

Highland Herald

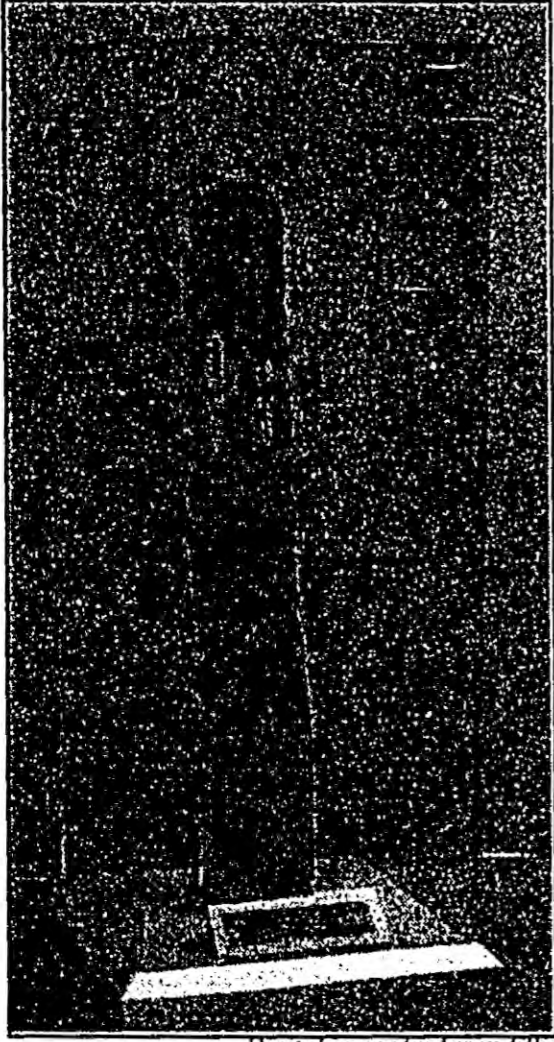


Volume 41, Number 8

McLennan Community College, Waco, TX

February 16, 2004

Arts define Black History culture



Roderick Walton and Jason Ellis
Staff Writers

Throughout February, the library will display African Artwork as part of Black History Month.

MCC faculty members donated the three pieces for the exhibition.

Clare Hunter, originally from South Africa, donated the centerpiece, which is made up of four small statues and an African garment.

Villagers gave the art pieces to her son, Delvyn Hunter, on his missionary trip around Africa.

To the right from the center is a statue from Rwanda donated by Linda Cook, Language Arts instructor.

Last piece on the left from the center is a painting of an African-American graduation. "This is a symbol of education," said Louise Banks-Smith, Information Desk Supervisor at the library.

All artwork will be on display for the entire month of February in the library in celebration of Black History Month.

The display calls attention to African-American contributions to the arts as part of the struggle toward equality.

Nobel Prize winner Martin Luther King Jr. was determined to elevate society to a higher plain, but as important as King's efforts was the success of many black men and women in the racial burial grounds that once were show business.

Dorothy Dandridge is known for the early film that won her an Oscar nomination, "Carmen Jones."

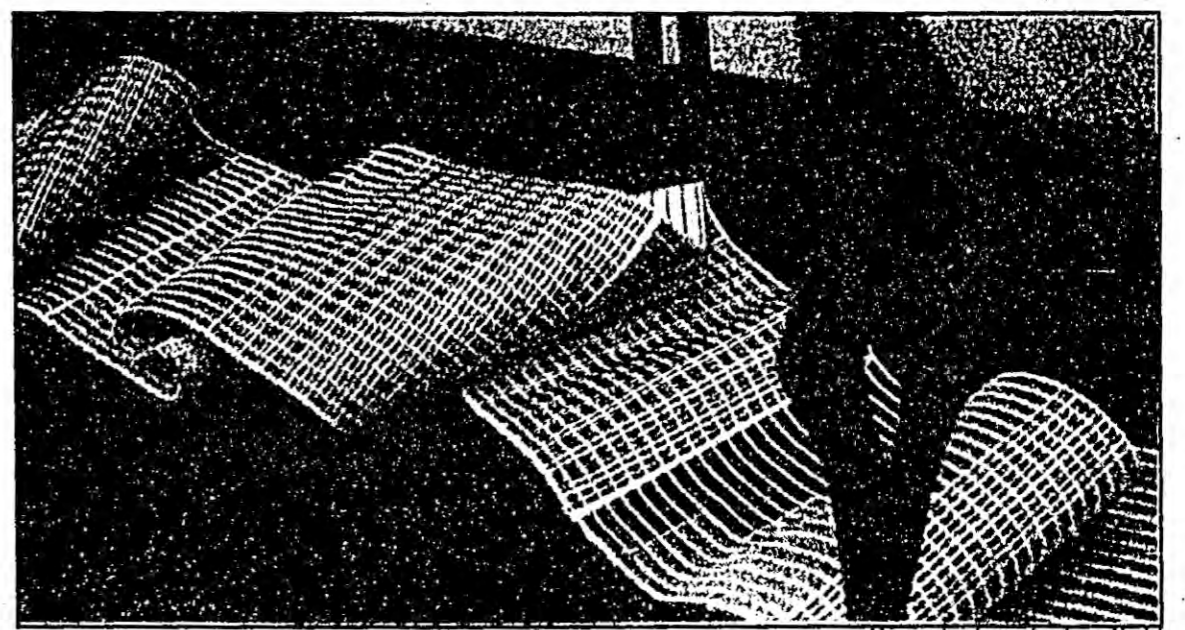
The late LaWanda Page, Redd Foxx's Bible-thumping sister-in-law Aunt Ester on "Sanford and Son", is also known as the Church's Chicken Queen who immortalized the phrase, "Gotta Love It."

Bessie Smith, the late blues singer from the early 1900's, was the first black woman to break into mainstream recording with the hits, "Gulf Coast Blues" and "Down Hearted Blues."

Ella Fitzgerald was a great jazz vocalist who revolutionized the art of scatting with tunes like, "It Don't Mean a Thing."

Roxie Roker, a.k.a. "Helen Willis", the first black woman to play an interracial role on television, was known as the upstairs neighbor on "The Jeffersons". Roker was always poked fun at by Sherman Hemsley, "George Jefferson," about her mixed-race family, calling her children "zebras."

Oprah Winfrey, the third black woman bil-



Woven sash from Nigeria, given to Delvyn Hunter, on display in library.

lionaire, has changed daytime television and inspired many young men and women of all races.

From early movie hits such as "Women of Brewster Place" and the academy award-winning "The Color Purple", to her daytime talk show, Winfrey is everything and everywhere.

Black men have also made their mark in the entertainment spotlight.

From trumpeter Louis Armstrong, to present day Oscar-winner Denzel Washing-

ton, black men have dominated movie screens that once relegated them to comic relief.

Known for his great voice and beautiful daughter, Nat King Cole turned heads with the velvet-smooth "Unforgettable."

Lou Rawls topped the charts and is still among the most popular R&B artists today.

Sidney Poitier, who has been in the business for more than 50 years, won the Best Actor Oscar in the early 60's and was granted the Honorary Achievement Award in 2002.

