



The Highlander

Friday, February 20, 2009

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Student-Life

Board Sets Election Date

Brittney Mortensen
Editor In Chief

MCC's Board of Trustees set a date for a bond election requesting \$73.4 million dollars to expand parking, construct three new buildings, and renovate existing facilities.

"The primary cause is not just enrollment projections, but also current need," Dr. Dennis Michaelis, president of MCC, said. Projected enrollment by MCC could exceed 12,000 by 2015.

Enrollment has grown by over 55 percent in the last five years, the MCC Bond Facts sheet states.

If approved by the voters, MCC will finance the improvements by selling bonds, interest-bearing certificates, to investors.

The bond election authorizes sale of several bonds in different denominations worth a total of \$73.4 million dollars.

Buyers will not have to pay taxes on this particular investment because the bonds will be sold in a tax-exempt market. However, McLennan County residents must pay property taxes to provide the revenue to pay back the bonds. The county residents are the people who decide whether to tax themselves.

The MCC bonds, if approved, will finance the construction of three entirely new buildings, parking additions, and current campus renovations designed to provide adequate



Digital Image By: Brittney Mortensen

Dr. Dennis Michaelis and the board of trustees discuss upcoming bond election

services for the current and projected enrollment.

One of the three buildings is a new 120 thousand square-foot science building.

The bonds would pay for the building and its contents.

"When we open up the science classes in April for classes that start at the end of August, they are full by the end of April or the beginning of May," Dr. Michaelis said.

A bigger building and more lab space will make additional classes available, he said.

The second building will house a University Center to provide a common location and facilities for more students to earn their four-year degrees from Tarleton State and the University of Texas at Arlington.

The building's departments will include University Center classes, some MCC classes and Professional Development, according to the Master Facility Plan sheet.

The Emergency Services Training Center will provide new facilities for the Law Enforcement and Fire Academies, EMT/Paramedic and Criminal Justice departments, according to the Master Facility Plan.

"The great thing about the new building would be the ability to have all three of the programs in the same place and do some cross-training," Dr. Michaelis said.

MCC currently does not have any of these training facilities on campus, he said.

In addition to the new buildings, the proposed bond includes 530 new parking spaces and renovations to existing buildings according to the master plan.

Major renovations will deal with the Student Center.

"The Student Center gives us the [ability] in the middle of campus, which is very accessible to students, to renovate," Dr. Michaelis said.

Voters decide whether to go through with the bond and pay for it by taxes, or vote against the bond and its taxes.

"The increase would be 4.7 cents per \$100 valuation for a total MCC tax rate of 17.3 cents per \$100 valuation," MCC Bond Facts page stated. Households between about \$50,000 and \$150,000 in taxable value after the increase would pay a total of between \$7.98 and \$21.12 a month to support MCC, according to the facts page.

Voting is the key to success or failure of this bond election.

Early voting on campus will be March 14-18 and March 21-25 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Student Services Center. Extended hours will be available from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on March 24.

For more information and questions about the bond election contact the president's office @ 254-299-8601.

Campus Renovations

Daniel Defoe
Staff Writer

There are two ongoing MCC campus maintenance projects, the roof replacement of the Liberal Arts building and the remodeling of the LTC's second floor staircase.

The roof replacement project began during the end of December and the beginning of January, said Dianne Feyherm, director of the Physical Plant.

"MCC has a five year plan for all maintenance. The useful life of the roof had come to an end. It just needed to be replaced," she said.

When asked the approximate completion date for the project, Feyherm said, "We need about a week at the most. We are just waiting on nice weather again," she said.

The LTC staircase was remodeled in response to the noise traveling from the second floor to the third floor library, Feyherm said.

"We are putting up a glass wall that will match the other glass walls and that should deflect a lot of that noise. Also as part of the project we will replace the ceiling tiles that will help lower the noise level," Feyherm

said.

"We are concerned about trying to control the sound level in the LTC. We have begun evaluating that and the first part of the plan is to create a glass enclosure that would act as a buffer against noise," Dr. Johnette McKown, vice-president of business services, said.

McKown also said that while a final decision has not been made MCC is considering replacing the ceiling tiles with tiles that are more sound absorbent.

"We have a five year plan, and every year we do a little bit at a time. It is too expensive to try and do it all at once," McKown said.

This summer MCC will resoil and repaint the stripes on the parking lots, Feyherm said. McKown also mentioned a possible remodeling of the restrooms in the TPE building during the summer.

