



Highland Herald

Friday, April 7, 2006 - Volume 45, No. 8

Bill Nye "Heats" Up Lecture

Golfers go to State;
Ladies to Nationals

Highland Games
Turn 39

Author brings
"El Chuco" to
MCC

This Time Around

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5 Highland Games: Since 1967, McLennan Community College has hosted the annual Highland Games to "relax and relieve students from the stress leading into finals," Alesha Vardeman, Student Activities Specialist, said.

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8 The Magic Flute: Mozart's last opera, "The Magic Flute" hits MCC's Ball Performing Arts Center today and tomorrow.



On the Cover: Bill Nye "The Science Guy" lectures at the Conference Center on April 5.

Digital image by Allen Fisher

Upcoming Events ...

Apr. 7: Annual Highland Games sponsored by Student Activities from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Apr. 7-8: Mozart's "The Magic Flute," opera performance in the Ball Performing Arts Center.

Apr. 9: The fourth annual Hispanic Heritage Festival will take place from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Bosque River Stage.

Apr. 11: Student Activities will host a leadership conference with guest speaker Jonathan Sprinkles from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Apr. 12: MCC Baseball vs. Hill at 1 p.m.

Apr. 12: MCC Softball vs. North Central at 2 p.m.

Apr. 17: MCC Baseball vs. San Jacinto at 1 p.m.

Apr. 20-22: McLennan Theatre presents "Fortinbras," a comedic production by Lee Blessing, taking its name from a minor character in Shakespeare's Hamlet, at 7:30 p.m. in the BPAC.

Announcement:

Registration for the Summer and Fall 2006 semesters began Apr. 5. The schedule is online at MCC's homepage. Printed copies of the schedule will be available on campus on Apr. 10.



Highland Herald

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

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Guest Contributions

The *Highland Herald* also welcomes guest news contributions, photos, opinions and comic strips. The same policy applies to guest contributions as applies to letters to the editor.

Contact

Phone: (254) 299-8524
Fax: (254) 299-8747

E-mail: highland@students.mclennan.edu

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Highlassies Compete in Regionals



Digital Image by Alicia Lacy

Ricky Rhodes and the team talk strategy at the bench.

Matthew Clark
Staff Writer

The Midland Lady Chaparrals cut short the Highlassies' post-season by knocking the MCC women out in the first round of the National Junior College Athletic Association Region V basketball tournament.

The 71-62 loss to Midland ended the year for the 'Lassies, who came into the tournament as the North Texas Junior College Athletic Conference title-holders, finishing the season 14-2 in conference play.

The tournament, which was held at Lubbock Christian University, brought together the best teams in Texas and New Mexico on March 9-12.

While the Hollywood Oscar-winners were busy thanking their agents, awards season reached as far as Central Texas in early March, as multiple Highlassie players and Head Coach Ricky Rhodes collected conference honors.

Rhodes holds onto his Coach of the Year status, winning the title for the second year in a row.

Kaylon Hodge was named co-Defensive Player of the Year for the NTJAC, as well as joining the roster of the second All-Conference Team. Not to be quickly forgotten, Hodge was also named Conference Player of the Week on Feb. 7, making the sophomore from Hillsboro the most decorated 'Lassie this season.

MCC women chosen for the first All-Conference Team consist of Kim Cessna, Brandi Crouch and Tiara Perkins.

Crouch also received the Player of the Week title on Feb. 28, making the Highlassies one of only two teams with multiple Players of the Week.

Perkins led the team in points per game for the season, averaging an 11.6 contribution every time the 'Lassies played. Perkins also piloted 3-pointers and steals with 40.7% accuracy for the former and an average of 2.3 per game for the latter.

Other team highlights include Cessna's 50.8% field goal average. She controlled the court all season-long when it came to baskets from inside the arc.

Cessna scored the most free throws this season with 33; however it is injured player Brittany Rutherford, who appeared in only half of the conference games, with the best average. Rutherford completed 20 out of 26 attempts in her eight games this season for 76.9% accuracy.

Freshman forward Rachel Whittle led the 'Lassies in rebounds on the season, averaging 6.1 per game.

Crouch lent a helping hand with 5.1 assists per game, while Perkins and Cessna bolstered the defensive presence on the court with 2.3 steals and 1.2 blocks per game respectively.

As the high-profile season ends, six sophomore players go on from MCC part of a successful organization. Perkins, Crouch and Hodge, along with Sharese Boswell, Patty Massey and Kim Talley leave the team NTJAC champions and with the respect that goes along with making an NJCAA post-season tournament appearance.

Highlanders Wrap Up Season, Look to Future

Alicia Lacy
Assistant Sports Editor

MCC Men's Basketball ends the year at NJCAA Regional Tournament with a loss against Midland, now their five sophomores decide where they will continue their basketball careers.

In the first round of regional play the 'Landers won by nine points against Odessa "College" with a final score of 74-66.

Trailing at the end of the first half, with 36-27, the 'Landers pulled through during the second half with a 60-54 lead, according to MCC Sports Information Specialist Kevin Tankersley.

Sophomore guard Marvin Gentry lead the 'Landers with 21 points, followed by freshman forward Marlon Vincent who scored 18 and freshman guard Ryan Bennett with 12.

After their victory against Odessa, the next team the

'Landers were set to play was Midland College on March 11.

Halfway through the second half the 'Landers fell behind the Chaparrals with double figures but could not come back, said Tankersley.

They ended the game at 80-64.

Vincent led the 'Landers scoring 20 points, Gentry with 14, and Bennett with 12.

MCC ends it season 23-9.

Sophomores Jawan Bailey, Marvin Gentry, Allen Coleman, Mark Moore, and Jackie Ranson will not be returning to MCC next semester.

Gentry has already committed to play basketball for Texas Christian University, said head coach Kevin Gill.

Coleman made plans to play for Saint Mary's University in San Antonio, Gill said.

Bailey, Moore, and Ranson said that they are still undecided where they will continue their basketball careers.



Digital Image by Alicia Lacy

Mark Moore splits three defenders and sets up for a J.



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All-Conference Awards Named

The MCC men's and women's basketball squads each had players named to the North Texas Junior College Athletic Conference All-Conference teams released Monday.