Artwork from Rwanda, Africa. Donated by Linda Cook to McLennan Community College Library.



Lauren Bowman and Kristen Thompson enjoy the snow in front of student services building. Waco's first snowfall of the year started about noon on Feb. 13. A day before Valentine's Day students all around campus could be found playing and celebrating in the snow, a rarity at McLennan Community College.

ΦΘΚ hears depression lectures

Jenny Pilgrim
Staff Writer

Pi Chi, the MCC chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, kicked off the semester Jan. 20 with a lecture on mental health.

The lecture, delivered by Kurt Chunn, Sociology and Psychology Instructor, focused on depression and included discussions on the various forms and causes of depression and the treatments available.

"There are different types of depression," Chunn said. "Major depression is when people are just knocked down. Life's got the best of them, and they have to be hospitalized...depression really takes them over."

"Most of us suffer, from time to time, some mild depression...just changes in life. One of the definitions of depression is an anger turned inward. See 'ΦΘΚ' on Page 3



Freshman catcher Ashley McElroy (19) searches for the ball in hopes of an easy out. The Highlassie softball team lost to Lon Morris (5-4) in their opening game Feb. 3 at MCC.

MCC coaches, players saddened by Navarro tragedy

Ashley Jackson
Staff Writer

MCC coaches and players expressed sadness and solidarity after tragedy struck Navarro Junior College Feb. 9 when a tractor-trailer collided with the van carrying half of Navarro's mens' basketball team, killing two players and injuring seven others, including two coaches.

"We are tight with Navarro. Our coaches knew each other, and they showed good sportsmanship in the games. I was shocked when I heard, knowing that we had a road trip tonight, and I was just thinking about their team, and it will be in the back of my mind tonight. Coach Gill told us about it in practice and said that we need to keep them in our prayers," said Andre Owens, MCC guard.

The dead were identified as freshman players Pa Sarr, 21, of Gambia, Africa and Janson Rashard Trier, 18, of Killeen.

The team was en route home to Corsicana after defeating Paris Junior College.



Cody Lewis, Highlander forward, reads about the two Navarro players who died in Paris, Texas on Feb. 9

The accident occurred late Monday night on US 271 in Paris, Texas, when two vans carrying the basketball team attempted to make turns on the highway after missing their exit. When the second van turned to follow, an eastbound rig struck it, police said.

Hundreds of students and faculty attended prayer services held at Navarro Tuesday with readings from

the Bible and the Quran.

Freshmen Edward Norton, Charles Dotson and Coach Lewis Orr were treated and released.

Chris Gonzales, a freshman from Chicago, was transported to Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas. Elijah Coppock, a sophomore from Columbus, Ohio, was flown to Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas. The hospitals reported both in serious condition.

Sophomore Roberto Flores and student assistant Bilal Batley are also listed in serious condition.

"We are all devastated, grieving and suffering. We lost some of the finest young men on our team. I can't say enough about the character of the young men we lost. It's like losing your children. The team is like my family. We never want to see our family members hurt or suffering. The main focus now is with the families of our deceased players and with the injured students. We request the love and prayers of our family and friends as we cope during this time," said Coach Lewis Orr, head basketball coach at Navarro.



Rescue workers treat injuries of Navarro basketball players and coaches who were in a school van that was struck by a 18-wheeler on the night of Monday Feb. 9.

Student Life

Parking dominates SGA

Mark Schroeder
Staff writer

Membership and parking were the dominant issues at the Student Government Association meeting on Jan. 26.

During the meeting, Dr. Johnette McKown, Dr. Lynn Abernathy, and Dr. Donnie Balmos, all MCC faculty, discussed the parking situation with the council. "There's really no simple answer to the parking problem," Balmos said.

Much of the conversation was dedicated to the concerns of traffic flow on campus.

"That's where I park every day," said Jeff Humphrey, SGA President. "I don't feel like I'm going to get a space any closer, so I just get ready to walk."

Later in the discussion, however, the faculty reminded the students that MCC does have a shuttle service with regular stops at the CSC building, making parking in that area more convenient.



Edward Moreno and other student government officers discuss membership and parking issues during the Jan. 26 meeting.

The advisors stressed that if students were to park in the CSC lots, much of the parking-related stress would be alleviated.

Balmos said the parking plan "is an on-going learning process."

This is just the first attempt."

SGA representatives also discussed membership.

"This semester, we're kind of in a rebuilding year," said Alesha Vardeman, Student Activities Special-

ist.

She explained that many former student government members transferred to four-year universities.

"Of course, student government is open to everyone who wants to come," Vardeman said.

The positions open are President-Elect, Secretary/Treasurer, Public Relations, Parliamentarian, and five freshmen and five sophomore representative positions.

"It's definitely open. Anyone who wants to try to make things better... student government is the way to go about that," Vardeman said. Vardeman then said that even after elections anyone could attend three consecutive meetings, thereby becoming an at-large member with full voting rights.

"They want people to know that they have fun, and what they're doing, and it's not all boring," she said.

Those interested in student government should contact Alesha Vardeman by visiting her office in the Student Services Building

Violence and Video Games

John Pippin
Entertainment Editor



The entertainment industry is rapidly changing.

Whether judged by critiques or customer demand, the overall quality of music is on a steady decline, moviemaking is no longer an art and television is as redundant as ever.

What new outlet does this massive chunk of our nation's economy have to fall back on?

The videogame industry is consistently on the rise, giving casual and hardcore gamers alike what the majority of entertainment media can no longer provide; an escape from the same boring, day-to-day routines that fill their menial lives with some fleeting sense of hope and purpose.

The American people are no longer viewing electronic gaming as a rudimentary distraction, but rather as a mainstream form of entertainment.

This theory is evidenced by the record sales of game consoles ranging in price from \$100-\$300 per unit and of games costing between \$15 and \$50.

Since the early 1980's, children and adults alike have been enjoying this form of entertainment, but what has happened to the clean, wholesome days of Pac-Man and Frogger?

Recent games, such as the notoriously criminal genre of the "Grand Theft Auto" franchise and

Postal 2: Share the Pain takes violence to a new level.

the murderous underworld of brutal murders as displayed in games like "Hitman" and "Manhunt" have taken a violent downward spiral in terms of taste and morality.

But is this moral decline a sign that times are truly changing, or is it a sign that the games are "growing up" with the generation that made the industry into what it is today?

Most polls put the average age of the U.S. gamer is somewhere between 19 and 35.

It's not hard to understand that adult gamers want to play games targeted to their particular age group, such as "Postal 2: Share the Pain" rather than "Super Mario Sunshine." Sure, there are videogames out there that retain the wholesome settings that are fun for the whole family, but the hard truth is that these games are not the real moneymakers, and the videogame industry is a business. Businesses need to make money.

Violent and adult games are where the money currently is, so expect to see more blood on the horizon.

Czech out this artist

Ex-MCC student and native of Czech, exhibits art in LTC

Lee Kuhl
Staff writer

MCC's Learning Technology Center hosted the first U.S. solo exhibition for Czech photographer and former McLennan student Gabriela Kolcavova.

The show that ran from Jan. 12 to Feb. 9 showcased a selection of pieces from her work in Texas, as well as a set entitled "Miniatures from Home" shot entirely in the Czech Republic.

