

# HIGHLAND HERALD



VOLUME 43, NUMBER 1

McLENNAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE, WACO TX

FRIDAY, SEPT. 10, 2004

## Police Academy Sees Changes

By Stacy Gatlin  
Staff Writer

The 2004-2005 school year brings new opportunities at McLennan Community College in the form of a revamped police academy program.

This is not MCC's first police program, but according to Danny Smith, head of the police academy, this one will be among the most successful.

Smith said he was hired at the beginning of July not knowing that he had to pull together a class within six weeks.

Regardless of the time frame, he said, he has great confidence in the course for these students.

Twenty-two students of all ages, ethnic backgrounds, and experience enrolled in the program.

Cadet Roman Proctor said he enrolled in the old program at MCC, but had problems with the state police licensing exam. Proctor said he has more confidence in the program this year and knows that he will achieve what he wants.

Fernando Ramirez, a cadet who has

spent the last three years working at the county jail, has also tried a program before without success, but said he now thinks this program will be much more beneficial.

Cadet Chad Buenger's step-father was a state trooper for 29 years before being shot and killed in the line of duty. Since then, Buenger said he has wanted to be in law enforcement. Now, fresh out of the military, he is getting his chance.

The police academy program is not just for men.

Tammie Brown, who said she has wanted to be a police officer since childhood, said she is trying the program for the second time with much more success.

Jeanette Smart said she has no experience in law enforcement.

Unable to join the military because of her religion, she said she decided that the academy would be the best thing for her.

Academy students must have no criminal records and no involvement in family violence, be at least 21 years old by graduation, be U.S. citizens,



Digital Image By Stacy Gatlin

Barrett Thomas carries the Texas flag.

have valid drivers licenses, and have acceptable scores on the reading part of the TABE (Test of Adult Basic Education) reading skills test.

The cadets will have a total of 663 hours of training that must be completed within 17 weeks; all courses except physical fitness are mandated by the state of Texas.

Entering students do not have to be in top physical fitness.

Twice a week the cadets will meet with trainer Brian Konzelman to help get them in shape. They also have physical training assignments that they must do on their own time to maintain their physical best.

On top of working on their physical fitness the students must learn traffic law, criminal law, code procedures and investigation.

"We have told them going in that they must make a passing score, which is at least a 70, and if they don't and they fail two tests or more there will be a good chance that they will be dropped from the course," Smith said.

That's not to say that if a person misses by just a couple of points that

the person will be dropped, Smith said.

Once the students are done with the course they will be required to take the state exam in Austin, to become a licensed peace officer.

Students have three tries to take the test and pass.

A third failure means the student must go through the program again at another academy, Smith said.

"What I'm expecting them to do is to be well trained, to show professionalism and the discipline associated with law enforcement. At the end of the course I expect them to pass the licensing exam from the state," he said.

It all seems like a lot of work and that there is a lot riding on the students of the police academy, Smith said, but he said he and the students have high hopes of excelling in the program.

"Some of these guys in here have stepped down in pay and jumped out on a limb and pushed themselves a little bit further in life and try to make take that extra step. Since a lot of us have done that, I believe it is going to be a good thing for a lot of us," Ramirez said.

## Brooks To Lead MCC In 2004 Heart Walk

By Allison Smith  
Editor in Chief

Students with a big heart now have something to walk about.

McLennan Community College has become part of the 2004 McLennan County Heart Walk, one of 45 Heart Walks scheduled in Texas this year.

Heart Walk is a non-competitive walking event established to raise money for the American Heart Association (AHA).

The Saturday, Oct. 2, Heart Walk will be at Gettnerman Softball Stadium across from Baylor's Ferrell Center.

Mathematics instructor Gail Brooks will lead the MCC team of several captains who will help with recruiting at least 10 walkers. Brooks, along with seven team captains, Bill Matta, Debbie Wright, Louise Bank-Smith, Mike Campenni, and Pam Briggs, have chosen to help lead MCC in the Walk.

"We hope each team captain can recruit 10 walkers, giving MCC over 70 participants in the Walk," Brooks said.

