



Highland Herald

Feb. 16, 1999

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Board enacts new 48 hour curriculum

By JACQUELINE HARVEY

Campus News Editor

Page 48 of the current MCC catalog shows that a student must take 38 hours of designated classes in order to graduate. Recently, on Jan. 27 this changed.

At the board of trustees meeting, committee chairman Buddy Powell, presented a new curriculum to the board. The curriculum requires an

additional twelve hours of classes for a student to receive an undergraduate degree. This new curriculum has been approved and will appear in the new MCC catalogue.

Powell, who serves as the math, science, health and physical education director, explained the changes made to accommodate the 75th Texas Legislature mandate that Texas colleges and universities must develop a core curriculum of classes in liberal arts, humanities, and sciences, as well as political, social and

cultural history that all students must complete before receiving an undergraduate degree.

The working guidelines include that the first 48 hours completed in the core curriculum will be designated as such on the student's MCC transcript and the core curriculum is to be evaluated every two years.

The core curriculum committee is comprised of music instructor Karen Albret, physical education instructor James Burroughs, history instructor Vince Clark, Span-

ish instructor Dan Paniagua, English instructor Arvis Scott, technical education instructor Anne Borsellino, Cynthia Morris, liaison to vice-president of instruction and Lori Watts, liaison to faculty council.

Among the changes is the addition of 12 more hours of the original core curriculum. Of this curriculum a student could choose two subjects and complete six hours of each. Of these two subjects a student can only complete up to 10 hours in

communication, or six hours of the other subjects.

With this new curriculum come more choices. For example, according to the old curriculum at least three hours of speech communication is required. The new curriculum allows the student the choice between taking that speech course or a class in Spanish or French.

Any student concerned about how the new curriculum will affect them, is encouraged to see an academic advisor or an admissions specialist.

Black history month honored

By DIKITA NOBLES

Staff Reporter

In observing Black History Month, the Office of Student Activities will offer many events throughout February.

The events began on Feb. 9 with a film, "Color Adjustments." The film dealt with race relations throughout the television entertainment world.

This morning Athletic Director Wendell Hudson will be speaking about his experiences with integration at 11 a.m. in HPE 101.

Feb. 18 at 11:30 a.m. the MCC Gospel Choir will perform in the Student Center.

Student Activities Specialist Amberdawn Moore is excited about these events. Moore said "a schedule of other Black History Month events will be made available as soon as possible."

Many students are excited about Black History Month and think it is positive. A female student, 43, from a small town in Texas, feels the celebration of black history brings about childhood memories. Being called, "Nigger, Colored, Negro, Afro-American, and Black," she said she was also forced to walk through back doors of public facilities and drink out of segregated fountains. Throughout these events she has continued to persevere and pray. Let us all keep Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream alive.

(For additional information see "News Briefs" page 2)



Dance company 'moves & shakes' towards National Championships

By AMY JO WILSON

STAFF REPORTER

The dance company will be attending the National Collegiate Association Championships at Daytona Beach, Fla. in April.

They will leave as Division II 4th place winners of 1998 with high hopes of returning as first place champs. During camp this past summer the officers qualified for Nationals and, in November, they submitted a video for free room at

Nationals and placed third out of 23 teams.

The dance team will be performing to a Janet Jackson theme mix full of pom, funk, and jazz. These 12 ladies will compete with two-year colleges, as well as four-year colleges. They will leave on March 31, and will be gone till April 5.

"They are the most talented girls I have ever had. They work as one unit together and are extremely positive individuals, and we are going to come out on top," said director Sandy Hinton. The team have had

hardships such as losing their captain and not having their routine fully together, but through these times they have become stronger in character and have learned to believe in themselves said Hinton.

Tryouts for the next school year are on April 23 and 24. If you enjoy jazz, funk, and high energy pom, the dance team could have a place in their family for you. Such qualifications are poise, posture, projection, rhythm, flexibility, enthusiasm, and a fit body. Splits, kicks, toe touches, jete's, second position jete's,

pirouette turns, switch leaps and axol turns are also requirements.

Scholarships are available. These hard-working ladies practice every day from 12:45-2:05 p.m. (See page 3 for rest of story)

"They are the most talented girls I have ever had."



Photo by Brian Shelton

Exciting times in double overtime

MARCUS GRADNEY CELEBRATES after the Highlanders upset the ninth-ranked Weatherford Coyotes 111-106 in double overtime. (For complete coverage of men's basketball, see page 5.)

Girl's softball in planning stages

By JAMIE JONES

Sr. Assoc. Ed.

Girls softball will be integrated into the athletic program in the fall of 1999.

The softball field is going to be built next to the baseball field. A complex will be constructed in relation to both fields.

"We should have the premiere junior college complex in the state," said Carmack Berryman, tennis and softball coach.

The field has been planned to be

ready for play in August; however, the cosmetics may not be finished.

Interviews for an assistant coach are being held and a decision should be made in the next two weeks. When an assistant coach is chosen, that person will accelerate the recruiting process.

Tryout dates for students currently in attendance will be announced in the future.

Area high schools will be scouted for softball players as well.

"At this point my main emphasis is finishing out the season with the tennis team," Berryman said.

Cyber college offer various 'degrees' of education

By ELIZABETH E. MEYER

Co-Editor-in-Chief

Imagine a school day beginning by simply crawling out of bed and logging on to the Internet. Better yet, imagine being able to pursue a master's degree or even a Ph.D. while holding down a full-time job and juggling daily life, and, being able to attend the classes and do the homework at your own pace.

Today's technology allows these ideas, which would have once

seemed phenomenal, to now be an educational option for students of the 90s. One can now earn a bachelor's degree, master's degree, or even Ph.D. at his/her own convenience and in his/her own home, via personal computer.

Dozens of colleges across the United States offer classes over the Internet. MCC now offers 20 Internet conducted courses. This semester 422 students are enrolled in this type of course through MCC.

Finding a college that offers a distance learning program online is the first step in getting a cyber de-

gree. If the school is accredited, its diploma has as much power as one earned at a traditional institution.

Use online search engines like Yahoo, or Lycos and keywords such as Cyber College, Cyber School, virtual university, online learning, or distance learning to find more information.

Though prices vary at different learning institutions, the cost of a cyber degree is about the same as at traditional school.

The following are just a few examples:

• Bellvue offers a bachelor's degree from around \$9,070 if a student transfers all of his/her general education credits to their school.

• The Fielding Institute, a cyber school in California, offers several online Ph.D. programs that run \$11,550-12,750 per year.

Additional costs include registration fees, software and hardware requirements with some courses, book fees and other investments like textbooks that can often be purchased online.

Financial aid is offered from most colleges for cyber students. Other options include the Stafford loan,

state loans, grants or scholarships. The Free Application For Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form is available online and at the financial aid office on campus.

The cyber degree provides a flexibility that has not been an option in the past. Cyber college involves e-mail, bulletin boards or forums, chatting and downloading.

The assignments are posted on a bulletin board, the student reads the message from the professor and the input other students have posted regarding the material. Online chat often takes place between class

members. Homework is sent to professors through e-mail or posted in the forum or on the bulletin board.

While students are able to work at their own pace, procrastinators beware. Online education takes diligence and self-discipline. If logging on is put off a student may find himself drowning in a sea of e-mail and class assignments. Some courses require video conferencing, teleconferencing and some class attendance for exams.

Cyber college is suitable for a large segment of the population. Online education makes it possible

for students worldwide to study at prestigious U.S. schools without leaving their homes. In an age where many jobs require continuing education, cyber college makes it possible for people who cannot afford to interrupt their career by attending school.

While online learning at MCC is still in the "experimental stages for the faculty" according to Randall Schormann, director of extended educational services, efforts to maintain and further pursue the college's spot in the world of cyber education are well underway.

Letter from the
Philippines
see page 3

Post-Valentines
Day story
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Highlanders rank
second
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Beth Ullman
story
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Students ready to travel abroad

Tartan Scholars planning trip to Czech Republic

By JARROD KEENINGHAM
Staff Reporter

Linda Hatchel, English instructor, and a group of Tartan Scholars plan to visit Brno, Czech Republic, this spring break as a part of the International Exchange Program with Masaryk University.

The International Exchange Program is a cooperative venture with Masaryk University, in Brno, Czech Republic.

The International Exchange Program involves the exchange of professors and students from Masaryk

University and the college. The program initially began as a cooperative venture with the College of Economics and Administration at Masaryk University.

Later, the School of Pedagogy (Humanities) at Masaryk University became involved in the exchange program with the help of Michael White, history instructor, and Juan Mercado, psychology instructor. Both these instructors have visited and taught as exchange instructors at Masaryk University.

These instructors also negotiated for the School of Pedagogy into the exchange program.