"I still try to bring a little of my heritage into my work, maybe because... I'm so close to my family and my home," Kolcavova said.

The entirety of her work is toned, a chemical process which colors black and white photographs light brown.

The process lends a more traditional air to her work, she said.



Gabriela Kolcavova (right) mingles with friends during the Artists Reception on Jan. 23. With her are Dillan Henderson and Carol Crosthwait.

Kolcavova originally pursued a career teaching English, she said.

"After taking Photography II, I started thinking that this is the medium (photography) ...that I

should be using," she said. "I had been doing ... painting and sculpture; photography seemed natural to me"

Kolcavova currently attends the University Of North Texas (UNT) pursuing a Masters of Fine Arts with her focus in black and white photography.

She holds bachelor degrees in both English and Fine Arts, and is currently working on

portraiture and preparation for her graduation from UNT in two semesters.

The show closed Feb. 6 with many of her works purchased.

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Super Bowl halftime show was a bust

Davis Gonzalez
Sports Editor

If anyone was remotely near a radio or television after this year's Super Bowl XXXVIII, there's little doubt that the most talked about play came during the halftime show.

Justin Timberlake and Janet Jackson performed a duet that shocked the crowd when it ended with the introduction of a single breast for a whole half-second, property of one Ms. Jackson.

I too, was upset, appalled, and disappointed at the display. That was the Super Bowl, the biggest stage of the year. If it wasn't worth the

exposure of both breasts then nothing is. A single breast equals Laker game...Super Bowl equals the twins.

I'm not just blaming Jackson, a.k.a. 'Miss Nasty'; Timberlake is as much at fault. It was his musical number that said he'd "have you naked by the end of this song". I saw no nudity, no truth in advertising.

If musicians call that naked, then I can understand why Britney Spears considers herself a "virgin".

Now there are those who claim the act was distasteful, that the values of society are eroding, the moral fabric of our culture is fading, that children have been scarred for life, and the human body is disgusting and

something of which to be ashamed.

But I contest this belief. Uncomfortable situations like the one at the Super Bowl provide opportunities to explain the touchier and less talked-about subjects to curious children.

Granted, I was prepared to explain why drinking is okay as long as it's done responsibly, but even I was caught off guard by the intestinal workings of a gaseous equine.

Why do men need pills to enhance their sexual performance?

That's easy: "Daddy couldn't afford a Hemi."

I would have had all the bases covered if approached by a youngster.

What really disturbs me is that Jackson and Timberlake took the stage from entertainers more deserving of the spotlight.

Personally, I would have chosen Paris Hilton.

Now there's a girl with wholesome American values and unchallenged acting ability. After making only one video, she landed her own television show.

That's the kind of talent America wants to watch.

Instead of seeing Jackson's lonely mammary gland on every news channel seven times before I ate breakfast the next morning, America could have watched a new Madonna

make-out session or enjoyed another one of Victoria's Secrets.

The incident got so much attention, even finding Bin Laden would have been overshadowed, unless he was hiding in Jackson's brassiere.

For the rest of the season, I vow not to watch another Super Bowl game. And if the Bear 102.5 has another contest offering 'Super Bowl tickets or breast implants' like they did this year, I'm choosing the breast implants and donating them to charity. Or her sister.



www.janet-jackson.com

Janet Jackson

Largest campus group drops in attendance

LaTricia Haynes
Staff writer

The Gay and Straight Alliance (GSA) will take part in the Highland Games to give the students outside the organization an opportunity to interact with GSA students, said Bill Howard, the organization's advisor.

The Jan. 20 meeting of the organization, which claims the largest on-record enrollment of any campus group, drew comparatively small attendance, around 15 people.

The organization members also talked about meeting dates and upcoming GSA events, setting meetings for March 2 and 23, and April 6 and 20.

The group also discussed the

agenda for this semester and planning of events.

On March 23, the Waco-McLennan County Public Health District will offer free confidential HIV testing to all students.

Students should take advantage of the free, one-time, confidential testing, Howard said.

Valerie Fallas, president of PFLAG (Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) will address the April 6 meeting and answer questions about the organization she represents, Howard said.

"Everyone is welcome at the meetings," Howard said.

Questions concerning GSA should be directed to Howard at 299-8217.



Digital image by Jason Ellis

Pavlina Filnova and Josh Hill chat while attending the Valentine Crush Party in the LTC building on Feb. 13.

BSA back in action with 'Apollo' revue

Jerri Sadler
Staff writer

The Black Students Association will host the first annual "MCC at the Apollo" on Feb. 26, a talent show put on by students and members of the Waco community.

This is just one of the events BSA will be hosting this semester, club members said. Along with the talent show, the BSA hosted a booth at the Valentine Crush Party on Feb. 13, selling candy and handing out applications to prospective club members.

BSA will also host lectures on understanding and valuing inclusion in a global community by Rosa Guerrero, artist, educator and dance historian, and Edmund T. Gordon, a humanitarian committed to promoting cultural understanding.

"It's important for BSA to be involved in Black History Month because it gives us a chance to show our talents and helps us contribute to the educating of others. It also gives us a chance to show how far we have come since segregation and slavery," said Ebony Taylor, Public Relations Committee for BSA.

Almost non-existent last semester due to busy schedules and no officers, the club members said they will be more involved on campus in 2004.

Originally started by student Beverly Williams three years ago, the club still has open membership to all students.

Students wanting to participate in BSA's upcoming events or more information about the club should contact Johnnie Talton at 299-8491 or Patsy Jones at 299-8773.

Retraction

New semester brings parking regulation changes

The staff of the Highland Herald would like to extend an apology to Kim Patterson, Director of Community Relations and Marketing at MCC, and clarify statements attributed to her in the Jan. 23 issue of the Herald concerning the newly enacted parking regulations.

In the article, Patterson is quoted as saying that the parking changes have been planned for the last ten years.

In fact, the changes resulted from a study done as part of a ten-year master facility plan, and changes in

parking were enacted due to suggestions made by the consultant who conducted the study.

Parking regulations were not in the planning stage for ten years.

Further, Patterson is quoted as saying that new regulations were a strain on the student body.

Patterson said she made no such comment.

Later in the article, Patterson is quoted that the new regulations would most likely result in backed up traffic at the beginning of the semester which would subside as the year progressed. She said that during the first few weeks of each semester, there

are always tremendous traffic jams, but they always diminish. She made no reference to the parking changes and traffic problems.

Patterson was quoted in the story as saying changes in visitor parking from all-day parking to one-hour parking in front of the Student Services Building led to numerous tickets handed out to students without parking stickers.

There is no correlation between the two.

The Highland Herald regrets the errors and apologizes for any embarrassment the story may have caused Kim Patterson.

ΦΘΚ from page 1

"You are frustrated because something isn't working out right, and you feel like you are hitting your head up against the wall and nothing seems to work. That anger turns into depression. So if you find a depressed person, you will usually find someone who is angry," Chunn said.

Chunn also educated the group about combating the "winter blues", which is a real condition known as

Seasonal Affective Disorder, or S.A.D. This condition affects about 500,000 people a year in this country alone, he said.

"We move with the rhythms of the daytime, the rhythms of the light," Chunn said. "When there's less light, we react to that in a certain way. For some people, this can be more severe biologically than for others."