Brooks said she believes that a happy person is one who is continu-

ally striving to improve mind, body and spirit. "The Heart Walk is a wonderful way to learn about heart health and raise money for research and education to heart disease," Brooks said.

To be a walker for MCC, contact Brooks at 299-8883 or email her at gbrooks@mcclennan.edu.

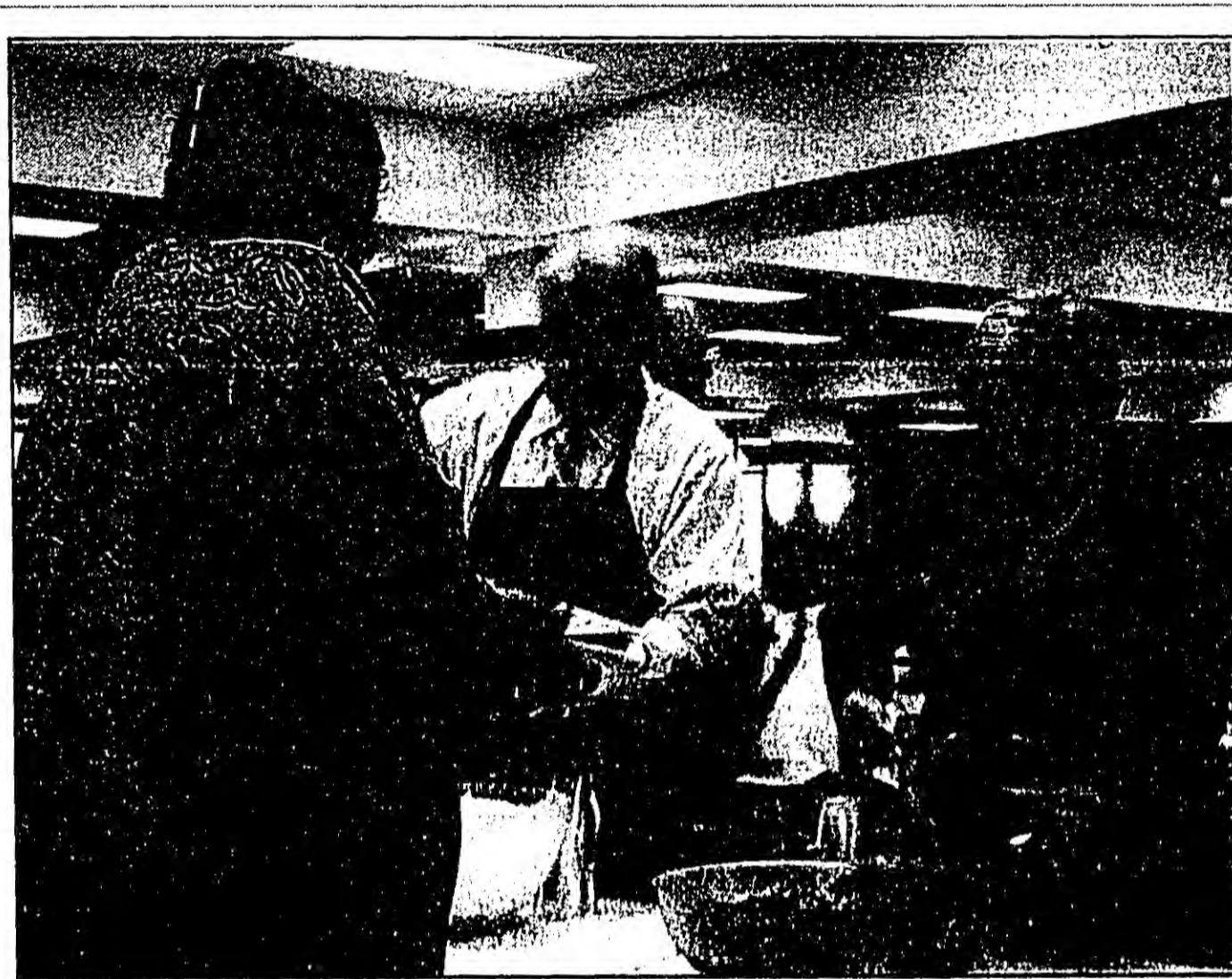
The purpose of Heart Walk is to raise money to fund research about cardiovascular diseases and to educate Americans about these diseases, while promoting physical activity.

