



# Highland Herald

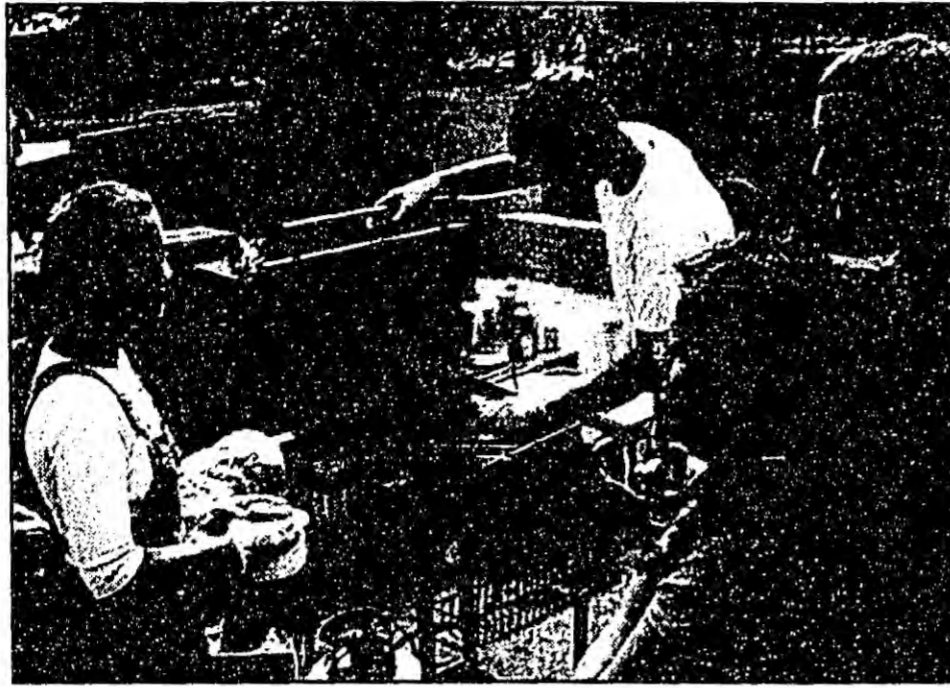
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McLennan Community College, Waco, TX  
<http://www.mclennan.edu/hherald/index.htm>

November 21, 2003

## AMC intends to serve student body

Erica Sanchez  
Managing Editor



Digital image by Margo E Moreno

Antioch members Wendy Smith and Robbie Hetland give out burgers at Band and Bar-B-Que to meet and greet students.

"And so speaking from my own experience, he's (Jesus) the one who has allowed me to overcome personal struggles better than anybody I've ever known or been apart of," Hetland said.

"As I become more whole and complete as a person, then I'm able

to give more to people, and so that's what falls right in line with [purpose] number three [help students mature in their care and commitment to one another's overall welfare], Hetland said. "I want to grow and mature in my care and commitment for other people."

*'We're just another expression of (MCC's mission statement), I think.'*

— Robbie Hetland

He said that with its purpose and goals, the ACM wants to represent the mission and goals of the college.

The McLennan Community College mission statement says its mission is to provide a comprehensive range of educational programs and services for students and a dynamic multicultural community.

"We're just another expression of that [MCC's mission statement] I think," he said.

In connection with the educational programs MCC offers, Hetland said, "hopefully the stuff that we are doing will be educational as well."

As MCC's mission is to provide services for students, Hetland said that the purpose of ACM as stated in its constitution is the same.

"I just think our organization is another way that this goal [serving the students] can be lived out through the college," he said.

"Providing a comprehensive

range,' to me that means many types of services, so I just think this [ACM] is one more type of perspective students can have, if they want that," he said.

Any MCC student is welcome to join; there is no rigid system of membership, he said.

He said dates and times for gatherings are still pending, and most activities will begin next semester.

"We're kind of pioneering this arena of becoming a student organization. I think they've tried doing it at Baylor, but there's not as much room for that there," he said.

ACM had a band and barbecue event Nov. 18 at the Learning Technology Center Plaza, Hetland said.

Free food, refreshments, and entertainment provided by the Michael Gooden Band were featured.

He said he hopes the event will express ACM's desire to serve.

ACM is extending the activities that already exist at the Antioch Community Church college ministries to MCC, not replacing them, he said.

"Before hand, we wouldn't have been able to do things on campus," he said.

During an October Student Government meeting when Hetland first presented the idea of ACM, Jim McKeown, SGA faculty advisor voiced concern about the organization influencing students to travel as missionaries.

"I asked Hetland about recruitment of missionaries for dangerous locales, such as Afghanistan, Turkey, and Iraq. His response was that if people wanted to go to these places which, in his words, 'Seem more dangerous,' then the church would support them," McKeown said.

"I want to make sure that no student organization on this campus

See AMC on page 2

## Highest fall enrollment in MCC history

*'We (MCC) still don't know how large we should be.'*

— President Dennis Michaelis

Erica Sanchez  
Managing Editor

With a total enrollment of almost 7,100, this semester marks the highest fall semester enrollment in McLennan Community College's history, said Herman Tucker, director of student enrollment services and registration told an Oct. 28 Board of Trustees meeting.

This was an 8.1 percent increase from last fall, knocking it out of its place as the record fall enrollment, Tucker said.

This semester also comes in second for the highest enrollment, trailing behind the spring 2003 semester, Tucker said.

Tucker said the total enrollment for last spring was 7,622, making it the highest enrollment at MCC, a 6.9 percent difference compared to the fall.

Internet courses are a contributing factor to the growth with 1,413 students enrolled in the courses, a 120.4 percent increase from last fall, he said.

He said the opening of the McGregor Center this year is another contributing factor, adding a total enrollment of 460.

"To determine satisfaction with the experience at the McGregor Center," said Paul Illich, senior director of institutional effectiveness and planning, a survey of 154 McGregor students was taken.

The first question addressed their decision to enroll; 76 percent said the location is convenient, and nine percent said courses at the main campus were full, Illich said.

A third of the students live less than five miles from the Center and half live within ten miles, he said.

Illich said the main methods of registration were the WebAdvisor and on the main campus at student services.

About half the McGregor students were also enrolled on the main campus.

Only 16 percent registered at the McGregor Center, he said.

Most respondents were satisfied with the service and facilities at the Center, with classroom space at the top of the list, followed by quality of instruction, and personal security/safety, Illich said.

He said bathroom cleanliness was at the bottom of the list.

66.3 percent of students said they would recommend McGregor Center courses to others, he said.

He said more than 90 percent said they were satisfied with their overall experience at the Center.

For the upcoming semester 77.8 percent said they would be returning, which Illich said indicates a core group at the Center in the spring.

"We (MCC) still don't know how large we should be. We're kind of at a point of adding sections and with current state funding situation you have to ask yourself how many more faculty can we hire," said Dennis Michaelis, MCC president.

In other business the board unanimously approved the purchase of a new bus, which will seat 28 passengers and a driver.

Michaelis said that the new bus is needed since the current one is on its third engine.