Recent maintenance included replacing the cooling tower pump.

In addition, McKown said, "We will continue to try to add to our air conditioning system. This ensures that the cooling system continues to work and provides conditioning," McKown said.



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Student Life

Enrollment Hits 8,573 For Spring

Daniel Defoe
Staff Writer

Enrollment at MCC has increased nearly fifty-five percent in the last five years.

"Since the year 2000, there has been a really steady increase," said MCC President Dennis Michaelis.

"The 2005 Spring enrollment as of Jan. 19 is 8,573. The enrollment for the Spring 2005 semester is 12.6 percent higher than the Spring 2004 semester," said Herman Tucker, Director of Student Enrollment Services and Registration.

The 8,573 enrollment does not include the students enrolled at the University Center, Tucker said.

Enrollment in Internet classes has also increased, said Johnette McKown, Vice-President of Business Services.

"While there are many reasons behind MCC growth," Michaelis said, "one of the primary reasons is the University Center and the promise that students can finish their Associates degree at MCC, then move into a Bachelors level program without having to leave Waco."

"When you have rapid growth, one of the things you become concerned about is that the level of quality remains high and I think MCC has been able to do that," Michaelis said.

Michaelis said he believes that the completion of the Learning Technology Center was also a factor, providing students with access to electronic learning resources, a place to study and a positive learning environment.

With the growing student population, there is increased focus on the issue of parking availability.

"On the facilities master plan there is a plan to build new parking lots," said McKown, adding that the appropriate funds must first be secured.

One possible problem with rising enrollment is classes becoming too large to be accommodated.

"In the facilities master plan there is a plan to build new classrooms which will include tables and chairs, however the funds necessary need to be secured," McKown said.

"Our faculty will continue to bring additional Internet classes online. This spring we have almost 2500 students enrolled in 92 classes online," Jack Schneider, Vice President of Instruction.

"While these online classes help take some of the pressure off classroom requirements, they also fill up as fast as we can create them. We will continue to add faculty to meet the demands," Schneider said.

Michaelis expressed concern that the current science building, dating back to the sixties, is too small to fulfill the demand for science and health science courses.

The proposed science building would be 120,000 square feet and stocked with lab equipment, while the old science building will be renovated and converted to Health Sciences.

The Board of Trustees of McLennan Community College met on Jan. 24, calling for a bond election.

The money received from the bond would be used to pay for three new buildings, renovation of the Student Services Center and the science building and to build new parking lots and reconfigure the streets and walkways.

Three Earn NISODs

Kimberly Yezak
Staff Writer

MCC instructors Janis Colehour, Mike Campenni and Theresa Sparks received the 2005 NISOD Excellence Award, the nation's most prestigious community college honor.

The National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development recipients must undergo a process which includes student nomination and completion of a written questionnaire. MCC Professional Development Committee must then select three nominees by ballot.

This award, designed to honor the best of community college professors, celebrated Colehour, Campenni and Sparks for their commitment and performance.

Janis Colehour attended the University of Texas at Arlington where she received her B.B.A. in Accounting.

Before teaching, she worked as a C.P.A. and also for a nonprofit organization.

"If at one point in my education process someone had told me that I would be teaching someday, I would have probably said that they were crazy. I was shy about getting in front of people," Colehour said.

Six years of teaching accounting at MCC has helped her become more comfortable with public speaking, Colehour said. She also enjoys working to give students all the tools they need to succeed and rejoices for accomplishments.

Mike Campenni is in his third year teaching freshman level government courses at MCC. Campenni's desire for teaching dates back to his

undergraduate days.

Campenni graduated from Eastern New Mexico University with a Master's of Political Science and started teaching in 1978, but soon changed careers to business in order to better provide for his family.

Seventeen years later he was able to return to his career of choice.

He prepares lectures by finding ways to make the material "come to life" in each class.

Campenni is also the advisor for the Non-Traditional Student Association, which helps students who have been away from the classroom for a while to transition back into school. The association also serves on community and

campus projects.

Science enthusiast Theresa Sparks believes that she has found her niche. She acquired a B.S. in Medical Technology from the UT Health Science Center in Dallas and has been teaching for five semesters at MCC.

Sparks was a stay-at-home mom for six years prior to her teaching career.

Though she is the instructor, Sparks is not the only person teaching in her classroom.

"Every class is different and often times the students teach things as well," said Sparks. Sparks along with Colehour and Campenni will be presented the award at the NISOD convention held in Austin from May 29 until June 1.