According to the AHA website, 750,000 walkers will participate in more than 600 events this year to raise money to help with the prevention of heart disease and stroke, which kill approximately one million people each year.

The Heart Walk will have a positive effect on students, Brooks said, by teaching them to make good choices about diet and exercise, the two main ways to improve heart health.

Anyone can register as a company, team, or individual.

To obtain more information about Heart Walk or to register, visit the website [www.americanheart.com](http://www.americanheart.com) or call the AHA office in Waco at 299-0880.



Digital Image By Lee Kuhl

DISHING IT OUT — President Dennis Michaelis and Vice President of student services Lynn Abernathy serve ice cream at the annual PTK ice cream social held on Aug. 20 2004 in the LTC.

## SGA Plans Comeback

By Brittney Mortensen  
Staff Writer

MCC Student Government Association is planning for a comeback and wants to make a difference.

SGA is supposed to be the link between student voices and the college.

"I have heard of SGA but never knew who ran it or what it takes to be in it," incoming freshman Meheret Sahlou said.

Sahlou is not alone. Feyia Sadiq just moved here from Nigeria. There was a student government where she was going to school back home.

"If I knew more about how to get involved I would consider joining," she said.

This year the Student Government Association has recognized this lack of communication, SGA President Lisa McNabb said. With its dwindling numbers and lack of representation, something needs to be changed, she said, adding that it will take time.

"Right now is a transition period for SGA from last semester to the beginning of a new school year," Marissa Markey, SGA Historian, said.

"Students need to come to the meetings, voice their opinions, and vote on the decisions that are being made," Markey said.

The constituents are what make SGA work. SGA is how students can make sure that their voices are heard here at MCC.

If there are ideas for new organizations or problems that students want addressed, then it is done through the Student Government. It is run completely by the student body and the voters are students who are members of SGA.

Student elections are coming up and there are usually less than a dozen people who will be voting on the representation.

"This year Student Government is trying to grow and become more involved with its constituents," McNabb said. Flyers are hanging up in every building along with an announcement on the student channel for MCC.

There are currently 21 active members in SGA, including four officers. SGA is holding elections for a parliamentarian and a public relations officer.

According to MCC's homepage, the enrollment is over 7,600 students, which is an all time high. Twenty-one mem-

See SGA on Page 2

## The Wheel Rolls Onto The BRS

By Anson McCarty  
Staff Writer

Has the prolonged insurgent war in Iraq got you down?

Do you spend many a sleepless night tossing and turning, agonizing over the fact that Osama Bin Ladin has yet to be brought to justice...?

Does the prospect of spending yet another 9/11 glued to the boob tube, being bombarded with images of the nine hijackesses plowing into the Twin Towers in the hope that Allah will reward them in the afterlife, send your head into a tailspin and make you want to take a long, hot soak in the tub with the complete works of Sylvia Plath and a Sunbeam toaster?

If your answer to any or all of the above was a somewhat lethargic, "I suppose so," it's time you had a shot of musical Prozac courtesy of Asleep at the Wheel and the Bosque River Stage.

The Wheel plays at the BRS Saturday, Sept. 11 at 8:00 p.m. bringing with it the infectious dance beat of Western Swing, the music pioneered by such illustrious acts as Milton Brown and His Musical Brownies, and of course, Bob Wills and His Texas Playboys (and as we all know,

"once you're down in Texas, Bob Wills is still the King" - Waylon Jennings).

According to Dick Gimble, Artistic Director of the BRS, Western Swing is an amalgamation of big band numbers, a la Duke Ellington,

"[Western Swing is] jazz influence with country string band instruments."

- Dick Gimble

Tommy Dorsey, etc., traditional fiddle tunes, and Mexlenn melodies played with a driving swing beat that sets it apart from other music. "It's jazz influence with country string band instruments." Typical instrumentation includes a fiddle (or two, or three), hollow body electric guitar, steel guitar (non-pedal if you're a traditionalist), piano, bass fiddle, and drums.

Asleep at the Wheel is generally considered the preeminent torchbearer of Western Swing today.