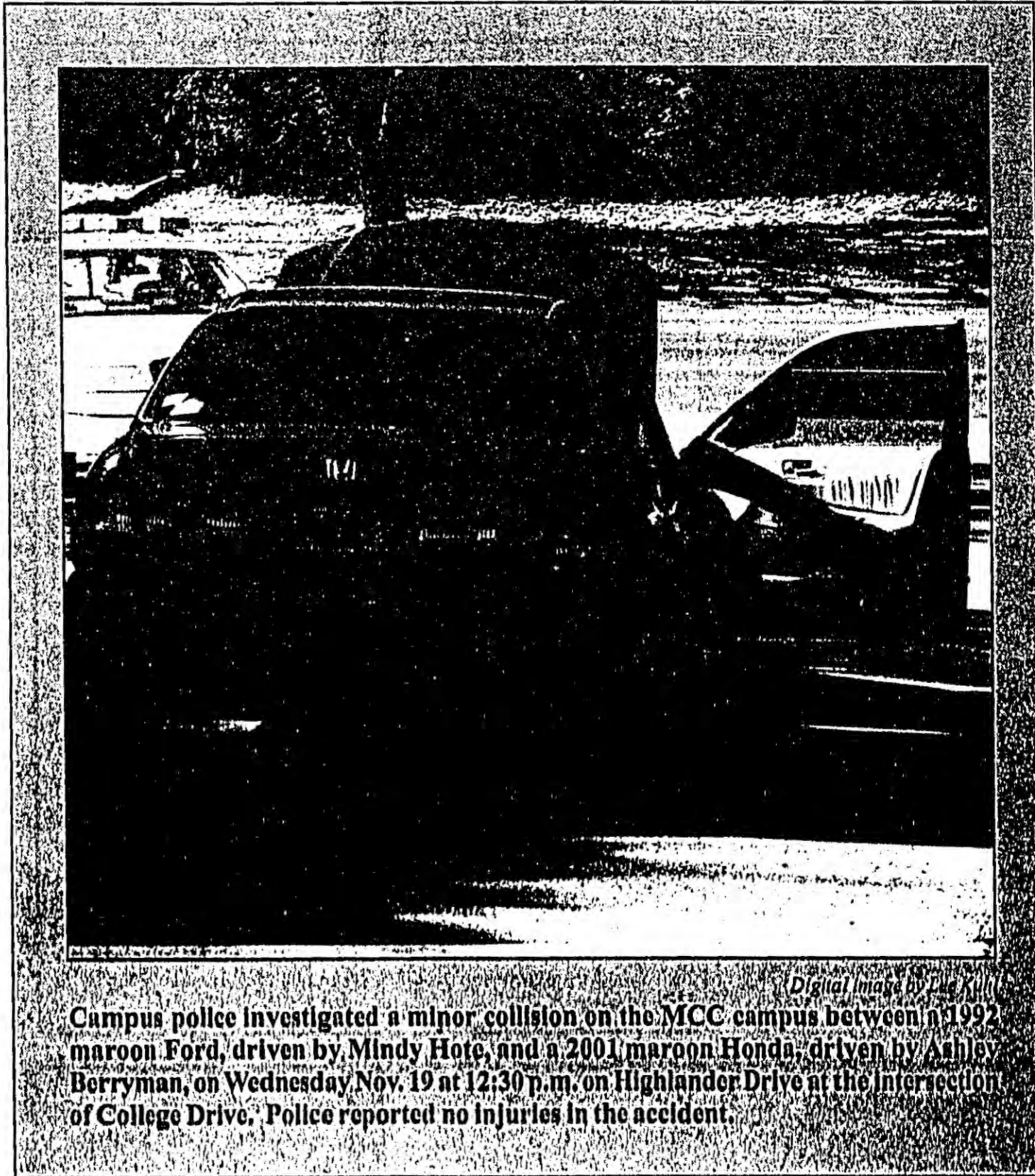
The Student Government Association hosted a dinner for the trustees before the meeting.

"It's always fun for us as a board to get a chance to visit with students, we don't get near enough opportunities to do that," Bob Sheehy Jr., board chairman said.

Chris Cochran, SGA president told the trustees about the accomplishments, plans, and goals of SGA.

Cochran said that all positions of leadership in SGA have been filled and membership is steadily growing.

"Our goal is plain and simple with not being satisfied with the status quo, we (SGA) will continue to work within the organization. We will continue to be your ambassadors and beacon," Cochran said.



Digital image by The Staff

Campus police investigated a minor collision on the MCC campus between a 1992 maroon Ford, driven by Mindy Hote, and a 2001 maroon Honda, driven by Ashley Berryman, on Wednesday Nov. 19 at 12:30 p.m. on Highlander Drive at the intersection of College Drive. Police reported no injuries in the accident.

## Student Gallery underway until December 4

Magen Rigdon  
Entertainment Editor

"This year, we're doing something a little different," said Andrew Murad, coordinator/instructor of visual arts, referring to the department's 2003 student art gallery show.

The art selected by faculty is displayed throughout the building from November 10 through December 4.

"The faculty are selecting student work from their classes, and we will have a student show. It's not really something the students necessarily voluntarily get involved in, but it is a way to help promote the department and what we're doing. It is... a new thing for us, but we're going to try it out and see how it works," Murad said.

Art students will compete in March.

"Every year there is an MCC student art competition, and students all over campus, not just art students, are eligible to enter work for the competition. We bring an outside juror in to judge the work. From the selected entries, monetary prizes are awarded. The awarding process is up to the jury (whether there will be honorable mention etc. is at the discretion of the juror)," Murad said.

Many smaller projects within the department are undertaken each year as well.

Instructor Glen Downing assigns his sculpture class a shelter-building project each year.

The shelter isn't for the homeless or down trodden. It is for the student. He began the project to force the student to build something large, Downing said.

"I don't set very many parameters... [but] it has to be big enough for them to get into," Downing said.

The students are encouraged to use non-traditional materials in making the shelters such as plaster, cardboard, plastic, and mud.

They are also challenged not to build a shelter that resembles a house or shack. Otherwise, they are limited only by the bounds of their creativity.

The shelter can have a theme or not. It is up to the student, Downing said.

"I want them to decorate the shelter and kind of make it their personal space that really reflects their personality," Downing said.

One student created a shelter using a shower curtain and placed a TV and chair on the inside along with toiletries, Downing said.

"A shelter can be all sorts of different things and... different shapes. It doesn't have to be in the shape of a house," Downing said. "They've all been really good because the students put a lot of work into it."

Students in ceramic classes are now working on their final project for the semester: taking a painting and making it three-dimensional using all the techniques they have learned.

"There are a lot of non-art majors who take this class, and it's a lot of fun, and you can make some pretty cool stuff," Michael Maguire, MCC art

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# Student Life

## TASP undergoes changes

Dianne Ogden  
Guest writer

I am sure by now you have heard many rumors regarding TASP, formerly the Texas Academic Skills Program, and you might be wondering how those changes affect you as a student.

As you will remember, TASP had very specific requirements regarding mandatory developmental education for those students who did not pass a section(s) of TASP, and required those students to retake (and pass) or "B-rule" in order to graduate or to transfer as a junior to a four-year institution.

During the last legislative session, the Senate passed SB 286, which contained a piece of legislation referred to as the "Texas Success Initiative."

The Texas Success Initiative (TSI) mandates that all students seeking a degree from a public institution in Texas must take THEA or an approved alternative test before

enrolling unless otherwise exempt. This is very similar to the former TASP requirements.

In case you are wondering, THEA stands for the "Texas Higher Education Assessment" and is the exact same assessment as the TASP test; only the name has changed.

Approved alternative tests include Accuplacer, Asset, and Compass.

As many of you are aware, we offer Accuplacer, a computerized assessment, at MCC.

For specific exemptions regarding TSI, please consult the office of Student Admissions, Career Development Services, or your advisor.

Now for the differences between TASP and TSI: Effective Spring 2004 at MCC, students who do not pass a section of THEA or an approved alternative test, are required to enroll in at least one remedial course a semester until they complete remediation in the section not passed. Sound familiar?

However, only students with an

initial failing score of one standard deviation below the norm are required to retake. (Don't worry—your automated degree plan will tell you whether you need to retake).

And the big difference, a student does not have to pass the retake in the section previously failed.

Therefore, there is no longer a need for the infamous "B-rule" or for a student taking a section of the test multiple times to try and pass.

If you need to retake, do so once and you are done.

One other significant difference is that a student may take THEA or an approved alternative test in any order.

In the past, a student could only take Accuplacer for initial testing, and then had to take TASP for subsequent retakes.

Now, a student can take THEA, and then Accuplacer.

In addition, a student may retake at any time—you do not have to complete your remediation before you retake.

There is a 30-day waiting period

between THEA retakes.