"We felt the program was useful

since we have a large Czech community in West and we could accommodate the professors and students here at MCC as well as give them the opportunity to learn of our culture, as well as help us learn of theirs," White said.

Since the creation of the program, the college has received several exchange students and faculty from Masaryk University on an alternating semester basis. In addition, several MCC faculty and two students have visited Masaryk University for a stay ranging from 1-2 weeks to a semester.

The only major dilemma the program faces is of costs. Although

Masaryk University supplies room and board for college instructors, it is not able to pay salaries of visiting instructor. The college has to pick up the bill which limits the time spent in the Czech Republic to a few weeks.

In addition, the college must pay the salary for the visiting Czech professors and tuition and fees for visiting Masaryk University students, as well as room and board for both.

More details on the Czech Republic trip will be available in the next issue.

Registration speeding into fast lane

New techniques help make registration quicker, more accurate

CHRISTOPHER FLUITT
Staff Reporter

Many students experienced faster moving lines and a larger number of advisers at registration this year. The students who lined up to add or drop a class were usually served in under 10 minutes.

The registration "task force" implemented a few changes to help bring about these results. They created another station designed to help advise students in their class choices. This addition offered stu-

dents with faster service, shorter lines, and someone to answer their questions.

"Registration for me was 10 times easier this semester compared to my last. I was able to have some classes changed, dropped, and added in just one day," says 2nd semester freshman Jason Dalrymple.

One suggestion counselors give to anyone that had a difficult time this year at registration is to register early. By registering early students miss most of the large crowds and have first pick of all classes. The biggest problem most late comers had were closed classes. When a class is filled up to capacity it is

closed, allowing no one to join. By registering early students wouldn't have this problem.

Registration, which is usually a time-consuming ordeal, was faster and more accurate than in the past. Although it may never be flawless, the counselors and advisers are set on making it more convenient. They are perfecting telephone registration to make it more reliable and effective for the upcoming summer and fall semesters. The number for telephone registration is 299-8734 and starts April 5th. Express Registration starts April 12th.

The counselors want to hear any suggestions, complaints, and prob-

lems a student may have via e-mail. "Our main goal is to have registration work for everyone," says Lynn Abernathy, Dean of Student Services. Abernathy encourages anyone to e-mail her any suggestions or problems they are having. Her e-mail address is lla@mcc.cc.tx.us.

"Our main goal is to have registration work for everyone,"

Spring enrollment increases

By JENNIFER WOKATY
Co-Editor in Chief

During the holidays, the last thing any student wants to think about is classes. However in the aftermath of the seasons, many students received a unexpected call, reminding them of just that.

According to Herman Tucker, the director of student enrollment services, the current enrollment for the 1999 spring semester is 5,908 students, which is 7.3 percent higher than the 1998 spring semester.

Prior to regular registration, faculty and staff members collaborated in their efforts to reach out to students.

"The strategy came about as a

result of discussions at the January 5, 1999 President's Council meeting and the Student Services Director's meeting," said Tucker.

"A large portion of our Spring enrollment consists of continuing and returning students. We decided to contact students who were enrolled during the 1998 Fall semester but who had not registered for the 1998 Spring semester and encourage them to register. We wanted to offer our services to assist these students with registration for the 1999 Spring semester," said Tucker.

"We are not sure at this time of the exact impact of the calling. But, overall, most students expressed positive comments about receiving the telephone calls and appreciated someone from MCC following on their enrollment status."

The number of enrollment is critical this year, for the college is required to submit the count to the Texas Higher Education Board once a biennium. The total enrollment will determine future funding for the institution.

According to the General Appropriations Bill for the 1999-2001 legislative biennium, the college will see a .05 percent decrease in appropriations after a 2.34 percent decrease in contact hours since the last base year.

Although the bill proposes nearly a 3 percent increase in this biennium, the funding for some colleges will decrease due to fewer contact hours during the base period.

"We wanted to offer our services to assist these students with registration for the 1999 Spring semester"

CAMPUS CALENDAR

COMPILED BY THE PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

Wednesday, Feb. 17 — Blood Drive. 9 a.m.-3 p.m., MCC Student Center.
— Highlanders Basketball vs. Ranger. 8 p.m., Highlands Gym.

Friday, Feb. 19 — MCC Closed for Staff Development. No classes will be held and offices will be closed to the public as faculty attends TCCTA meeting and staff attends professional development seminars.

Saturday, Feb. 20 — Highlanders Basketball vs. SWCC. Highlands Gym. Women play at 6 p.m., with men's game following at 8 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 22 — Board of Trustees Meeting at 7 p.m. in the Board Room, Administration/Classroom Building.

— MCC Baseball vs. Blinn College at 2 p.m., MCC Baseball Field.

— Choral Concert at 7:30 p.m., Ball Performing Arts Center.

Saturday, Feb. 27 — Ella Jenkins. 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Community Services Center Open Area. This nationally known music educator, composer and recording artist presents a workshop for members of the Waco Association for the Education of Young Children. Exhibits of jewelry, food, toys, children's furniture and books will be part of the event. The public is invited, and CEUs will be awarded. Cost is \$25 before Feb. 25 and \$35 at the door. Call the MCC Child Development Center at 299-8720.

— The Writing Ropes from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Authors Robert Darden and Curtis Beard teach aspiring writers how to research, write and see their projects through the publication process. Call Continuing Education at 299-8547.

— MCC Baseball vs. Northeast Texas College at 1 p.m., MCC Baseball Field.

Have a heart

Red Cross blood drive tomorrow in Student Center

By JAMIE JONES
Sr. Assoc. Ed.

The American Red Cross will be holding a blood drive tomorrow from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. The event will take place on the second floor of the Student Center.

If a student goes through the donation process, he will receive a voucher for a Waco Wizard's game. The student will also receive a two for one coupon redeemable at Poppa Rollo's Pizza and an American Red

Cross T-shirt. Tracie Skarovsky, customer service representative at the American Red Cross, said that the organization has been on appeal. It is not currently on appeal but the organization has been working on a one day supply when it normally works on a three day supply.

All blood types are needed but the most needed is O+ and O-. The O blood types are universal but depending upon the trauma one faces, that persons own blood type may be more beneficial.

NEWS BRIEFS

File for graduation by Thursday

The graduation deadline for the spring semester is Thursday, Feb. 18. All students who are planning on graduating this spring need to come by the office of admissions or records to complete a graduation application. There is no fee to apply for graduation.

Celebrate Black History Month

Amberdawn Moore of student activities reminds the campus community of three Black History Month activities.

• Today, Feb. 16 — Wendell Hudson will speak to students about his experiences with integration in the Health and Physical Education building, room 101, at 11:10 a.m.

• Thursday, Feb. 18 — The MCC Gospel Choir will perform in the Student Center at 11:30 a.m.

• Feb. 23 SC — Percussion students will give a performance of African rhythms and drumming in the Student Center at 11:30 a.m. (See related story)

Professor from Germany visiting campus

Visiting German Professor Dr. and Mrs. Ewald Weitzdoerfer are on campus and will be speaking at the Cajolery luncheon for faculty and staff members at noon today. Weitzdoerfer is head of the language department at Fachhochschule-Kempten, Bavaria, Germany. He teaches Spanish, English and French. MCC President Dennis Michaelis met Weitzdoerfer while Michaelis was establishing an exchange program with Fachhochschule-Kempten this past summer. This is the first venture of the college's international exchange with Germany.

No classes on Friday

No classes will be held Friday. On that day the Texas Community College Teachers Association will present its 52nd annual convention at the Houston Galleria, and the college is enabling its teachers to attend.

Navigate the Library

Linda Wells will be presenting this week's PASS workshop on "Navigating the Library" It will be held on Wednesday at 10:20 am and Thursday at 4:00 p.m. in HPE Room 200. Wells will present helpful information about various kinds of resources available to students in the library. Students who attend will receive attendance verification slips for faculty who wish to offer extra credit.

Transfer class substitutions change

John Nobis of the career development department has recently surveyed several public universities on history requirements at those schools. The following schools, he reports, say they will accept Texas History, HIST 2301, as a substitute for one semester of U.S. History, either half — UT Austin, UT Tyler, UT Arlington, UT Medical Branch at Galveston, Lamar University, the University of North Texas, Stephen F. Austin University, and Texas A&M University at College Station. Also, UT Austin will use African-American History, HIST 2381, as a substitute for one semester of U.S. History.

Lost and found in Student Center

Lost and Found is now located in Career Development Services on the ground floor of the Student Center. If you or someone you know has lost anything on campus please check at that site. We have many valuable items from keys and glasses to textbooks and computer disks. Come by or call 299-8614.

Seminars now enrolling

Faculty members should note the National Endowment for the Humanities 23 professional development seminars and institutes for college teachers this summer. Applicants will have until March 1 to apply to seminar directors. For information: NEH Summer seminars, 202/606-8463 or e-mail address: research@neh.fed.us. For complete lists of seminars/institutes and directors for each, see website at www.neh.gov/html/awards/seminar1.html. Contact Nancy Neill if you plan to apply.