They have had great success of late paying tribute to Bob Wills, the "King of Western Swing," with the 1993 album "A Tribute to the Music

of Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys" and the 1999 release of "Ride with Bob" which received four Grammys, including best vocal performance by a duo or group for the song "Cherokee Maiden," which was written, incidentally, by Cindy Walker, the "Queen

of Western Swing", who makes her home just up the road in Mexia.

This theme of paying homage to the roots of Swing carries over into the Wheel's live performances with a portion of the concert specifically dedicated to the music of Bob Wills.

At this time, Johnny Gimble, the Yoda of swing fiddle and former member of the Texas Playboys, and MCC's own Dick Gimble, the Luke Skywalker of the upright bass, will take the stage to play along with the band.

Asleep at the Wheel's appearance at the Bosque River Stage is the product of the collaboration between Dick Gimble, Steve Hauser and Scott Galloway, the latter two of the Will-

Morris Agency, that began at a celebrity golf tournament sponsored by the Wheel this past April.

According to Gimble, Hauser became interested in booking the band here at MCC when he learned of the Concert Venue and Promotions class offered by the Commercial Music Dept..

Gimble said that the deal was basically sealed when he happened to run into the Wheel's front man and driving force, Ray Benson, at Fry's Electronics in Austin, at which time Benson said, "Yeah, let's do it."

If after seeing Asleep at the Wheel's renditions of "Ain't Nobody Here but Us Chickens," "Route 66,"

and "Dance with Who Brung Ya" you still feel blue over the state of the world, well then, the only thing left to do is get fitted for a straightjacket and check yourself into the loony bin because, my friend, you are incurable.

Admission is \$20 for stadium seating and \$17 for lawn seating. Tickets may be purchased at the MCC Box Office located in the Ball Performing Arts Center from 1-5 p.m. weekdays beginning Aug. 23. Patrons may call 299-8200 to make credit card reservations by phone.

For more information about the concert, contact Bosque River Stage Artistic Director Dick Gimble at 299-8219.

### INDEX

Page 2  
Calendar of Events  
MCC Police Log

Page 3  
Basketball Preview  
Dance Team Roster



# Student Life



"Incidents and Offenses"

Month of August, 2004

Type of Incident	Occurrences
Auto Lock Outs.....	19
Auto Starts.....	15
Found Property.....	10
Vehicle Accidents.....	3
Burglary Motor Vehicle.....	2
Criminal Mischief.....	2
Information.....	2
Suspicious Person(s).....	2
Theft.....	2
Attempted Theft.....	1
Criminal Trespass.....	1
Disturbance.....	1
Flat Tire.....	1
Harassment.....	1
Lost Property.....	1
Medical Emergency.....	1
Sexual Harassment.....	1
Sick Student(s).....	1
Suspicious Circumstances.....	1

Information Gathered by Allison Smith

## '70s Legend Heads BRS October Show

By Jonmichael Swetnam  
Staff Writer

Singer, songwriter, and producer Leon Russell, a man behind a long list of hits including "This Masquerade,"



Russell

"A Song for You," and "Superstar," will perform at 7:30 p.m., Oct. 3 at the Bosque River Stage on McLennan Community College campus.

Regional favorite Monte Montgomery will open.

Since Jerry Lee Lewis hired him for his back-up band, Russell, "the Chameleon," has built a repertoire spanning every genre from country-western to classic rock to rhythm & blues.

He's played and written for legends like Bob Dylan, Frank Sinatra, Ike and Tina Turner and even the Rolling Stones.

Artists like Ray Charles and Grammy-winner George Benson have covered Russell's work, and Russell was also responsible for some of Joe Cocker's biggest hits, including

"Delta Lady."

Additionally, Russell's timeless country covers of "Hank Wilson's Back," volumes one through four, pushed him further into the musical stratosphere.

Guitarist Monte Montgomery is one of the most popular acts on the Austin music scene.

He's received numerous accolades including being named one of the "Top 10 Best Undiscovered Guitarists in America" by *Guitar One* magazine and is a seven-time winner of the "Best Acoustic Guitar Player" Award at the Austin Music Awards.

The Birmingham, Ala. native is not only an accomplished guitar player but a passionate singer and songwriter.