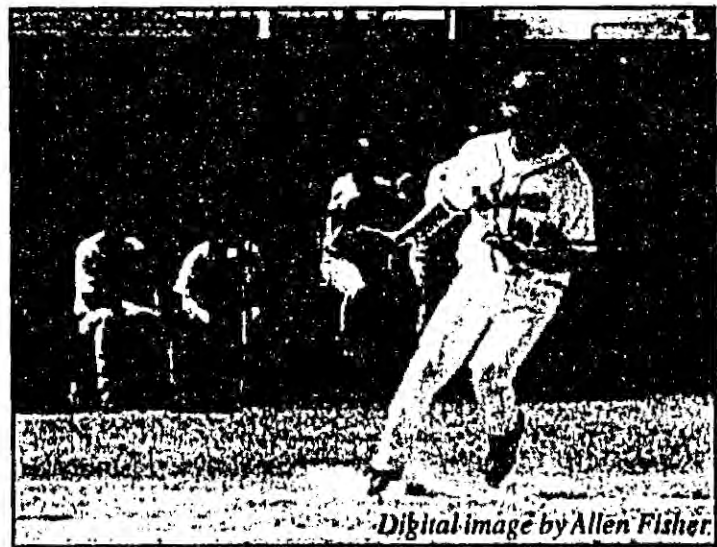
On the men's side, sophomore guard Marvin Gentry was named the Conference Player of the Year and freshman forward Marlon Vincent was dubbed Freshman of the Year.

For the women, sophomore guard Kaylon Hodge was named co-Defensive Player of the Year. And MCC went Coach of the

Year honors as well. Kevin Gill was named the league's top men's coach while Ricky Rhodes was chosen as the women's top conference coach for the second consecutive year.

Tiara Perkins, Brandi Crouch and Kim Cessna were named to the women's all-conference team while Hodge was named to the second team. Gentry and Vincent were named all-conference as well, while teammates Ryan Bennett and Allen Coleman nabbed second-team honors.

Baseball Season in Full Swing



Freshman Ricky Testa rounds third and heads home.

Daniel Defoe
News Editor

On March 16 the MCC baseball team won both games in a doubleheader against North Central Texas College with scores of 4-2 in the opener and 11-7 in the nightcap.

"Aaron Williams won the first game with a complete game 4-hitter," said Pete Mejia, MCC men's baseball coach.

"After North Central Texas scored one in the top of the fifth, the Highlanders answered with another run in the bottom of the inning with Mikey Horn's solo home run over the left field fence," said Kevin Tankersley, MCC Sports Information Specialist.

"In the second game, we scored 11 runs on 17 hits,"

Mejia said.

"MCC starter David Klumpp needed just four pitches to get out of the top of the first before the Highlanders scored three in the bottom," Tankersley said.

"Lormand hit a solo shot over the left field fence for MCC's first run," he said.

"Chase Williams and Steffan Guest had an RBI single each for the other two runs," Tankersley said.

In the fifth inning all nine Highlanders batted as MCC scored four runs, Tankersley said.

"Tucker's two-RBI triple scored Herron and David Mark to start the Rally," Tankersley said.

"Lormand and Lance Nobile knocked in a run each as well," he said.

"MCC led 11-3 after five innings and gave up two runs in both the eighth and ninth," Tankersley said.

'Lassies Hit the Road

Daniel Defoe
News Editor

On March 18, the MCC softball team lost both games of a double header against North Central Texas College at the Gainesville field.

The final score of the opener was 3-1 and the final score of the nightcap was 3-2.

"Brooke Larue highlighted the Highlassies offensive performance, going 2-for-3 with a double and triple in the first game and recording a double and an RBI in the nightcap. Jenny Isham struck out nine in the complete-game loss in the opening game while Brooke Saulters picked up just her second loss of the season while striking out eight in the second game," said Kevin Tankersley, Sport Information Specialist.

On March 22, the Highlassies played Vernon losing the opener 7-1 and winning the nightcap 2-1.

Vernon scored four runs in the seventh in the first game, dealing the Highlassies their worst defeat of the season thus far, Tankersley said.

"MCC trailed 1-0 going into the sixth as Brooke Saulters reached on a bunt to open the inning. Campbell's hit down the left field line got behind Veron left fielder Leslie Beaty and rolled to the corner. As Campbell rounded second, MCC coach Manuel Ordonez waved her home and the throw to catcher Lindsey Voigt was wide to the left as Campbell slid safely across the plate," Tankersley said.

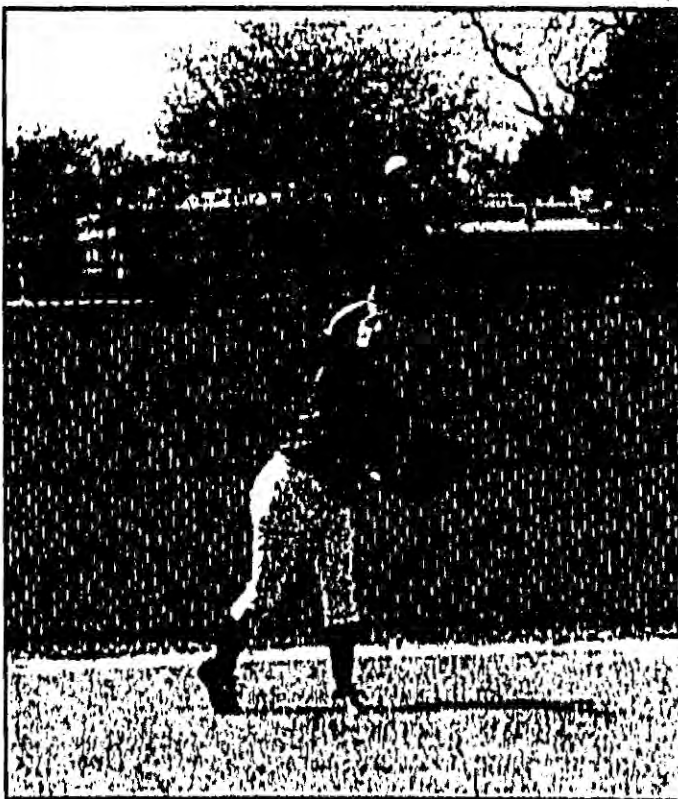
On March 25, the Highlassies won the nightcap but lost the opener of a double header against Grayson. MCC lost the first game with a score 3-0, while they won the second with a score of 6-4. A triple with bases loaded by Amber Robinson won the second game for MCC, Tankersley said.

"In the day's first game, Grayson shut out MCC for the second time this season with a 3-0 win," Tankersley said.

On March 29, MCC lost both games against Temple with a score of 5-0 in the first game and 6-0 in the second.

