

Highland Herald

McLennan Community College

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May 5, 2000

New food provider in works Aramark cancels contract

Charles Farr
Sports Editor

Someone new will be cooking your student center burger next year.

Unless plans change, MCC food services will have a new provider after the end of June.

Aramark, the current provider of food services for the school, sent a letter last month stating that at the end of June, the company will not renew its contract to provide cafeteria services, catering for school functions and concessions for sporting events, said Summer Jones, senior accountant, aux-

"There is no bad blood between MCC and Aramark, but at this point in time Aramark has no comment on the issue."

iliaries and contracts.

Jones said that Aramark gave no reason for discontinuing service to MCC.

Aramark, meanwhile, kept quiet about the entire issue.

"There is no bad blood between MCC and Aramark, but at this point in time Aramark has no comment on the issue," said Tim West, regional director of marketing.

"We're not leaving on bad

terms," Jones said.

Although she said Aramark has given no reason for deciding not to renew, she and other officials speculated that MCC does not generate enough profit.

"Traditionally, they are accustomed to dealing with larger schools that generate a higher volume of sales," Jones said.

Some school officials speculated that the concessions that

will be available when the Learning Technology Center is completed in 2001 may have had some bearing on Aramark's decision.

Jones said MCC has made no decision about the services, but the school's options are either to open the concession to new providers or self-operate. The food service was run in-house prior to 1990, when Aramark was given the contract.

The consensus of school officials is that a new self-operation will be implemented in June and fine-tuned for the upcoming fall semester.

Highland games

Look on pages 4 and 5 for complete coverage



Final Exam Schedule

MWF Classes

6:55 a.m.	May 8	6:55 a.m.
	May 10	6:55 a.m.
8:00 a.m.	May 8	8:00 a.m.
9:10 a.m.	May 10	8:00 a.m.
10:20 a.m.	May 10	10:20 a.m.
11:30 a.m.	May 8	11:30 a.m.
12:40 p.m.	May 10	1:30 p.m.
2:15 p.m.	May 8	2:15 p.m.
3:50 p.m.	May 10	3:50 p.m.

TTh Classes

8:00 a.m.	May 11	8:00 a.m.
9:35 a.m.	May 9	9:35 a.m.
11:10 a.m.	May 11	11:10 a.m.
12:45 p.m.	May 9	12:45 p.m.
2:20 p.m.	May 11	2:20 p.m.
3:55 p.m.	May 9	3:55 p.m.

Evening Classes

6:00 MW	May 8	6:00 p.m.
7:35 MW	May 10	7:35 p.m.
6:00 TTh	May 9	6:00 p.m.
7:35 TTh	May 11	7:35 p.m.
6:00 M	May 8	6:00 p.m.
6:00 T	May 9	6:00 p.m.
6:00 W	May 10	6:00 p.m.
6:00 TH	May 11	6:00 p.m.

Good Luck!



MCC student Jason Scholes takes a dive into the fountain in front of the Performing Arts Center. Pranksters filled the fountain with laundry detergent. Draining and cleaning the fountain took grounds crew most of the day.

Free concert May 4

The MCC wind symphony and the MCC Choir will perform the Concert Celebration in the Ball Performing Arts Center May 4 at 7:30 p.m.

"Last year we did a combination concert. We found that when you put together large groups, it attracts people. Last year's concert was so successful, that we decided to expand it again this year. This concert is made up of all parts of MCC. It contains parts from the choir, the band, it tells of history, it involves the drama department, literature, etc. There are a million threads that we can bring together for the subjects we are playing. It brings it all together. That's why it's called the Concert Celebration," said Ed Powell, music instructor.

The concert title is from a work of the same name by Vincent

See "Concert" on page 8.

Simpson, Jones awarded prestigious theatre berths

Leah C. Turner
City Editor

MCC sophomore Michael Simpson outstaged approximately 1,980 other theatre majors from around the world to become one of the twenty talented young actors invited to enroll in the highly prestigious Julliard School for the fall 2000 semester.

Julliard alumni include such famous thespians as Val Kilmer, Kevin Spacey, Kevin Kline and William Hurtman.

"I remember thinking that the one thing that was going to get me into Julliard was my desire to be in there," said

Simpson, "but that wasn't true at all. There were kids there whose goal in life was to get into the Julliard program."

To be considered participants had to pay a \$100 audition fee and fly to New York, where Simpson, along with 90 other hopefuls, were divided into 2 rooms according to their audition groups.

Simpson performed Richard III.

"I left the room thinking 'Okay, that was at least a good experience, because there's no way I got in.'"

Simpson left the Julliard campus with no intention of returning when he remembered

he'd left his jacket.

He was walking through a hallway filled with waiting students to retrieve his jacket when by chance he glanced at the list of call-backs.

"There were only five people on the call sheet out of 90. I looked at one of the guys, and I was, like, wow, that guy has as many letters in his name as I do in mine, and I slowly realized that it was my name."

Simpson and the other 16 combined call-backs were then



Jones



Simpson

asked to write an essay about their most recent overwhelming artistic experience.

"I wrote on the experience of my dad, who is very country, being able to understand one of Shakespeare's most complex texts, Richard III, in which I played Richard."

"Then one of the faculty members said 'Oh, by the way, PBS is here and they're doing a documentary called American Masters, on the most pre-

tigious schools in given areas." Simpson agreed to have his call back performance taped, but did not realize PBS was also taping the participants while they relaxed and warmed up.

"I'm going over my monologue when I turn my head an inch and there's a camera right in my face and boom microphones trying to pick up every word I'm saying."

Simpson then went through a second grueling audition, performing in front of the entire Julliard staff, including head director Michael Conn.

"When I was done (Conn) said, 'Well, do you have any-

thing else?' and I didn't have anything prepared, so I said I could do a parody on all the Shakespearean roles I'd ever played."

"All the staff members laughed at that, but Conn looked kind of disappointed."

Simpson then went into a serious rendition of Romeo's balcony scene.

"Everyone started laughing because they thought I was going to do a parody like I'd said. Then they all got quiet and Conn shook his head at me like 'Oh, that kid will never learn.'"

Simpson and six others were asked to return a final time. See "Thespian" on page 2.

Thespians earn slots in top schools

Continued from page 1

asked to return a final time for an interview in Conn's personal office.

"PBS was taping everything and two faculty in speech and movement were sitting very close observing everything you did."

Simpson answered several

questions and read a poem without any preparation.

Simpson received a call three weeks later inviting him to enroll in Julliard for the fall 2000 semester.

Simpson gives credit for his success to his theatre director at McKinney High School and to his training at MCC.

"My director in highschool was just the most passionate, hardest working, hard core almost militant sort of director. He was just overwhelming as far as his ideas and expectations and his care for everybody around him."

"His strong point I've carried with me was his love for and his enjoyment of the process that's involved in theatre, while MCC attacks the technique and the art of theatre. It's more of a sculpting process."

Jim Rambo, head of the theatre department, says MCC offers students time to perform all parts of theatre including dancing, acting, and speaking in front of people.

While at MCC Simpson appeared as

Richard in Richard III last October, and recently in Grease as well. During his freshman year, he played Scrooge in Dickens' A Christmas Carol.

MCC sophomore theatre major, Tracilyn Jones will be rehearsing her lines in London this summer as one of only 48 students invited into the highly selective British-American Dramatic Academy.

"With the number of students BADA accepts, I was like 'Yeah, I'm gonna' get in,'" said Jones.

To even be considered, Jones wrote a personal essay to send in along with her resume, picture, and application.

"I wrote a nice charming letter about my mom and how she's a single mother supporting me and her love for theatre."

Jones' application earned her an audition, but she was tied up with Grease on the audition date.

"We had a Grease show that day, and I didn't want to risk the performance."

When BADA heard Jones was busy with a show, they offered to audition her at SMU in March.

"I was really lucky that I didn't have to go through that whole audition process, where I would be just another face in the crowd."

Jones was greeted with one judge and an enormous audition space.

The size of the room was a bit intimidating said Jones. "Like I was going to use all that space."