Chunn said that one of the best therapies for this condition is to simply expose oneself to more sunlight.

Chun received his Master's degree in Marriage and Family Counseling

from Abilene Christian University.

He spent 15 years working with special needs children at San Angelo I.S.D. and 16 years serving in the ministry as a counselor.

Chunn's speech was part of Phi Theta Kappa's honors study topic, "Dimensions and Directions of Health: Choices in the Maze".

Phi Theta Kappa is a national honor society for two-year colleges.

To be eligible to join, students must earn at least a 3.5 GPA.

Students interested in joining Phi Theta Kappa may attend an orientation meeting Wednesday, Feb. 18 at 1-5 p.m. in the lecture hall.

Music artist straddles four genres

Brandl McCarty
Staff writer

It's hard to straddle the four fences of pop, rock, jazz, and classical music convincingly, and like so many other artists who claim to be doing it, Lauren Gifford, too, falls short.

Her debut EP "Sitting Pretty" is a nice blend of pop and rock, but the only thing classical about it is the stiffness of her piano instrumental, "Temptation".

While I feel the album has no timeless appeal, I do believe it has the potential to be commercially viable.

In a day when the music industry is spitting out vanilla vocalists who lip sync and dance along with canned music, Gifford is refreshing.

She plays piano and organ and composed all of the songs for



www.laurengifford.com
Lauren Gifford's album, "Sitting Pretty"

"Sitting Pretty".

Unfortunately, the timing of her breakout may cast her in the shadow of recent Grammy winning vocalist and pianist, Nora Jones.

I think her songs "Sleepwalker" and "Never Look Back" have the potential to top Billboard music charts, though.

Both are upbeat, superbly

produced, well written and well performed.

The production of the EP is wonderfully creative.

Producers Edith and Oliver Letz experiment effectively with unique panning between speakers to create an ethereal sound.

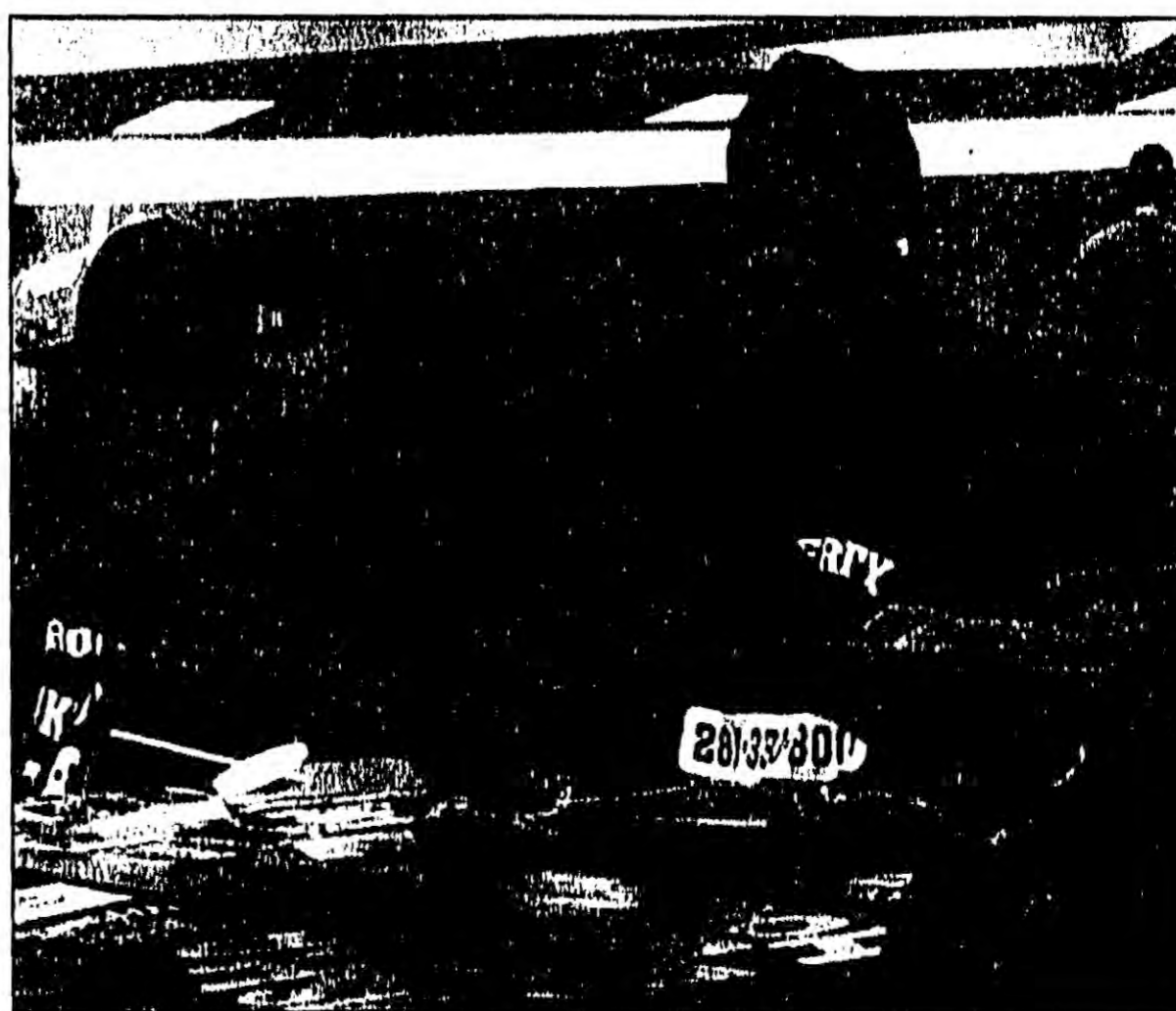
Gifford's vocals are sultry, her harmony stacks hauntingly beautiful, and the instrumentation cleanly recorded and exceptionally well performed.

"Sitting Pretty" can be heard at laurengifford.com.

In no time, you'll have it cranked up and be singing along with Gifford's catchy lyrics.

I don't suggest purchasing the six-song EP, but I do recommend downloading it from the website.

I fear once owned, all you'll have to say about it a year from now is, "Hey, nice couch."



Digital image by Lee Kuhl

Up and coming Rapper Mike Jones promotes Image at the Welcome Back Party on Jan. 22. The festivities included music, novelty digital imaging and a variety of other activities.

Entertainment

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McLennan Community College

February 16, 2004

The New Face of American Horror

Looking into the world of dark action movies

By John Pippin
Entertainment Editor

The horror genre has recently found a resurgence of life in the world of action films.

Branching away from the traditional methods of trying to scar viewers' minds with sub-par disturbing imagery, filmmakers have adopted new methods of entertaining audiences using gun-blazing battles and blood-drenched mayhem with a gothic twist, incorporating such classic creatures as vampires, werewolves and legendary slasher villains into the mix.

"Underworld" is a dark, daunting tale about an ancient war being waged between the vampires and lycans (werewolves).

Set in a modern day metropolis, nearly all of the action revolves around intense battles and martial arts, which is what sets this title apart from the standard gothic horror story.