To meet the requirements of the Texas Success Initiative at MCC, a student must either pass all sections of THEA or an approved alternative test, or complete remediation for those areas not passed and retake once if indicated.

Students are still required to complete remediation in all areas not passed in order to graduate with a degree from MCC.

Also, a student's transcript will reflect if the student met the Texas Success Initiative in the areas of Reading, Math and Writing.

So, if you are planning on transferring to a public institution in Texas and you have not met the TSI at MCC in one or more areas, please be aware that you will be required to meet the TSI requirements of the receiving institution; these requirements will vary amongst institutions.

If you have questions or would like further information, please contact Dianne Ogden  
dogden@mcclennan.edu.

## Musicians beat the heat

Brandi McCarty  
Entertainment Editor

The MCC Wind Symphony Concert and the Waco Area Youth Wind Ensemble had fans standing in the aisles of the Ball Performing Arts Center on Nov. 2.

Musicians were even able to make a discomforting air-conditioning problem part of their audience-inspiring show for about 400 people.

The air conditioning had been turned on, but not in time to cool down, said Conductor Brian Harris, resulting in an uncomfortably warm environment for both listeners and performers.

The music department has had climate control problems in the BPAC for years, Harris said.

"High temperatures are difficult for musicians to deal with because of the effect on instrument pitch and the dexterity and concentration of the player," said Harris. "The players compensated exceptionally well to the challenge. We were lucky no one got ill from the heat."

The Wind Symphony took the temperature in stride during its last song, Ed Argenziano's *Stinkin' Garbage*, a percussion solo performed entirely on trashcans.

After an opening rhythm began on a plastic trash can, five metal ones joined to create a deafening racket of fast rhythms and flying sticks. The percussionists ended the vigorous effort by dropping their sticks and mopping their brows while the crowd cheered.

The crowd sang along as the Youth Ensemble began the concert with the national anthem.

The first piece was *Overture in B-flat* by Caesar Giovanni followed by *Arioso*, an expressive, beautiful work by Johann Sebastian Bach.

Andrew Leal, a Conally High School senior, then performed the trumpet solo on *The Prayer of St. Gregory* by Alan Hovhaness, an American composer of Armenian descent.

The piece had a distinct European flavor and ended with a dramatic swell of the orchestra and roll of the timpani.

Their next composition, *The Peaks*

of *Otter*, was reminiscent of Copeland's *Rodeo* and *Appalachian Spring*.

It had an open, spacious sound and was about the highest peak of Otter, in a Virginia mountain range.

Harris said the young people in the Wind Ensemble had chosen a worthwhile hobby and thanked parents for putting up with the squeaks and squawks of their instruments.

High schools represented by the members included China Springs, Conally, Eagle's Wings Christian School, Gatesville, Hillsboro, La Vega, Lorena, Meridian, Midway, Robinson, Texas Christian Academy, University, Waco, and McGregor.

The second group to perform was the MCC Wind Ensemble.

Their first piece, *Marche Parachutistes Belges* by Pierre Leemans, was the opposite of the Wind Ensemble's loud, rowdy closing tune.

It began and ended quietly with flutes and tinkling chimes.

The *Prelude, Opus 34, No. 14*, by the Russian composer Dmitri Shostakovich followed.

It was a short piece, only 34 measures, but had a dynamic range of double piano (*pp*) to triple forte (*fff*).

They ended the concert with a theatrical work played in total darkness.

Daniel Bukvich's *Voodoo* was like a late night walk through the jungle.

The hiss of snakes, chirping of birds and crickets, chants of cannibals, as well as the shrieks of their victims could be heard.

Students also flickered flashlights like fireflies, and when it was finished the crowd gave them a standing ovation.

French horn player, Steven Bolech, said he thinks the Wind Symphony is a lot better than they were last year, and he is happy with the groups progress.

"I am very pleased with both groups and that we had such a large crowd," said Harris.

## Honor society unites MCC mathematicians

Anson McCarty  
Student Life Editor

If a northbound train leaves San Antonio at 3 p.m. traveling at 65 mph and a southbound train leaves Dallas 30 minutes later at 45 mph...quite frankly, the vast majority of students would hope that the two trains would derail somewhere along the route killing every one of the hypothetical passengers; and thus, the problem of where or when the two trains would meet would become merely a matter of theological speculation.

If, on the other hand, questions concerning the arrival times of hypothetical locomotives or the flight trajectories of not-so-hypothetical Tomahawk cruise missiles intrigue your imagination, the MCC chapter of Mu Alpha Theta national mathematics honor society may be for you.

"Mu Alpha Theta is dedicated to inspiring keen interest in

mathematics, developing strong scholarship in the subject, and promoting the enjoyment of mathematics in high school and two-year college students," reads the society's homepage.

"[I am] excited about the prospect of students who are interested in exploring the world of math!" said faculty advisor Lisa Lindloff.

In order to be eligible for membership, students must have taken at least one math course at or above College Algebra/Pre-calculus, have a 3.5 Grade Point Average overall in a two-year college mathematics courses, and a 3.3 cumulative GPA.

Although the application deadline for this spring's induction has passed, advisor Dr. Debby Hewitt said that new applications will be accepted each semester for an induction ceremony the following semester.

For more info concerning Mu Alpha Theta, contact Hewitt at 299-8870 or Lindloff at 299-8802.

## ACM from page 1

conducts any activity that will directly or indirectly lead to placing any of our students in a dangerous situation," McKeown said.

ACM's campus activities are for the campus, and missionary projects are not directly ACM activities, Hetland said.

"Considering that we are Antioch Campus Ministries, we do stuff in conjunction with the church, and as people get involved in this (ACM), they might be interested to do other stuff with the church," he said.

"It (missionary opportunities) would be available to people who would choose to do that, but that is a separate processes that is not necessarily ACM, that's just if they want to get more involved with our church," he said.

He said that the ACM and the Baptist Student Ministries (BSM) share common goals and he said he feels that those goals can be better accomplished by having both organizations.

"Neither can serve every student on campus, so two is better than one and considering each organization (though we have common goals) is

unique, each may be better suitable to some versus others," he said.

"I'm for it because if you get on the web and you search all the junior colleges and universities in the area they have five to ten different religious groups on their campus and I'm excited that another group is going to be here," said David Dover, BSM advisor.

"I kind of see that like when for years a Burger King would be built next to a McDonald's. It all has its energy and works serendipitously together," Dover said.

"We want to jump in with what other organizations are doing as well. We're just starting out so we don't have all the ideas obviously," he said.

He said ACM will be participating in collecting items for MCC's Caring Closet, which provides items such as diapers and food to low-income students with families.

"I love how each group is rallying support for this one thing (the Caring Closet) to serve the community and people's needs," he said.

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### Letters to the Editor

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

highland@students.mclennan.edu  
Or drop them off at the CSC Room B-42

Phone (254) 299-8524

Fax (254) 299-8747

\* anonymous letters will not be printed



# 'Pillars' pits good and evil

D. L. Gonzalez  
Sports editor

In the epic battle of good and evil, what if the outcome was to be decided by your character?

In Ben Eden's debut book *Pillar's Fall*, Detective Thomas Pillar finds himself in that very position.

What begins as an ordinary day in the life of a man perfectly willing to play second string to his partner turns into a wild ride that puts Pillar face to face with the demonic underworld.

"The whole series is about a war coming with demons and the humans, and it kinda takes one character through the whole process," Eden said. "He finds out that there's a prophecy that one person is going to be the deciding factor in the whole thing and that person ends up being him".

"I would say this is 2 parts *Exorcist*, 1 part *Unbreakable*, and 1 part *Terminator*, even. All the elements of those stories kind of combine with this," he said.

The 27-year-old Eden honed his writing skills as a former district news editor of Tarrant junior college and has continued to write while working as a juvenile corrections officer in Denton County.

The book reads smoothly and you could easily find yourself 30 pages into it before you notice that you are no longer scanning through it, but actually reading.