Tax forms located in Library

Reminder to everyone that the library has copies of many of the most "popular" tax forms. The Library also has a notebook containing masters for reproducing all the IRS forms and instructions. This notebook is kept at the circulation desk — ask for it there. All of the IRS forms are also available on the Internet. Access the IRS web site at <http://www.irs.ustreas.gov>. A screen with a large mail box will appear. Click on the picture of the mail box; this will take you to "The Digital Daily." At the bottom of the page click on the words "Forms & Pubs." You'll need to have Adobe Acrobat installed on your computer. If it's not, go to <http://www.adobe.com/prodindex/acrobat/readstep.html> to download it.

SGA hosts Waco Wizard MCC night

The Student Government Association invites students, faculty and staff to join them Friday at 7 p.m. to watch the Waco Wizards play Arkansas on MCC Night. Tickets cost \$5 (normally, tickets sell for \$7, \$9 and \$11.) Tickets can be purchased at the continuing education registration counter in the Student Services Building. (A portion of the proceeds will benefit the MCC Student Government Association)

Students make financial reconciliation

After a successful campaign of contacting continuing students about registration in January, the college had another high mark in retention efforts early this month when 199 students reconciled their financial obligation and were not dropped from classes. In thanking students, faculty and staff, Vice President Jay Box singled out the financial aid office and Belinda Hudson in the business office for all of their attention to this matter. "In all, only 40 students had to be deleted due to non-payment," he said. "This is one of the lowest numbers ever."

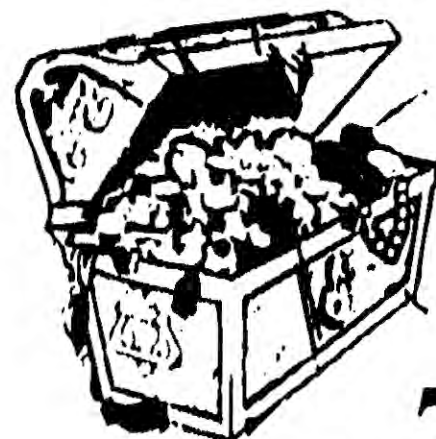
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EDITORIALS

Recognizing student effort

Every weekday morning around sunrise, immense numbers of people wake up to get ready for their morning classes.

at work and wonder whether or not they will pass the next day's test. Besides working, some students are faced with the job of parenting.

A closer look at Tibet

It's the off-season for the Tibetan Freedom Concert. With no mainstream mass-commercialized event covered in the press, the cause for a "Free Tibet" seems more like a distant yelp than a battle cry.

protestors as if it were candy, he is unlikely to turn his country into a benevolent suburb of America anytime soon.



STUDENT votes in SGA elections with Niel Smith present.

Results of SGA elections are in

The results of the Student Government Association elections, which were held on Feb. 3-4, are as follows:

DANCE CO.

(continued from page 1)

The Dance Co. is a well respected organization of young ladies that keeps a busy schedule of fun and enjoyable performances both on and off campus said Hinton.

The Highland Herald Staff

- Elizabeth Meyer Co-Editor in Chief
Jennifer Wokaty Co-Editor in Chief
Jamie Jones Senior Associate Editor
Julian L. Ramon Co-Opinion Editor

What do you think about student surveys?

Surveys are good because they give people ideas on what needs change or improvement. I like them because they get student feedback. I think they're helpful, because they enlighten you to other student opinions.

Letters to the editor

Mabuhay, from the Philippines

Mabuhay! from all of us here in the Philippines. CEGP stands for "College Editors Guild of the Philippines."

intimidation and harassment, interference by technical "advisers", withholding or non-collection of funds to outright closure.

campaigns like on tuition and other school fees and US interference in Philippine affairs. We also hold conventions and congresses.

What parking problem?

Dear Editor: This is intended as a response to the whining letter published in the most recent edition of the campus newspaper about parking problems on campus.

downright dangerous. Drivers and pedestrians cannot see over and around a vehicle parked in a lane of traffic.

exercise on my way to class. This helps settle my mind and body while allowing me the opportunity to review my reading and prior class notes.

Advertise in the Highland Herald, it pays.

The Highland Herald is a publication of journalism classes at McLennan Community College which is published every other week September through May, with the exception of holidays and spring breaks.

How to get your letter published

The Highland Herald McLennan Community College 1400 College Drive Waco, Texas 76708

Your letters are an important part of this page. Preference is given to letters that are brief and direct, 250 words or less. We verify all letters, so please include your name, address and daytime phone number.



McLennan Community College Waco, Texas



FIRE doesn't keep paper off the newsstands

By Jennifer Matelski
Staff Reporter

It is December 13, 1998 and as I doze off to sleep I hear the distant wail of fire trucks. It is not my night to monitor the scanner so I ignore the intrusive sound and drift off into sleep. I sleep fitfully with intermittent dreams of my upcoming final exams at MCC mixed in with big red fire trucks that are making a lot of commotion.

I really hate Monday mornings; it is terribly difficult to get out of bed and I stall for time as long as possible. I am a reporter for the *Marlin Democrat*, a weekly newspaper located in Marlin, Monday mornings are known for deadlines and a lot of pressure from our Publisher to get this weeks edition out as scheduled. Little did I know that the wailing from the fire trucks that I had heard the night before was about to turn my world upside down.

As I pull into the parking lot of the *Democrat* I quickly realize that something isn't quite right. The parking lot is empty with the exception of yellow police tape that encircles the entire *Democrat* building and warns "do not cross, crime scene." As I sit in my car and wonder what to do I notice the front glass door has been shattered and there are black smoke marks that escaped from the apparent burning inside to char the appearance of our newspaper office.

It is at that exact moment that my pager interrupts my thoughts with its constant beeping. I recognize the phone number entered into my pager as that of George, the *Democrat's* publisher. Finally, I think to myself, maybe now I can get some answers to all this.

"This is a mandatory meeting," George says when I immediately

return his page. George gives me instructions to meet him and two other employees at a local restaurant.

As Kelly, Olivia and I are waiting for George, we gather around the table over doughnuts and coffee and speculate as to why our co-worker, and bookkeeper of the *Democrat*, Tracy, was not present. "She has four kids," Olivia says, "one of them is probably feeling bad." Probably so, I think to myself, but it was still kind of odd that she would not be present in a situation like this.

GEORGE FINALLY arrives with hat in hand and we all notice how tired he looks. "What's going on, George," we all ask him at once. George takes a sip of his coffee and explains that he was summoned about 11:15 a.m. last night by the Falls County sheriff's office dispatcher in response to a report of smoke coming from the *Democrat* building. He said that when he arrived there about 11:40, firefighters had the fire under control and were clearing smoke from the building with exhaust fans at several open doors.

"The firefighters indicated that the blaze might have started in the bookkeeper's area of the building," George said. Olivia and I exchanged glances at that piece of information, maybe there is more to it than he is telling us, I think to myself.

George goes on to explain that the ceiling and walls in the corner where the fire started were destroyed by the fire. Heat, smoke, and water damaged almost the entire interior of our 20-year-old building that was built when the *Democrat* was a daily paper in the late 1970s and housed its own press.

All of the newspaper's computers were damaged, some completely

and others with just melted monitors. Most of the advertising and news material for this weeks, and the next few weeks editions were destroyed in the flames.

"We were able to salvage some of the news files and a couple of advertising files, but almost all were lost to smoke and water damage," explains George.

"What are we going to do?" I ask the question that everyone is thinking. All eyes turn to George for the answer.

"The *Democrat* will continue to publish without interruption."

He goes on to explain that people may have to contact us about ads or stories they had submitted for the next few weeks, but that this was something we would get through. I realize at this instance how glad I am that I work mostly from my house, usually e-mailing him my stories for publication.

"I am going to need everything you have saved," he says to me as if reading my mind.

"We are going to take up temporary residence in the Black Office Supply building at 247 Live Oak until we can find suitable permanent facilities," George further explains. "I will be working in Taylor (our headquarters) most of today and tomorrow in order to get this weeks edition out, we are like the postman, the newspaper must always go on."

We arrive at our new temporary location amid a flurry of television reporters who are asking for interviews or comments on last night's blaze.

"I understand there may be some foul play," one reporter suggests TO ME.

George quickly fends off requests for interviews "at this time" and ushers us into our new facilities.

IT SEEMS SO HOPELESS, I thought to myself as I glanced at the cobwebs, dead crickets, and tons of office supplies and stationary, there is no room for us here. This was an almost abandoned office supply shop that was being prepared for opening day when the owner passed away, and I was not sure the building had been opened up since then, it sure didn't look like it had.