"Temple scored all five runs in the top of the seventh in the first game. A two-out double to left by Kami Crino scored Jo-Net Franklin and Raul Warren, giving Temple a 4-0 lead. Early in the inning, Warren's single brought home Brooke Whittlesey for the game's first run, and a sacrifice fly by Kim McDonald scored Taylor Hall," Tankersley said.

Temple scored three runs in both the fifth and sixth



Digital image by Allen Fisher

A 'Lassie hurls the ball infield during an away game. MCC will travel to Cisco for another game Saturday, April 8.

innings of the second game, Tankersley said.

On April 1, the Highlassies won both games against Hill with a score of 3-0 in the first game and 7-1 in the second.

"In the first game of the day, MCC scored in the bottom of the first without getting hit. Amber Robinson drew a walk to open the inning and then stole second. She moved to third on a groundout by Katie Campbell and scored on a sacrifice grounder from Jacquelyn Beatty," Tankersley said.

"The Highlassies scored two more in the third. Sarah Rogers walked to begin the inning and moved to second on a bunt single by Robinson. Campbell then loaded the bases on a single to shallow left and Rogers scored on a Hill error. Robinson then scored on a sacrifice fly by Beatty," Tankersley said.

"In the nightcap, Campbell went 2-3 with three RBI and two stolen bases while Beatty recorded a double and two RBI. Hill's only hit of the game came in the top of the fifth when Haylee Williams slapped a one-out single to right field. Isham then struck out Leo Spencer, and Tiffany Manuel flew out to strand Williams on first," Tankersley said.

'Fore' Score

Dominik Young
Staff Writer

The Highlanders golf team will be competing in Texas State Junior College Championship on April 10-11.

The 'Landers placed fourth in the Omega Treating Chemical/Green Tree Country Club Invitational on March 27-28.

Despite Monday's weather affecting the course play, the 'Landers managed to shoot rounds of 304 and 306. An overcast

Tuesday provided The 'Landers with an advantage. Jeffrey Frye and Richard Highland both shot even par while Chris Howard and Casey Wharton were one over par.

"Certainly the weather was a factor and is usually in golf," said Head Coach Rick Butler.

Jeffrey Frye, sophomore from Palestine High School, said that he was "proud of the effort" his team made. Frye shot 77-76-72-225 and tied for 12 with teammate Casey Wharton, who shot 74-78-73.

Richard Hyland tied for 21st with 82-77-72-231; Braxton Brin, tied for 39th with 78-83-79-240; and Chris Hansen tied for 43rd with 78-83-81-242.

Although the 'Landers had trouble earlier, they had a comeback in Tuesday's game.

"We knew what we had to do the second day and we went and did our best, even though we came up short we gave 100% and that was a good sign going into the last 3 tournaments," said Frye.

Butler was please with his players' performance.

"These guys are together an awful lot. They're a very cohesive unit. They play hard, practice hard, and play tournaments hard. They give a very very good effort."

Highlassies Head to Nationals

Dominik Young
Staff Writer

The Highlassies golf team is scheduled to compete in the NJCAA National Championships at Daytona Beach, Florida on May 15-18.

On April 3-4, The 'Lassies finished ninth with a final-round 621 in the CenturyTel Robert Classic at the Plum Creek Golf Club.

Layla Ahmed, Hornsden High School freshman, tied for fifteenth after scoring 77-84-76-237. Emily Kvinta received individual honors for shooting 74-73-75-222 in the game.

Kim Carmody, tied for twenty-sixth at 85-78-80-243; Amanda Stuessy, tied for twenty-eighth with 78-83-84-245; Katie O'Donnell, tied for forty-one at 81-83-86-250; Whitney Mitchell, tied for forty-fifth with 89-84-81-254; and Jennifer Marks, tied for fifty-third at 85-92-83-260.

The 'Lassies' overall score was 321-328-321-970.

Highland Games: Not Quite a Caber Toss

Christina Taylor
Ad Manager

Since 1967, McLennan Community College has hosted the annual Highland Games to "relax and relieve students from the stress leading into finals," Alesha Vardeman, Student Activities Specialist, said.

The Highland Games started with a group from Austin called the Scottish Society of Texas.

"We invited the Austin group to come up and hold their Highland Games on campus one year, and they continued that for five or six years. After the society's leader died they lost contact, and at that point the student activities committee picked up the idea and continued it," said Chester Hastings, Dean of MCC in 1967.

"I thought that with the college named after Neill McLennan, who was from Scotland, and the Cameron property being part of it, and Cameron being a Scottish name, that it might be a good tie-in for the college," Hastings said.

The first annual Highland Games were the first official MCC event to be held on the new campus site on North Nineteenth Street, Waco, and provided a variety of games and good times," stated an article in the Highland Herald on May 15, 1967.

The games were "patterned after Scotland's traditional Highland Games, and the events included races, volleyball, football, and a hayride around the new campus site," according to an article in the Highland Herald on May 15, 1967.

Although today's games don't feature caber tossing or putting the stones, they are still centered around competition such as a three-on-three basketball tournament, an all-new butt-sketch artist, and a banana split eating contest.

"With all their studies and little time for fun, this gives them (students) a chance to have some active



Photo courtesy of MCC Archives

Students test their might in the tug-o-war event at the First Annual Highland Games in 1967.

fun," Douglas Gibson, program director for respiratory care technology, said.

"We generally have 1000-1500 students come by and participate in the day, and we choose the time based upon past experience of when the most students are on campus," Vardeman said, adding, "This year is shaping up to be one of the best years ever. We expect a large turn-out."



Photo courtesy of MCC Archives

One contestant holds a pie while another assumes a two-point stance to chow down in the pie eating contest at the 1967 Highland Games.

Highland Games Competitions

12:30 p.m. Banana Split Eating Contest, Sponsored by PTK
All day: 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament \$3 per team & Slam Dunk Contest - 3 balls for \$5, Located on the street between the Student Center and Student Services Building, Sponsored by Student Government

Items for Sale (beginning at 11 a.m.)

Physical Therapy Club - Hot Dogs
International Club - Mexican Dinners, Beans and Rice
Rho Kappa Pi - Turkey Legs
PTK - Ice Cream (following Banana Split Eating Contest)
Nursing Club - Water

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Award-Winning Author Celebrates Book Release



**Dominik Young
Staff Writer**

Christine Granados ditched the stereotypes placed on Latin Americans.

She is a journalist, columnist, and award-winning author.

"I'm a Latina writer first. That's what people see, but I think I'm just a writer," Granados said.