Jones performed one required Shakespeare piece followed by a humorous piece of her own choosing. Then she was handed a script she'd never seen before and asked to read the part with no preparation.

"I tried to do a dramatic pause and she thought I didn't know how to pronounce a word. So that totally broke my conversation."

Jones finished the piece in spite of the interruption and then inquired about the BADA summer 2000 program.

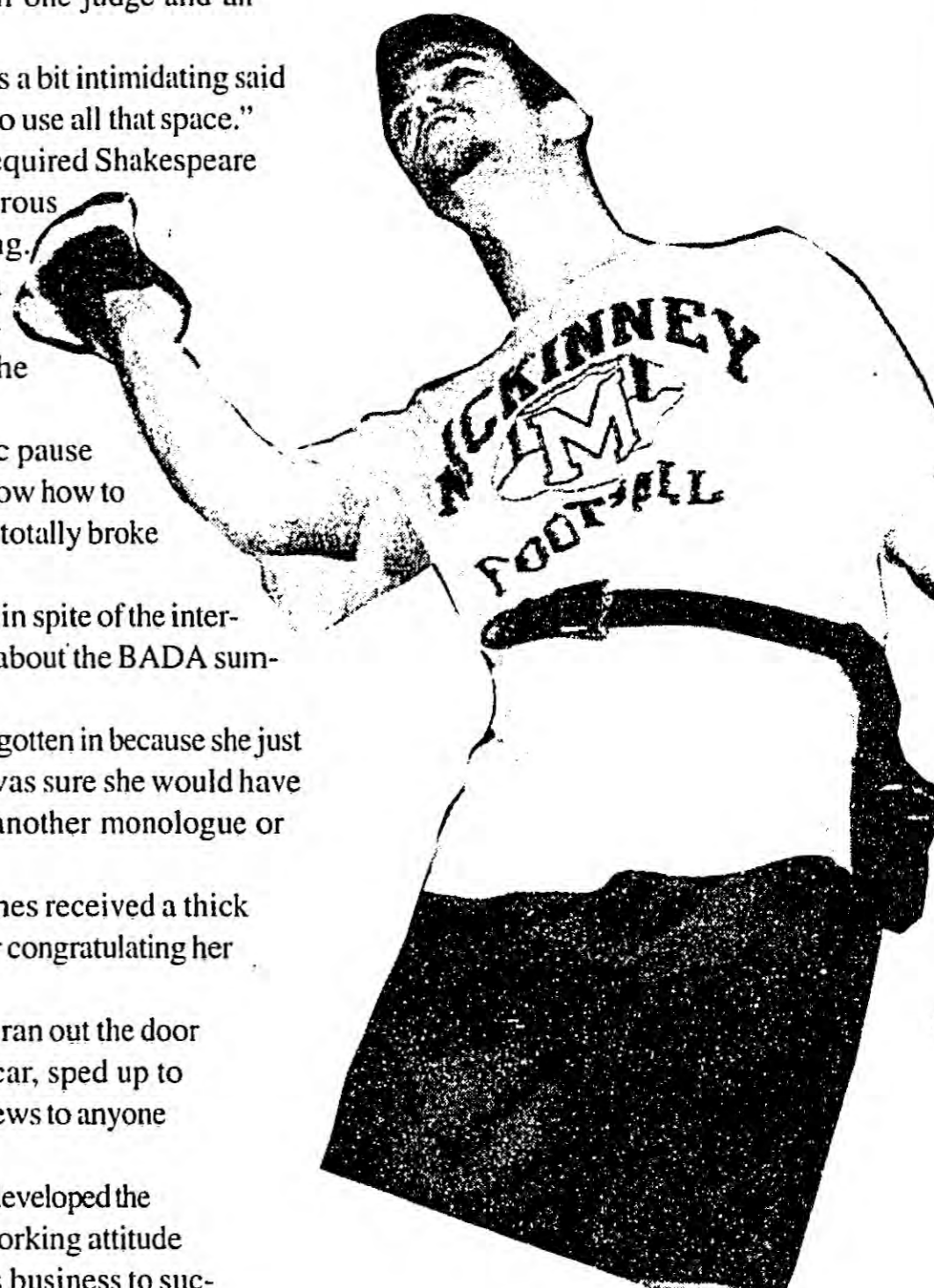
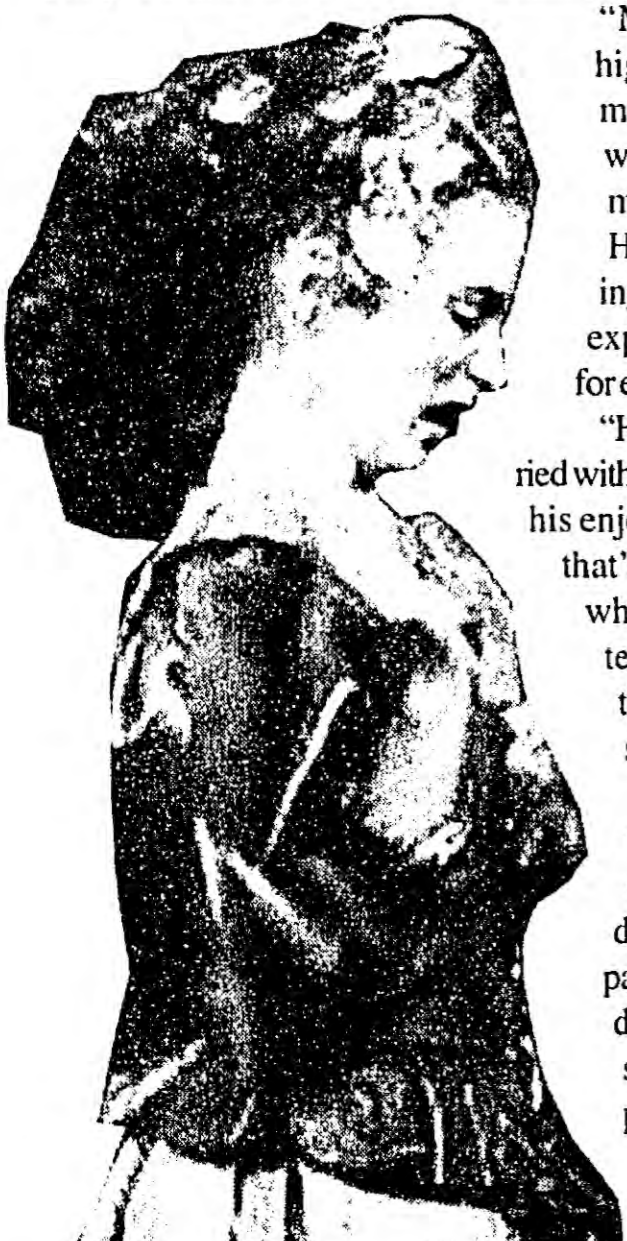
"I didn't really think I'd gotten in because she just didn't ask me enough. I was sure she would have wanted something else, another monologue or whatever."

Despite her doubts, Jones received a thick envelope a few weeks later congratulating her acceptance into BADA

"I was really excited. I ran out the door barefoot, hopped in my car, sped up to school, and shrieked the news to anyone who would listen."

"Tracilyn has definitely developed the perseverance and hard working attitude you've got to have in this business to succeed." Jim Rambo, theatre director.

Jones recently appeared in Grease as Frenchy, one of the pink ladies. She also performed in Richard III and in Scapin this year.



Dance Company captures trophy

Jennifer Holomek
Feature Editor

The MCC Dance Company recently competed in the NCA/NDA National Championship in Daytona Beach, Florida April 5-9.

The MCC Dance Company has 12 members, but due to devastating injuries only nine of the 12 were able to participate in the competition.

Captain Lindsey Davis removed herself from the competition the night before preliminaries due to a toe injury, Amy Henderson tore her ACL in her left knee during a landing from a toe touch during a practice, and Shanda McNutt has been out several months with a torn ligament.