Admission is \$20 for stadium seating and \$17 for lawn seating.

To purchase tickets, visit the MCC Box Office in the Ball Performing Arts Center from 1-5 p.m. weekdays or call 299-8200 to make credit card reservations.

Tickets are free for MCC faculty and staff.

For more information, visit [www.bosqueriverstage.com](http://www.bosqueriverstage.com)

## Pet Vaccinations Offered By AAHS

By Kelly Patterson  
Staff Writer

Have you had your pets vaccinated lately? Do you even know the last time you went to the vet?

Vaccinating your pet is the only way to keep it from getting dangerous diseases like rabies, Canine Distemper or even feline leukemia.

The Animal Aid Humane Society's vaccination clinic is set up to be held from 1-5 p.m. at the Animal Birth Control Clinic located at 1503 Wooded Acres Drive in Waco.

The Animal Aid Humane Society plans to hold a pet vaccinations clinic on Sunday, Sept. 12 and will have vaccinations for rabies, corona, parvo, distemper, feline leukemia, and feline respiratory diseases.

The parvovirus is usually found in dogs between the ages of six weeks and six months. The disease is very difficult to treat because it can survive extreme temperature changes and disinfecting treatments.

Symptoms of the parvovirus include: fever, loss of appetite, vomiting, and the dogs become lethargic or sluggish. The best treatment found is having a dog vaccinated before it becomes infected.

The types of dogs with highest chance of getting the disease are Rottweiler, Pit Bull, Doberman Pinscher, and German Shepherd.

Canine Corona Virus is a disease that affects a layer of a dogs intestinal track and may cause vomiting or diarrhea. A dog with the disease can infect another dog, but infections are usually not difficult to cure.

Canine Distemper infects young dogs that have not been vaccinated. Symptoms can include excretion of yellow-green ooze from the eyes and nose, difficulty breathing, coughing, vomiting, diarrhea, twitching, weight loss, and hardening of footpads.

Distemper is highly contagious and commonly fatal. If your dog survives the disease, it can still permanently damage its nervous system, or sense of smell, sight and sound.

This disease is found more often in multiple cat households and is highly contagious as it is spread through body secretions.

Rabies is a viral disease that can infect all warm blooded animals by attacking their nervous system. Its is usually carried by saliva from the infected animal when they bite and is commonly found in skunks, foxes, raccoons, bats and other wild animals.

Once the animal is infected, the disease is fatal. Signs of the disease are: changes in behavior (more aggressive or increased shyness), dilation of the animals pupils, excess salivation, snapping at the air, and twitching.

You should always contact your local veterinarian before you vaccinate your pet to determine the severity of risk for contracting certain diseases.

Rabies Shots will be \$8 for all pets, Distemper/parvo/corona combo for dogs is \$19 dollars, and fvrp/feleuk combo for cats will be \$20. Other vaccinations and tests will be available.

For more information about the vaccination clinic on September 12th, or the Animal Birth Control Clinic, please call 776-7303.

## McLENNAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT CALENDER

**September 14:** Scholarship Night at 7:30 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center

**September 15:** Student Government Meeting at 1 p.m. on the Second floor of the Student Center

**September 16-17:** Student Government Elections between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. in the Learning Technology Center/Library

**September 22:** Student Government Meeting at 1 p.m. on the Second floor of the Student Center and Sigma Kappa Delta meeting at 2:15 p.m. in the Tartan Room, third floor of the Student Center (open to all students interested in English Literature & Language; must have 12 hours completed & a GPA of 3.3)

**September 23:** Foundation Board Meeting at 12 p.m. in the Community Service Center (Discussion Topics: Election of the Incoming Board Members for 2005 & Updates on the MCC Campus)

**September 25:** ACT Testing at 8 a.m. in the Liberal Arts Building (room numbers will be assigned by last name; students must register with National Testing Board)

## SGA Continued from Page 1

bers are making decisions which effect students.

Those running for parliamentarian are Deleon Harris and Jason Wetzel; public relations, Ariana Hernandez, Ramona Roman and Staci Jones; freshman representative, Jones, Wetzel, Hernandez, Harris, Janet Wigley, Antwone Paulton and Tiffany Baucham and sophomore representative, Lindsey LeGrand.