On March 24, Granados spoke to students at the Liberal Arts building at 10:20 a.m. and signed books at the McLennan Community College Bookstore at noon. These events were held to celebrate the release of her short story collection "Brides and Sinners in El Chuce."

El Paso, Texas, where she was born and raised, is the basis for the book. Granados' parents worked to move the family from the barrio which has affected other relatives.

"I can see my life ending up differently if we had stayed where we were," she said.

Authors such as Edgar Allan Poe, Stephen King, and fellow El Paso native Dagoberto Gilb were Granados' earlier influences. Eventually the latter author, who ran a workshop, trained her.

Gilb critiqued his student's latest book.

"Defying what is expected of a Chicana writer, Granados is helping to re-orient Latino culture away from poignant, romanticized goody-goodyism, toward stark, complex storytelling that will remind the many of us who have grown up imperfectly what it is to be living on the embattled frontiers of Mexican and American."

She was an editor of "Moderna Magazine," a Latin American fashion magazine with a readership of 150,000 nationwide, from September 1995 to 1999 according to Texas

State University in San Marcos, Texas.

Granados' journalistic credits also include articles in the "Austin American Statesman," "Hispanic Online," "The Texas Observer," and columns in "The Rockdale Reporter." The experience has enhanced her writing ability, she said.

"It (journalism) gives you good stories and background. And taught me how to research," Granados said.

Granados became the 2002 First Place recipient of the El Andar Prize for Literary Excellence and 2005 graduate of UT El Paso's School of Communications and the MFA Creative Writing program at Texas State University.

For minorities who are determined to follow their dreams, but faced with social labeling, she gives one last piece of advice.

"Just embrace yourself. Be happy with who you are. Like who you are

Digital Images by Christine Granados

Not Only a 'Science Guy'

Kitty Clark
Entertainment Editor

Did you know that skin is five percent of a person's body weight, pearls, moss, that eventually turns into coal, and Galileo discovered Jupiter's moons with a telescope only as powerful as modern-day binoculars?

Well, you would if you were Bill Nye the Science Guy, an accomplished scientist, engineer, comedian, author, inventor, host of two currently running television series, and guest speaker at MCC on April 5.

Nye addressed the issue of "Global Heating", and what steps need to be taken to correct the problem with a wit that kept the audience laughing throughout the presentation.

"Global Heating is a big problem, and I think most Americans have heard the phrase, but they still aren't doing anything about it. We are so far away from adequate legislation on car emissions, and though the administration just passed an energy bill, it will only save about three weeks worth of fuel," Nye said.

Nye is focused on youth awareness because, "you guys are the future, you're going to invent the next energy systems and you're going to make decisions on what cars are driven. When people get old they get brittle and it's harder to change," he said.

By year 2015, Nye suggested that the Earth's temperature could rise one and a half degrees, but "we have to start right now. We can't wait 20 years from now, which seems to be the current thinking. Meanwhile, the rest of the world is looking to us for leadership, and we are falling so far short," he said.

Sport Utility Vehicles and gas-guzzling trucks get about 12 miles to the gallon, and Nye said, "The single biggest choice you can make is what car you drive.

SUV's wouldn't be a problem if they got 50 miles to the gallon, but we don't choose to manufacture them that way."

Nye stressed that there is no single solution to the issue of Global Heating, but instead there is a series of small steps to correct the problem.

"There is no one answer, and that is the hardest thing for everyone to understand, the solution is a combination of everything all at once. It's hard to believe that every gallon of gas you squander affects people in Papua, New Guinea. No Way! Yeah, because it affects the atmosphere, which affects people all over the world," Nye said.

Nye also touched on the boundaries facing scientific teaching in public schools.

"Creationism is not an alternative to science, and we must establish legislation that allows for the teaching of Global Heating in the classroom. The idea that radiometric dating, isotopes, protons and neutrons are somehow not true because there isn't a page in the Bible that refers to them is unacceptable," he said, adding, "This kind of thinking really doesn't matter, except we're all going to die. We can't get scientific information from the Bible; it is a book about something else, and the ones we are really affecting are future generations."

Nye suggests action should be taken on the federal level to address these issues.

"We hire politicians to do and fund everything all at once. They shouldn't have to choose between war and education funding, they have to find a way to do it all at once and find the kind of solutions we need for these very real problems. How can we do it all, how can we fight terrorists in foreign lands and fund the exploration of the solar system?" Nye said.

"We hired the politicians in office now, and as it was in the 70's, should the President of the United States resign, we would continue as a country. It is up to us to fix what needs fixing, and we can all get through it and it will be OK," he said.

Hispanic Heritage Festival

MCC Holds Fourth Annual Celebration of Hispanic Culture at Bosque River Stage

Matthew Clark
Staff Writer

"My father and mother...brought me to this country for a purpose and if you're not taking advantage of that opportunity, then why are you here?"

Ariana Hernandez understands the importance of a family's heritage.

"I come from Mexico where people are getting paid so little and they work so hard and they're struggling to go to school because school is not free over there," Hernandez said. "They have to pay for everything and when you're making five dollars a day, it's kind of impossible."

The sophomore, who was born and spent her early childhood in Mexico, is the student chairperson of the Hispanic Heritage Festival being held on April 9 from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Bosque River Stage.

The festival will feature music, food and fun for area families with the hope of increasing youth interest in attending college.

"We really don't have a lot of Hispanics on campus, but we do have a lot in Waco," Hernandez said. "So hopefully we will increase the number of students coming into college; not only Hispanics, but just in general."

Hernandez said she is proud to represent the Hispanic culture at MCC because she did not always have plans to continue her education.

"If it wasn't for my teachers in middle school and high school, I wouldn't be [attending college]," Hernandez said. "They encouraged me to go out there and do something."

This is the fourth year in a row that the Hispanic Heritage Festival, sponsored by the MCC Student Government Association, has been held at MCC.

Admission is free to the event, which will include performances by dance and musical groups, as well as hosting a motivational speaker to tell how having an education has opened doors in his life.

"I think a lot of the Hispanic community has this 'glass ceiling' idea, like they can only go so far," Hernandez said. "I guess the mentality is that 'I'll only be here for a couple of years and then go back [to Mexico]. They never understand that if they stay here for a little bit longer and get a degree, you can make a lot more money and be better off."

A committee of eight students and three faculty advisors began planning for this year's festival in December.

"I was calling some of the people, like the restaurants," Hernandez said. "Some restaurants say 'Yes, we'll do it,' but at the last minute they say 'No,' so we have to find another vendor to go out there. We had to work [out the food situation] early."