Campenni



Sparks



Colehour

SGA Urged To Register Voters

Bront Losak
Staff Writer

A table packed with pizza and sodas eagerly offered itself to the attendees of the Student Government Association meeting at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 26, on the second floor of the Student Center.

Mary Callery, student team leader for the Phi Chi chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, opened the meeting with an enthusiastic appeal for SGA members to sign up as "volunteer deputy voter registrars" in order to increase student awareness and participation regarding an upcoming "important bond issue."

Early voting booths will be set up in the LTC beginning March 10-11, and will be available for students during Spring Break.

Other upcoming events discussed are as follows: MCC will be sending SGA members to the Texas Junior College Student Government Association (TJCSGA) Day on Feb. 17 at the capitol building in Austin. They will be among delegations from other Texas

Community Colleges meeting with Texas officials to discuss budget issues that correlate to community college education.

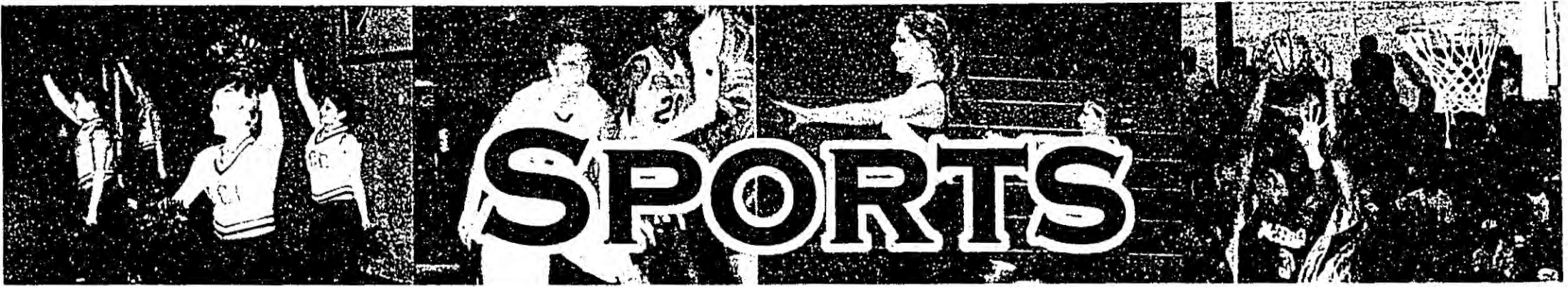
A Tsunami Relief Concert will be given by MCC Vocal Tech Students and Jazz Faculty in the Ball Performing Arts Center on Feb. 28 at 7:30 p.m.

Donations are welcome, and will go to the Red Cross and UNICEF. SGA will host a reception following the concert.

On Monday, February 14, there will be a Valentine's Crush Party, wherein the LTC will be decorated into what Vardeman jokingly referred to as a "pink, Pepto-Bismol nightmare."

Small items with the message 'I have a crush on you' will be sold for \$2.00 each, to be passed around among friends and significant others. Also, the annual "Have a heart, give blood" drive will be taking place.

MCC will host a black history program on Feb. 24 at 7 p.m. in the Student Center. The program is free, and will feature spoken word artist Komplex, a number of historical skills, and a step show.



Men's Bball Stats
Tuesday, Jan. 4 at Navarro MCC-75 Navarro-80
Saturday, Jan. 8 at Kingwood MCC-113 Kingwood-69
Wednesday, Jan. 12 *at The Highlands Hill- 51 MCC- 79 High scorers: Kenny Wilson 17pts Marvin Gentry 15 pts Willie Fannon 13 pts
Wednesday, Jan. 19 * at Ranger MCC- 111 Ranger- 73 High scorers: Jejuan Plair 23 pts Marvin Gentry 17 pts Albert Vasquez 14 pts
Saturday, Jan. 22 *at The Highlands Grayson- 55 MCC- 73
Monday, Jan. 24 *at The Highlands Weatherford- 66 MCC- 76 High scorers: Kenny Wilson 25pts, 6 rebs, 5 asts, 5 stls Albert Vasquez 11pts, 8 rebs
* Indicates conference game

'Landers Rally Late

Michael Neglia
Staff Writer

The MCC Highlanders notched a thrilling 74-70 come-from-behind victory on Feb. 2 against the Collin Cougars.

The 'Landers (18-4, 5-1) came back from a 14-point deficit with 12 minutes to win the game in the final seconds, with Albert Vazquez making clutch shots, including the game-winner.