The dialog is laced with frightening quotes like; "The great spirits they sent me here to talk to you. They forgot to mention you scream like a little girl."

As the son of a preacher, Eden was influenced by his upbringing, but contends that this book is meant to scare.

"There are a lot of religious themes in there, it's not as much as what you would think like *Left Behind* series. This is more of a good horror thrill ride," Eden said. "I've always been a big horror and sci-fi fan."

*Pillar's Fall* was released in September by PublishAmerica, and can be found on shelves in Hastings' video and bookstore.



Guest lecturer Brenda Lichman demonstrates her craftsmanship to MCC ceramics students preparing for the student gallery showing. Student-crafted pottery and other works of art can be viewed in Art building until December 4.

# GSA expands views

Roderick Walton  
Staff writer

The Gay and Straight Alliance (GSA) has plans to join the Baylorfreedom Club "and is expanding their view as an organization that wants to grab the attention of more mature students and a larger crowd," said Jenny Cordy, GSA president.

Steven Rollingsin, appointed president for Baylorfreedom, said he has endured controversy with that club off campus due to the meeting arrangements.

"Baylorfreedom and many other students have bent over backwards trying to get this club to act as a positive venue," said Rollingsin.

The group partners with the Metropolitan Community Church and wants more members, Rollingsin said.

The GSA's appointed president, Jenny Cordy and vice president, Georgie Meyers, were re-elected again as this year's officers, but have postponed the election of secretary and treasurer until all the membership is contacted, the officers said.

The Oct. 20 meeting previewed the Gay and Straight Alliance Constitution and guidelines for on- and off-campus activities.

The club also discussed its plans for the remainder of the year.

Kim Roppollo, GSA faculty advisor said she wants to set up a program for the HIV awareness campaign sometime throughout the semester.

Faculty advisor Bill Howard, a former member of PFLAG "Parents, Friends and Families of Lesbians and Gays," and a music instructor on campus said he "wants the club to come out strong and wants to help the club to its fullest".

Howard said he wants the club to get involved with PFLAG and similar other groups.

The PFLAG Chapter is trying to work out things with the GSA officers, Howard said.

Off-campus meetings are being scheduled due to the conflict with members' schedules, said Howard.

The group's turnout has been one of McLennan Community College's largest groups in years.

For more information contact Bill Howard at whoward@mcclennan.edu or call 299-8217.

# 'True Crime' exploits murder and mayhem

By John Pippin  
Staff Writer

Every thing from rape, riots and robberies to terrorists and first-degree murder are exploited in the newest title from developer Luxoflux, True Crime: Streets of L.A.

Players can assume the role of loose-cannon super-cop Nick Kang Wilson who has been suspended indefinitely from the Los Angeles Police Department because of his disastrous record of property damage and use of excessive force.

Luckily, this hard-boiled cop has been granted a second chance by joining the Los Angeles EOD (Elite

Operations Division).

In the EOD, Nick is permitted to crash cars, burn buildings, shoot perps and take hostages to get the job done.

True Crime features a branching storyline with six possible endings that are determined by alternate routes.

For example, players have about a minute to get to a nightclub on the other side of Santa Monica Avenue before disaster strikes.

Arrive on time, and stop a Triad thug from killing the barkeep, but get there too late and you get into a heated high-speed car chase and gun battle down the wrong way of the L.A. Freeway.

The game features tons of unlockables and upgrades, including new cars, guns, and fighting moves.

How many games out there have Snoop Dogg as an unlockable character?

The combinations of stunt driving, dual weapon shooting and complex martial arts mayhem creates a multiple genre, action-packed experience in a nice little \$50 package.

One quick warning though, this game IS NOT Grand Theft Auto.

While the two titles share similar features, the GTA games are more solid, have better camera control, and feel more complete.

True Crime is a good game in all

aspects, but there are still some bugs that should have been worked out before shipment, because in the end, it's playability that makes or breaks a game.

One of the game's biggest flaws is the extremely uneven Artificial Intelligence.

How drunken bums know more moves than Jackie Chan is beyond me.

This makes about half of the hand-to-hand combat sequences frustrating enough to burst a vein.

True Crime is the undisputable champion in one aspect.

The game soundtrack boasts over a hundred songs featuring hits from Bone and Snoop Dogg to Un Loco

and Taproot.

Also, the Xbox version includes utilization of the custom soundtrack feature.

Overall, if you are seeking something fresh and new to the action scene that delivers a never-boring, controversial kick in the face, True Crime is probably the game for you, but for \$50, you might as well get the recently released Grand Theft Auto Double-Pack including both Grand Theft Auto 3 and Vice City.

True Crime carries a Mature rating for strong (very strong) profanity, blood and gore, strong violence and sexual content.

## J-2 from page 1

Sports featured an interview with Lin Elliot, Super Bowl-winning place kicker for the Dallas Cowboys.

A contest for brites or short, entertaining "fillers," offered competition for beginning students.

After lunch, the students broke up into three University Interscholastic League journalism training sessions led by the teachers who have produced numerous

state-winning UIL students in past years. Austin-Anderson High School's Jack Harkrider, DeSoto's Carol Richtsmeier and Barbara Petash, whose student paper in Itasca is also the newspaper for the city, all gave students tips for winning entries in the spring.

The students' journalism teachers, meanwhile, participated in an in-service training session with the

winning instructors in the morning, and met with Reaves during the afternoon.

All students attending this year received a snack with a J-2 T-shirt, MCC souvenirs and materials about the school.

Sweepstakes winner this year with five awards was Midway High School, which tied Reicher High for the top award last year.

## Gallery from page 1

instructor said. The facilities are open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

"You can always come in and finish," Freshmen Jessica Parker said.

The sculpting studio is well equipped, and the process of getting more equipment in in the works, Maguire said.

"99 percent of the time after class, if you come in and work, you have this whole place to yourself, zero distractions," Maguire said.

While students are learning hand building with Maguire, next-door Amy Reynolds, MCC art instructor, teaches basic design elements and principles in Design I.

"Right now students are working on two-dimensional projects with

the illusion of being three-dimensional, like shading and perspective to make it look 3D," Reynolds said.

"Music for movies are always playing to stimulate students," Reynolds said.

She also gives extra credit to students who paint pictures to hang on the wall to brighten the room because the room has no windows. Non-art majors also take Design classes.

"I have a couple of students that are staying here and getting radiology degrees," Reynolds said. Barney Fitzpatrick, an MCC art instructor, teaches photography to art and non-art majors alike.

"We have a number of students who take photography just because," Fitzpatrick said.

In photography, students take part in many special projects.

Fitzpatrick wants his students to be able to express a certain emotion or concern and to be able to tell a story.

"He teaches us the mechanics and gives us suggestions and then lets us run on our own," Lee Kuhl, MCC sophomore, said.

Throughout the department, most students transfer to colleges such as University of North Texas, Texas State University, University of Texas at Arlington, University of Texas at Austin and Baylor, Murad said.

Yet some students do transfer out of state to colleges like Savannah College of Art and Design, Brooks Institute in California and The School of Visual Arts in New York, Murad said.

**McLennan Theatre**

Nov 21, 2003 7:30 PM  
Nov 22, 2003 2:00 PM  
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# Sports

## Highlanders sweep tourney at UMHB

**Tonya Farmer**  
Staff writer

The Highlanders' golf team won first place, sweeping the University of Mary-Hardin of Baylor invitational tournament by taking the top three spots, as four players placed in the top six individually.

At the season's final golf tournament the Highlanders provided their only competition at Mill Creek Country in Salado.

Sophomores Andreas Kali and Ryan Cormack tied on the first hole, resulting in a playoff on the second hole, Kali finished with a par.

"I have lots of expectations for the spring. We have showed that we are a team to be reconded with and that we should be a contender for nationals," Kali said.

He shot 71-68 and Cormack scored 68-71 for a two-day first place tying total of 139.