Along with the food available for purchase, refreshments will be provided for free to all attendees. There is also no charge for the main stage entertainment.

Scheduled to appear this year is the Central Texas band Grupo Lumbre, who has had multiple hits on the Tejano charts—including "Mal Pagador" and "Aqui Te Quedas"—and has been nominated for Tejano Music Awards the past two years.

Last year's festival caught media attention, resulting in Hernandez getting calls from the "La Mejor" radio station and "U Magazine" as well as 10th Court of Appeals Justice Felipe Reyna, a prominent figure in Central Texas law for over 30 years.

Hernandez said she hopes that the festival's exposure has and will help Hispanic students seize the opportunities they have.

"You have it in your hands, what are you going to do with it? Are you going to run away or are you going to make something [of yourself]?"

15-Year-Old Earns Accolades

Kitty Clark
Entertainment Editor

Age is a state of mind, and for 15-year-old Troy Dodge, it is something that hasn't stopped him from achieving his perfect grade point average at MCC, or the 2006 Texas New Century Scholar Award.

"I applied for the USA Today All-USA award back in November, and considering that Texas is one of the most active states in Phi Theta Kappa, I felt very honored to receive it. It was also a shock due to the fact that it is the second year in a row MCC has captured the award: a never-before-accomplished task," Troy said.

The Award recipient gets a \$2000 scholarship, plus a \$1000 scholarship from the program's sponsor Coca-Cola.

"I am thrilled and thankful to have been selected for this honor, and I plan to use it towards funding the completion of my Bachelors degree of Psychology," he said.

Being home-schooled through elementary, middle and high school, Dodge decided to come to MCC at the age of 12, and said he expects to graduate at the end of the semester.

"I have only a few weeks left! I will graduate at MCC's spring commencement on May ninth, and in the



Troy Dodge, named Texas New Century Scholar for 2006.

fall, I will be transferring to one of the four-year universities that I am currently researching," he said.

Though for many students, 18 is the age of college entry, Troy intends to make it the age of college completion.

"By the age of 18, I hope to have completed my bachelors degree in Psychology and have begun my move to graduate school, where I aim to achieve a bachelors and masters degree in Psychology. I want to become a physician, and I hope that a basis in psychology will better prepare me for the medical world with a good bedside manner with patients," he said.

In addition to his accomplishments here, he finds time to call the shots in

soccer as a member of Central Texas Soccer Referee Association, participate in Pi Chi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, volunteer in numerous events and sing in the Waco Symphony Association Boys Choir.

"Perhaps the greatest lesson I have ever learned came out of the Bible. 'From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much is entrusted, even more will be demanded,'" he said. "I am someone who always desires a challenge and it has forever inspired me to use my gifts wisely."

Opera Dept. Trills 'The Magic Flute'

Tumino (Garry Leonberger, left) prepares to play the "magic flute" while the First Priest (Jordan Berryhill, right) gazes into the distance and the Third Spirit (Candace Tulley, front) brandishes a scepter.



Jonmichael Swetnam
Assistant Editor

Mozart's last opera, "The Magic Flute" hits MCC's Ball Performing Arts Center today and tomorrow.

The MCC music department's production will be a shortened version in English, not the original German.

"Every other year we perform an opera focused toward children. This is that year," Lise Uhl, music instructor, said.

Because the opera is geared towards children, the production has been shortened from its usual two and a half hours to a more accessible 90 minutes. Also, the performance will abandon the traditional German for English.

"We're using Ruth and Thomas Martin's trans-

See FLUTE, Page 9

Pi Chi Chapter of PTK Welcomes New Inductees

Daniel Defoe
News Editor

On March 22, the Phi Chi Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International Honors Society welcomed 97 new inductees.

The Phi Chi chapter has been named a top Texas Chapter for three consecutive years, said Alesha Vardeman, advisor for PTK's Phi Chi Chapter and MCC's Student Activities Specialist.

In addition, the following individual awards were given: Terry Scranton, Leadership Team Leader, received the Texas Hall of Honor for Outstanding Members; Marleina Weist received the Friend of Texas Award for the fifth consecutive year; and advisors Alesha Vardeman and Fred Hills received the Horizon Award for Advisors, Vardeman said.

"The Phi Chi chapter at McLennan Community College maintained our pattern of excellence and we continue to be a well respected chapter, both at the state level and internationally," Vardeman said.

Membership in PTK has numerous benefits, including opportunities for recognition, a seal on your diploma, membership notation on college transcript, distinctive graduation regalia, National Dean's List nomination and letters of recommendation, Vardeman said.

In addition, membership in PTK also opens the student to scholarship opportunities, Vardeman said. Phi Theta Kappa awards over 36 million in scholarships.

Members also have the opportunity to receive scholarships from 600 colleges and universities including Harvard University, Cornell University, Columbia University, and the University of Pennsylvania, Vardeman said. For more information visit <http://www.ptk.org>.

Highschoolers Test Their Talents

Kitty Clark
Entertainment Editor

For several years MCC has given artists from area high schools the chance to display works and compete for cash prizes, and this year is no exception.

"I sent out e-mails to about thirty schools, like China Springs, Valley Mills, McGregor,



and LaVega; not all of them participate, but this show gives area students a chance to see what other schools are doing, and what MCC has to offer them," said Glenn Downing, Art Instructor and Coordinator.

Each year the department gets an art professional from anywhere but MCC to judge the competition, and this year Susan Dunkerley, a photography professor at Baylor University, was chosen for the job, Downing said.

The benefit of an "outside" juror, is to use "the knowledge that they've acquired in their life to call the show. We leave everything, including how the prize money is distributed, up to the juror," Downing said.

The winning works are supposed to exemplify "good art, and she will use her experiences and expertise to determine what that is," he said.

"I am looking for work that has been developed and pushed to define an idea, much in the same way you would write a story and push it out in language," Dunkerley said, adding, "Also I'm looking for a sense of ability, craft, if they pay attention detail and considered the space they are displaying."

Lisa Carpenter, an art teacher of three years at McGregor High School, submitted 38 of her students' pieces to the competition.

"The show helps get their work out in the public view, and gives them a chance to compare their skills with the skills of other students at other schools," she said.

Carpenter looks for Adelita Sales' "Wrapped Up" to do well in the gallery because, "it is a sensitive piece that shows Hispanic culture and heritage in powerful color. She put heart and soul in to it."



Digital Images by Kitty Clark

Left: Susan Dunkerley considers contest submissions.

Above: Jon Vaculik helps Dunkerley lay out a few of the possible winners.