"Underworld" follows the story of Selene (Kate Beckinsale), a femme fatale vampire and member of a small group of vampires, the Death Dealers, who are set on destroying the lycan clans at all costs.

When she comes across information that the lycans have been searching for a human named Michael Corvin (Scott Speedman), she faces a race against time to uncover the dark truth behind the existence of their species.



Selene (played by British actress Kate Beckinsale) holds off a pack of lycans in this gothic-action thrill-ride.

While the plot in "Underworld" moves surprisingly slow for this sort of film, it certainly is interesting and worth a rental at the least. The movie is rated R by the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) for strong, graphic violence and some profanity.

Freddy Krueger and Jason Voorhees, two of the greatest slasher-flick villains ever to grace the silver screen, go head-to-head in the action packed, cornier than ever, "horror" title, "Freddy vs. Jason," that has its audiences laughing more than

screaming. "Freddy vs. Jason" contains every horror movie cliché from the helpless naked woman running through the woods to the unrealistic fountains of blood that stream from the countless victims as these two monsters from the 1980's slasher craze are paired together in one of the most uncanny films ever made.

Freddy wants back into the real world, but in order to accomplish this, he needs the children of Elm Street to remember the terror he instilled in their hearts so many years before.

But, in order to remind them, he'll need to enlist the help of Jason Voorhees, the same summercamp madman who killed a countless number of victims during his reign of terror.

The plan works, and the children of Elm Street are once again reminded of the once feared, razor-clawed madman.

However, a wrench is thrown into Freddy's plans when Jason takes the death tolls to new heights, leaving Freddy out in the cold.

This is when the movie begins to really pick up, as Freddy takes the fight to Jason, and the battle of Evil vs. Evil begins. This one warranted an R rating from the MPAA for pervasive strong horror, violence/gore, gruesome images, sexuality, drug use, and strong language.

Another notable addition to this "new-found" genre is Lion's Gate newest DVD release "Cabin Fever." "Cabin Fever", although following the more traditional methods of utilizing suspense in order to frighten audiences, proves itself to be an interesting ride through the horrors of madness.

It's the classic story of a group of college students going on a trip into the woods where a delirious stranger, covered head-to-toe in bloody sores, ruins their summer fun. After that, the chaos ensues.

"Cabin Fever" has been rated R by the MPAA.

Cult Classics

Twisted Love Stories

Ian O'Mallan
Staff writer

Welcome to the first installment of cult classics.

This is where I will be taking a closer look at movies with a cult following that are usually overlooked by critics and viewers alike.

Cult movies are not necessarily blockbusters, but more or less independent movies that people talk about for years.

They are the type of movie that you would watch then come to school the next day just to talk about them.

This week I have a theme to focus on: Valentine's Day.

With romance in mind, what better movie to start with than "True Romance," starring Christian Slater and Patricia Arquette.

The movie centers around the misadventures of Clarence and Alabama, a comic book geek and a call girl, who meet, fall head over heels for each other, steal about ten pounds of cocaine from the mob, flee to California and top it off with a three-way shoot out involving police and the mob with our heroes stuck in the middle of the crossfire.

A strong supporting cast that includes Brad Pitt, Christopher Walken, Gary Oldman, Dennis Hopper, and Val Kilmer, really help this movie to stand out above the rest.

"True Romance" carries an R-rating by the evil empire that is the MPAA for, what else, but drugs, sex, violence and excessive naughty language.

We can't mention cult films without bringing up Kevin Smith and his brainchild that is the Jersey Chronicles.

"Chasing Amy" one of these chronicles, is the story of guy-meets-girl, falls madly in love only to find out that she is gay, and, of course, with a plot as serious as this, hilarity ensues.

The film stars Ben Affleck, Joey Lauren Adams, and the usual supporting cast of people common to the View Askew universe.

Finally, a tragedy of sorts, a modern day Romeo and Juliet so to speak. No, not some story from the west side, but a tragic tale of a rocker, his girlfriend and their drugs.

"Sid and Nancy" is the real-life tale of rocker Sid Vicious and his lover of sorts Nancy Spungen.

The story is a biography of the legendary bassist Sid Vicious of the Sex Pistols, and his downward spiral after the Pistols break-up that eventually leads to the couple's untimely demise.

There is still a lot of controversy surrounding the death of Nancy, and whether or not Sid was the one who stabbed her, and the case remains unsolved to this very day.

For those of you who like the extra stuff, the movie has Courtney Love in a small supporting role as a junkie. Now if that's not good casting, what is?

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Feb 20

Jeremy Echols Band Feb 27

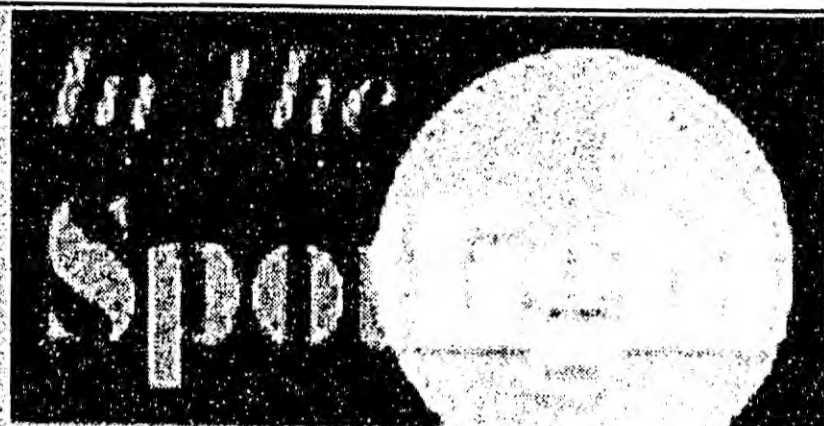
Saturday

Common Ground
&
Stroade
(2 Bands)
Feb 14

Pride and Joy
Feb 21

Jeremy Echols Band
Feb 28

Sports



Eric Dawson

Height: 6'8"
 Hometown: San Antonio
 *Eric was selected All Region Team and first-team All Conference NTJCAC. In high school Dawson was second-team All State in 4A basketball.

What has been your favorite game of the year?
 Temple, it is our rivalry team, we all played hard and went at it all night.

How has basketball impacted your life?
 It has kept me out of trouble, helped me in school, and has been a good thing overall.

Who is your favorite NBA player?
 Carmello Anthony is my idol, people also say we play alike.