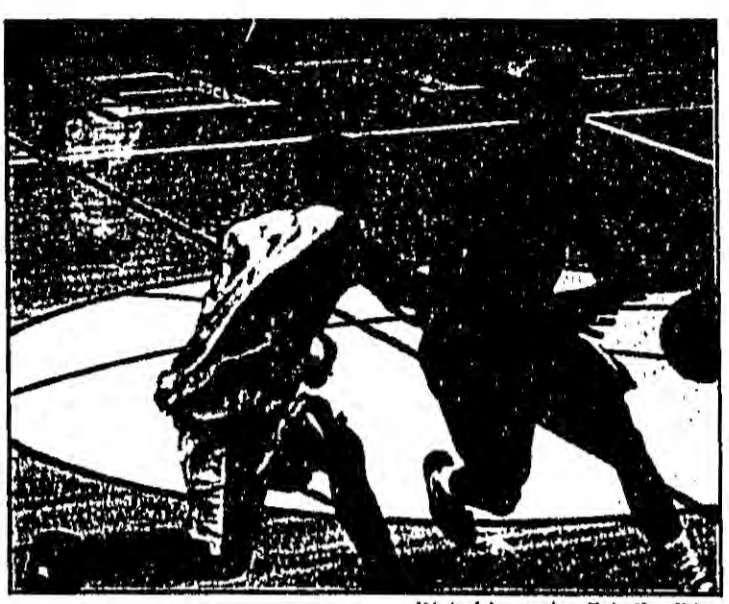
The Highlanders started the game on fire, with Kenny Wilson scoring 10 points in the game's first four minutes, shooting three for three from three-point range, opening up an eight point lead.

Trailing 18-10, the Cougars (13-10, 2-5) went on a 28-9 run, starting with four three-pointers by Collin's Stephen Pearce, to give themselves a 38-27 lead en route to a 40-32 halftime score.

In the beginning of the second half, the Cougars kept their intensity and went on a 10-2 run, extending the lead to 14.

With 12 minutes to go in the game, the Highlanders began their comeback with a 13-2 run, using only 2:12 of clock time.

After a few minutes of back-and-forth play, the 'Landers scored six unanswered points to tie the game at 70, Vazquez sank the game-winning shot with two seconds on the clock.



Digital Image by: Eric Geoffron

Collin's last chance was thwarted when Chris Ross stole the inbound pass and took it to the hoop for a layup as time expired.

The win will help the 'Landers keep pace with Temple, which currently holds a one game lead over the Highlanders.

Highlander coach Kevin Gill said the game was important because all home games are a vital element of successful conference play.

Kenny Wilson led the Highlanders with 23 points, Chris Ross scored 16 points, and Albert Vazquez had 11.

Spotlight Players



Digital Image By: Pablo Sanchez

Highlanders

Michael Neglia
Staff Writer

This month's MCC men's basketball spotlight player is Kenny Wilson.

Wilson, arguably the team's and conference's best three point shooter, is averaging 15 points, 5 rebounds, 3 assists and 2 steals each game.

He graduated from San Antonio Jay High School where his team won the state championship game in his junior year.

He has been hot lately, scoring 17 points against Kingswood College and Hill, and grabbing 13 rebounds against Kingswood.

In a recent game against Weatherford, he scored 25 points, 6 rebounds, 5 assists, and 5 steals.

Wilson, a sophomore, said he may transfer to Arkansas-Little Rock, UTSA or UT in Tyler next semester, possibly majoring in business after he's finished playing basketball.

Highladies

Michael Neglia
Staff Writer

This month's MCC women's basketball spotlight player is Valerie Suarez.

Suarez has been the team captain the past two years and is averaging 13.5 points and 7.5 rebounds per game this season.

Her best contributions to the team are her aggressiveness, unlimited energy and physical play, especially in the paint.

She attended high school at San Antonio Taft, falling in the semifinal playoffs one year and the quarterfinals another year.

She had 19 points against Temple, helping the Highladies overcome a slow start to stay undefeated in conference play.

When asked about her future, Suarez said that she has offers from Midwestern State and Turlington State, but her major is anthropology.