"We went out and showed

everyone what we could do as team and individually showed everyone what we are made of," Cormack said.

Sophomore Ryan Knoll shot 73-68 for 141 tying him in third place individually.

"We have all of the tools and players to win but my goal is for us to make it to nationals and win." Knoll said excitedly.

Sophomore Kyle Roberts shot 73-72 for 145, placing him in sixth place.

"It is a definite confident builder going into the spring," said Roberts.

The Highlanders won the tournament 285-279 with an overall score of 564 thrashing Tyler Junior College, previous division champions, scoring 288-292 leaving with a finish of 580.

"These guys have the ability to do good and win." Coach Rick Butler said.

Throughout this season the Highlander men's golf has improved with every competition.

Starting with the first tournament, the players won seventh place with a score 306-299-308 and a final total of 913.

In the second tournament they improved significantly moving to third place, 295-288 with a score of 583.

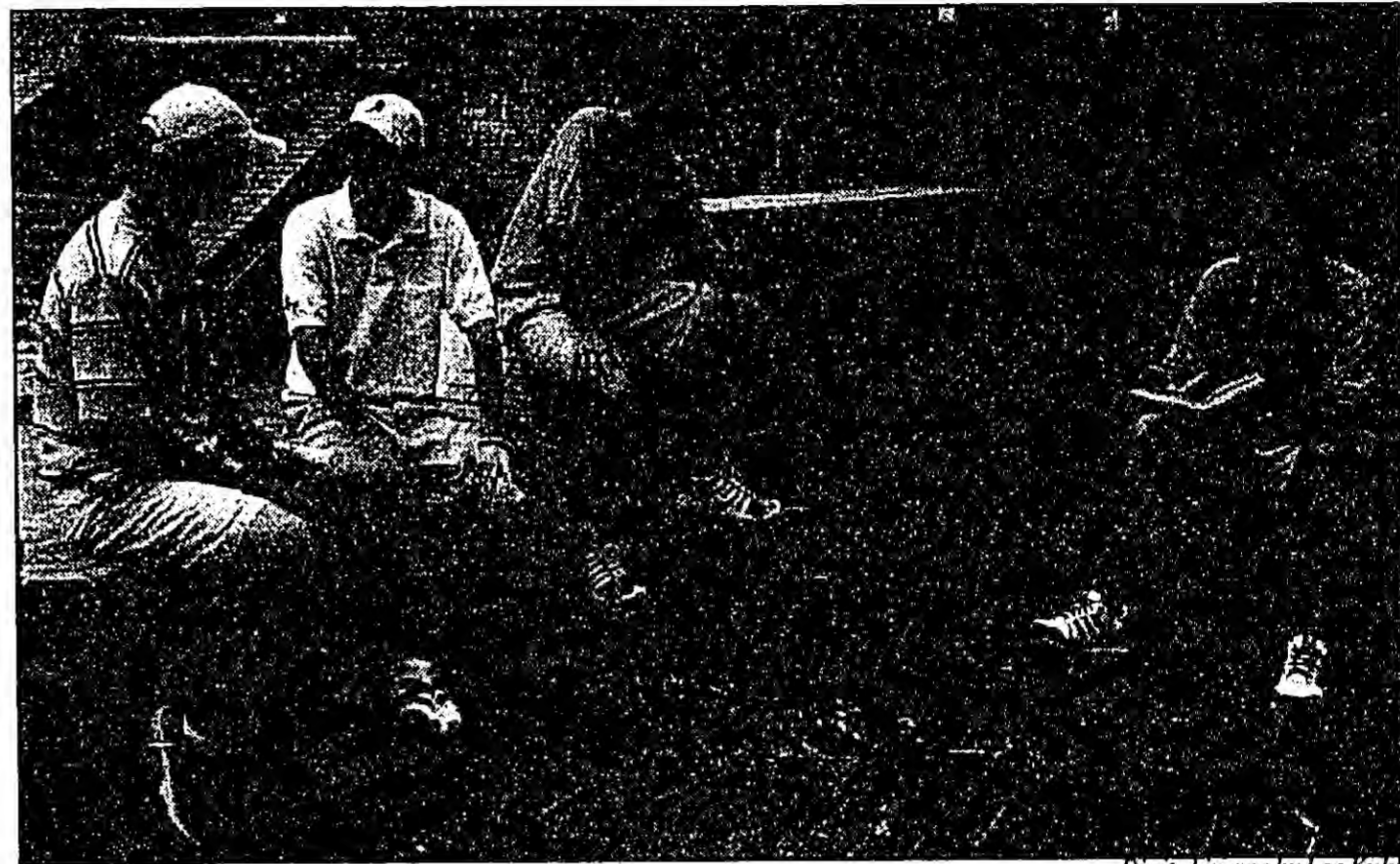
They placed fourth in the third tournament shooting 270-285 leaving with a score of 555.

MCC's golf team won second place in the fourth tournament scoring 287-283-284 with an overall gain of 854 only three strokes under Tyler J.C 851.

In the last tournament of the season, the Highlander's golf team answered Tyler, beating them by sixteen strokes.

"Lander's golf was able to show their capabilities before the season opens in the spring.

Kyle said this performance can motivate them to maintain their standings and make sure that they keep the same train of thought.



Digital image by Lee Kuhl

Andrew Kali, Paul Cormack, Kyle Roberts and Ryan Knoll relax after their tournament victory at Mary Hardin Baylor Golf Invitational.

## Highlassie golfers tie Tyler for 7th place

**Davis L. Gonzalez**  
Sports Editor

The Highlassie's golf team finished their season at the Sam Houston State Ellingson Fall Classic on Nov. 4, coming in a seventh place tie with Tyler.

The tournament took place over two days at the Waterwood National Golf Club in Huntsville with 14 teams participating.

The Highlassie's finished with a three round total of 981 and were led by the play of Sjavon Wilson and Christa Gunn.

Wilson was the only member of the Highlassie's team to complete two rounds under 80, placing 20<sup>th</sup> overall and tying with Tyler's Jessica Nemnich.

Sjavon's score was 79-84-77 for 240.

Christa Gunn followed closely behind for a 25<sup>th</sup> place finish with a low round of 78. Gunn led the Highlassies after the first two rounds before losing five strokes to team leader Wilson.

Christa's tournament concluded with an 83-78-82 for 243 score.