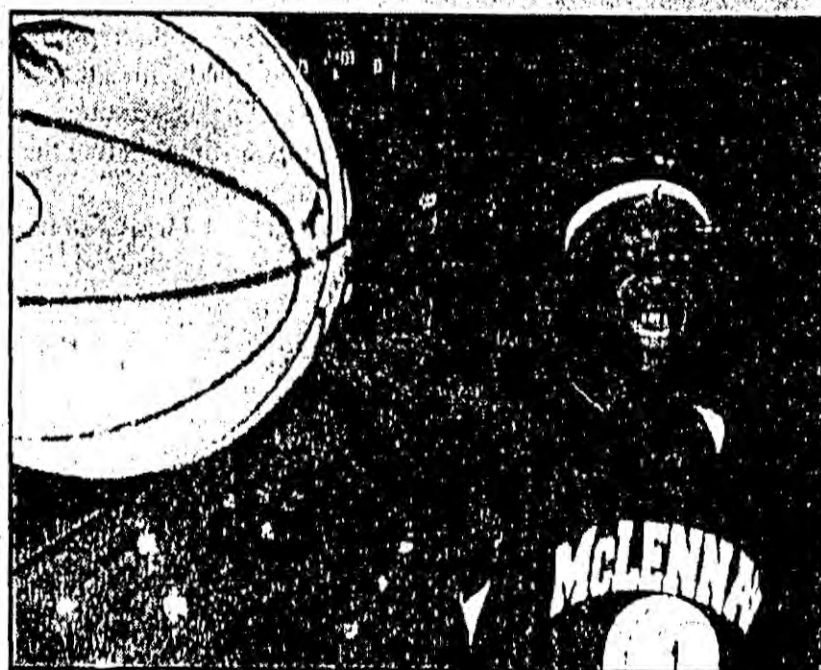
Where do you hope to be in the next five years?
 If I am not in the NBA, I would like to be a coach.

How old were you when you started playing basketball?
 Probably whenever I was about three.

Who has been the hardest competition of the season?
 I would have to say Midland, because they beat us. It was challenging because they had players that were a lot taller than ours.

What do you like most about basketball?
 I like being out there competing with my team against other players.

What is your favorite clothing brand?
 I like Jorlan, he is also my idol.



Eric Dawson

Supercross becomes next bloodsport

Brett Fanning
 Staff writer

The death of professional motorcycle racer Jason Ciarletta, 19, marked the first in the thirty-two year history of supercross during the THQ San Diego Supercross event.

After being careflighted to Sharp Hospital in Kearny Mesa, Ciarletta was pronounced dead on arrival after his head-first crash.

In his qualifying heat, Ciarletta raced to the first corner with twenty-one other determined riders. The racer's first objective: cross the holed chalk line first. However, for Ciarletta, funneling into a twenty-two-man bottleneck proved deadly. While Jason approached the first turn, a

downed rider took him out, common to first turns in supercross. As his 125cc motorcycle slammed to a halt, Ciarletta flipped over the handlebars and launched head-first into the berm, a banked wall on the outside of turns, rupturing his aorta.

Fans quickly grew restless back at Qualcomm stadium as the delayed effect of an injured rider slowed progress of the night program by twenty minutes.

In the forty-degree weather, quite unnatural to Southern California, drizzling rain began to shower onto spectators agitating their impatience even further.

Incidentally, there was no mention of the fatally injured rider's tragic death at any time during the event.

When questioned about the rider's death after the main event, fellow riders confirmed they were unaware of the recent accident.

"The tracks are so challenging right now...the jumps are bigger, the rhythm sections are more technical...that injuries have, unfortunately, become a part of each race," said Texas privateer racer Michael Peacock.

The San Diego Supercross events proceeded as usual after the pause.

Australian Chad Reed took his third win of the season after a sixteen lap back-and-forth battle with Amsoil Honda's Kevin Windham, who himself returns to supercross after a two-year layoff due to a broken femur early in 2002 at the Atlanta Supercross.

The Frenchman David Vuillemin trailed closely in third place.

Last year's champion Ricky Carmichael is out of contention this year due to his off-season crash rendering his fourth consecutive supercross championship unattainable.

Carmichael has been seen commenting as a fill-in during supercross events.

Fans, commentators and racers agree the 2004 season is more exciting, more popular and more competitive than any other season in the history of the sport.

ESPN2 airs the race event each Sunday, though scheduling is tentative.

First round goes to Collin

Fred Buttaccio
 Staff Writer

Collin wins the battle, but the Highlanders are still in the war.

Fan expectations were high when the two top teams in the Northern Texas Junior College Athletic Conference clashed for sole possession of first place in Plano on Jan. 28.

Not only were both teams at the pinnacle of their conference, but also came into the game among the Top 20 teams in the country.

The Collin County Express ranked

ninth, and our Highlanders placed at 18th in the NJACC.

They are also the two highest rated teams in Texas behind second-place San Jacinto College.

The Highlanders looked strong at halftime, but Collin took control of the second half overcoming a 7-point halftime deficit to take the victory (72-63) and momentarily first place of the conference.

Allen Houston dropped 17 and Eric Dawson added 10 for the Highlanders, who will be anticipating the Feb. 25 rematch in Waco.



Digital image by Tyler Clatt
 Jesse Kimbrough (5) takes the ball to the net for two. Kimbrough continued his good play for a total of 10 points and 8 assists, helping the Highlanders to a (85-78) home-court win over the Hill College Rebels on Feb. 4.

NJCAA Division I Men's Basketball Poll

Rank	College	Location	Record
1	Redlands Community College	El Reno, OK	24-1
2	San Jacinto College-Central	Pasadena, TX	21-2
3	Georgia Perimeter College	Dunwoody, GA	22-2
4	Southeastern Illinois College	Harrisburg, IL	23-2
5	Collin County Comm. College	Plano, TX	23-1
6	Northwest Miss. Comm. College	Senatobia, MS	20-2
7	Chipola College	Marianna, FL	23-3
8	Vincennes University	Vincennes, IN	20-4
9	Southeastern Comm. College	West Burlington, IA	22-4
10	Allegany College of Maryland	Cumberland, MD	22-2
11	Hutchinson Comm. College	Hutchinson, KS	21-3
12	Otero Community College	La Junta, CO	21-1
13	Colby Community College	Colby, KS	21-4
14	Highland Comm. College-IL	Freeport, IL	22-1
15	Yavapai College	Prescott, AZ	21-3
16	Moberly Area Comm. College	Moberly, MO	21-3
17	Jackson State Comm. College	Jackson, TN	19-3
18	McLennan Comm. College	Waco, TX	21-3
19	Schoolcraft College	Livonia, MI	20-3
20	Barton County Comm. College	Great Bend, KS	20-5

'Take me out to the ballgame'

Fifth Annual First Pitch Luncheon features Astro legend

Tonya Farmer
 Sports Editor

"Take me out to the ballgame" could be heard by approximately 700 people, sung throughout the Waco Chamber of Commerce Fifth Annual "First Pitch Luncheon".

A prayer was said in remembrance of China Spring coach Randy Lensley, who died in a fire on Jan. 8.

Steve Fallon followed by welcoming those who attended the event at the Waco Convention Center on Feb. 11.

The guest speaker was Gerry Hunsicker, the most successful GM in Houston Astros franchise history and the man credited with bringing

ace pitcher Roger Clemens back to Texas.

The Astros captured four division titles under his guidance and compiled an overall record of 701-595.

MCC softball coach Manny Ordonez spoke about this season so far, saying that the girls' first games went well, but that (jokingly) he is glad for the rain.

MCC baseball coach David Wrzesinski proudly announced that seven out of his nine seniors had made 4.0 GPA's last semester.

The coaches are all looking ahead to a grand season and would like as many people as possible to come support the teams.