Digital Image By: Eric Geoffron

Valerie Suarez

Women's Bball stats
Thursday, Jan. 3 at The Highlands Paris - 59 MCC - 69
Friday, Jan. 4 at The Highlands San Jacinto - 74 MCC - 78
Wednesday, Jan. 12 *at The Highlands Hill- 44 MCC - 68 High Scorers: Margaret Wimbish 17 pts, 7 rebs
Saturday, Jan. 15 *at Circo MCC- 79 Circo - 72 High scorers: Kim Robinson 18pts, Valerie Suarez 15pts
Saturday, Jan. 22 *at The Highlands Grayson- 55 MCC - 70 High scorers: Tanesha Barefield 19, 4 stls
Monday, Jan. 24 * at The Highlands Weatherford- 65 MCC - 75 High scorers: Tanesha Barefield 25 pts, Margaret Wimbish 17 pts
* Indicates conference game



MCC Opens Baseball Season With Wins

Blake Abbe
Staff Writer

MCC baseball started the 2005 season on Jan. 28 at the San Jacinto Invitational, finishing with a 2-1 record.

The 'Landers opened the tournament against the Panola Ponies.

The 'Landers fell into a hole early trailing 4-1, but the team pulled themselves together to win 8-5. Lance Luetge was the game's winning pitcher with three strikeouts. Freshman Heath Herron led in hitting, going 4-for-5 with three doubles and two RBIs.

The 'Landers second game against the sixth ranked Panola Pirates proved tough as well. Lander Jim Jackson hit a two-run double in the sixth, propelling them to a 3-2 upset. Pitching was freshman P.J. Burns, giving up one run in four innings. He relieved starting pitcher sophomore Logan Ondrusak, who pitched five innings and allowed one run.

The two wins moved the 'Landers into the final game of the tournament against the Panthers. The Panthers committed three errors to lose 10-0.

The pitching staff contained sophomore Matt Doan, who pitched four innings and allowed one run. Doan pitched well, giving up only one run in four innings. Doan pitched well, giving up only one run in four innings.

'Lassies Stage Comeback

Blake Abbe
Staff Writer

Having heart and a never say die attitude, the MCC Highlassies prevailed over Collin County 70-63, despite almost blowing a 20 point lead in the second half.

Margaret Wimbish was taken out of the game with 14 minutes left in the second half. The bench came through scoring 22 points and at times gave the starting entire line-up rest.

By doing so, the 'Lassies are now 22nd in the nation and the only undefeated team in conference play with a record of 6-0 and 18-2 overall.

"We won the big game, and now we are on top," head coach Ricky Rhodes said.

On Jan. 26, the 'Lassies' took on co-conference leader Temple in a hard fought battle and came out on top 71-61.

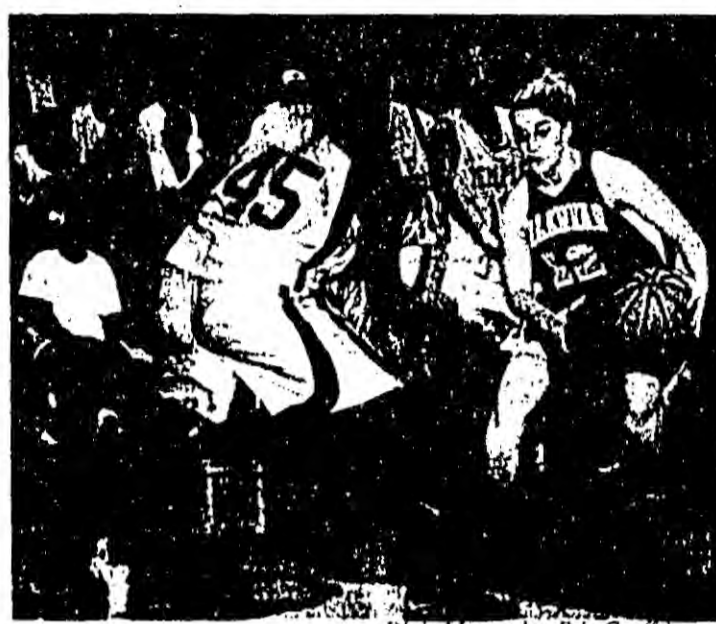
The 'Lassies looked shaky early in the first half with many turnovers on offense and allowing easy buckets for the opposition.

"In the first half we didn't come out with the spark or fire we needed to," coach Rhodes said. "They kept shooting the ball inside on us, and we needed to get pressure on the ball to not allow the inside entry."

After the halftime adjustments, the Highlassies rolled over the Lady Leopards by going on a 17-4 run. This bolt of electricity that hit the team was sophomore forward Margaret Wimbish who had 16 of her 22 points in the second half.

With this being the third game in five days, the 'Lassies also had to rely on its depth on the bench.