We worked harder than we had ever worked before, we salvaged what we could from the remnants of our burnt building and did our best to diplomatically answer all the question's from other newspaper and television reporters.

It was certainly a challenge; we had no telephone, no computers, no fax machine, no desks and only a minimal amount of information saved to hard disk. We did not even have a stapler or a broom. We had to start over, from scratch. Thankfully the people in Marlin were supportive in our time of need with offers of office space and supplies. Without our office in Taylor, this would be a lost cause, we all agreed.

The next morning I was awakened by the ringing of the telephone and informed by a co-worker that "Texas Fire Marshall Harry Bowers had charged the *Democrat* bookkeeper, Tracy Bone, 30, with arson in the Sunday night blaze," that had virtually destroyed 20 years of newspaper history.

The *Democrat* did go on, the newspaper was produced, edited, and copied in record time. Marlin readers were able to pick up their copy of this week's newspaper on Tuesday afternoon, only two days after our building had burned, right on schedule, just as they always had. Front page headlines read "*Democrat* blaze intentionally set." It is a sad day for the *Marlin Democrat*.

Top students recognized

Public Information Office
NEWS RELEASE

HONORS LIST

Academic excellence has been recognized by the college as it announces the Honors or Distinguished Honors List for the fall semester.

Students who achieve a 3.8 to 4.0 grade point average for the semester are named to the Distinguished Honors List. The Honors List is for students who achieve a 3.5 to 3.79 grade point average for the semester.

Students must have completed at least 12 semester hours during the semester to be eligible for either list.

DISTINGUISHED HONORS

Those on the Distinguished Honors List include Phillip R. Vierke, Jennifer K. Boling, Michael A. Boyett, Lisa A. Burleson, Dava K. Butler, Erreka T. Campbell, Uwe M. Carl, Lisa D. Cozort, Ethan L. Dooley, Sarah P. Ervin, Kimberly R. Hancock, Nisha A. Hathi, Dana R. Hatley, Samuel E. Hooten, Erin M. Plemmons, Kelley R. Raley and Krystal R. Sparks.

Also Andrea G. Baker, Ryan C. Barry, Emily-Anne Baumgardner, Lisa K. Drago, Misty D. Garrett, Amanda A. Holy, Jason D. Howell, Thomas L. Macready, Pavel A. Mizilun, Mary K. Moore, Andrea R. Nourse, Jonathan J. Slaughter, Misty R. Trujillo, Jason G. Dalrymple, Tranquilla A. Duffey, Jeffrey B. Embrey, and Elisha C. Exley.

Also Edward R. Kaemmerling, Anatoliy Pavlenko, Marie D. Peters and Tien N. Tran, Chris C. Broome, Waiting Rosanna Chiu, Benjamin R. Cole, Chris C. Feist, Armando Galindo, Darcy C. Gray, Lou A. Jacobs, Natalie R. Jones, Traci Lyn Jones, Michele C. Laramore, Heather S. Leeson, Matthew A. McBride, and Rebecca L. McGuire.

Also Elizabeth E. Minter, Mandolin M. Shannon, Calvin E. Slonaker, Laura M. Slonaker, Gayla D. Smith, Leslie A. Townsend, Stanislaw L. Voskoboinikov, Denise A. Amagan, Sarah Elaine Collins, Sally J. Cunningham, Ronald Stephen Damsby, Fawn K. Faletogo, Tammy L. Gibson, Andrew J. Gosnell, and Christian Heger.

Also Steve L. Heim, Timothy G. King, Angela L. Leadbetter, Julianne M. Linnard, Noah P. Neal, Marli L. Persson, Lance P. Reamy, Rebecca L. Riens, Lori N. Shafer, Caroline M. Sheehy, Roza Tulyaganova and Lakesha R. Whitfield, Theresa R. Daly, Carlton C. Hammond, Becky J. Young, Marie M. Barnes, and Megan R. Bass.

Jodi O. Christian, Kirsten A. Cook, Jack Ralph Forbie, Lori N. Fowler, Shanna K. Graham, Gretchen S. Jarroek, Anson C. McCarty, Tracey Lee Webb, Chad E. Wooten, Christen Lynn Yarber, Amanda A. Kubala, Melinda D. Rodgers, Jaclyn M. Sisk, Melissa A. Crain, Tracy L. Denison, Kam A. Woods, Misty D. Hixon, and Tim L. Anderson.

Also Kathryn A. Johnston, Elizabeth A. Zajicek, Jon D. Beheler, Barrett L. Pollard, Gary Hively, Megan A. Moriarity, David G. Arthur, Kellie M. Baugh, Toni Annette Bengochea, Stephanie A. David, Jeni R. Franklin, Joshua W. Jones, Melissa S. Jones, William J. Kelley, Giselle M. Sayers, and Suzanne Janelle Weeks.

Also Brian P. Shelton, Tammy D. Tull, Diana L. Goff, Martin T. Grimm, Kimberly D. Wilson, Deana A. Eskew, Jennifer Ellen Bonnell, Martha Manini, Sarina Hinte, Angela G. Parshall, Melinda G. Phagan, Helen F. Steil, and Dorcas N. McAdams.

Also John A. Phillips, Lisa Ann Smart, Aileen D. Snyder, Allison L. Crook, Annette L. Hoover, Stacy L. Robbins, Rebecca C. Kingrey, and Caleb C. Hagopian.

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Also Bethany J. Emley, Susanne Carol Emley, Jeanette S. Hamons, Kathy G. Kelton, Christine Renae Leftwich, Maria N. Madias, Tiffany M. Ryno, Vanessa V. Saldana, Dana M. Sanchez, Stephanie D. Schmidt, Eldwin Willyanto, Jason L. Anderson, Bart D. Cochran, Ella M. Davis, Jessica L. Foster, Jacob D. Lutz, and Billy W. Miles.

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Also Nathaniel J. Pringle, Kevin A. Riess, Oscar A. Salinas, William E. Tamayo, Talearia S. Taylor, Arjelita Teakel, Kyle J. Tidwell, Heather L. Brink, Michele M. Cervantes, Louis Robert Gutierrez, Kimberly D. Hamilton, Aaron D. Henderson, Traci J. Mitchell, Melody L. Quick, and Rachel L. Rodriguez.

Also Christian B. Townsend, Karen C. Bond, Leslie E. Dannhaus, Ludwig M. Dyson, Joleigh M. Flores, Rickie F. Fore, Casey R. George, Miles L. Hagar, John C. Keen, Kaci S. Kocian, Fabio R. Longo, David K. Lunt, Sharon L. Roberts, Shannon M. Wiggins, Lindsey M. Wilburn, Dana C. Boesen, and Renee A. Graves.

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Also Leah M. Hall, Jonathan D. Dulus, Anita J. Dvorak, Rebekah M. Franke, Adam J. Grier, Terrie A. Griffith, Heather R. Manning, Kelli R. Matus, Kerinne M. Schroeder, Cara Beth Callaway, Shawn P. Donihoo, Brandon M. Hadley, and Wendi G. McGowan.

Preserving nature on campus

MANDOLIN SHANNON
STAFF REPORTER

The landscape department is carrying the tradition of the campus into the future.

Landscape design has always been a unique consideration here. In fact, buildings on campus were erected around the natural setting. Instead of coming into the site with bulldozers to clear the land, campus planners preserved the natural landscape almost entirely.

Today, this tradition is upheld by campus administrators and the

landscape department. Groundskeeper Supervisor Robert Park says one of the main goals of landscaping projects is to "keep it as natural as possible."

Students may have noticed some trees were cut down earlier this semester. Park says these trees were cut due to "disease and wind damage." He said that tree cutting is only done when necessary. He also noted that extensive tree planting, in the past, would offset the loss of any trees cut down.

The campus boasts close to 200 acres of wooded hills. Of these 200 acres, about 80 acres are manicured

by six full time ground keepers and several part time assistants. Much of the remaining acreage is left in its natural state, creating habitat for numerous species of birds and other wildlife.

Xeriscaping, a form of landscape design which reduces water use, has become popular in flower beds around campus. In addition to using less water, many flowering plants used on campus also attract various species of butterflies and hummingbirds.

Park said a large stand of bluebonnets are on the verge of blooming near the parking lot behind the

Health Careers building. He encourages students to drop by the area in a couple of weeks to enjoy these fragrant wildflowers.

Current policy ensures the tradition of preserving the natural beauty of the campus will be carried into the future.

Campus administrators are working to ensure that the campus remains a natural beauty for students who will be coming to the college years from now. For example, Park says while "nothing is final," plans are in the works which will, "add more wildflowers, including bluebonnets."

Scholars named, new deadline nears

By JAMIE JONES
Sr. Assoc. Ed.

The new Tartan Scholars were named in November.