"I had prepared them mentally in the case of an absence of their captain and the team handled it very well. They are so dedicated and well prepared that they would not let anything get in the way of achieving their best. To lose two dancers a week before the competition is very traumatic, but we handled the situation and did our best," said Dance Company Director Sandy Hinton.



The Dance Company left for Denton on March 31 to participate in a Daytona preview with other Texas teams who would also be attending nationals.

Then on April 1, they performed at the ADTS High School National Competition. The girls were on their way to Florida April 4.

On April 6, the Dance Company performed at the preliminaries at 11 A.M. MCC's performance earned them a top ten slot and a performance April 7 on the band shell located on Florida's sunny beachfront.

Twenty-four teams competed

in Division II, which includes four-year as well as two-year colleges and universities.

The MCC Dance Company received seventh place in Division II. Minnesota State University took home first place. Not only did MCC finish seventh, but they were also the highest scoring two-year college in Division II.

Mrs. Hinton said there was less than a point difference between first and seventh places. Meaning that Minnesota scored an 8.4 and MCC scored a 7.62.

One routine is required for national competition and it must consist of 30 seconds of funk, jazz, and pom routines. The routine is not allowed to be over two minutes and 15 seconds long.

MCC's routine was put together by Roger Lee and Kim McSwain from the Dallas Power House of Dance in December. However the team wanted a more challenging routine so they went back in January and made some changes. Still unsatisfied with the difficulty of their routine, the team changed the routine again, adding more moves in order to gain more points at nationals.

Each team must qualify in order to attend nationals. The Dance Company scored high enough at NCA camp last summer to enable them to attend. However, some teams can qualify by sending in a video if they do not qualify at camp.

NACTC plans future of workforce

Rachel Hunley
Staff Writer

Members of the National Alliance of Community and Technical Colleges met on the MCC campus to discuss the issue of how workforce development will impact the future Monday, March 27 through Tuesday, March 28.

Some of the alliance members came a day early to see the MCC theatrical production of Grease on Saturday, March 26. "Many of the attendees claimed that this year's conference was one of the best for the alliance. The weather was beautiful, and we got to show off the most beautiful campus in the nation," said Jay Box, Vice President of Instruction at MCC.

The main theme and focus of this year's conference was workforce development initiative and the role community and technical colleges are to play.

Guest speakers from all over the nation shared their plans for workforce development in the future. Each had their own view on why workforce development is becoming progressively more important.

The attendees were treated to a Texas-style "cowboy night" at Brentwood farms on Sunday evening. Entertainment was supplied by a cowboy poet, country/western singers, a trick roper from California, and games of horseshoes. Members got their pictures taken with a live Texas long horn. A bar-b-que meal was also served.

The meetings were adjourned at noon on Tuesday, after MCC staff gave a tour of the MCC Campus.

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Is ban better?

Rachel Hunley
Staff Writer

Smoking. It's a major health risk. Thousand upon thousands contaminate their lungs everyday with these "cancer sticks". It's estimated that 3,000 teens start this nasty habit everyday and most carry on the addiction until the day they pass on. And... I'm a statistic.

Smoking is not much different from the alcohol addictions that start everyday. In fact, the two go hand in hand. Many of my friends, social smokers and drinkers, only smoke when they drink.

The difference between the two is obvious. Smoking ruins the lungs and drinking ravages the liver. Both are health hazards. So why is it that alcoholic beverage companies have the right to advertise on TV or radio, and tobacco is banned from it?

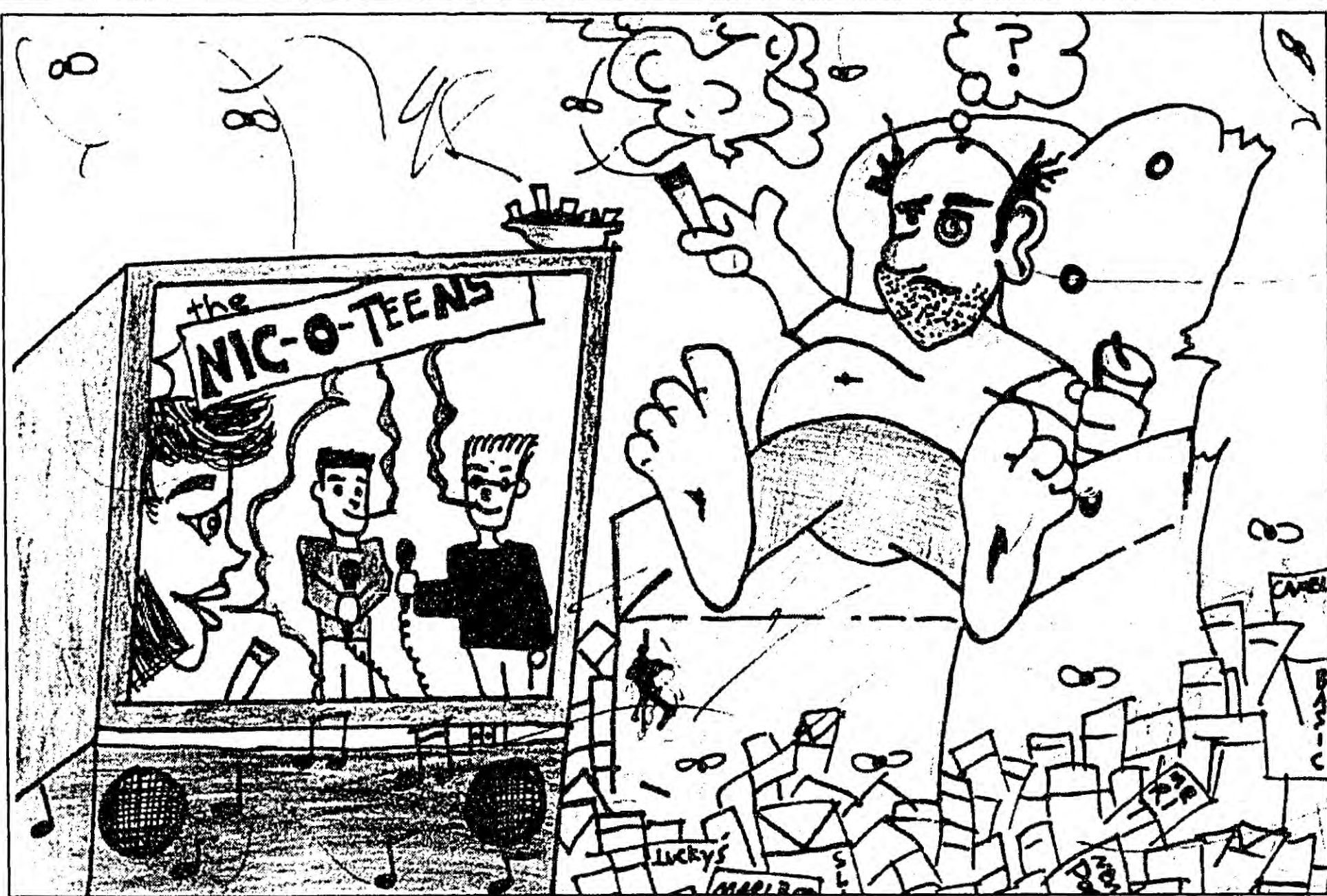
Does the U.S. Congress really think they are raising moral stan-

dards by prohibiting tobacco producers from advertising on TV and radio, while alcoholic beverage commercials are allowed to run through our television sets? Is this not a contradiction? It's OK to drink, but not smoke. Do they really think that this advertising ban has decreased tobacco consumption in recent years? I think not. Cigarettes sell themselves. More new smokers than ever are lighting up these days.

Now, to explain myself, I could really care less if I see a talking, smoking cigarette butt, or Joe Camel (God rest his soul) talking about how great you'll look, or how much fun you can have when you smoke.

That's crazy.

We know this isn't true. That's not why we do it. I just think it is stupid that one form of legal substance is allowed to be advertised through the air while another is not.