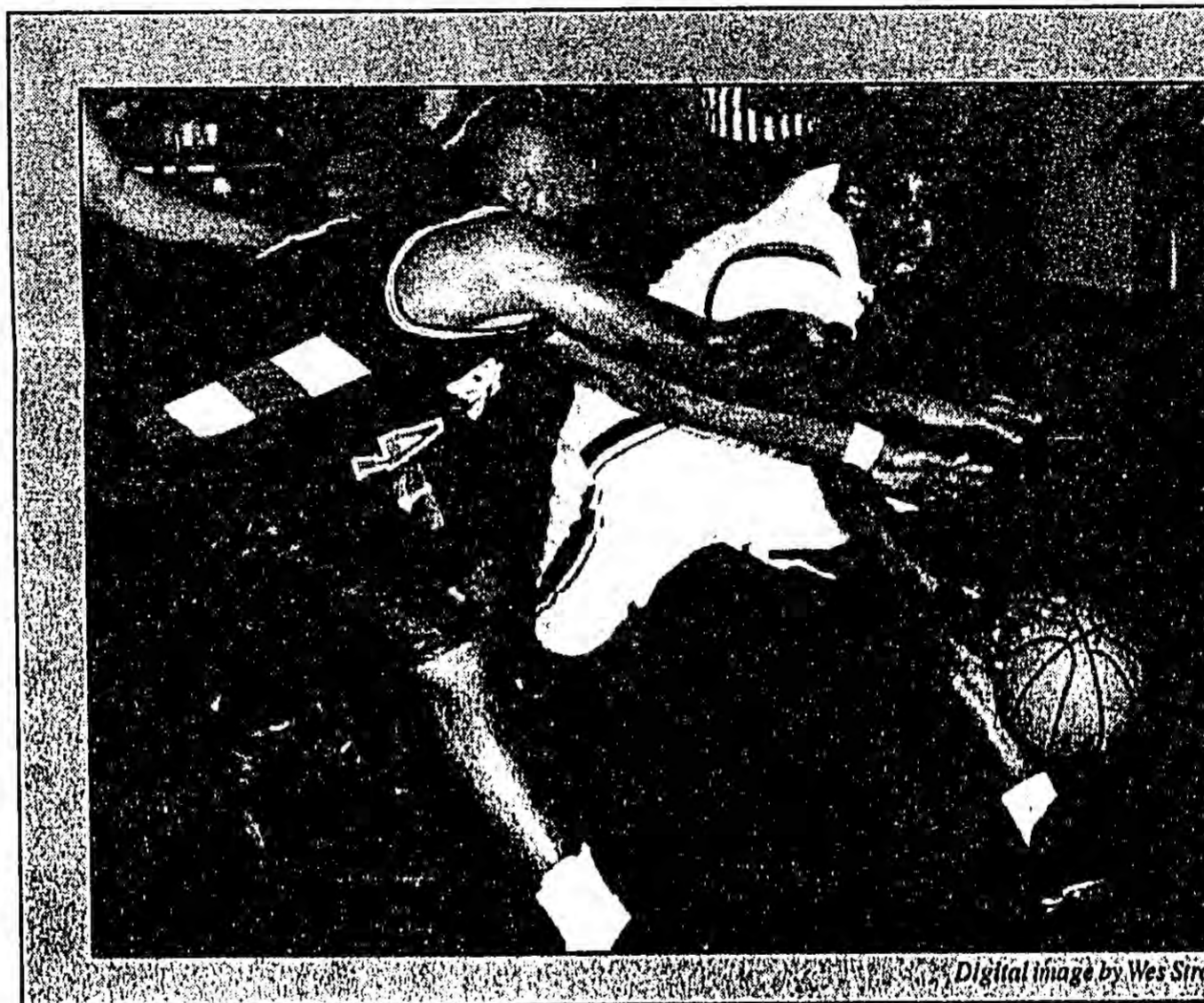
Bekah Gregory played the most consistent game of the team with three consecutive rounds of 83 to end in 36<sup>th</sup> place with a 249.

Stephanie Crolla came in 43<sup>rd</sup> with a 253 three round score.

Crolla's individual rounds were 88-81-84.

Coming in 56<sup>th</sup>, Chelsea Boothe was the last of the Highlassie's to place.

Boothe struggled to get a 270 with every round causing her more trouble and ending with 84-89-97 score.



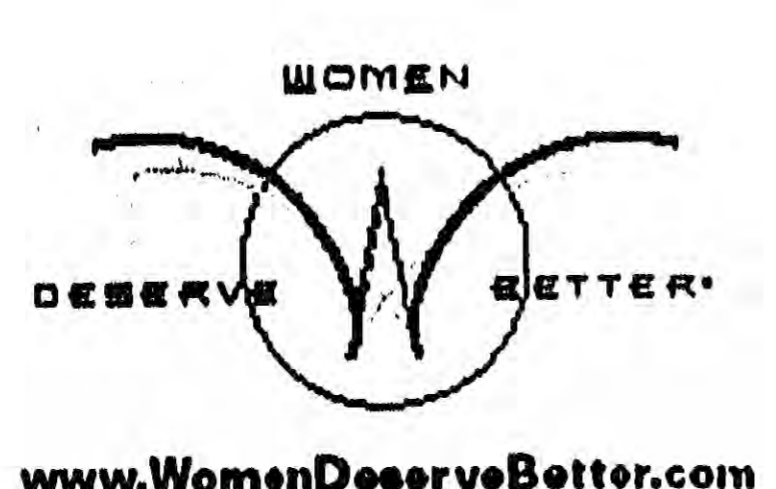
Digital image by Wes Strom

### Highlander Round-Up (6-1)

- 11/1 Highlanders 126
- @ Corsicana /Navarro College 105
- 11/5 Highlanders 94
- vs. Lee College 72
- 11/10 Highlanders 85
- @ Athens/Trinity Valley 82
- 11/12 Highlanders
- vs. Cedar Valley
- 11/14 Highlanders 89
- @ Hill/Odessa College 85
- 11/15 Highlanders 73
- @ Hill/Paris College 74

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# Highlanders' slam dunk Jaguars

Tonya Farmer  
Sports writer

Not even a tornado watch stopped the MCC Highlanders from blowing away the Jacksonville Jaguars 85-73, at the Highlands gym on the Tuesday, November 17.

The game was highlighted by a

series of slam-dunks, initiated by Center Eric Dawson with 3:10 left on the clock in the first.

By halftime the MCC Dance Team pranced beneath a scoreboard that showed the Highlanders leading the Jaguars 39-34.

Guard Andre Owens made a slam-

dunk during the second period 15:35 left on the clock, leading the Highlanders nine points ahead of the Jaguars 54-45.

Following Owens, Dawson again hammered the hoop as the Highlanders then led 58-45 with 14:50 left on the clock.

"I expect the game tonight to be exciting for two teams that like to get up and down the court," said coach Gill.

Dawson slammed in another basket with 4:30 left on the clock, making the score 75-64.

Owens dunked again with only 2:15 on the clock, putting the Jaguars in the hole 85-71.

"Defense is winning it for us now, the offense will come to us. We're not bad at offense but it will get stronger", said coach Gill.

Guard Jesse Kimbrough's statistics against Jacksonville was 2 rebounds, 6 assists, 5 T/Os, 2 steals, 2 fouls, 1 deflection with an overall score of 20 points. Dawson turned in

15 rebounds, 2 assist, 5 T/Os, 1 steals, 3 fouls, 3 blocks with an overall score 16 was also impressive.

Owens contributed another 16 points, finishing the game with 1 rebound, 1 assist, 4 T/Os, 1 steal, 1 Foul, and 1 deflection.

Jejuan Plair game average was 1 rebound, 1 T/Os, 3 fouls and a total of 9 points.

"We expect to have a great season and a shot at winning the conference championship," said Highlanders head coach Kevin Gill.

The starters for the Highlanders where Dawson, Owens, Kimbrough, Allen Houston, and Brandon Clark.

Jaguars starters where Brandon Perry, Aaron Fitzgerald, Gregg Charles,

Darron Moreland, and Chris Knaub.

2003/04 Player Roster: No. 1 Eric Dawson 6-8/SO/Center, No.3 Andre Owens 6-3 /SO/Guard, No.4 Cody Lewis 6-4/SO/Forward, No.5 Jesse Kimbrough 6-0/SO/Guard, No.10 Jejuan Plair 6-1/FR/Guard, No.11 Allen Houston 6-0/ SO/Guard,

No.12 Kenneth Wilson 6-4/FR/ Guard, No.15 Chris Thompson 6-5/FR/ Guard, No.24 Wesley Pendley 6-5/FR/ Forward, No.32 Brandon Clark 6-5/SO/ Forward, No.33 Roderick Jacobs 6-6/ FR/Center, No.34 Brent Compton 6-4/ SO/Guard, No.41 Dedrick Nowlin 6-5 /SO/Forward, and No.44 Chris Johnson 6-1/SO/Guard.



Digital image by Tonya Farmer

Wesley Pendley(24) tries to score and misses against the Jacksonville Jaguars.

## MCC Dance Company shows Halloween spirit with party

Davis L Gonzalez  
Staff writer

The McLennan Community College Dance Company are no strangers to dressing up, and they have no problems dressing strangely.

Each year coach Sandy Hinton throws a Halloween party for her dancers involving costumes and a scavenger hunt to reward the team's work during the year.

Thanks to the long hours of practice, performing and studying, the dance squad gets little time to cut loose and just be college students, Hinton said.