"We believe it's our bench who will give us quality points and minutes," he said. "We had different people step up. It wasn't big



Brandt Crouch guards the ball during the 'Lassie's 71-61 win over Temple.

points wise, but it was something like getting the loose rebound or taking a charge."

The Highlassies produced points at the forward position with sophomore Valerie Suarez who had 19 points. Sophomore guard Tamesha Barefield also scored in double digits with 10 points, but then left the game with what appeared to be a minor knee injury.

Dance Team Ranked In Nation

Blake Abbe
Staff Writer

Currently ranked second in division II, the MCC dance company is now in the national spotlight.

The National Dance Alliance gave them an impressive score of 8.48 out of 10.

Director Sandy Hinton is optimistic about her highly ranked team.

"I am glad we got second because it makes us work harder," Hinton said. "We have got to put more in this and do the best that we possibly can."

The company is led by the two sophomore captains, Sara Drolet and Mallory McQuary.

"The theme this year is 'Tina Turner,'" Drolet said. "We are going to have these dresses with fishnet tights, covered in rhinestones so they will be really flashy."

Both captains plan on dancing next year at a four year school. Drolet is undecided and McQuary plans on going to Texas State.

Along with the captains, four other sophomores will also move on. This will leave a very experienced team predominately made up of

returning dancers. "The freshmen are very strong," Hinton said. "You can't tell who is a freshman or a sophomore."

One of the up and coming freshmen is Heather Easley of China Spring.

"I feel like I have grown since high school," Easley said.

With so many of these very talented freshmen returning, Hinton has decided to increase the size of the team next year to make room for new recruits.

"I am thinking about taking as many as 25 dancers next year," Hinton said.

"The people I have seen coming here next year as freshmen are very strong. Every year we get better."

The dance company hosted a dance clinic and competition on Jan. 28 and Jan. 29.

"We invite area high school drill teams to come and learn routines at the clinic," Hinton said.

The "best dancers" at the dance clinic were: Kimmy DeWitt, China Spring; Amy Roberle, China Spring; Brianna Bidwell, China Spring; Kovenla Williams, McGregor; Cayla Fisher, Moody; Sudie McClinty, Lorena.

Roberle, Bidwell and McClinty each won this honor for the second time.



Digital Image by: Rick Lawrence

Highlanders Fall to No. 9 Temple

Michael Neglia
Staff Writer

The MCC Highlanders fell to the ninth-ranked, undefeated Temple Leopards by the score of 100-84.

The Highlanders, (17-4, 4-1) playing in their third game in five days, were able to keep pace with the Leopards (20-0, 5-0) much of the first half, until a 17-3 run ended the first half and gave the Leopards a 47-38 lead.

MCC was able to stay in the game in the beginning of the second half.

They cut the lead to six at one point, but the Leopards responded with a 15-4 run that put the game out of reach.

Coach Kevin Gill said after the game that his team might be a bit rusty from the previous week of games. He said they are going to have a men's basketball team playing in the gym with proper lighting and a full court.

Vote

MCC Bond Election • March 29, 2005

On March 29, MCC will ask voters to consider the authorization of \$73.4 million in bonds to finance campus improvements, including:

- Additional Parking on Main Campus
- New 120,000 square-foot Science Building
- New 80,000 square-foot University Center/Classroom Building
- New 40,000 square-foot Emergency Services Training Center
- Renovations to Science, Health Careers, Student Center, and Student Services Buildings

These improvements will enable MCC to provide capacity for the college's projected growth to an enrollment between 12,000 and 14,000 students within the next 10 years.

Have You Registered?
If not, pick up a voter registration card at the MCC Information Desk in the Student Services Building, the MAC Card Office in the LTC, or in the Public Information Office in the CSC. Fill it out and mail it to the McLennan County Elections Office.

Early Voting is March 14-25
For your convenience, an early voting location will be open 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., March 14-25 with extended hours from 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. on Thursday March 24 in the MCC Student Services Building.

Election Day is Tuesday, March 29
Check your voter registration card for your precinct number, then check the Waco Tribune-Herald or the MCC web site for your voting box location.

Use this form to register to VOTE!

Texas Voter Registration Application
Formally known as the Texas Ballot Act of 1992

Complete These Questions Before Proceeding

Check one New Change Replacement

Are you a United States Citizen? Yes No

Will you be 18 years of age on or before election day? Yes No

If you checked "no" in response to either of these questions, do not complete this form.