These students are Jessica Sharp, Terron Fisk, Jennifer Diggs, Barrett Pollard, Marquita Denise Davidson, Mark Magers, Sarina Hinte, Thomas MacReady, Melissa Jones, Torri Wood, Youssef Daniel,

Bart Cochran and Jon Slaughter. The students were chosen by a selection committee headed by Lisa Windham, English instructor.

The committee chooses about 15 students per semester.

"The selection committee is excited about the new group of Tartan Scholars," said Marilyn Kelly, speech instructor.

Dan Walker, philosophy instructor,

held a Christmas party in his home to welcome these new scholars.

A new committee is currently taking shape to choose students for the fall semester of 1999. Jim McKeown, English instructor, will be heading this committee.

If chosen as a Tartan Scholar, one must keep his grade point average above a 3.0 and he will receive

scholarships up until he has completed 66 credit hours.

The deadline for applications is March 17.

Application and recommendation forms are available in the office of Jack Schneider, the dean of arts and sciences.

Go to the college's homepage to student to print the application and recommendation forms.

A post-Valentine story

And love will grow ... for all we know

JENNIFER MATELSKI
STAFF REPORTER

I truly believe that there is a thin line between love and hate. Several years ago I met a guy that worked as a Sergeant for a correctional facility in Marlin, Tx. His name was Shannon and he was pretty cute. I was excited when he asked me out for our first date.

We decided to go out one Friday night after my shift had ended. I

worked as a correctional officer on a different unit at that time. He arrived at my house with his best friend, Martin, in tow. I had met his friend only once before, and was not at all impressed with Martin's rotten attitude.

I was not thrilled (to say the least) that he had invited this person along with us on our first date. Not to mention the fact that my date was driving a truck, so we were all jammed into the front seat. I made my opinions very apparent by

squishing myself to the side of Shannon and staying as far away as possible from Martin.

Martin did not care, he continued his endless supply of dumb blonde jokes and smart remarks directed towards me until I was ready to scream. This guy hated me for no reason.

We decided to go to a party that was about one hour away. In that hour long trip to Temple, Martin told Shannon about 10 times that "it is her fault that we are going to be late," and "if she had not kept us waiting," Martin then went on to add that he "would not put up with a woman making him wait," and "she needs to be taught a lesson."

I can't tell you how much I despised this man. Martin eventually broke Shannon and me up. Most of the time he was telling Shannon that "I" did not treat him right, and he could find a better woman... etc.

About six months after Shannon and I broke up, I was at a nightclub with a girlfriend. I was attempting to hide from an ardent suitor when a tall man stepped in front of me. "What is your name?" he asks. I reply, "Who wants to know?"

As I wait for his response I glance up (I am 5'3; he is 6'0) and immediately recognized the evil glint in his eye. It was Martin. The very same Martin that had been responsible for breaking up Shannon and I.

What could this fool possibly want, I think to myself? I can't be

done enough. "You're looking good" he says with an appreciative glance. I decided to play along with him. All the time I was thinking to myself PAYBACKS!!! This might be a good opportunity to get even with him for breaking Shannon and I up.

Because Martin had also enlightened Shannon as to the fact that I was a "tease," I decided that would be great ammunition to use against him. I would make him want me in the worst way. I vowed to myself. Then, when I have him right where I want him, I will walk away and make him suffer.

My plan was working well... for a little while.

I noticed that the same guy that had been following me earlier was still nearby. I decided to have some fun with the situation and point out to Martin that this "same guy" had been following me all evening was once again hot on my trail.

The words were no sooner out of my mouth when Martin grabbed me around the waist, pulled me to him and said "why don't we make him jealous?" The arrogance of this man I immediately thought as I tried (little) to pull away. He did not let go of me as he proceeded to give me the kiss of a lifetime. I melted right to the spot. I was in love.

I have never been kissed like that before, not ever. Now that think about it, I have not been kissed

like that since then either. (Kidding!)

The next day just so happened to be Mother's Day and Martin surprised me with a delivery of a beautiful long stemmed red rose. I reminded myself of my vow to "pay him back," and not allow any more of those electric kisses. Somehow, I was a little disappointed when he did not even try to kiss me.

I knew there was no resisting this man when he showed up the next evening. I put him to one of my hardest test. He had to watch the entire movie "Pure Country," without going to sleep. This should do it, I thought to myself. He passed this test as well.

Martin still has electric kisses. We have been married now for 5 years, and I could not be happier

with my choice. He is not always the easiest man to live with, and he has a HUGE problem remembering to put the toilet seat down, but I love him with all my heart.

He has always been there for me, and when out of the presence of his "macho" friends he can be a real romantic. He still sends flowers, sometimes for no reason at all. Even with all his little quirks he is a true romantic at heart. He is my Romeo.

I still agree that there is a thin line between love and hate. Everytime I feel the cold splash of water of my behind in the middle of the night, I want to hate him for not putting the toilet seat down. But as I yell at him about it, he laughs out loud at my situation and ducks his head beneath the covers. I cannot help but love him.



JENNIFER AND MARTIN MATELSKI, students at MCC, have shown that nothing can be taken for granted when Cupid shoots his arrows.

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Highlanders streak into second place

BRIAN SHELTON
Co-Sports Editor

The Highlander basketball team (16-11, 9-4 in conference) are in sole possession of second place in the Northern Texas Junior College Conference after beating ninth-ranked Weatherford, Saturday, and are currently riding an eight-game winning streak.

The team will face Ranger Wednesday at 8 p.m. in Ranger, followed by SWCC here on Saturday and Grayson on Feb. 25 in Sherman.

Landers upset Coyotes
Seneca Wall and Meechy Sims combined for 69 points Saturday, as the Highlanders defeated the ninth-ranked Weatherford Coyotes 111-106 in double overtime. The game marked MCC's eighth straight win, improving to 16-11 overall and 9-4 in conference play.

The Coyotes led 84-83 with less than 30 seconds left in regulation on a pair of free-throws by Travis Hull. On the Highlanders' next possession, Wall was fouled on his way to the basket and converted on one of two from the foul line to tie the game and send it into overtime.

Weatherford regained the lead 94-92 with 25 seconds left, but Wall kept the Highlanders in the game

by sinking two free-throws, pushing the battle into the second OT.

The Coyotes tied the game at 101-101 on Arunas Drusutis' deep three pointer, but the Highlanders went on an 8-0 run to seal the victory.

MCC captures second place
The Highlanders won it's seventh game in a row and moved into a tie for second place with it's win over the Temple Leopards 80-73, Feb. 10.

After creating an early 14 point cushion, the Leopards cut the lead to 40-33 at the half and got within three points of a tie (74-71) with a little over a minute to play.

MCC put the game away, however, with a momentum-shifting steal by Wall, followed by a Temple foul. Wall sank both free-throws, increasing the Highlanders' lead to five and securing the victory.

Wall led all MCC scorers with 24 points, followed by Sims with 15.

'Landers speed past Express
The Highlanders surged for 60 second-half points against the Collin County Express to help overcome a seven-point halftime deficit and gain their sixth straight win, 81-74 on Feb. 6.

Following a low scoring first, in which the Express outscored MCC 28-21, the Highlanders put together a 44-22 run in the first 13 minutes of

the second half to gain a commanding 15-point lead.

The Highlanders' large lead was short-lived, however, as the Express cut the deficit to two on a three-pointer by Stefane Dondon with 1:45 left in the game.

After a charging foul was called on Sims, the Express tried to take the lead on a three-point attempt by Ryan Diggers. Fortunately for the Highlanders, Diggers' shot was off the mark and Heath Fusilier came down with the rebound before being fouled.

The Highlanders went on to hit seven of eight free-throws to end Collin County's chances of a victory.

Sims led the Highlanders with 17 points followed by Wall with 15 and Fusilier 14.

Cisco fouls up as MCC wins
The Highlanders added another win to it's impressive four-game winning streak by edging Cisco 71-65 on Feb. 3.

After dominating the first half, the Highlanders took a 41-34 lead into the locker room. The second half, however, proved more challenging for the Highlanders as Cisco outscored MCC 31-30.

Foul trouble ultimately sealed the fate of Cisco as the team amassed 18 total fouls on the night. The High-

landers took advantage of Cisco's mistakes, converting 13-19 from the free-throw line.

Leading scorers for the Highlanders were Sims with 23 points and Wall and Kendell Garland with 10 each.

Lane led all Cisco scorers with 16 points followed by Schmitz and James with 14 and 12 points respectively.

MCC too strong for Rebels
Sims and Wall combined for 44 points Feb. 1, as the Highlanders defeated the Hill College Rebels 62-53.

It was the Highlanders' fourth consecutive win and improved it's record to 12-11 overall and 5-4 in conference.

After falling behind Hill 32-27 at intermission, the Highlanders' strong play combined with a cold streak by the Rebels helped MCC to take the lead and the victory.