Hinton, recognizing all work and no play makes for a dull team, sets aside some time just for fun.

"I think it's good, it helps everybody get closer," said dancer Haley Hinton. "One year we went to Marie Callender's, and they threw a pie in one of the girls face so that we could get our clue (for the scavenger hunt activity)"

This year the squad dressed in a variety of costumes, including a devil, a French maid, an eight ball, an escaped inmate and the ever-scary Michael Jackson.

The characters were even more bizarre because they were out in public a week before Halloween so that every dance member could attend.

Hinton treats her dancers like family, a real necessity considering that some of them sacrificed leaving home for the chance to perform with MCC's dance team.

Amy Henderson, a member of MCC's 2001 National Championship dance squad, said that Hinton "opened my eyes to the world of dance", and Henderson said she continues to choreograph MCC routines even though she's now attending the University of North Texas.

This kind of closeness is what turns individual dancers into a dance team that regularly brings MCC recognition on a national scale, including an appearance on FoxSportsNet that has been repeatedly shown over the summer.

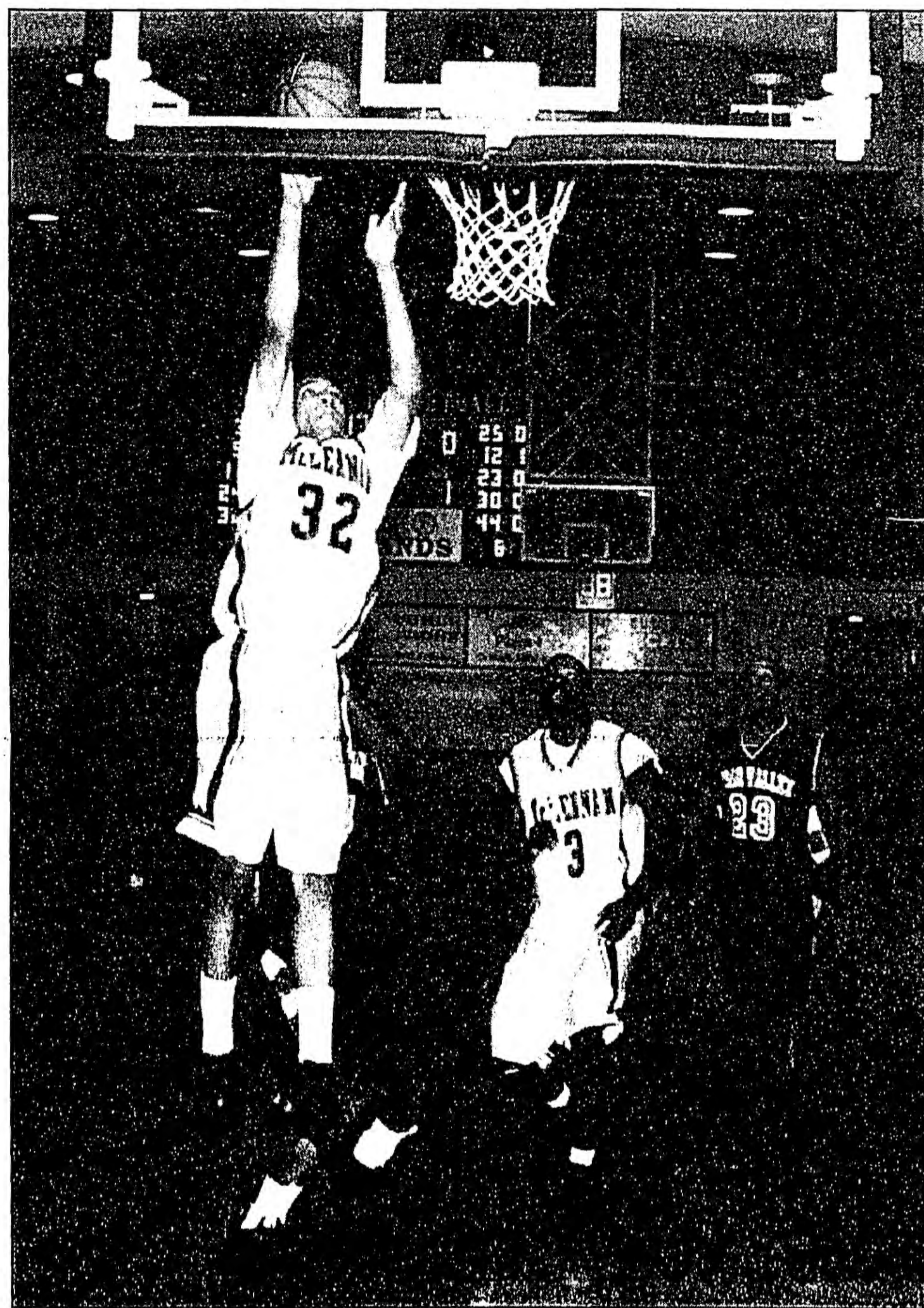
T. J. Maple, this year's sole male representative, summed up the attitude most of the group could agree with, "It's a privilege".



Image Courtesy of Sandy Hinton

Members of McLennan Community dance team enjoy Halloween party hosted by Instructor Sandy Hinton, Saturday, October 25.

Look for the Highland Herald Holiday Magazine coming in December



Digital Images by Wes Strom

Brandon Clack (32) slams a dunk against Cedar Valley at Wednesday, November 12 game.



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# J-2 Showcase

## News

Jessica Penner  
Fairfield High School

One student dead, three injured in a head on collision.  
One student dead and three are in critical condition after a head on collision in the McLennan Community College parking lot at 7:30 Tuesday morning. Candlelight visual will be held at 7:00 tonight at the LTC Plaza for the victim, Max Leland.  
Three MCC students Max Leland, Sarah Sierrah, and an eighteen year old female, whose name has been withheld, were pulling into the MCC parking lot in a 2002 Ford Taurus when they were hit head-on by Senator Deforge's daughter, Ashley Deforge.  
"All of the passengers in the Taurus were MCC students, the passengers in the Pontiac were not," said Public Information officer Kim Patterson.  
Deforge fled into the parking lot after refusing to pull over for speeding at 7:30 a.m. She refused to take a Breathalyzer and has been charged with DUI. Officer Frost took her away from the scene.  
"You'll pay for this," said Deforge to Officer Frost.  
Justice Paul Patterson pronounced 22-year-old Leland dead on the scene at 9:40.  
"His cause of death has not yet been determined", said Officer Kim Patterson.  
19-year-old MCC student Sarah Sierrah is in critical condition, suffering from head and neck injuries.  
In the back seat of the Taurus was an eighteen-year-old female. She suffers from second and third degree burns on forty percent of her body.  
"We are not giving out her name at this time", said Patterson.  
The passenger of the Pontiac was an eighteen-year-old Sara Cera who suffers from head trauma. She along with the other injured students, have been taken to Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center.  
Deforge was previously arrested for PI, and she pleaded guilty October 9, in Syracuse NY.  
Leland attended MCC for two years. He was a pitcher for the University of Texas. His candlelight visual is at 7:00 pm tonight in the LTC Plaza.  
All events for summit were assimilations and nobody was harmed at MCC.