Have you ever voted in this county for a local office? Yes No

If you answered "no" to this question, be sure to see special instructions regarding identification requirements on the reverse side of the application.

• Continue below to complete application.

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name (if any)	Former Name
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Residence Address (Street Address and Apartment Number, City, State, and ZIP. If none, do not enter them. Use an APO, FPO, or DPO box if applicable.)

Mailing Address (Address, City, State and ZIP. Your ballot will be mailed to your mailing address.)

Date of Birth (month, day, year)	Gender (please check) <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	I understand that giving false information to procure a voter registration is perjury, and a crime under state and federal law. I affirm that: • am a resident of this county; • have not been finally convicted of a felony or if a felon I have completed all of my punishment including any term of incarceration, parole, supervision, period of probation, or I have been pardoned; and • have not been declared mentally incompetent by final judgment of a court of law.
TX Driver's License No. or Personal I.D. No. (Issued by the Department of Public Safety. If none, give last 4 digits of your Social Security Number)		

Check if you do not have a social security, driver's license, or personal identification number

Telephone Number, include Area Code (Optional)

City and County of Former Residence in Texas

X Signature of Applicant or Agent and Relationship to Applicant or Printed Name of Applicant if Signed by Witness and Date.

Fill in the blanks and turn this form in at the Information Desk in the Student Services Building, the MAC Card Office in the LTC or the Public Information Office in the CSC. You can mail it to:

McLennan County Elections Office
P.O. Box 2450
Waco, TX 76703



25th Street: The show goes on?

Micah Patzke
Copy Editor

Waco's 25th Street Theatre currently stands empty and tagged for demolition, yet there are still those who hope to see it restored.

"It would be wonderful if it could be saved, like the Hippodrome was," said Cheryl Williams, a member of the Sanger Heights Neighborhood Association.

"The Neighborhood Association would support a venue like that, but we don't have the funds to bring it up to code and back to life," said Williams.

When the single screen theater first opened in 1945, tickets were 40 cents for adults, 30 cents during matinee hours, and 12 cents for children.

Star Wars, Gone With The Wind, Old Yeller, and Bambi are just a few of the films shown at the theater during its 37 years.

After the introduction of multi-screen theaters, film companies refused to sell new releases to the old single screens.

"It was just the idea they wanted it in a twin, something more modern," said O.K. Kelso, who worked as a projectionist at the theater until it closed.

After closing, the 25th Street Theatre was purchased from Plitt Theaters by Richard Olsen and Richard Keiffer.

The new owners opened the reinvented 25th Street Theatre in 1986, as a progressive nightclub.



Digital Image By: Micah Patzke

The 60-year-old 25th Street Theatre, located on 25th and Grim, is currently slated for demolition.

The renovations included a 32 by 24 foot dance floor beneath a state of the art light show.

"The dance floor was as big as a house and the light show completely covered it," said Jake Vanek, a former employee of the club.

Local television station KXXV aired footage of the dance-club on *The 25th Dimension Show*.

The club was also known for its electronic dance music, which predates Techno and is usually referred to as New Wave or Industrial music.

The theater's silver screen was used by the nightclub to showcase music videos.

"Whenever we played a video we would open the curtains and it was just like being at the movies, we had the largest video screen of any club in Texas," said Vanek.

In 1992 the 25th Street Theatre closed for the second time.

"One of the reasons they closed is because the neighborhood had gotten so bad," said Vanek, adding that the neighborhood has improved by leaps and bounds.

In 2001 city inspectors green-tagged the theater, meaning it was considered "unsafe but repairable."

The inspector's report stated: "This is a historical building and should be preserved as a landmark," but also listed various code violations.

In 2003 the building was red-tagged, which is a designation given to buildings deemed "unsafe and not feasible to repair."

The city has yet to set a date for the building's demolition, and many locals remain optimistic about the theater's future.

"Obviously, this place is near and dear to many people for many reasons. The potential is overwhelming, as well as the undertaking . . . What's next?" said Kenna Davis on an internet message board dedicated to the preservation of the 25th Street Theatre.

For more info on the 25th Street Theatre visit www.cinematreasures.org

New Game Offers Suspense, Carnage

John Pippin
Entertainment Editor



RE 4 stays true to its roots despite theme departures

Taking a successful gaming formula and redesigning it down to its core is always a real gamble, especially when that formula belongs to Capcom's long-running *Resident Evil* (RE) franchise. However, ditching all of RE's washed-up conventions and injecting a heavy dose of some good old-fashioned action was just what the series' latest incarnation, *Resident Evil 4* (RE 4), needed to make that gamble pay off.