'No Fear' is just a slogan

Leah C. Turner
City Editor

While waiting to purchase Easter candy at K-Mart, a curious young lad bumbling around behind his mother began playing twenty questions with me. "What's that?" he asked pointing to a box of Peeps I had picked up for a friend who likes the colored sugar chicks. I turned the clear plastic cover toward the boy so he could see the chicks sitting in a row. "They're baby chickens," I explained. He still looked rather bemused and it was Easter after all, so I opened the package and handed him one of the rows of contented chicks. I hate the disgusting creatures and my friend was not going to eat the entire box. How could the little boy enjoy Easter if he didn't under-

stand Peeps, an Easter staple?

All of this runs along the lines of a chicken soup for the soul story until the reactions of the boy's family are examined. In a chicken soup sequence, the boy would have said, "Thank you. Thank you," and run off to play with his new toy. The mother would have smiled warmly and the boy's slightly older sister would have grinned shyly and asked her younger sibling for one of the goodies. Reading this, your heart warms and you can't help but smile. Unfortunately, this is not a chicken soup story.

Maybe in the old days, when the world was golden, this scenario was plausible, but now a days, it is at best doubtful.

Upon receiving the candy, the boy looked even more con-founded, but proceeded to poke

and prod the pink chicks anyway in hope of discovering their secret. The little girl demanded a candy and the two commenced squabbling. The mother looked down at her son and then at me with nothing short of sheer distrust and bewilderment, revealing her uncertainty as to what to do and as to why I would do such an odd thing. Even the cashier gave off vibes of disapproval.

I stuttered about how I'd just opened the package and how the unappreciated gifts were full of sugar and might make the boy hyper. Once out of the store, I could not get the look on the mother's face out of my head or the confusion of if I'd done something wrong.

Maybe the mother's dignity was wounded. Maybe she felt my generosity was a sure accu-

sation that she couldn't provide for her children. Maybe she felt I assumed they were poor because I was white and they were black. Maybe she simply didn't want her son to spoil his lunch.

After much reflection, I concluded that I was not wrong, but that society just wasn't very fond of my actions.

Maybe the way we regard each other breeds distrust. We expect the worst from our fellow mankind and search for others' underlying ugly intentions instead of appreciating the good deed or at least positive interaction that's slapping us in the face.

We have learned not to expect the best of others for fear of being disappointed. When we learn to search for the good, maybe we won't be struck so by the obvious bad we all have in us.

U.S. values decline

Lindsey Hayworth
Managing Editor

Two people were found shot to death in an upper class Beverly Hills' home. The suspect has fled the scene and is driving in a white Bronco down the highway cruising at 50 miles per hour.

This was the scene in June of 1995. O. J. Simpson was put on trial for the murder of his wife and her "friend".

Oh, and we can't forget the beating of Rodney King by New York City police and the riot that soon followed.

Looking back on the last 10 years, I can recall such horrifics as these.

We have gone from a fun-loving society in the Woodstock years to school shootings at Columbine by minors and even a two-year-old getting access to a gun and shooting herself in the head.

What do we have to look forward to from the next generation? What about the generation growing up now?

A decline in family and moral values has been apparent in today's society. The whole Lewinsky issue was not even that, it was more of a gossip column gone awry. In the weeks following, polls showed that no one really cared that the leader of our nation was an adulterer.

The Florida Marlins were allowed paid vacation to go help out in the fight for Elian to stay. Okay, who are we to tell a little boy where he belongs? Who are we to say that our country is better and safer?

What a joke.

Worry about yourself and the examples that you show to the younger generations. How can we expect our youngsters to behave in a civilized manner when many of us do not?

Letter to the editor

The *Highland Herald* welcomes letters from students, faculty and staff of McLennan Community College. Please keep them brief. All letters become property of the *Highland Herald*, and its staff reserves the right to edit them for content, taste, grammar and spelling.

Dear Editor,

We would like to explain what happened on Friday, March 31, 2000. We were sitting outside on break, and we decided to write on the sidewalk with chalk, not knowing it was going to create such a problem. Now we are paying for our irresponsible behavior. We would like to take this time and apologize to you the Editor and McLennan Community College.

Sincerely,

Lana Barfield & Cortnie McGough

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Bush: Two green thumbs down

Mandolin Shannon
Staff Writer

George W. Bush is a man of many faces, or at least he wants Americans to think he is.

A few weeks ago Bush announced that he is an environmentalist. This declaration is a huge surprise to those of us who have been following his record as governor of Texas over the past five years.

During a speech in Pennsylvania this self proclaimed friend of the environment said, "every environmental issue confronts us with a duty to be good stewards...as we use nature's gifts, we must do so wisely. Prosperity will mean little if we leave future generations a world of polluted air, toxic lakes and rivers, and vanished forests."

This statement comes from a man who, as governor of Texas, struck down many efforts to further environmental protection in our state.

One example is his opposition to a bill which came before the house last year that

would have closed a loophole which allows "grandfathered" power plants, power plants which were built before 1973, to ignore clean air and emission standards in Texas.

When this bill was being argued on the floor of the house, George W. Bush had several environmental activists unlawfully arrested at the governor's mansion. The protesters who were arrested were all carrying signs which opposed the governor's environmental record, while those who did not carry anti-Bush signs were allowed to continue their demonstrations. All charges were later dropped against the demonstrators, however Bush's actions clearly show a lack of tolerance for environmentalists and their issues.

The national Sierra Club's website states that, "one of Bush's first actions as governor in 1995 was to cancel an automobile pollution inspection program that would have helped reduce smog from cars in Texas' two most polluted cities, Houston and the Dallas-

Fort Worth area."

Bush's claim of being an environmentally friendly candidate is simply a political attempt to scam American citizens. George W. Bush is clearly not a friend of the environment.

Bush's environmental record speaks for itself. According to the Sierra Club, under Bush's leadership "Texas ranks first in toxic releases to the environment, first in toxic air emissions from industrial facilities, first in toxic chemical accidents and first in cancer-causing pollution."

"Air pollution in Texas got worse over the last five years, and Governor Bush has done little to solve this crisis," said Carl Pope, Sierra Club's Executive Director. "Thousands of Texas children continue to have their health threatened by the worst air pollution in the country."

Vice President Al Gore takes offense to Bush's erroneous claim of being an environmentalist. In a conference held in Detroit on April 21 Gore accused Bush of "playing politics with the polluters."

It seems to me that Bush is "playing politics" with everyone. Just last week Bush agreed to a meeting with selected members of the Log Cabin Republicans, the nation's leading gay and lesbian Republican organization.

This meeting will mark the first occasion where Bush has agreed to talk with the group. According to a political web-watch group, Salon.com, several elected leaders of this group were intentionally left off the guest list of this meeting. A spokesman for the national Log Cabin Republicans, Kevin Ivers, called the meeting "a media strategy... to make Bush look more inclusive."

It seems to me that appearing inclusive is precisely Bush's strategy. Right now he wants to look as if he is sympathetic to everyone's issues and causes. However, once the presidential elections are over the real Bush will once again show his true colors. I can almost guarantee that they will not include green.



Sports Day



Highlassies advance to playoffs

Cedric Iglehart
Leon Darden
Staff Writers

The MCC Highlassie softball team needed two late rallies to sweep both games of a doubleheader against Vernon Junior College 3-2 and 4-1 on April 15 at the Highlassie Field.

With two outs in the bottom of the seventh inning the 'Lassies got four consecutive hits to get the victory in the first game and Mandy Hein gave a solid pitching performance, striking out eight batters and walking two while scattering five hits.

"It was a great job," said head coach Carmack Berryman. "We led the whole way, and then we got behind, but the ladies did not quit. They hung in there and fought and fought and put themselves in a position to win it at the end."

The 'Lassies scored early in the first when Stephanie Scott's single brought in Stacie Pick from third. Pick led off the inning with a single and advanced after Tara Lamoor walked Elisha Bills, and Tandi Thomason got an infield hit. The defense held Vernon until the top of the seventh when Hein started the inning by

walking Liz Pearce. Jessica Atchley followed with a base hit and then back to back doubles by Misty Nichols and Di Flores gave the Lady Chaps a 2-1 lead.