Election day is Sept. 16 and 17. This year is planned to be differ-

ent says McNabb.

"We are working on new recruitment ideas to get students involved, improvement on book prices, parking space problems, and student activities," McNabb said.

Students who have concerns should bring them to SGA's attention, McNabb said.

SGA meetings are every Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. in the Student Center.

For more information about the Student Government Association, call Alesha Vardeman at (254)-299-8884.

## Highlander Cafe Offers Conveniences

By Kelly DuShane  
Staff Writer

If you don't want to lose your parking spot by going out to lunch, then don't.

Students can save time and money at MCC's cafeteria-style eatery on the first story of the LTC, better known as the Highlander Café.

The on-campus lunch area is open from breakfast at 7:30 to 10:00, to lunch 11 to 2.

But these are not the only times you have a chance to grab a bite to eat.

Ranjeet "R.J." Viswanathan, director of dining services, said he and his staff make sure there are options for MCC's students who may not be able to make it to the cafeteria during the specified eating times.

"Grab and go" items, such as salads, chips, sub sandwiches, are available, as are boxed pizzas after lunchtime.

The Highlander Café is closed is

between 2 and 2:30 so staff can clear all the tables of trash that students leave behind, R.J. said.

Students' failure to clean up after themselves continues to be problematic, he said, even though trashcans are available.

"We don't turn any students down," Ranjeet said.

The Tartan Café, located in the CSC building is much like the Highlander Café on a smaller scale.

Grab and go items mentioned above, along with others such as nachos and hot dogs, are available at this café.

This semester grilled items are available at the Tartan Café by pre-order from 10 to 10:45 a.m. Students may also prepay to ensure availability, but it's not required.

Students can receive the same quality without paying as much as they might in other eating establishments, R.J. said, because of HDS Services contract with MCC. Ordinarily, he said, prices per item would be

higher.

Last semester's crowding has been corrected, he said, with the addition of a second register.

"We have two cashiers just so the line can be smoother and faster," Ranjeet said.

He also said that eating around 1:45 p.m. will probably avoid the lines.

For breakfast the two Wake-up Specials are the most popular, he said. Both include two eggs, any style, hash browns, toast and a choice of meats.

Without a beverage, it is \$3.50. To add a 20-ounce drink or coffee (Starbucks or regular) add a little over a dollar to the price.

Breakfast burritos are \$2.50, but they are bought out quickly, R.J. said.

Other menu items are omelettes and individual side dishes such as bacon (3 for \$1.10), and hash browns for 75 cents.

Because the Highlander Café sets its menu by a five-week cycle, diners rarely see the same entrée choice twice

in the same week except for a few favorites.

One of the most popular offerings is the chicken tenders (3) for \$2.60.

Add fries or onion rings and a drink for a total of \$4.25.

Classics such as hamburgers and cheeseburgers are also available, priced at about \$2.00 each, adding just over a dollar for the combo.

Other suggestions are the Philly Cheese Steak, Fish Sandwich, Chicken Pita or the Veggie Burger, all ranging from \$2 to \$3, adding, again, a little over a dollar for the combo. Pizza is a perennial favorite.

On Thursdays the cafe usually has a food bar, with all the fixings to customize a meal (like with pasta or baked potatoes) or they might have their chef, straight from New York City's Culinary Institute of Arts, doing On Display Cooking.

Students who put money on their MAC cards and use it for a cafeteria meal, receive a 5% discount.

## MCC's International Student Club



Are you an international student?

Have you lived part of your life in a foreign country?

Are you a band-waged Central Texan who would like to meet people from other countries?

Then MCC's International Student Club is for you!

OUR PURPOSE IS TO PROVIDE FELLOWSHIP, FRIENDSHIP, AND SUPPORT TO ALL OF MCC'S INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS. EVERYONE IS WELCOME.

Our first get-together is this Saturday and you're invited!

Swimming Party and Barbecue, 5:30 p.m.,

Saturday, September 11.