North Texas Conference (as of 1/31/04)

Men	Conf.	Overall
Collin County	7-0	21-1
McLennan CC	6-1	20-3
Grayson County College	4-3	12-9
Temple College	4-3	18-5
Hill College	2-5	10-13
Weatherford College	2-5	8-15
SW Christian College	2-5	6-15
Ranger College	1-6	7-16

Women	Conf	Overall
McLennan CC	8-0	17-4
Weatherford College	6-2	14-8
Hill College	6-2	12-10
Temple College	5-3	12-8
Cisco Junior College	5-3	9-10
Collin County	3-5	8-14
Grayson County College	2-6	5-15
SW Christian College	1-7	6-15

MCC vs. TSTC

Davis Gonzalez
 Sports Editor

MCC faculty and staff will be facing off with their TSTC counterparts this year in a benefit basketball game with proceeds going toward A.J. Moore Academy's scholarship fund.

The game will be held in the A.J. Moore gymnasium sometime between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Feb. 28.

Area teams and companies paid \$100 per team to be matched up against worthy opponents or rivals.

Members of MCC's squad include Jeff Watson, Diane Boles, Terry Mossi, Francis Griffen, Fred Hills, Nathan Cook, and Ricky Rhodes, women's head basketball coach and All-conference '94 and '95, and All-American '95 for the University of the Incarnate Word.

The TSTC squad will be composed of Robert Rice, Wilson Bogges, Michael Lewis, Jimmy Halliburton, Bradley Davis, Wendell Daunts, Howard Childs, Lynn Parks, Vernon Allen, Veronlen Allen, and Lacy Orpin.

For more information about the game contact Dustyn Stringer at 753-6486.

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Highlanders, 'Lassies sweep series with Rangers

Highlanders crush Rangers' hopes again

Ian Quick
Staff Writer

The Highlanders record climbed to 22-3 overall and 8-1 in conference after their second league defeat of Ranger, 116-97, on the road Feb. 11.

The Rangers couldn't hang with play from freshman Jejuan Plair and Kenny Wilson, who turned in 18 and 22 points respectively.

Andre Owens maintained his usual high court standards with 18 points, and Brent Compton added 15.

On Feb. 4, when Hill College was eager for a conference win, MCC slammed the window of opportunity dead in Hill's face.

Forced to forfeit two of their wins this season amid accusations of using ineligible players, Hill desperately needed a win now, then five more just to have a shot at the playoffs.

Despite a 22-0 home court record, the Highlanders were the underdogs. MCC was a smaller team than the Rebels, who loomed an average four inches of height per player over MCC.

The Rebels came ready to play, holding the Highlanders scoreless for nearly four minutes.

After the first 10 minutes, Hill was ahead 23-13, led by guard Mike Mitchell, who displayed excellent offensive play with a game-high 30 points.

MCC rallied back before halftime, cutting into Hill's lead by seven points, making the score 35-32 at the half.

After trying a number of combinations, Coach Kevin Gill took a gamble and chose to play his smaller, speed-driven lineup versus Hill's big men.

The gamble proved profitable as the Highlanders sealed their victory with a 6-point run on Hill.

"We were already small, then we got smaller," said Gill.

Not even the strongest offensive play and dizzy height from the Rebels could stop MCC's three-headed monster: center Eric Dawson and guards Jesse Kimbrough and Owens.

Dawson dominated down low offensively and defensively, scoring 20 points, grabbing 18 rebounds and blocking 5 shots.

Owens shot perfectly on the night (8-8 from the field and 2-2 from the free throw line) landing him 18 points.

Kimbrough finished with 10 points and a Jason Kidd-like 8 assists.

Standout guard Allen Houston also contributed 16 points.

6-1 reserve guard Chris Johnson grabbed several crucial boards in the closing minutes to help MCC pull away. While Owens and Houston made key shots in the final five minutes of the game scoring the last six points to propel the Highlanders to a win. "Big players make big plays in the clutch, and we did that tonight," Gill said.

The 'Landers met Grayson at home after press time on Feb. 14.

They will remain the Highlands to meet Weatherford Feb. 16.

A key conference match-up against Temple is slated for Feb. 18.

All games will begin at 8 p.m.

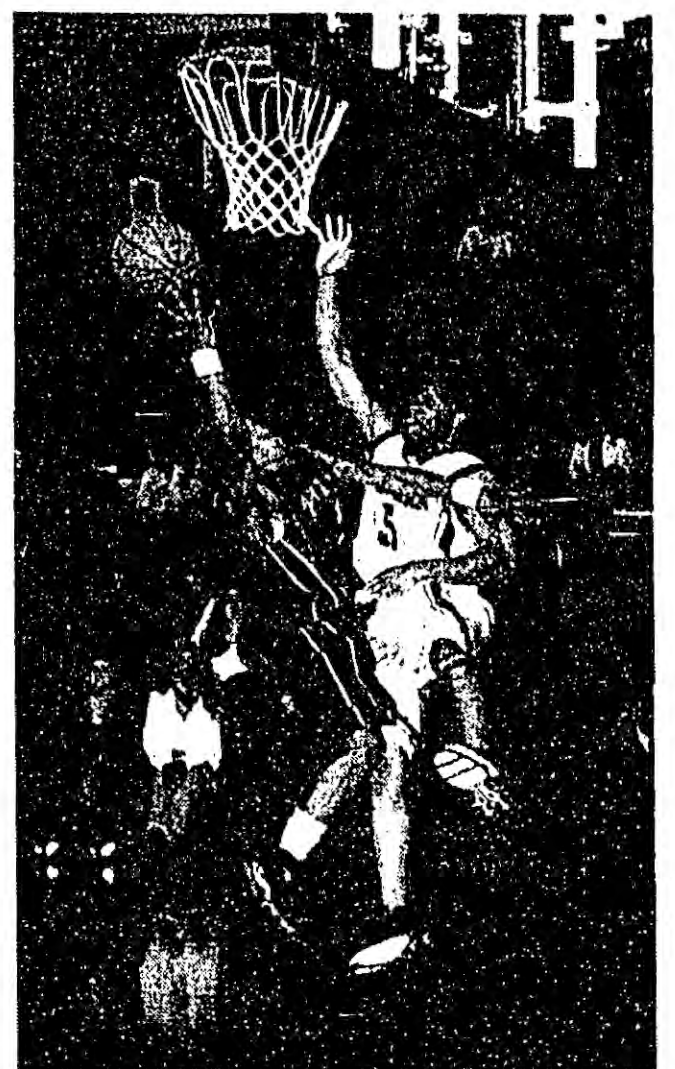
Chris Johnson (44) leaps for two during the second half of Wednesday night's game against the Hill College Rebels. The Highlanders defeated the Rebels in the final minutes of the game, winning (85-78) on Feb. 4 in the Highlands at MCC.

Digital Image by Tyler Clatt



Digital image by Tyler Clatt

Leslye Yates (11) drives to the basket while keeping her head up and searching for an open teammate in MCC's (77-66) victory over the Hill College Lady Rebels.



Digital image by Tyler Clatt

Jess Kimbrough (5) refuses the Rebel offense an easy layup. The Highlander defense held strong in the second half, winning (85-78) on Wednesday Feb. 4 at the MCC Highlands gym.

'Lassies win at Ranger; keep conference record perfect through 10 games

Davis Gonzalez
Staff Writer

The Highlassies remained road warriors on Feb. 11., beating Ranger 70-42. Latoya Wyatt led the team with 25 points, three rebounds, and four assists.