Fashion Veteran Tells All

Christina Taylor
Ad Manager

The constant sweeping of hair clippings, the dizzying smell of ammonia, and the cleansing of toes during a pedicure would challenge the faint of heart, but Mrs. Marylen Mosely has made a 50-year career out of teaching the trade of cosmetology.

She came to McLennan Community College in 1990, after previously teaching for 35 years, and she is here to stay.

"I love training hands to deal with this [cosmetology] everyday. The biggest reward for me is when students come back after they have finished here with success stories, but that's a reward for all teachers," Mosely said.

Mosely's inspiration for teaching comes from her mother who "refused to let me stay home and do nothing. Midway through my education, I quit school to be closer to my dad, and my mom didn't speak to me for two or three months, until I changed my mind and went back."

Cosmetology is a two year program, and the students get to work on real customers. Sometimes the results are less than perfect.

"I've seen it all: purple hair, green hair and perms can

be disastrous, but any mistake a student makes on a customer I have to be able to fix. Basically, I'm a clean-up woman. When dealing with untrained hands, I have to have the knowledge to straighten up everything they mess up," she said.

Mrs. Laura Hays, a Cosmetology Instructor, started with Mosely in 1990, and has learned everything she knows from her.

"I've got 50 years of knowledge in my head, and she can't retire because I am not through pumping her brain," Hays said, adding, "She is life smart. Besides cosmetology she is training life, how to be successful. Kids come back in here to talk to her about everything and she can give them logical life answers."

For Mosely, cosmetology is more than make-up and hair, it is the ageless practice of beautifying one's self.

"Since the early Egyptian times, men and women have sought after methods of beautification. As long as man exists, there will be a need for beautification, and for women to show their inner beauty on the outside," Mosely said.

Years of training young women and men haven't left her burnt out, but instead she says, "If I had to do it all over again, I would stick with cosmetology."

FLUTE, From Page 8

-lation, with a few modifications we've added, so I guess it's a Ruth and Thomas Martin/Lise Uhl translation," Uhl said.

The story follows the struggle between Sarastro, (Gregory Regalado) the High Priest who steals the lovely princess Pamina (Allison Terry) away from her wicked mother, the Queen of the Night (Karen Albrecht).

A young prince, Tamino (Garry Leonberger) is traveling the country. The queen's servants (Heather Shelton, Stonnain Mendors, and Ann Almanza) rescue him from mortal peril. They show Tamino a picture of Pamina. Tamino is of course instantly smitten.

The Queen sends Tamino and his eccentric, bird-catching companion Papageno (Anthony Edds) off to steal her daughter back. Before they leave, Tamino receives a magic flute that summons help. Papageno gets musical instruments that induce a maddening desire to dance.

After a series of adventures, Tamino winds up initiated into the temple. He meets Pamina and the two endure a series of initiation rituals. Tamino proves himself worthy and marries Pamina, while his friend Papageno discovers true love as well.

"The general theme is the search for enlightenment, truth and good. It's based on German fairy-tales and features several Masonic principles--Mozart was a Mason," Uhl said.

Give Me Liberty or Give Me Security!

Column

Ashley Cruseturner
Guest Contributor

Benjamin Franklin purportedly cautioned, "Those who would give up essential liberty to purchase a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety." Although the provenance of that statement is not without question, the quote accurately reflected the spirit of the Imperial Crisis and the American Revolution.

When Franklin and his compatriots finally "pledged their lives, their fortunes and their sacred honor" to a War for Independence, they perceived themselves fighting to maintain their rights against a renegade government illegitimately accumulating power and threatening liberty.

Once liberty was defended and independence won, however, Americans found governing more problematic than many of the revolutionary slogans had implied.

Motivated by the conviction that "power was the enemy of liberty, but too much liberty was also the enemy of liberty," the convention in Philadelphia in 1787 yielded the Constitution, which created a more centralized government and traded some liberty for stability.

The framers created a federal system in which the national government shared sovereignty with the states, at the same time asserting the supremacy of the new consolidated government.

Although the Constitution backed away from the rhetoric of 1776, the framers showed respect for their revolutionary experience and bowed to their political reality.

They placed limits on the new government, and they divided power into three branches, charging each component with oversight of the other two in order to provide "proper checks and balances."

The framers would be struck by the current form of their handiwork as it has evolved over the course of two centuries. Notwithstanding, the problem that they identified as the central dilemma of republican government, the tension between power and liberty, has remained constant in American history. And the antidote that they prescribed, competing sources of power "counteracting ambition with ambition," creating institutional interests and pitting them against rival interests, has served remarkably well to protect liberty from power over time.

This speaks to an important current question: How much power shall we allow the president to exercise in exchange for security in a hostile world? How much power is too much? When does the power of the presidency pose an unacceptable threat to our liberty?

These questions are not unprecedented. Much of our present dilemma is systemic and historical. There is no place on Mount Rushmore for presidents who remained satisfied with the scope of their power. Generally, presidents attempt to enlarge the power of the presidency; it is an institutional instinct.

Having said that, no practiced student of American history would trust sitting presidents to determine wisely the limits of their own power.

That role falls to the other branches. In addition to those provided in the founding document, extraconstitutional interests have emerged in contemporary America as powerful players in the oversight of presidential authority. These agents include the opposition party in our two-party system, the free press and the giant federal bureaucracy, all of which have contributed to the current examination of presidential power.

As a result of this healthy debate, the legislative

See COLUMN, Page 11

Is God a Republican?

Column

Dominik Young
Staff Writer

There is a bumper sticker that says "God is not a Republican or a Democrat."

It seems one party will never get the message. Mediamatters.org posted a video-clip featuring conservative pundit Sean Hannity claiming God is "no Democrat" to "Hannity and Colmes" guest Reverend Franklin Graham while CNBC's "Dennis Miller" show host and executive producer Miller said to guest John Faselgang that Jesus "prefers Bush to Kerry."

Common sense should tell a Christian not to trust politicians. Remember, a politician's job is to get more votes in elections than souls in Heaven.

The Interfaith Alliance issued a press release online expressing outrage towards North Carolina State Republicans asking to use church directories.

President of the organization and Pastor for Preaching and Worship at Northminster (Baptist) Church Reverend G. Welton Gaddy stated it is "a serious mistake to consider worshipers in religious institutions as just another bloc of voters like farmers, labor unions, and corporate executives."

There is an atrocity being committed: downsizing scripture.

In an interview with Motherjones.com, Jim Wallis, author of "God's Politics: Why the Right Gets it Wrong and the Left Doesn't Get It," comments on how Republicans spins the Bible's teachings.