For directions or to catch a ride, call faculty sponsors Gail Blanpled or Charlotte Laughlin (299-0331, 299-0356 or 299-0905) or email them at [gblanpled@mclennan.edu](mailto:gblanpled@mclennan.edu) or [claughlin@mclennan.edu](mailto:claughlin@mclennan.edu). Check out Pingway Blain's website for information about ISC. Click on the button labeled ISC on the left side of his home page. <http://pingwayblain.myweb.hinet.net>



## Great White Tans

"Keep Your Gorgeous Tan"

\$25 for a 30-Day Special with Student ID

Super Special: Add 5 Super Tans to Your Tanning Package for the Price of 3 with coupon

772-3338 • 1603 N. Valley Mills Dr.



# Another Year Begins.....



Rondulan Rauls day dreams while attending the Welcome Back Party held on Aug. 26th 2004. *Digital Image By Lee Kuhl*



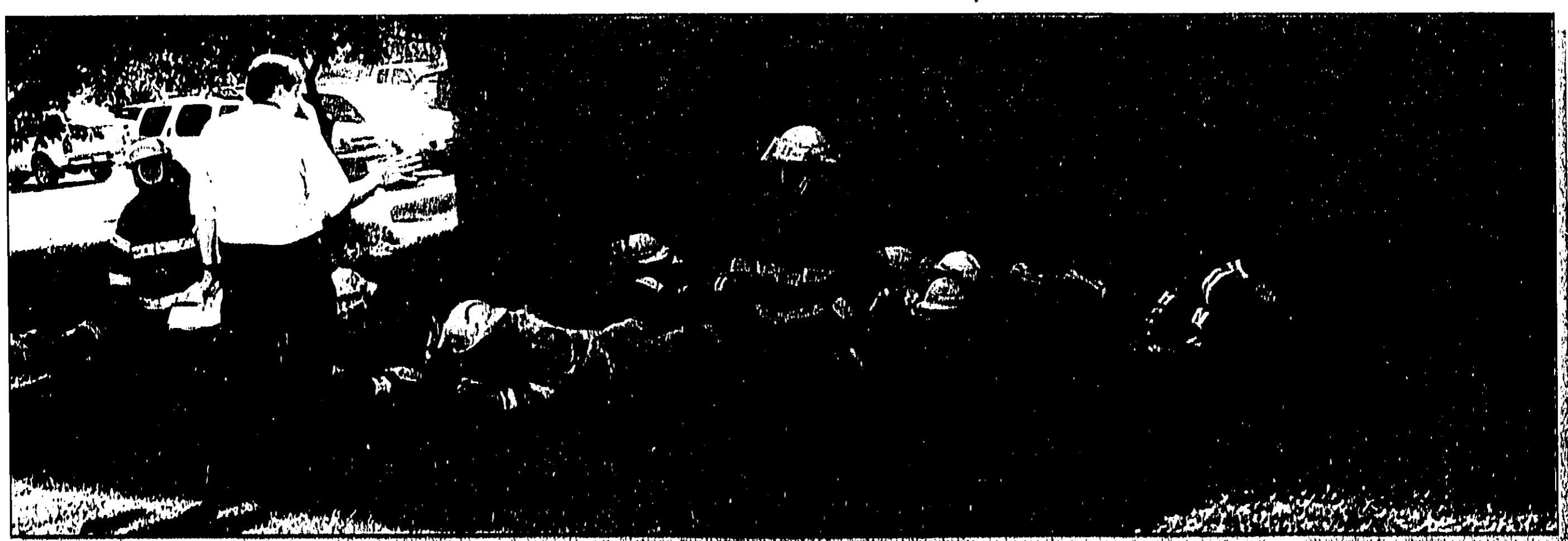
Dave Dober of the Baptist Student Ministry takes advantage of the free tye-dyed t-shirts at the Welcome Back Party on August 26, 2004. *Digital Image By Lee Kuhl*



NIKI Jackson chocks her omail and hangs out with friends at the LTC building. *Digital Imago By Jason Ells*



Cristina Ordner and Thomas Graves play a little hacky sac outside the LTC at the Welcome Back Party. *Digital Imago By Loo Kuhl*



Steve Cook instructs Bill Johnson and the other firefighter cadets during drills held on the first week of the semester. *Digital Imago By Stacy Gallin*