Tanesha Barefield scored 15 pts. with nine rebounds, and three assists.

The Lassies led Ranger 50-17 at halftime and never looked back.

The Highlassies (17-4, 10-0) started the second round of conference play the same way they finished the first, by remaining undefeated after knocking off Hill College's Lady Rebels 77-66 at the Highlands on Feb. 4.

The Lassies were again led by freshman sensation Latoya Wyatt's game high 26 points, with sophomore Bridgette Brackens contributing another 22 points to bring the Lassies back from a first half deficit.

Hill began the game with a strong defensive effort, forcing MCC to commit turnovers and protect the ball. The Lassies kept as much pressure on the Hill squad, never allowing more than six points to separate the two teams.

Wyatt began the scoring with a three pointer and Hill's Courtney Colmer responded with a three of her own to set the tone of game. For the next ten minutes the lead would change hands six times before the Lady Rebels called their first time out.

A Pilar Pinkus foul on Rebel Malorie Clifton started Hill's brief first-half run after Clifton sank one from the line and the Rebels ran off another four to take a five-point lead that they wouldn't relinquish for the rest of the half.

"We didn't play them hard enough the first round", said Lady Rebel head coach, "They're doing really well, we'll just man them up and see what happens".

Both teams seemed to struggle to get into a groove in the first half, with Hill walking away leading by three, 34-31.

"I walked into the locker room, I felt like we were a little tense, but they said they were focused. We didn't still do things we were capable of doing, we were making a lot of mental mistakes", said Highlassie head coach Ricky Rhodes, "It's just one of those situations they kind of felt uptight instead of relaxed in playing our type of game".

The Highlassies jogged onto the floor in the second half with more composure. The game continued to seesaw back and forth, but the outcome was beginning to become evident.

Jennifer Ruppert sunk two free throws just 2:19 in the half to tie the game at 35-35. Two and a half minutes later Brackens ties the game again at 40 all.

The Lady Rebels looked to pull away once more, racking up their biggest lead of the game 53-46 with 9:53 left before Tanesha Barefield sank a basket from behind the arc while taking a foul, resulting in a four point play.

With 9:32 remaining, MCC called a full time-out trailing 50-53.

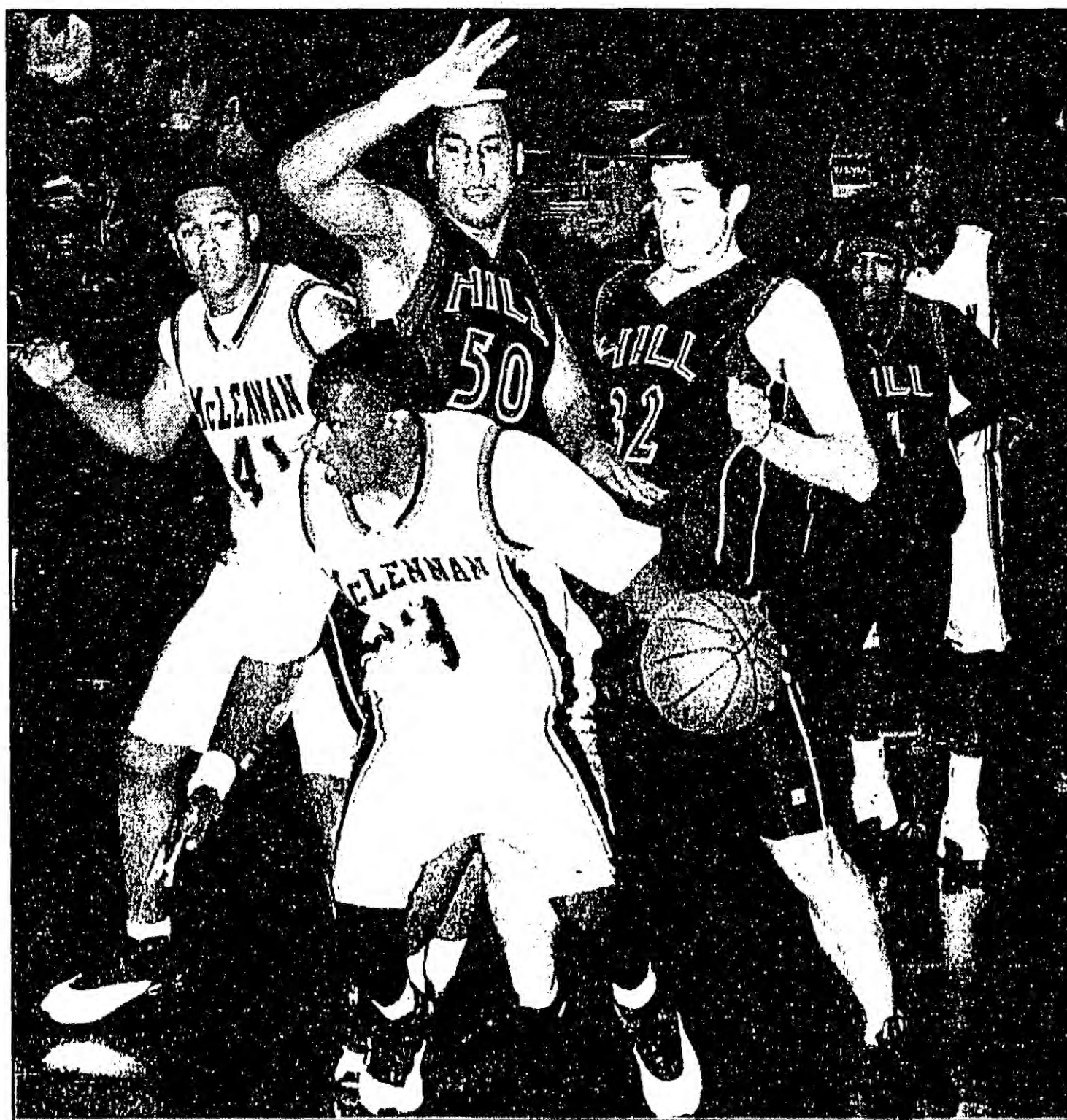
The Highlassie's then pulled away for good with a 9-2 run by Brackens and Leslye Yates. The Lady Rebels tried to regain their lead, closing to within 59-57 after Hill's Allisha Holloway scored, only to have Wyatt push ahead six more points, four on baskets and two coming off an assist to Valerie Suarez.

"I just go out and play, and do what I got to do to take care of business", Wyatt said.

For the last five minutes the Highlassies were content with maintaining a lead that averaged 10 points, largely due the second half play of Brackens, who scored 18 of her 22 points.

"Hill made it tough for us because they know they needed a win," Rhodes said, "You got to give Hill credit, they came here to play"

The Highlassies next home game will be Feb. 16



Digital image by Tyler Clatt

Andre Owens (3) rounds the corner to deliver the ball to Dedrick Nowlin (41), at the Wednesday Feb. 4 game against the Hill College Rebels. The Highlanders went on to defeat the Rebels in the final moments of the game (85-78).



Digital image by Tyler Clatt

Freshman Leslye Yates (11) looks off a defender and dishes to an open teammate in the Highlassies (77-66) victory over the Hill College Lady Rebels on Feb. 4 in Waco.