Tanya Gonzales started the bottom of the inning with a single and reached third after Amber Peralez laid a dead-duck bunt down the first base line, followed by a sacrifice by Sabrina Wale. Gonzales scored on Amy Rousey's infield hit. Pick and Bills immediately followed with singles of their own to load the bases with the score tied at 2-2.

That set the table for Thomason, who got the game-winning RBI with a single that brought Rousey in.

In the second game, the 'Lassies used another two-out rally to take an early lead in the bottom of the second inning. Gonzales walked after Kourtney Westerfield and Scott both flied out to start the inning. Peralez hit a line drive to right field and Hein, facing a 0-2 count, fouled off six consecutive pitches before drawing a walk to load the bases. Rousey connected for a single which gave the 'Lassies a 2-0 lead.

In the top of the fifth, Vernon

opened with back-to-back singles and Nichols drove one through the infield to cut the lead to 2-1. It remained that way until the bottom of the sixth when Westerfield hit a deep drive to right centerfield for a stand-up triple, scoring Thomason from first. Scott then brought Westerfield in with a RBI-single to give the 'Lassies a 4-1 lead.

"When we went up there, they swept us in extra innings," said Berryman. "And I know the ladies feel good about sweeping them and proving that we really are the better team."

With these victories, the Highlassies (24-28, 15-11) remain in third place in the conference slightly ahead of Grayson, Collin and North Central. The top six teams in the conference advance to the playoffs.

Thomason drove in the winning run in game one of the doubleheader against Vernon on April 15. Thomason's single in the bottom of the seventh gave the Lassies a 3-2 victory which maintained their third-place berth in conference play.

In the first of two games at the highlands softball complex, the Highlassies routed Ranger Junior College, 7-1 behind the splendid pitching efforts of ace Mandy Hein and a stifling defensive effort by the entire team.

Hein, who preceded today's performance with a no hitter and an eleven strikeout game earlier this season, pitched a career high twelve strikeouts.

Kourtney Westerfield also had a monstrous game on three for three hitting and batting in four runs. Tandi Thomason drove in two runs and Elisha Bills one.

Stacy Pick also went three for three hitting and scored three runs.

In the second game against



Digital image by Cedric Iglehart

Third baseman Tandi Thomason drives in the game-winning run against Vernon April 15. The stretch win propelled the Lassies to a third-place conference standing.

Ranger Junior College, the highlassies received a scare, then rebounded brilliantly to down the Lady Rangers 6-2.

After leaving six runners stranded on eight hits and scoring two runs in the first three innings, the Highlassies appeared to be in control behind the steady pitching of Sabrina Wale until the top of the sixth.

The Lady Rangers scored two runs to tie the game 2-2. A Jackie Turman single and an Amy Rousey double brought runners to second and third to begin the bottom of the sixth.

Stacy Pick drove in Turman and a Bills triple drove in pinch runner Ashley Smith and Pick to

blow the game open 5-2. A sacrifice fly to bring home Bills completed the four run inning.

In what had already been an exciting game, third baseman Thomason ended the game on a spectacular double play as she caught a hard-hitting line drive and then tagged a threatening runner on third to complete the sweep.

The sweep put the Highlassies in third place in conference. The MCC Highlassies softball team overcame a 3-13 non-conference start and ended their inaugural season with a berth to the Region V Tournament in Abilene. MCC will play against Howard on April 29.

The 'Lassies (22-12) are currently in third place behind Temple

(29-5) and North Central Texas (24-10), with one series remaining against Hill. The 'Lassies have been led by freshmen Thomason, Westerfield and Hein.

Thomason has been consistent at the plate all season long, ranking fifth in the conference in hits with 59 and second in doubles with 17. She combines with Westerfield to provide the muscle of the lineup by tying for second in conference in home runs with 6 each. Westerfield was also second in conference in triples with six. Hein (14-11) has been the ace of the squad and is third in conference with an ERA of 1.55. Her strikeout total of 166 is second only to Rachel Reese of Temple who leads with 240.



Digital image by Marcus Garcia

Pitcher Sabrina Wale finishes a late afternoon game against Ranger April 27 silhouetted against the outfield sky.

Golf team nationally ranked

Corey Farrar
Staff Writer

With all other tournaments completed and the National Tournament quickly approaching, the MCC women's golf team finds itself in a familiar position, sandwiched between two old rivals.

At last years National Tournament, the Highlassies finished one spot ahead of Tyler, but fell short of Midland for the National Championship.

The same three teams occupy the same three spots in the national polls heading into this year's version of the championship in Shawnee, Oklahoma May 15-18.

"It is real similar to last year, only the rolls are opposite," Head Coach Stan Mitchell said. "We were sitting on the number-one ranking last year, and

we saw how that went. We'll let them (Midland) sit on it this year and see what happens."

Midland and MCC have faced each other in five tournaments this year. All five times the Lady Chaps have bettered MCC. The last of these was in the Region V Tournament at Midland's Ranchland Golf Course April 17-18.

Midland's two-round total of 620 edged out MCC's second-place 628 for the Regional Championship, but both scores were good enough to ensure a showdown at nationals.

The two schools also dominated the individual standings. Midland's Linzi Morton won the region with a two-round total of 142. MCC sophomore Susanna Helmersson finished at 152 to earn the runner-up spot. Tied for third were Midland's Pam McKay and

MCC freshman Casey Williams at 155.

Despite the troubles MCC has had with the Lady Chaps, Mitchell and the Highlassies exude an air of confidence.

"I think the women will finish first or second (in the nation). We've improved all year long. All we have to do is go out and play," Mitchell said.

Like the women, the MCC men's golf team qualified for Nationals by finishing second in the Region V tournament.

The tournament, which encompassed six rounds of golf over two weeks and two golf courses, saw the Highlanders fall short of the Midland men. Finishing third was West Texas.

The first half of the Regional took place at Twin Lakes Golf Course in Carrollton and duelled as the Conference Tournament.

Despite winning the North Texas Junior College Athletic Conference at the tournament, MCC found themselves behind Midland and New Mexico junior colleges in the region.

But MCC surged into second place during the second leg of regionals at Gains County Golf Course in Seminole, shooting three rounds under par as a team.

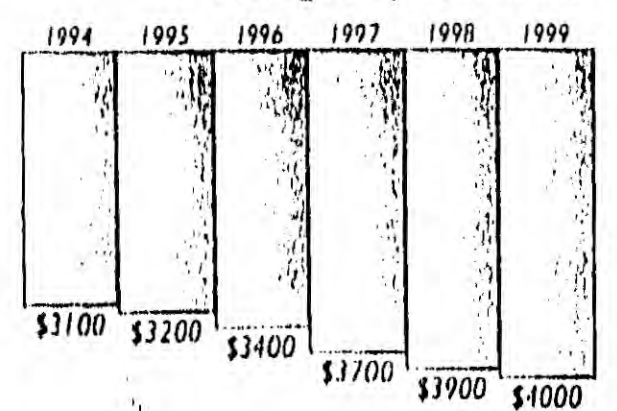
All-Conference freshmen Garry Antunes and Kasper Jorgensen will lead the Highlanders into the Highland Trails Golf Course in Dothan, Alabama for the National Tournament May 23-26.

"As a team, we had three rounds under par. Individually, we had a lot of real low numbers, so I feel good about our chances," Mitchell said.