The Rebels shot a dismal 25 percent from the field and only 2-for-18 on three-point attempts.

However, while the Rebels were struggling, Sims and Wall were excelling. Sims scored 15 of his game-high 23 points in the second half while Wall added 11 of his total 21 points.

Leading scorers for the Rebels were Kenneth Johnson with 13 and Shey Cohen and Nelson Williams with 10 apiece.



Photo by Brian Shelton
Meechy Sims lays it up over two opponents in a recent game.

The Sports Zone

By KEVIN BROCK
Co-Sports Editor

If you're a hockey freak like me, you're probably not happy with the return of the NBA. The exposure that the NHL has been getting these last few months will now be over.

Even with all the NBA's problems, it's still more popular than hockey. Part of the problem is upbringing.

When you were younger you only had one choice... basketball. You couldn't exactly play hockey outside in 100 degree heat. But you could play basketball any time you wanted.

The NBA has a core audience, the NHL has a cult audience.

Another problem is the NHL isn't easy to watch on television. It's hard to follow the puck, and it's difficult to understand strategy in a game that moves so quickly, but gives the viewers a few scoring plays.

The best way to enjoy an NHL game is to watch it from start to finish, so you can pick up the subtle battles between players and key matches that coaches seek. Doing so takes more than two hours.

The NBA, on the other hand, gives you instant gratification. Watch for 10 minutes, see a few highlight plays, check out a Seinfeld rerun for a half-hour and come back for the final two-minutes of the game. It's a formula that's very TV-friendly.

The key to hockey success is to get more people to see the game. So I challenge you to check-out a game. Whether it be the Dallas Stars, or even the Waco Wizards.

If you still don't like the game, fine.

But if you like me, you will become a hockey freak.

Highlassies use upset to earn playoff bid

By KEVIN BROCK
Co-Sports Editor

The Highlassies earned a spot in the Region V tournament, by upsetting Weatherford, 75-72, last Saturday at the Highlands.

Freshman Moriah Johnson scored 29 points to lead the Lassies. Who improved to 17-7, 10-3 in conference play.

With the win the team moves to within a half-game of second place in the Northern Texas Junior College Conference.

Sophomore point guard Kendra

Watson had 21 points, to keep the score close at the half, with a acrobatic lay-up and a clutch three pointer.

Johnson took over in the second half, scoring the last nine, which included a three pointer with 3:09 left to play, and hitting four of six free throws in the last 2 minutes to put the game away.

This is the first time in eight years, that MCC has beaten two-time defending conference champion Weatherford.

Next up for the Highlassies is Ranger, at 6 p.m. Wednesday in Ranger.

Hill routed

Tara Alexander and Kristen Brashear had a career high 20 points each as the Highlassies beat Hill 89-59 on Feb. 1.

Tiffany Donehoo hit four three pointers, giving her 12-points to help stretch a 13-point halftime lead as many as 35.

Theresa Tindle also added 12 to finish off the Lady Rebels at the Highlands.

Cisco sent packing

The Highlassies had three players score in double figures, to beat Cisco, 71-44, on Feb. 3.

With a tied score at half-time,

31-31, MCC pulled away in the second half to win by 27.

The team was led by Kendra Watson's 18 points, Moriah Johnson added 13 and Danielle Willis had 15.

Collin beaten
The Highlassies scored 43 points in the final 14 minutes to blow out Collin County, 84-56 on Feb. 6, at the Highlands.

Kendra Watson hit three three pointers, giving her 14. This gave the Highlassies it's third straight win.

Three other players scored double figures as well. Moriah Johnson

added 13, Tiffany Donehoo 12, and Tara Alexander 11.

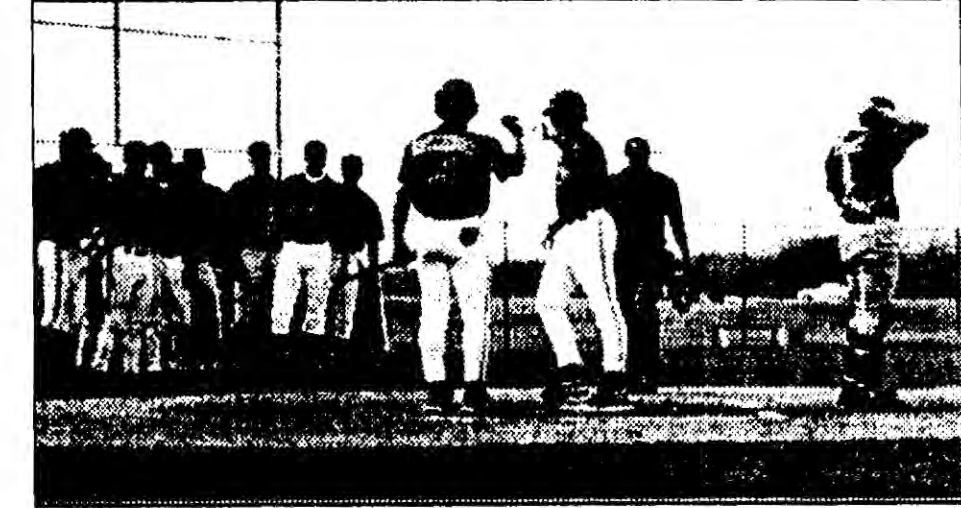
MCC 23-4 run sealed it for the win, pushing their record to 15-7 overall and 8-3 in conference play.

Temple falls to pressure
The Highlassies came out with full court pressure, which confused the Lady Leopards, and led to a easy 72-57 win.

The pressure led to a season high 18 steals.

Four players scored in double figures for the lassies.

Moriah Johnson led the Highlassies with 15 and Kendra Watson added 11.



(above) Bryan Kent is congratulated at home after hitting a two-run homer against Richland. (right) First baseman Brandon Maricle and second baseman Kent converge in a run down to end the inning against Richland.

Photo by Brian Shelton

Baseball team takes tournament title

By BRIAN SHELTON
Co-Sports Editor

The MCC baseball team (4-1) won four straight games to take first in the Home Run Alley Invitational to open the season. In the first five games of the season, the team was led by first baseman Brandon Maricle who went 10-18 with three home runs, a pair of doubles, one triple and 12 RBI's.

The Highlanders participated in the Hill Benevolent Tournament Feb. 11-15 and will play Cedar Valley College Wednesday in Lancaster at 1 p.m.

Thunderducks rattle MCC
After dominating performances in it's first four games of the season the Highlanders struggled Feb. 10, giving up 14 hits to the Richland Thunderducks in a 13-6 loss. The Highlanders had to overcome the absence of catcher Tim Meadows who sat out with a shoulder injury.

MCC starter Jason Scobie allowed six runs in three innings of work, but the Highlanders' offense countered with a two-run homer by Bryan Kent, followed by Maricle's three-run triple in the fourth to knot the game at 6-6.

Lee Gwaltney came in to relieve Scobie and pitched three scoreless innings, but the Thunderducks' offense was too strong as they added seven runs in the last three innings.

Highlanders clinch title
The Highlanders clinched the tournament team championship after beating Cedar Valley 9-4, on

Feb. 6. The victory marked the fourth straight win for MCC in the Home Run Alley Invitational.

MCC opened the game by scoring two runs in each of the first two innings. The team followed by a four-run fourth, aided by a two-run homer by Maricle.

Carl Makowsky was credited with the win, submitting two earned runs on four hits in four innings.

Odessa blanked, 10-0
Ryan Lochridge and Dennis Cervenka combined on a one-hit shutout as the Highlanders won easily, 10-0 over Odessa.

The Highlanders were running on all cylinders as they started the rout early. The team scored seven runs in the second inning, highlighted by a grand-slam homer by Maricle.

After MCC added a run in the fourth on Jesse Greminger's RBI double, the game ended due to the 10-run rule in the fifth off Daron Burlington's towering two-run homer.

Angelina toppled, 10-2
MCC's Tim Meadows set the tone of the game early against Angelina, Feb. 5, as he smacked a grand-slam home run in the first inning to give the Highlanders a 4-0 lead.

Angelina would counter, however, in the bottom half of the first. With Grant Gregg on the mound, Kyle Berry and Ryan Clyde belted consecutive homers to cut the Highlanders' lead to two.

Gregg regained his composure, giving up just two hits in the next three innings.

The Highlanders put away all

hope for an Angelina victory with a three-run sixth in which Jesse Greminger hit a two-run homer.

Pitching played a key role in the victory for the Highlanders as Gregg and Gwaltney allowed six hits and just one walk with 10 strikeouts.

MCC coach wins 400th
The Highlanders started off their season with a bang, Feb. 5 as the team beat Temple 5-0 and Coach Miller picked up his 400th career victory at the Home Run Alley Invitational Tournament.

