a "fall seed crop which was very low." Lack of wild seeds have severely impacted the entire food web for many birds and other wildlife species.

Whiteswift said that many

winter sparrow populations are suffering because of the lack of available food. Whiteswift also said that local hawk populations are at about one third of what they should be for this time of the year. "This decrease in red-tail and marsh hawk populations can be attributed to the small seed crop which reduced local mouse populations," Whiteswift said. Mice are a staple of hawks diets.

Whiteswift noted that there is some good news for local birds and bird watchers. He said that "low lake levels have opened up mud flats for shorebirds." Shallow areas of the lake which are normally under water are now

ideal feeding grounds for a diversity of shorebirds. Additionally, all this warm dry weather has allowed record numbers of insects to flourish. Whiteswift said these conditions are great for birds which are insectivores.

Whiteswift said at times like these individuals "can really help the local bird populations." He said that by providing food and a source of water you can draw amazing numbers of birds to your back yard.

Whiteswift said "the best foods to offer wild birds are sunflower seeds, peanuts and suet cakes. He also stressed the importance of providing a clean, fresh source of water. He said that due to the extended drought "birds are coming to yards specifically for water." For more information on how to set up a back yard bird feeding station visit this web site: <http://www.bcpl.net/~tross/by/feed.html#/>.

Botanical survivors

President of the local Native plant Society Mark Barnett said that "as of right now there are no major changes in the native plant life" locally. He said most "native plants will survive extended droughts because they are adapted to our local weather patterns." Barnett said that some introduced species of plants did have trouble with last years drought, but overall things look good for Texas native plants in Central Texas.

Barnett said oak and pecan trees were able to produce a sufficient nut crop for wildlife. He said that grazing animals population, such as deer, may have been hurt due to a low

grassland production in 1999. He also said wildflower displays will most likely be "less grand" this spring because of the lack of the rain in last fall. Barnett noted that wildflower seeds can lay dormant for years. He said they will sprout when growing conditions are right..

Cameron Park

City of Waco Park ranger Nora Schell said she has not seen any long "term or large scale damage in Cameron Park" due to the drought. She said they did lose a couple of older trees that "might have made it under normal conditions." Overall she said they have not seen any major problems from the drought..

No major MCC problems

As for our campus, groundskeeper Robert Park said "at the present time we have not had any problems with the drought." He said that his department is gathering information on how to deal with the drought if it continues into 2000.

Mike Bukala, of the BRA, said that even with normal rainfall events much of what is falling will never make it to the lakes right now. He said that the ground is so dry most of the rain is soaked up before it can get to the lakes. He said it will take a bit quite of rain to raise local lake levels.

Bukala said that people may be inconvenienced due to low lake levels. He said recreational use of our area lakes may be impacted, but there is not threat to our local water supply. Bukala said "our lake is not drying up."

TREG eases student life at registration

■ continued from page

to get an eight to twelve, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday schedule on the last day of registration," said Catherine Fleming, lab instructor.

"Registration is a very hectic time and most faculty and administration prefer that students register over the phone," said a last chance registration worker.

However, workers understand that problems do arise.

"I had to wait for my paycheck to register," said student Zack Benman.

Administrators do provide programs to make payment easier on students and their families.

"The financial aid early installment plan gives students a chance to pay in three installments instead of all at one time," said Herman Tucker, Director of student enrollment services.

"We also pushed payment deadline back to January 5 to give students time to take care of their Christmas expenses," said Tucker.

Special circumstances can

also slow student's registration.

Jeff Hall, a high school student, was tied up in red tape.

"I couldn't register until I had all the forms filled out and I got quite a runaround."

Although some students plead laziness, most "don't know how to telephone register or simply do not know what they want to be," said Harvey.

Unfortunately, last chance registration's tense pandemonium can sometimes breed inappropriate behavior from anxious students.

"I can't believe how badly some students act when we're doing this for their benefit," said a registration worker.

Last chance registration is designed to help students who have special situations, but the lines and losses can quickly cause students' patience to run out.

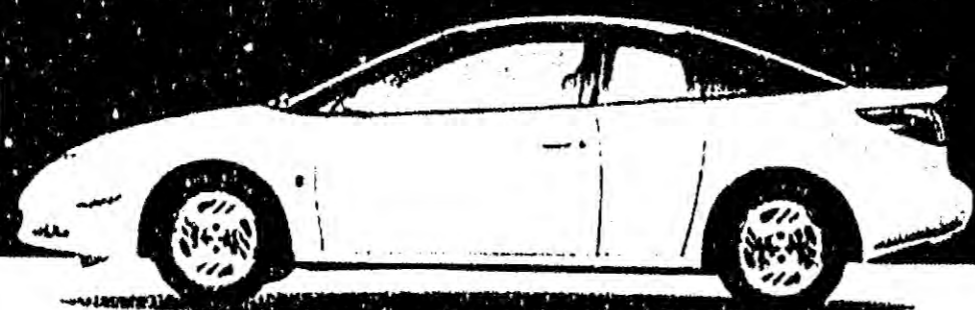
When the schedules are complete and the ID snapshots taken, most students said they were just glad it's over.

Advertise in the Highland Herald

Web Decoder Sweepstakes

You may be a winner of:

- One of four 2001 Saturn 3-Door Coupes®
- Fabulous Spring Break Vacations
- Thousands Of Instant-Win Prizes & Discounts!



THE LARGEST SELECTION OF USED & NEW TEXTBOOKS ...

**McLENNAN
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BOOKSTORE**

Student Center • Ph: 299-8430

Ask for your FREE efollett.com
Return WebDecoder at the register.
See manager for official rules. Promotion
ends 2/10/2000 or while supplies last.
No purchase necessary.

an **efollett.com** partner

**We're a textbook
example of
why the Internet
is so handy.**

SAVE UP TO 60% ON TEXTBOOKS

VarsityBooks.com