The **Highland Herald** staff congratulates all the 1999-2000 McLennan Community College Golfers and Highlassies Softball Team

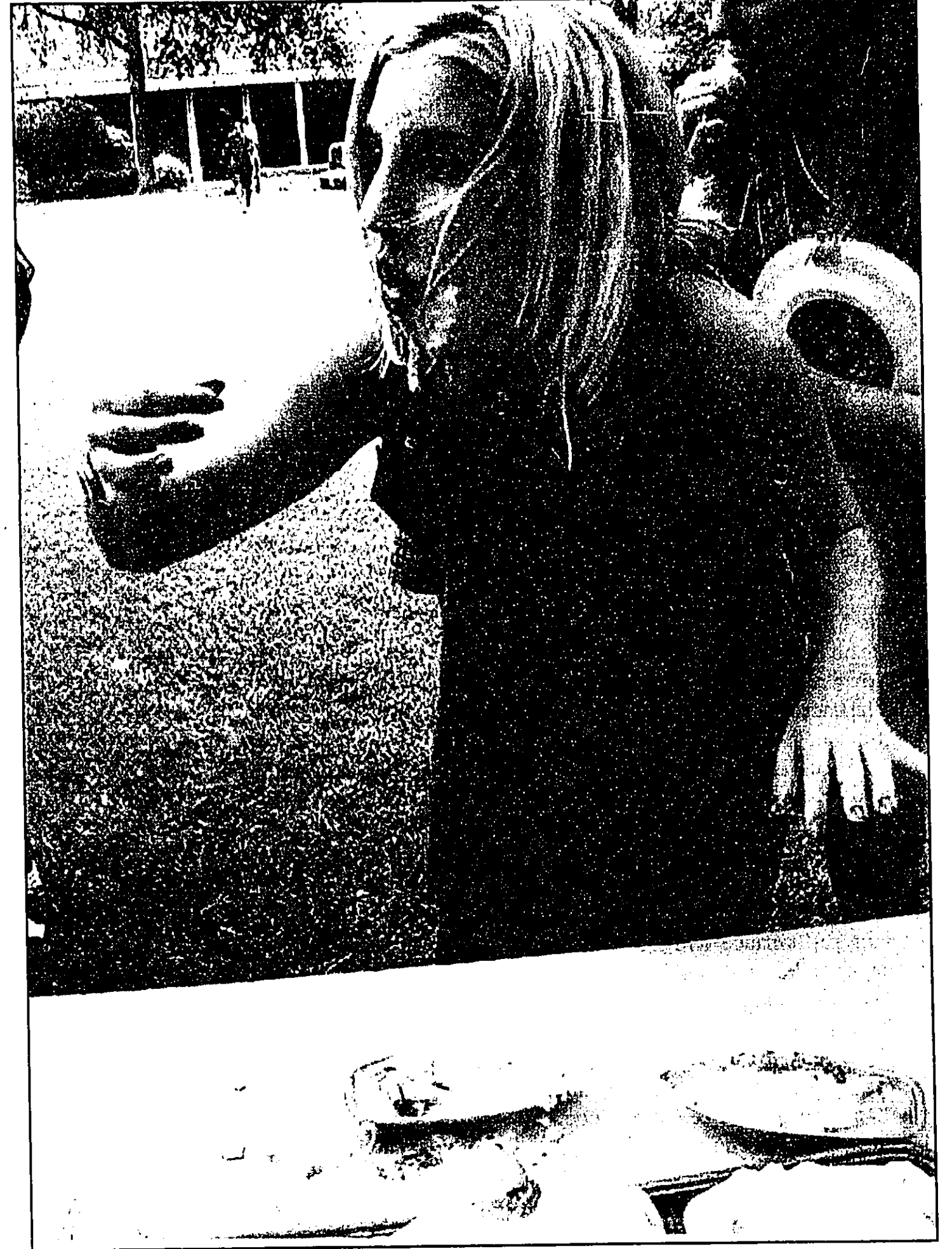
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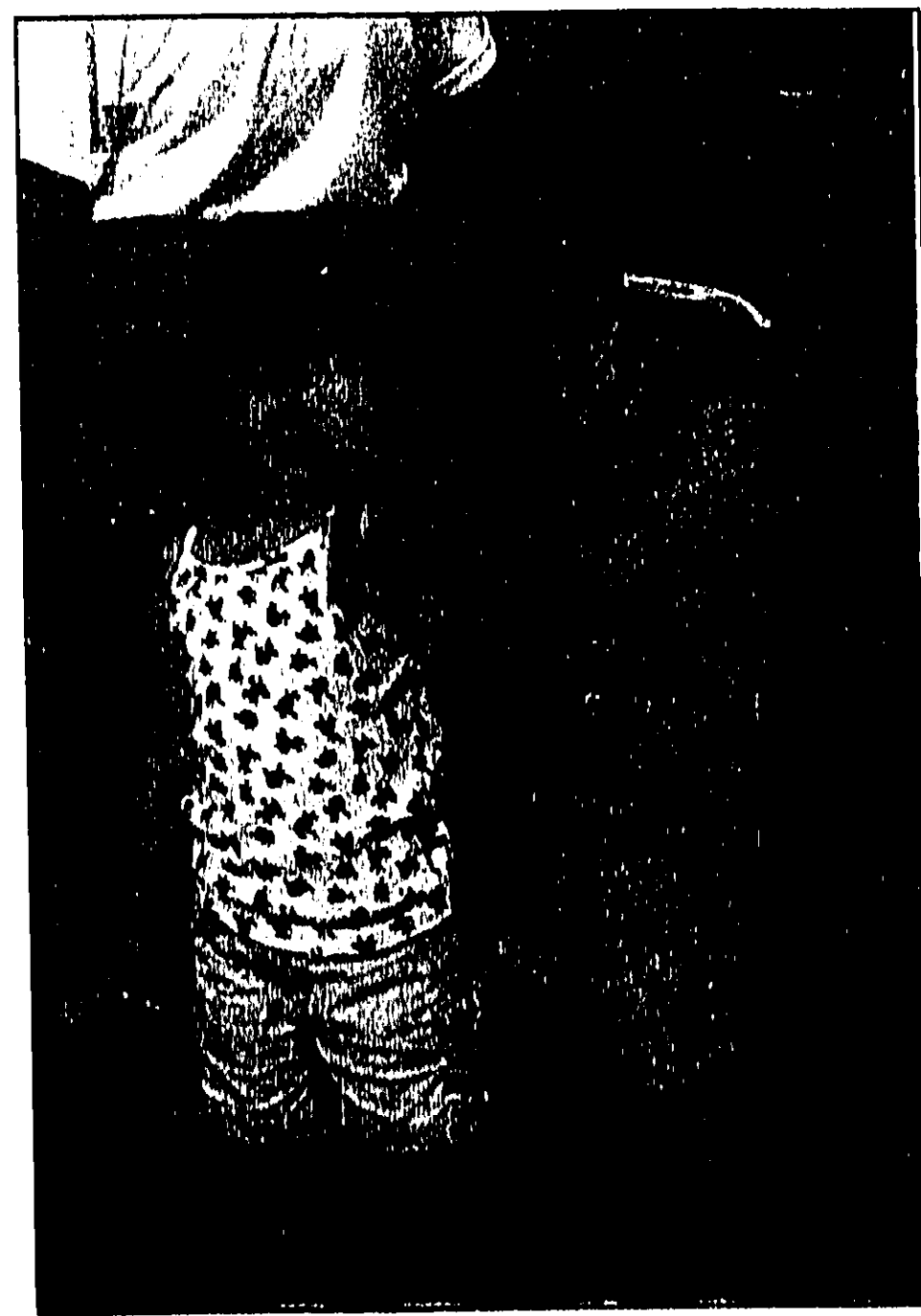
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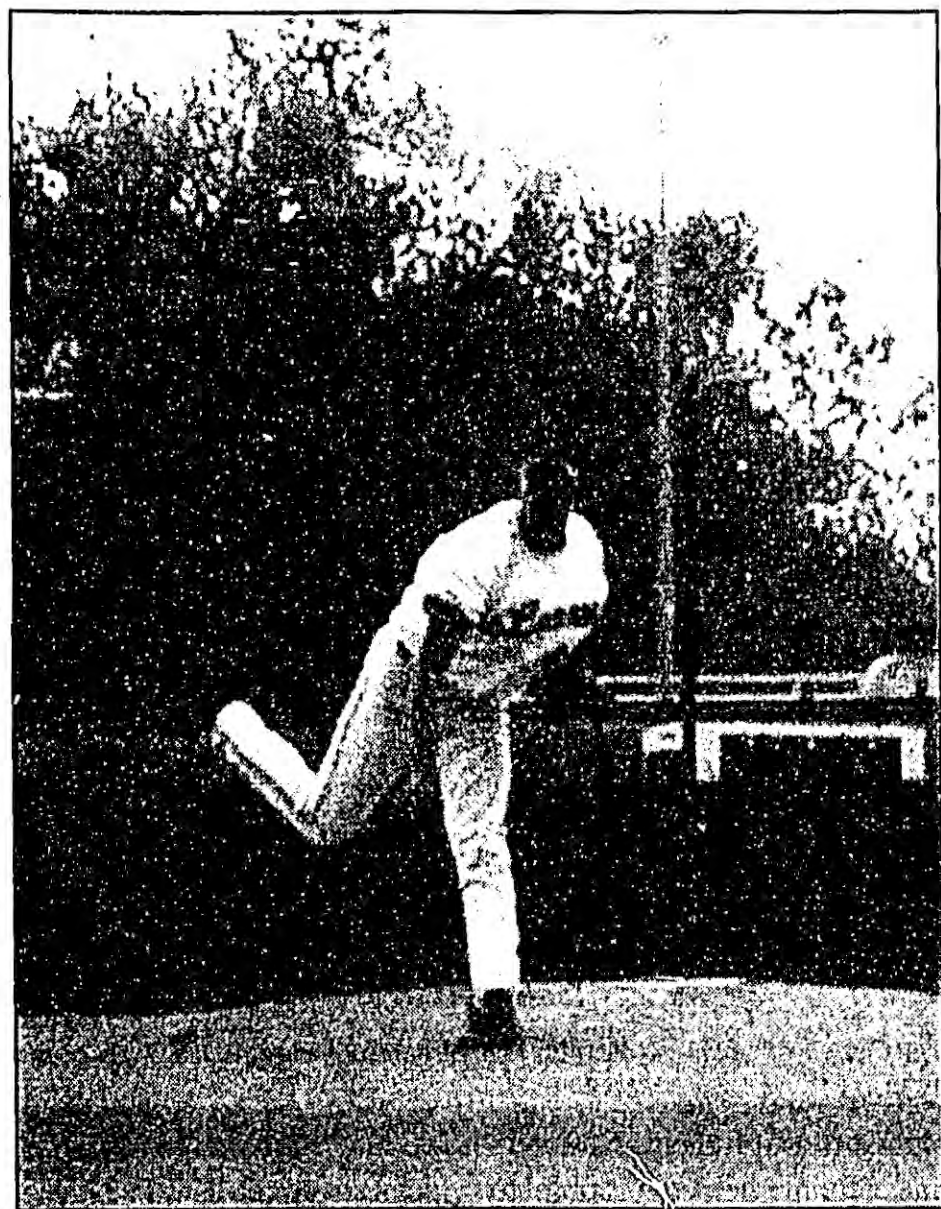