Both teams were held scoreless

for two innings until the Highlanders broke the scoring drought in the bottom of the third. After a leadoff double by Kent, Maricle and Ryan Reynolds smashed back-to-back homers, giving the Highlanders a 3-0 lead.

The Highlanders added a run in the fifth off consecutive doubles by Maricle and Manning, followed by a solo home run by Lance Williams in the sixth.

Scobie and Dustin Lansford gave up a combined six hits with 10 strikeouts and no walks in the win.

Briefly

The college will recognize Wendell Hudson here Saturday as he will coach his last game at the Highlands.

The ceremony will take place just before the men's game at 8 p.m. Saturday in the Highlands. All former players whom Hudson coached have been invited to attend.

Hudson is stepping down to devote more time his job as athletic director. He will also assume co-coaching responsibilities with Stan Mitchell for the men's and women's golf teams.

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
2/17	Cedar Valley College	Lancaster	1:00
2/20	Panola College	Carthage	1:00
2/22	Blinn College	Waco	2:00
2/23	McMurry J. V.	Abilene	6:00
2/27	Northeast Texas	Waco	1:00
2/28	Northeast Texas	Mt. Pleasant	1:00
3/3	North Central Texas	Gainesville	1:00

Tennis team struggles in season opener

By DENISE AMAGAN
Staff Reporter

The Highlassie tennis team opened it's spring season in Tyler Feb. 2 against Tyler Jr. College.

Despite an 8-0 loss to the reigning national champs, the Highlassies look at it's opening match as a positive experience.

"I'd like to look at our match against Tyler as a learning experience. Now we know where we stand (in relation to other Jr. Colleges) and how much work needs to be done to improve to the next level between now and nationals," sophomore Phyllis Wilunda said.

After their opening match, the Highlassies traveled to Houston Feb. 8-9 for the Jr. College indoor tournament.

In singles action, Wilunda de-

feated Joannette Robles of North Central Texas College (NCTC) 6-2, 6-2.

Wilunda then suffered a 6-1, 6-1 loss to Ann Rosland of Tyler Jr. College in the quarterfinals of the main draw.

Sophomore Kristen Davies handled Brooke Loofthoro of San Jacinto College 6-2, 6-4 in the opening round of play. Davies then fell to Majorie Terburgh of Tyler Jr. College 6-0, 6-0 in the second round of main draw play.

Freshman Amanda Schneider opened play with a tough loss to Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College's Ann Hout 6-3, 6-1. Schneider then faced Rachel Morales of North Central Texas College and was defeated 8-6.

Sophomore Highlassie Ashley Jensen fell to Lee College's Renyan Whetten 6-1, 6-1 in first round play,

and was then defeated by Nicky Sharp of ABAC 8-6.

Following teammate Denise Amagan opened play with a loss to North Central Texas College's Joannette Robles in a grueling three set match, falling 6-2, 3-6, 7-6. Amagan then handled Celeste Parsons of Lee College 6-0, 6-0. Amagan was then defeated by Morales of NCTC 6-1, 6-4 in the semi-final round of consolation.

Juliette Andrade opened play with a 6-2, 6-0 loss to Caroline Stonnman of NCTC. Andrade defeated Tijana Todorovic of Laredo Jr. College 8-2.

In the quarterfinal round of consolation singles Andrade defeated Loofthoro of San Jacinto College 6-4, 7-6, and then dominated Nicky Sharp of ABAC 6-2, 6-2. Andrade's run came to a halt in the finals of consolation where she faced Morales

of NCTC. She suffered a 6-3, 6-1 loss to place second in consolation singles.

In doubles action the duo of Wilunda and Schneider were defeated 8-4 by ABAC's Nicky Sharp and Milana Stanoycheva.

Schneider and Wilunda smashed Lee College's Jennifer Hatch and Julio Parsons 8-2 in the second round of play. Schneider and Wilunda went on to defeat fellow teammate Kristen Davies and her partner Annie Hout of ABAC in the finals of consolation doubles 8-5.

"We have our sights set on winning nationals. Although it is still a few months away we can use these upcoming tournaments as tools to prepare for the national tournament," said freshman Amanda Schneider. "With hard work and positive attitudes, I know we can get the job done."

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SPORTS

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'Go within' comes out on top

By FAWN FALETOGO
Entertainment Editor

With a thousand copies of her new record sold and a second pressing in the works, commercial voice instructor Beth Ullman is looking for a major record label contract. The following is an interview with Ullman, discussing her album "Go Within."

Q: With a title like "Go Within," is this album introspective or about personal experiences?

A: It's a meditation, spiritual album. The musical style is pop and folk. It's got a new age feel to it, also.

Q: What influences have you had? Or did you aim for that sound?

A: Well, I didn't aim for that. I sat down at the piano and sang, and that was based on my history which is influenced by pop, rock, folk and

country. Then, I gave it to my producer and he created a sound which you can describe as having a new age feel. I've been compared to Enya and Sarah McLachlin. I've been compared to a lot of people, but those two names come up fairly often.

Q: The album has synthesizers on it. Do you favor synthesizers more than traditional instruments like acoustic guitar?

A: No, I don't favor it more. However, I think it has its uses. And I think for this project the synthesizers were perfect.

Q: What is the song "Go Within" about?

A: It's about how to meditate. It's the first one I wrote. The first words are "Settle back/ Close your eyes/Free your mind/Just be/ Watch your breath/ Come and go/ As it takes you out to sea." It was just a description of how to meditate. I like what Daryl (Dunn, Producer)

did with it. It's got a lot of really neat back-up vocals I did that are really cool. They're reminiscent of '70s rock like Joni Mitchell. It's the theme of the record; sit down, don't do anything, clear your mind, and just be quiet for 35 minutes.

Q: How does it feel to be in Ken McKenzie's (Austin deejay) top three album playlist of 1998, alongside Bob Marley?

A: I love it! (Laughs) I've been wanting to do this all my life. I've wanted to have my music out to a larger audience, but I've been doing jazz, and the market is very small for that. This market is much bigger. It's great.

Q: The album is under the name 'Bethani.'

A: That's my real name, but I've never used it. I didn't want to be in school and be called 'Bethani.' I remembered thinking that was too weird. But then, I didn't want to use 'Beth Ullman' for this project be-

cause it doesn't fit. I thought it sounded cold in a way, but 'Bethani' was perfect. So I've created a new product. I've got my jazz product, but it's just a different personality. It's a different voice. It's a whole different aesthetic. It's like acting, only your singing.

I just did a jazz festival and I know who I am during that. I'm on stage, cracking jokes and wearing a backless tuxedo. I know that personality really well and I've worked on it for ten years.

Now I have to go out there and be humble and sweet, so it's going to be different when I do this album live. I can't tell dirty jokes and I can't wear sleazy clothes (laughs). It's going to be a whole different personality, but it's interesting, because the music is so different. I have to be in that character. I have to be sincere. I just have to be totally real.

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Set designer faces challenge

By GARY LASSETER
Staff Reporter

Former student Joseph Fortune doesn't consider himself completely qualified to design sets for the civic theater, but due to a budget crunch he will be doing just that for the remainder of the season.

"It's a challenge, considering the fact that I'm not a designer. I don't consider myself as creative or knowledgeable as Mike, (former staff member Michael Sullivan.) I don't have a degree in design," said Fortune. "But I have designed sets before. And I've designed lots of lighting. I'm fine with lights."

Scene designer Sullivan left Waco in December, when Waco Civic Theatre board members opted to reduce staff to save costs. Two other staffers were also cut leaving Fortune as the sole survivor (and you might say holding the bag. Or the paintbrush.)

With his longer than shoulder length wavy-blond hair held in place by a red bandana tied around his forehead, his new growth of beard and his wire-rimmed glasses, and wearing jeans and a black leather jacket, Fortune looks more like a sixties radical than anything else. True to the image, he is outspoken about the problems now challenging the theater.

"In a 'real' theater," he says,

(making little quote signs in the air around the spoken word 'real'), "the technical director would do a very small part of the actual 'work.'"

"He would be responsible for seeing that the work was done correctly. He would have a shop foreman and a master electrician, at least, between him and the people who actually do the work. Since I'm the only one on staff here, I get to supervise myself. And I don't have time to change hats."

Fortune says that he learned a lot at MCC.

"I was a theater student in '87. Later I took basic scene shop with Dave Boron. I worked on the fly rail for "Grapes of Wrath" and "Sweeney Todd." I also took intro to design with Tim Poertner."

Joe Fortune made his stage debut on the Waco Civic Theatre (WCT) stage at the age of four in "To Kill A Mockingbird."

In 1990, he became a technical assistant at WCT and served for six seasons. At that time he moved with his wife Peggy to greener pastures in Iowa City, Iowa. Before returning to Waco in August of this year, Fortune worked with the Des Moines Metro Opera, the Riverside Theatre, and the University of Iowa.