## Photo - 2nd Place

Image by Kara King, Midway High School



## Sports

Billy Mayer  
Reicher High School

Do you remember what you were doing in January of 1993?  
Lin Elliott does.  
On Super Bowl Sunday he was kicking seven extra points and a field goal in a 52-17 pounding of the Buffalo Bills.  
Elliott was a first-year kicker for the Dallas Cowboys in that season. He led the team in scoring on the way to the Cowboys first championship in the Jimmie Johnson era.  
A graduate of Texas Tech University, Elliott had a four-year NFL career in which he made 75 of 99 field goals with the Cowboys and the Kansas City Chiefs. His career is now over and he fills the time by working at UBS Palne Webber as a Financial Advisor. He also spends time with his wife Joy and daughters Emily and Renni.  
After graduating high school of Waco High, Elliott walked on at Texas Tech and made the team. At one point in his College Career he made 85 straight extra points. He then signed as a free agent with Dallas in 1992 after graduating.  
When asked about life in the NFL Elliott simply said, "It is not like playmakers." He enjoyed being treated like celebrities, but he does not really miss the attention.  
He still follows the game but has no favorite team. He is a fan of good quality football. In fact, he said that he likes college football better because it is more pure.  
During his time in the NFL Elliott had the opportunity to play with some great players. In Dallas it was Troy Aikman and Emmitt Smith. In Kansas City it was Joe Montana who he said, "was the best he ever played with." He traveled to many different venues to play was the old Mile High Stadium. The worst was the Veterans Stadium in Philadelphia. "Those are blue collar people that live and breathe the Eagles. It is a tough place to win a game, said Elliott.  
Elliott said he could still kick right now but not like he used to. He will leave it to the professionals now like Philadelphia's David Akers who Elliott said was the best in the league.  
Elliott career ended after a playoff game against the Indianapolis Colts. He was with Kansas City and the field was like ice. In the game he missed all three field goals he attempted and they lost the game. He was not resigned after that and his career was over.  
Lin Elliott lived the dream of so many people in America. He played in the National Football League. Not only that he won a Super Bowl, which is the greatest accomplishment for an athlete. If he could tell a future NFL player something it would be "when you get to the top can fall off very easily never stop working". His ride is now over and his new passion is his family. That will be his real legacy.

## Photo - 1st Place

Aaron Jetelina, Midway High School



## Brites

Peter Weaver  
Reicher High School

Why put Franklin on a hundred dollar bill?  
Why is it always about the Benjamin's?  
Who was this man that could harness lightning; the power of God itself?  
Born in Boston on the 17th of January 1706, this Capricorn had immense talent to offer the world. Growing up as the 15th child of 17, he only attended school for two years, but his lack of education never paused him.  
The inventor of bifocals, the Franklin Store, and the lightning rod, Benjamin's knowledge and wisdom seemed to be infinite.  
Franklin's publication of poor Richards Almanac is filled with his most extraordinary thoughts. "Early to bed and early to rise, makes a man wealthy, healthy and wise."  
Franklin has taught us many things, such as, "A penny saved is a penny earned." Apparently he took this saying to heart because it's not all about the Washington's, it's all about the Benjamin.



## Editorial

Torri Tri  
Trimble High School

In what must be considered a wave-of-the future, virtual charter schools are increasingly becoming a new educational option that stands to, if they accumulate enough interest; overwhelm the institute of public school education. With the denial of the virtual charter school program in legislature, the Texas Education Association (TEA) is still seeking its passage without legislature approval. Borrowing elements of home schooling, tax-funded charter schools, and the Internet, virtual charter schools would serve to benefit individual organizations which offer Internet-based education while draining tax dollars best spent in a more accountable way of learning.  
Education is an expensive endeavor, and there would be no tax increase to fund virtual charter schools. Basically, the tax dollars would be stretched thin should virtual charter schools achieve passage. The money allotted to what can now be called traditional schools would include computers, printers, Internet access, and books. Funding virtual schools would place public schools and those who do not advocate the virtual schools at a disadvantage in monetary terms. It begs the question of whether or not these virtual schools can offer a better level of quality than public school education. The possibility of tax-funded virtual charter schools also leads one to wonder who really serves to benefit from such an unconventional educational approach.  
William Bennett, the former U.S. Education secretary, is a prominent advocate of virtual charter schools. His interest, in particular, focus on his own virtual charter school operation, called K12. Freedom, innovation, choice, and accountability are the "pillars" of Bennett's program. Indeed, K12 students, like all other virtual charter school students, will still have the responsibility of passing state exams, and, with the virtual programs, the responsibility is not squarely on their shoulders.

## Feature

Weston Kingsley  
Fairfield High School

Going from a Pulitzer Prize Winner to editor of a small town regional paper may seem psychotic to some.  
Gayle Reeves, however, made this gusty move without hesitation. Even at early age, Mrs. Reeves knew she wanted to be a journalist.  
"Ever since I could pick up a pen, I loved to write," Mrs. Reeves said.  
As she strolled through her junior high years writing for those beloved Xeroxed copies of a so-called paper, this first serious true love came into her life. But she wanted to write something different, something unknown in her. "As I entered high school, my writing skill blossomed," Mrs. Reeves said.  
Her parents saw this skill, but insisted she become something that made a lot of money. So she told them, "I'm going to be a journalist."  
After graduating from the University of Texas in Austin with double majors, obtaining here B.A. in Journalism and Art, her aspirations were to jump straight to a large daily newspaper, but unfortunately for her most papers don't take kids straight out of college and put them on staff. So her jobs at first were small, but like many people as she gained more and more experience, her job opportunities became more as well.  
While working with the Dallas Morning News in 1994, Mrs. Reeves was notified she had won the Pulitzer Prize for her piece written on violence against women.  
"In some places, it's accepted to beat your wives," Reeves said. "I just wanted people to know that this problem isn't just here."  
After she was awarded the Pulitzer, she continued her journalism work, but to many it would be a surprise to say that now she is working for a small newspaper, the Fort Worth Weekly, as the editor.  
So why would a Pulitzer prize winner ever want to move down to a smaller weekly paper, other than to work for a large daily one?  
"Where I was at (the Dallas Morning News) made me bitter," Reeves said. "If I wanted to stay until I retire I could, but I lost respect for my bosses," Gayle said.  
She went from the Dallas Morning News to the Fort Worth Weekly, but she says she is more fulfilled.  
"It was a big gamble, but I think it paid off," she said.  
So what's next for Gayle Reeves, Pulitzer Prize winner of 1994?  
"This is next," Gayle said, "But as a personal goal or goals I should say is, well my goals are having to deal with our industry," Reeves said.  
"I want to see journalists treated well by their employers," Reeves said.  
One of the other issues Mrs. Reeves would like to deal with, but because of financial restraints cannot, is our nursing home system.  
"It's more than a tragedy, it's a shame, the system is broken," Reeves said.  
Why she doesn't head somewhere where her ideas can become stories, is something unknown to all but her.  
You would think, however, she has done all she can for her small weekly paper, but she still sees a lot of work to be done.  
"I don't think I've conquered this job by any means, but I'm here, and I plan on staying because I like helping people and making a difference," Reeves said.

## Photo - 3rd Place

Image by Taylor Rudd, Midway High School



Currently students in Kindergarten through fifth grades are the only one engaged in the curriculum of the virtual charter school. Students in these grades levels now have primary responsibility for their education. Their teacher is basically a computer; although, the home school elements would compel us to believe that a parent is also on call. Still the presence of reliable, educated adult is not an absolute in virtual education. It is not home schooling. Suddenly all the discipline of school would be gone, and a child commands his own learning experience. While child prodigies may be able to function successfully when handed the keys to their own education so early, average students will not likely be able to achieve the self-discipline necessary to learn.  
The National Education (NEA) opposes the passage of virtual charter schools.  
"We are raising the bar in terms of accountability in public education every day and now to simply suggest that we're going to spend public funds for a child to be taught at the kitchen table by someone that is not a qualified educator is sort of a counter to everything else we're saying about what we want in public education," said Barbara Stein, senior policy analyst for the NEA.  
Public education may not be without its flaws. With standardized tests measuring learning success, the idea of education is muddled. The dollars should be devoted to the improvement of schools but definitely not to an educational program in an experimental phase. We are not looking to benefit the individual organizations that operate their own virtual charter schools. We should be focused on schooling that has some consistency and does not function with the motive of financial profit. There is nothing public schools need less than competition when it comes to funding. Shifting emphasis from public schools would mean to start from square one, and it is not a free experiment. The best shot at educational gains would mean working with what is already in place, not dreaming about and losing tax dollars over what is not.