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Ma cos Garcia



Let G mes he egin





'Landers fall short of playoffs

Aaron Smith
Staff Writer

After a dismal game one, the Highlanders came back with a vengeance in game two to earn the split with North Central 12-1 and 4-1 April 17 at MCC Field.

In game one, the Highlanders fell behind in the first inning by committing two errors which aided North Central in the decisive four run first.

With the game 5-1 in the fourth, the flood gates opened as North Central scored five runs in the inning aided once again by sloppy defense.

North Central went on to add two in the fifth to ten run rule the Highlanders 12-1.

In game two, the Highland-

ers looked to Sean Henn to get the job done and he did not disappoint going 7 2/3 scoreless innings striking out seven and allowing just one walk on the day.

The Highlanders offense helped Henn's cause with a three run fourth which was keyed by a Brett Cooley two-run single.

Then in the fifth, Charlie Prahm led off the inning with a homerun to make the score 4-0. That's all Henn needed as he pitched in to the eighth and Carl Makowski got a key strike out with the bases loaded and two outs in the eighth to put out the fire.

With the split, the Highlanders went to 24-23 overall and 12-14 in conference.

After giving up three runs in a double header most fans would expect two MCC victories, but that was not the case as the Highlanders split a double header with Temple College losing the first game 1-0 and winning the second game 7-2 April 19 at Temple.

In game one, Carl Makowski (5-8) was the hard luck loser allowing only one run on three hits in six innings. The Leopards took advantage of the game's only error to scratch across the games only run for the 1-0 Temple victory.

In game two, the Highlanders got a splendid outing from Dustin Lansford (7-3) who tossed a one hitter in the Highlanders 7-2 victory. The Highlanders gave Lansford some support with the game tied at two. In the ninth, the Highlanders exploded for a five run inning.

Leading the way for the Highlanders at the plate was Chris Churchill who went 5-5 on the day including the game-tying single in the eighth and a two-run single in the ninth.

With the split, the Highlanders went to 25-23 overall and 13-15 in conference.

When you are 2 1/2 games out of a playoff spot with four games to go, the last team you want to play is the defending national champs. The Highlanders were swept by the nation's number one ranked team 11-1 and 7-1 April 26 at MCC Field.

In game one, everything fell apart as the Highlanders made four errors helping Grayson to a six run fourth to go up 10-0 and win 11-1.

Lansford (7-4) went 3 1/3 innings allowing nine runs, only four earned, while striking out four.

In game two, the Highlanders played better, but it was still not enough to overcome the defending champs as they lost 7-1.

Makowski (5-9) scratched and clawed his way to a solid outing going seven innings allowing six runs, only five earned, while striking out five.

With the two losses, the Highlanders assured missing the playoffs for the first time in 21 years as they go into their final double header of the year at Brookhaven 25-26 overall and 13-17 in conference.

Players put ball in MCC court

Corey Farrar
Staff Writer

For the past 14 years, the MCC men's basketball has been a staple at the Region V tournament. But after a year strewn with injuries, the Highlanders finished 13-17 and are in an unfamiliar position- looking to rebuild.

The Highlanders took their first step towards a successful 2000-2001 campaign by signing five players to a team in need of more depth.

"I like the five kids we've signed so far," Head Coach Steve Shields said. "They all can shoot the ball. Anytime you have that as a coach, you can do a lot more things with them."

The five Shields referred to are Grant Davis, Mike Horton, Jason Kemp, Roderick Nealy, and Alfred (Junior) Sanchez.

Davis, a 6'8" power forward from Arlington Martin, averaged 13.5 points and 9.3 rebounds per game on his way to being named district 7-5 A Player of the Year.

"Grant broke the school record for blocked shots (at Martin). Offensively, he can step away from the basket and still be effective," Shields said.

Horton averaged 15 points a game at St. Louis's Lafayette High School. At 6'5" he can play either the small or power forward.

"He is very solid, and he shoots well. But his best attribute is his knowledge of the game," Shields said.

The only Central Texan signed to date is Waco High's Jason Kemp. At 5'9", he played shooting guard for the Lions. But Shields thinks Kemp, who averaged 15.6 points and 4.3 assists, can be an effective point guard as well.

"I think he's another one of those combination players. He's very quick and has great upper body strength. I think he'll step in as a freshman and get quality minutes since we can play him at either the one or the two," Shields said.

On the path from Houston Smiley to MCC Nealy took a detour. After averaging 18 points and four rebounds during his senior year in high school, Smiley played his freshman season at Arkansas-Little Rock.

"Roderick probably has more potential than anyone we've got," Shields said. "He's strong enough to be an excellent rebounder, plus he got quality experience playing at the Division one level."

The 6'6" forward will only be eligible to play one season for the Highlanders.

While averaging 25 points per game for Valley High School, 6'2" shooting guard Sanchez was named Albuquerque's player of the year and first-team all-state.

"He's an exceptional shooter with great range. He also has the ability to put the ball on the floor and become a slasher," Shields said.

According to Shields, three more players will be signed for sure, possibly four. He expects two of the slots to address the lack of depth in the front court and the need for a true point guard. With the third, he has a specific role player in mind.