The game opens with special agent Leon S. Kennedy looking for the President's kidnapped daughter, Ashley, somewhere in the European countryside (probably Spain). Not long afterwards, he is attacked by a crazed villager and you get to experience first-hand the greatest addition to the series ever... the self-explanatory over-the-shoulder targeting system, which makes for a serious improvement in the way the game controls.

Soon after, the game shifts in a rather original direction (for the genre, that is), and you

learn that Ashley has been kidnapped by a religious cult known as Los Illuminados for a forbidden ritual that will make her a mindless, indiscriminate killing machine, all in an attempt to overthrow the American government... or something like that.

Before anyone gets any ideas, know that there are NO ZOMBIES in RE 4. Sure, there's an abundance of human-like figures shuffling towards you in mad hordes making sounds like "Ugh" and "Agh," but they're not zombies... at least that's what the series' creator, Shinji

Mikami, says, and I'm inclined to believe him because when they can't see you they stand around speaking Spanish and feeding their chickens (don't ask). Also, there is virtually no mention of the Umbrella corporation this time around, another first in the series.

Don't let the lack of brain-enterers and stereotypical evil corporations turn you off though. RE 4 is by far the most exciting game to come along in years.

The "anti-survival/horror" route they took actually makes the franchise scary again and the added dose of action (there's about a 90% increase in fast-paced mayhem) keeps things fresh for the game's entirety. In other words, there's never a dull moment. Plus, with the addition of the "Mercenaries" and "Assignment Ada" side games, you can expect anywhere from 30-40 hours of gaming, making RE 4 well-worth the fifty bucks you'll have to shell out for it.

In closing, parents should be aware that RE 4 is, by absolutely no means whatsoever, a game to be played by (or even around) kids.

The intense violence and gore (with a rather small dose of strong language on the side) made for a strong "M" rating from the ESRB.

So no one under 17, okay?

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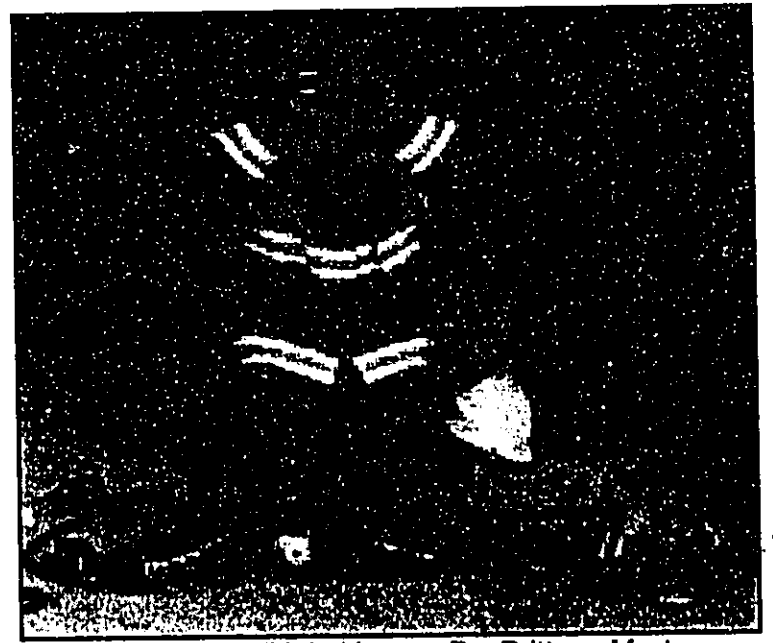
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Digital Image By: Brittney Mortensen

Left: Trainees in the fire academy suit up during their drill on Jan. 19



Digital Image By: Brittney Mortensen

Above: A fire academy student tries to remove a malfunctioning face mask during a drill on Jan. 19.

MCC Student Life



Digital Image By: Micah Patzke

Above: Christina Ordener, Jeff Nolen, Aaron Bender, Ashley Lechler and Elizabeth Ordener take a break in the LTC.

Digital Image By: Brant Losak

Left: Professional Magician "Mike Da' Rovin' Guy" presents an MCC student with balloon art at Welcome Back Party.

Digital Image By: Brittney Mortensen



Right: Fire Academy trainees prepare for a drill on Jan.19.



Digital Image By: Micah Patzko

Left: Faith Ives and Feyls Sadlg review their notes in the LTC rotunda.