He is the son of actor Ellis Fortune, well known locally both as an actor and for writing a popular nostalgia column for the *Waco Tribune-Herald*.

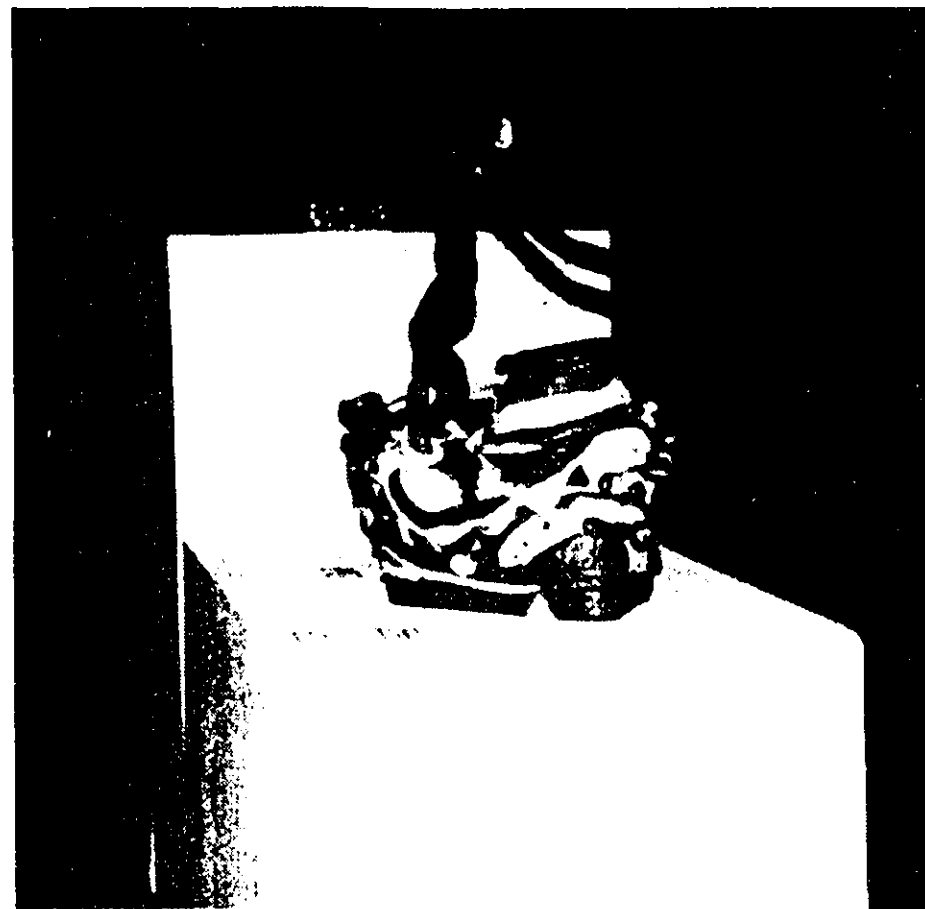


Photo by Brian Shelton

ART IS CURRENTLY displayed in the Student Exhibition in the Visual Arts Gallery. Come check out this and other winning art pieces through March 3.

All you can eat

The Texas Music Cafe

By FAWN FALETOGO
Entertainment Editor

Food is not served at the Texas Music Cafe. Nor is it a Betty Crocker meets alterna-rockers scene. Instead, music is the only item on the menu, serving stage performances from every genre to suit every taste.

The cafe tapes performances of regional and national artists every Thursday night, and then broad-

casts these shows all across

America, reaching as far as California to New York and even Florida. Demos from hopeful artists are pouring in for a chance to

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perform at the cafe and receive national exposure. As TMC associate producer and former MCC student Jeremy Gautier points out, the cafe is not as well known in Waco as it is in other

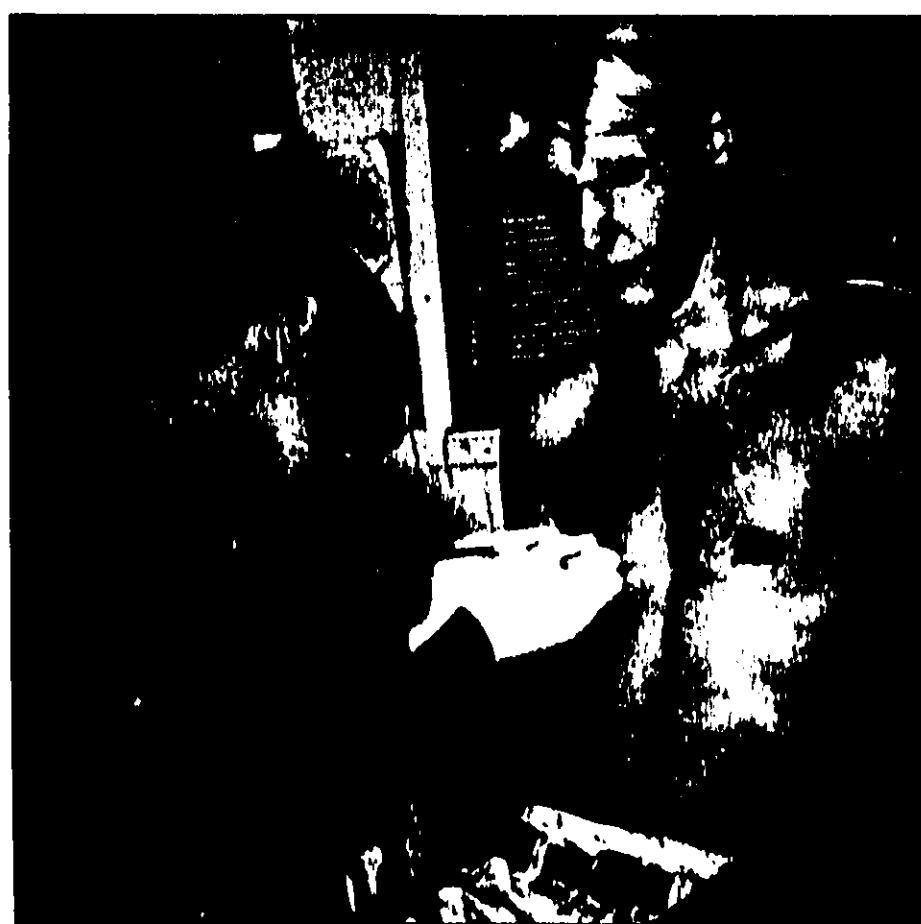
areas. "I wish more college students would come and see this neat way to experience music," Gautier said, "but I think most don't because we don't serve beer."

Perhaps the absence of alcohol adds to the mood of the cafe, which has a relaxed atmosphere, turned-down lights and comfortable theater-like seats.

Another way to catch TMC in action is to turn on the television. Performances air on channel KCTF 34 every Saturday at 10 p.m. and on Sundays at 4 p.m.

Admission is five dollars for one person and free for the second person who brings two can goods for a Caritas donation.

With the cafe's slogan, "Eat your music, it's good for you," plan to dine out next Thursday for a helping of home-cooked harmony.



JOE PIERCES a willing customer at Dream Connection located on Franklin Avenue. Joe also does tattoos for a living.

Pain is trendy

A sharp look at body piercing

By CHRIS REYES
Co-Opinion Editor

Body piercing has become a big issue to some people and not so big to others. A percentage of people think bad about body piercing.

"Body piercing has always been around, but didn't hit this country until the mid 1980s," said Joe, a body piercer and tattoo artist at Dream Connection. Joe has been in the business for about four years now. He first started out as a tattoo artist and went different places to open up new tattoo shops.

When Joe got married, he decided he was tired of moving around and wanted to just stay at one shop. He was then told he would have to learn body piercing.

Joe got his first piercing, which was his tongue, when he was just learning how master this artform. Joe says piercings are easier than tattoos and it also gets easier along the way. He took it upon himself to read books on how piercings are done and found out what to look for so there would be no damage. He also watched several people get piercings.

While sitting in Dream Connection, I spoke to a young lady who was about to get her tongue pierced. "All my friends have body piercings and they talked me into

it," the customer said. "I'm so scared."

Levi, another tattoo artist at Dream Connection, said "I like Body piercings... they're cool."

Levi showed me the body jewelry and talked about the cost of piercings. Customers are charged \$50 tongue piercing, and a low \$25 for the eyebrow.

"That's including the jewelry," Levi said.

Depending on the body part and where you buy the jewelry, the prices can range anywhere from \$25-\$80.

Justin Stanley, an MCC student, said he liked his girlfriend's eyebrow ring and decided to get one.

"The only thing that bothered me was that it got infected," Justin said.

Kevin Smith, also an MCC student, had his eyebrow, labret, and naval pierced.

"I did it because I wanted to be creative in my looks."

His self-pierced naval became infected, causing the ring to fall out.

"I did it because I wanted to be creative in my looks."

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