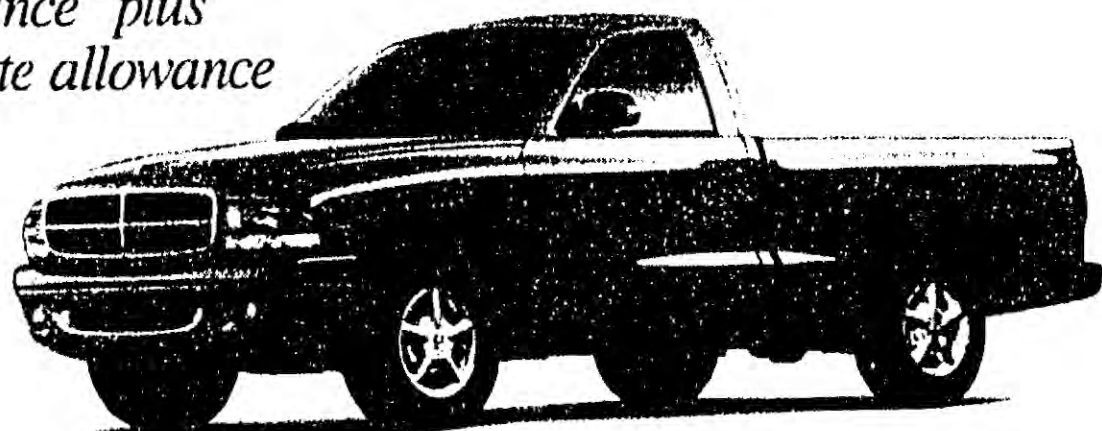
"We'd like to get a big time scorer, the way (former 'Lander) Meechy (Sims) was. I don't care if he's a guard, forward or post. But we'd like someone who can consistently put in 16 or 18 for us," Shields said.

Valuedictorians

Graduating college seniors get an extra \$400 cash allowance toward the purchase of a new Dodge vehicle.

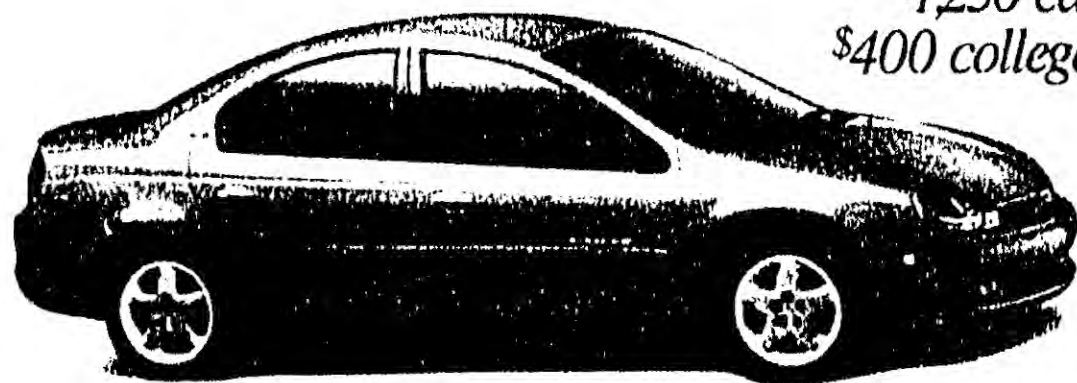
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'Cripple' strides through final show

Dylan Newhouse
Staff Writer

MCC closed its 1999-2000 theatre season with a production of *The Cripple of Inishmaan*, a dark period comedy. A relatively new work by Irish playwright Martin McDonagh, the play ran from April 26-29.

The plot revolves around a small Irish community circa 1934. Their 'rumor mill' is kicked into overdrive when Hollywood director Robert Flaherty comes to Inishmaan to film a documentary and issues an open casting call. (The real film, *The Man of Aran*, is featured in the MCC production via projected film clips.)

The student actors excel at their roles. They ran the risk of letting

their strong Irish accents take up too much of their energy, but they made the accents so natural, undoubtedly with much practice, that they were able to endow every individual with... um... individuality.

Bret Newman gives a near-flawless performance as Billy Claven, the cripple of the title. He conveys Billy's hurt at being underestimated and teased, and his yearning for a chance at film stardom, with equal effectiveness. And doing much of the teasing and underestimating are two proven MCC talents, Michael Simpson and Melissa Hurta. Simpson's sea-faring Babbybobby is as ignorant as he is strong, and Hurta plays the trumpy Helen with just the right

amount of wink-and-purr. Michelle Gold and Sarah Beth O'Donnell play Billy's chatty "aunts" to perfection, while Jamie Price features one of the best Irish rouhes in the cast with his Bartley.

The very finest, funniest performance comes from the talented Lee Trull, as Johnnypateenmike O'Dougal, the town's spry old bearer of "news." He is absolutely hysterical in a play full of funny moments. Johnnypateenmike is the harbinger of the upheaval that happens when Hollywood comes to the area, and this is the only "news" any of his listeners have been interested in. Ever. Trull has an obvious knack for comedy, and that has never been more apparent than in 'Cripple.'

Just as impressive as the cast

was the set and the crew. The main set was a general store, with a large wooden floor, that extended two rows into the audience. The main area was flanked by two sidestages consisting of a boat and a bedroom. The set was expansive and impressive and works as an enhancement, rather than a distraction, to the story. Lights were used well, if a bit sparingly.

The Cripple of Inishmaan, was one of the best MCC productions of the season. The cast and crew, with their combination hard work and talent, took a simple story a long way. Farther, perhaps, then it deserved to go. The story is simple allegory that works well for comedy. The cast members' humorous personalities



Digital image by Rachel Hunley

The Cripple of Inishmaan explores life in a small, remote Irish village in 1934.

shined through their characters and certainly helped 'Cripple' to be a fun, funny end to an excellent season of MCC Theatre.

CMAD assists youth with college choices

"We want people who really care about helping children realize their potential and think more seriously about their education,"

--Cynthia Morris

Leah C. Turner
City Editor

Community Mentoring Adolescent Development offers students the opportunity to earn credit free while helping youngsters.

CMAD, part of GEAR UP Waco, Gaining Early Awareness Readiness for Undergraduate Programs, pairs college students, faculty and staff with low-income middle school-aged children to provide positive role-models and get youngsters on the track to higher education.

"One long-term possibility is ending intergenerational poverty by helping first generation college students. Research proves more education equals more money and lower crime rates," said Cynthia Morris of Health Careers.

MCC matches students with compatible grade-schoolers from G.L. Wiley, our sponsor school.

"We want people who really care about helping children realize their potential and think more seriously about their education,"

Morris said.

Teachers, counselors, parents and mentors all work together to get students in the right courses to prepare for their college education.

Mentors ensure children will get the extra help they need with homework and provide friendship and encouragement to the disadvantaged youth.

Mentors are required to meet with their mentees for a two hour period every week and keep a mentoring journal.

Mentors will be trained during a one and a half hour class covering such topics as self-esteem building, goal-setting and decision making, and cultural sensitivity.

MCC fully pays for the course which involves a two-page reflection paper and experience summaries as well as a ropes course.

Interested students can call Cynthia Morris at 299-8408 or contact her via e-mail at CAM@MCC.CC.TX.US.

Choir, symphony to perform May 4

Continued from page 1

of the same name by Vincent Persichetti that sets to music the words of Walt Whitman. The MCC Chorale and the MCC Wind Symphony will perform this piece.

The band kicks off the show in high gear with *Cut To Desert*, as the fade in brings a sense of a bright sunny day in tinsel town, and the excitement of a new day filled with the possibility of 'The Big Payoff' is practically playable.

"Godzilla Eats Las Vegas," a composition by young composer Eric Whitacre will be performed by MCC's Wind Symphony with a special film following the music by the Drama department.

The program also provides works of composers of the 1960's and 1970's, a piece written in memory of the Oklahoma City bombing victims, and several gospel spirituals which will be paired with a tribute to Rosa Parks.

Admission is free, but you must call in advance for a ticket due to limited seating. For tickets call 299-8283.

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