"The Right is comfortable with the language of reli-

gion, values, God talk. So much so that they sometimes claim to own that territory. Or own God. But then they narrow everything down to one or two issues: abortion and gay marriage."

Some Christians are deeply concerned with how God and His teachings are becoming a political platform. Reverend Dr. N. Graham Standish wrote in his Post-gazette.com editorial that despite leaning Republican, he questions the type of Christianity Republicans are promoting.

Reverend Standish also points out that Republicans are using "a strand of Christianity that promotes a narrow Gospel, while ignoring much of what Christianity has always taught about caring for the poor, the virtues of sacrificing self for the welfare of others, and the need for humility, compassion, and peace."

One friend complains how the combination of Christianity and politics is hurting the religion. Through looking at human history, it is shown that this combination degrades the integrity of Christianity.

In the book titled "Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass," Frederick Douglass explained about how slave masters justified slavery.

In the book, Douglass explains how Thomas Auld cited Biblical passages in which it was his "God-given right" to mistreat slaves since they were sinners according to their dark skins.

The pursuit to maintain "moral values" is giving Christianity a black-eye. As a result, it deters people from being religious.

What, then, suffers most from the so-called Moral Majority?

Christianity.

America Still Stands Mute

Column

Brent Losak
Editor in Chief

In a speech delivered on Apr. 4, 1967, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. opened by expressing his agreement with the opening line of a statement released by the Clergy and Laymen Concerned About Vietnam: "A time comes when silence is betrayal."

That's exactly a year before he was assassinated on the same date in 1968.

As Tuesday marked the memorial of this landmark speech and his death, those words ring ominously true today.

One need only echo King's sentiments to pick out the parallels.

He watched social programs be slashed to offset the skyrocketing cost of the war, and therefore rightly identified war as an "enemy of the poor."

He went on to call the United States government "the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today," and issued the stark warning that "a nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death."

The time to break the silence on the issue of Iraq has long since passed.

At a time when the Department of Defense says it is spending \$100,000 a minute on the war, let us heed King's advice to "shift from a 'thing-oriented' society to a 'people-oriented' society."

To continue in our hubris will be our downfall,

"The Americans are forcing even their friends into becoming their enemies. It is curious that the Americans, who calculate so carefully on the possibilities of military victory, do not realize that in the process they are incurring deep psychological and political defeat," King said, quoting the "great Buddhist leaders of Vietnam."

And why must we continue our arrogant attempts at proving to one another that we understand our current situation better than all others?

Will we not listen to the wisdom that has already been spoken, and remains relevant, and yet remains radical?

"Somehow this madness must cease. We must

'The great initiative in this war is ours. The initiative to stop it must be ours.'

--Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

stop now. I speak as a child of God and brother to the suffering poor of Vietnam. I speak for those whose land is being laid waste, whose homes are being destroyed, whose culture is being subverted," King said.

"... I speak as a citizen of the world, for the world as it stands aghast at the path we have taken. I speak as an American to the leaders of my own nation," he went on, and finally "the great initiative in this war is ours. The initiative to stop it must be ours."

BASEBALL, From Page 4

On March 18, the Highlanders faced North Central Texas again in Gainesville, and despite a 17-hit run and a 16-hit performance in the nightcap of the doubleheader, MCC fell to the Lions in both games with a 10-4 loss in the opener and a 17-13 loss in the nightcap.

MCC fell behind in the opener after two innings but scored four runs in the top of the fourth to tie the game. North Central retook its lead in the bottom of the inning with four runs of its own and scored two additional runs in the sixth, Tankersley said.

During the nightcap, the Highlanders fell behind 9-3 after three innings. MCC's three scores in the top of the fourth were met with the Lions' four runs in the bottom of the inning. MCC pulled within a run when they scored two runs in the fifth and four runs in the seventh, but North Central scored four more runs in the bottom of the seventh, Tankersley said.

"Ryan Lormand went 5-for-5 with two doubles and two home runs in the second game while TJ. Heider and Chase Williams each slapped a homer as well. Charley Belew and Mitchell Putnam had two home runs each for the Lions in that game," Tankersley said.

On March 22, MCC faced the Weatherford Coyotes in a doubleheader at their home field.

MCC won the first game 7-1 but lost 6-4 in the second.

"Williams got some offensive help from Travis Tucker, who went 2-for-4 with a pair of doubles. Lance Nobile and Mikey Horn also recorded two hits each," Tankersley said.

MCC trailed 4-0 going into the fifth inning of the nightcap, but scored two runs in the fifth and sixth to tie the game. Weatherford responded with a run in the sixth and eighth innings to take the win, Tankersley said.

On March 25, the MCC baseball team faced Weatherford again on their home field, and scored two victories.

MCC won 7-1 in the first game and 12-1 in the second game.

"In the first game, David Mark notched a triple and RBI, Brett Kleypas went 2-2 and Ryan, Travis Tucker

and Mikey Horn had an RBI each for the Highlanders," Tankersley said.

The Coyotes gained a 1-0 lead in the first inning but lost it in the bottom of the second when MCC scored two runs. A single up the middle by Heath Herron scored Tyler Hohman, who had been hit by a pitch. A fielder's choice from Kleypas moved Herron to second, who then scored on a triple to right-center by David Mark, Tankersley said.

"The Highlanders scored two more in the bottom of the fourth, one on a sacrifice bunt by Tucker and another single by Lormand," Tankersley said.

In the nightcap, MCC was in the lead 5-0 after two innings. The Highlanders scored five more runs in the bottom of the fifth inning and two more in the sixth, Tankersley said.

"Tyler Hohman went 3-3 while Kleypas was 2-3 with a triple, chase Williams hit a home run and Tucker was 2-4," Tankersley said.

On March 27, the Highlanders beat the Navarro Bulldogs at Corsicana with a final score of 6-1.

Bart Cannon scored his first win of the season this game, Tankersley said. Cannon is 1-0 on the year after going five innings while Jeff Knapp recorded his first save of the season as well.

"Travis tucker and Mikey Horn each went 2-for-5 to lead MCC while Heath Herron was 2-4 with a double, David Mark went 2-3 and Tyler Homan recorded a double," Tankersley said.

On March 29, MCC scored two victories at home field in a doubleheader against Ranger.

MCC won the first game 9-0 and the second 15-2.

"MCC peppered Ranger starter Chris Poulos for six runs on four hits in the first inning, with the highlight being a three-run homer by Mikey Horn that scored Ryan Lormand and lance Nobile. Travis Tucker opened the inning with a single up the middle and scored on a double to left-center by Lormand," Tankersley said.

"Another big first inning paced MCC in the nightcap, as the Highlanders scored eight in the opening frame. After scoring two in the third, MCC plated five additional runs in the fourth and the scheduled nine inning game was called after seven," Tankersley said.

"Tucker went 4-4 with three doubles in the second game while Lormand and Nobile collected three hits each. Steffan Guest was 2-3 with a home run as well," Tankersley said.

On April 1, the Highlanders held their first place ranking in the North Texas Junior College Athletic conference with two wins in a double header against Ranger at their home field, 12-6 and 15-0.

In the first game Ranger held a 5-0 lead until MCC made three runs in the third inning. MCC tied the game in the fifth with two runs before scoring seven runs at the top of the seventh, Tankersley said.

"In the day's second game, game MCC scored one in the first and put the game away with 14 runs in the fifth. Lormand went 3-5 with a double, Lance Nobile was 2-4 with a double and Hohman was 3-5 with a double," Tankersley said.

COLUMN, From Page 10

and judicial branches, which remain potent and jealous interests, ultimately and rightly, will determine the extent of presidential authority in this latest chapter concerning power and liberty.

Of course, all of these institutions serve merely as surrogates for the people.


The power undergirding all these branches (constitutional and otherwise) is rooted in popular sovereignty. Franklin, commenting at the close of the Constitutional Convention, optimistically predicted that a well-administered republican government could last indefinitely.

But the pragmatic Franklin also worried that self-rule could easily "end in despotism - when the people shall become so corrupted as to need despotic government, being incapable of any other."

The gravest threat to liberty comes when the people abdicate their crucial role in the process.

May an enlightened debate with regard to the balance between liberty and power continue to flourish.

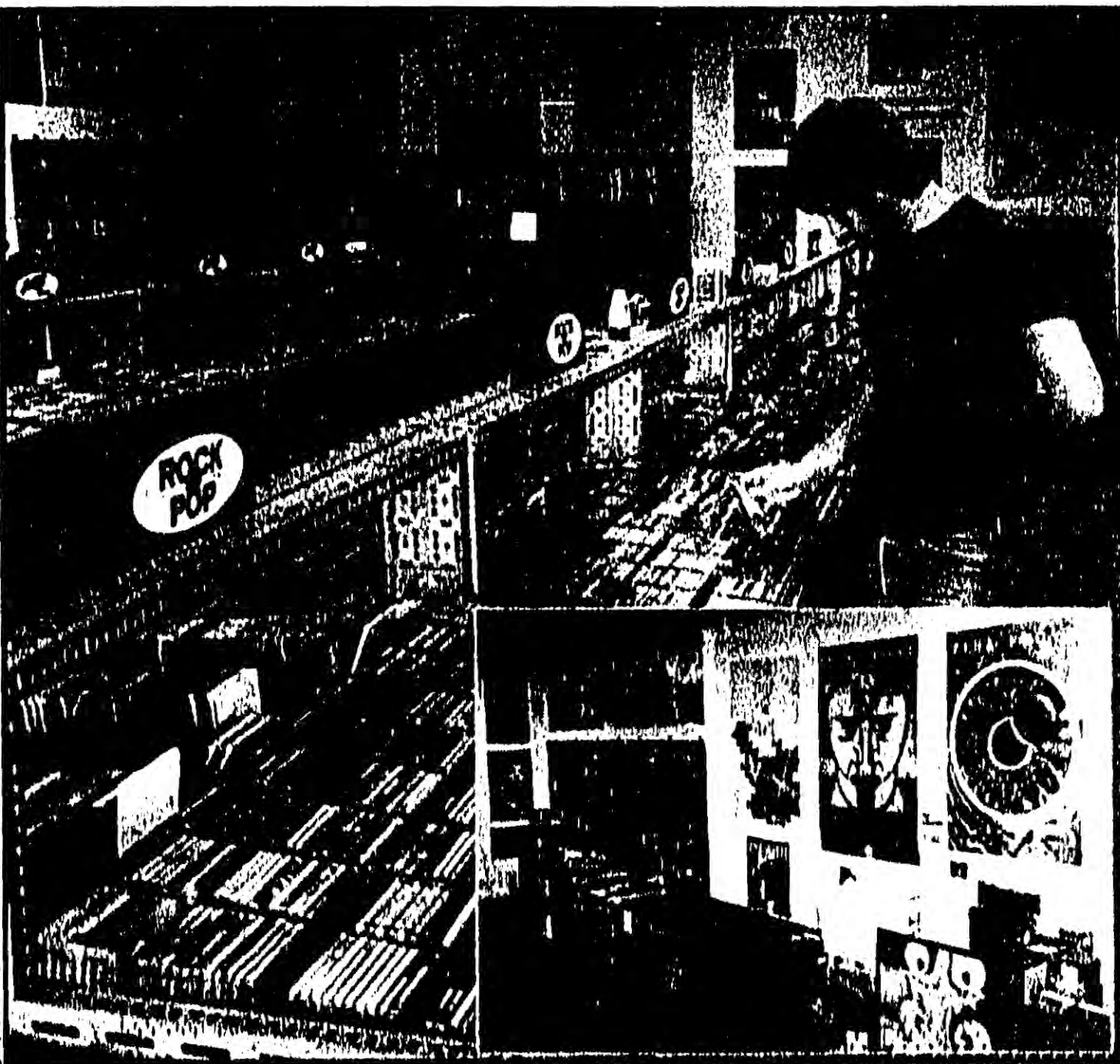
Ashley Cruseturner is a history instructor here at MCC.



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MCC Hosts Spring UIL Competition



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Overall Results

**Conference 1A District 18:
School Points**
Meridian HS: 387.83; Hubbard HS: 86.66;
Rice HS: 257.83; Valley Mills HS: 167;
Frost HS: 149; Covington HS: 57; Axtell HS:
182.33; Bosqueville HS: 80.33; Worthum HS:
79; Riesel HS: 46; Dawson HS: 4

**Conference 2A District 12
School Points**
Crawford HS: 496;
McGregor HS: 373;
Troy HS: 163; Clifton HS: 154;
Moody HS: 41;
Bruceville-Eddy HS: 224

**Conference 3A District 17
School Points**
Connally HS: 548; Robinson HS: 299;
Gatesville HS: 199; La Vega HS: 63;
Lorena HS: 66;
China Spring HS: 302



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