

# Highland Herald

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March 23, 2000

## Irish duo en route to address MCC

Matt Schampers  
Staff Writer

Ann and Wayne Duncan, MCC speech and math professors, flew to Omagh, Northern Ireland, in August of 1999 to study violence and communication.

"We went to discover the role of the communication process, and the ways of persua-

sion in such a violent incident," Ann Duncan said.

The violent incident was a 500-pound car bomb detonated in Omagh a year earlier in August 1998, killing almost 30 and injuring over 200.

While in Omagh on the International Study Grant, the Duncans met Stephen McKenna, a family friend and mentor for this research project.



Duncan

McKenna is a retired educator and Omagh Council member. During their stay in the troubled coun-

ties, McKenna introduced them to his close friend, Seamus Devlin.

Devlin is President of

Omagh College, and is a former Justice of the Peace for the counties of Tyrone & Fermanagh.

Professional development funds have made it possible for these men to visit MCC the week of March 27.

The 12-member Irish Planning Committee, consisting of MCC faculty and other staff, has been meeting weekly to

plan for their arrival.

During their stay they will be giving lectures to students and faculty of MCC. These lectures are formatted so guests "can interact with faculty and students to increase our understanding of the events, college academics and culture of Northern Ireland," Ann Duncan said.

Both men will arrive at Dallas/Ft. Worth International Air-

port on Friday, March 24. On Monday, March 27, both McKenna and Devlin will begin a busy week of presentations and speeches to be delivered to MCC students and faculty.

In LA 110 at 10:20 a.m. and 11:30 a.m., March 27, McKenna will lecture on the conflict in Northern Ireland to

See "Irish" on page 2



Digital image by Cassie Strickland

Tracy Jones (left) and Amanda Allen rehearse for the MCC production of Grease, which opened March 16-18 and runs again March 23-25.

## Bush, Gore head-to-head

Corey Farrar  
Staff Writer

In the aftermath of the largest primary day in the United States, challengers Bill Bradley and Senator John McCain shut down their respective campaigns, ensuring the longest head-to-head presidential campaign in American political history.

Governor George W. Bush won eight of 13 states on Super Tuesday including primaries in California, New York and Ohio to regain his status as GOP front runner. Meanwhile, Vice-President Al Gore swept the Democratic side.

The incumbent Vice-President immediately turned his attention to November, outlining his national platform at his victory rally on March 7.

George W. Bush is also looking ahead saying it is time to "turn to the main task at hand, ending the era of Clinton-Gore."

McCain won four primary contests, all in New England, but the speculation of his campaign's future started immediately afterwards. He told supporters in his concession speech that he "may meet Bush again."

Bush ran away with most states by at least a 10-point margin and had strong showings in those that McCain won. In Ohio, where McCain was hoping to earn a key upset, Bush garnered more than 60 percent of the vote. Ambassador Alan Keyes was a non-factor, failing to gain five percent of any state.

The Republican campaign has been back and forth since the start. Bush won Iowa, and McCain came back to win New Hampshire. Bush struck again in South Carolina, but McCain answered with Michigan. But Bush's onslaught in Virginia, North Dakota and Washington in the week prior to his Super Tuesday triumph forced McCain to announce the suspension of his campaign on March 9.

Former Senator Bill Bradley all but conceded to Al Gore on Super Tuesday.

Bradley, who has yet to win a state over the Vice President,

See "Bush" on page 5

## Band performs

Ed Powell conducted the Waco Community Band and the McLennan Community College Wind Symphony in works by composers such as Percy Grainger, James Barnes and Johan de Meij on February 22 in the Ball Performing Arts Center.

About 150 people were in attendance.

The Waco Community Band opened the performance with

*Black Granite*, a piece composed in remembrance of Vietnam Veterans.

*Three London Miniatures*, the Waco Community Band's finale, "reality captures the feel of London," Powell said.

After intermission, the MCC Wind Symphony opened with *March, Op. 99*, a *Yorkshire Ballad*, *Night Dances* and *Symphony No. 1: "The Lord of the Rings."*

## Renovations ready LTC interim plans

Rachel Hunley  
Staff Writer

The Community Service Center (CSC) is under construction to make room for the temporary library and to improve the Child Services

Department.

During the time that the new Learning Technology Center is being built, the library will be temporarily stationed in the CSC where changes are being made to house the interim library.

Walls have enclosed what was known as the "open area" of the CSC to house the new library. The roof is being replaced as well as the heating and air conditioning. While the roof is under construction, parking on the left side of the building has been temporarily closed. Construction started in October and is expected to be finished by May 1, 2000, when the library is expected to move into the CSC.

The library will be at its temporary location for approximately 18 months.

After the new Learning Technology Center is built and the library is moved to its permanent location in December of 2001, the open space will be made into a conference/banquet room. MCC is investing in moveable partitions that will be used to separate the open space if the need arises. Six See "Library" on page 5

# MCC program awarded

Rachel Hunley  
Staff Writer

U.S. Department of Education representatives Ursula Lord and Laura Riley presented the Secretary's Award for Outstanding Adult Literacy and Literacy Programs to McLennan Community College's Adult Education Program March 1 in the Performing Arts Center.

McLennan Community College's Adult Education Program was selected to receive the United States Department of Education Secretary's Award for its adult education programs. This award is presented every three years for programs that excel in providing effective adult education services.

The Secretary's Awards program, initiated in 1985, identifies model adult education programs and practices and recognizes their success in assisting adult learners to achieve their educational, personal and professional goals.

The MCC Adult Education Program received the news in a letter from the office of U.S. Secretary of Education, Richard W. Riley. The letter commended the program for "outstanding efforts to help adults get the basic skills they need as workers, parents, and citizens



Digital image by Rachel Hunley

Shirley Crockett, who supervises General Equivalency Diploma education for the MCC Adult Education Program, displays the Secretary's Award presented by the U.S. Department of Education for excellence in providing adult education services.

in the 21st century."

"I take great pleasure in being able to recognize the high-quality efforts these local, frontline, adult education programs make," Riley said. "They bring much needed opportunities to many and make a real difference in the lives of adults seeking a better quality of life."

Awards in previous years have emphasized exemplary practices, but this year the focus is on quality programs and increased accountability in

achieving levels of performance. The award is based on the program's design, instruction, learning environment, achievement of learner goals, standards, evaluation, and professional development.

The MCC Adult Education Program was nominated by the Texas Education Agency. The nomination was then examined by independent expert review panels.

Winners were selected based on the educational gains of students, program planning, cur-

riculum, instruction and staff development, support services, recruitment and retention, coordination, and diversity.

MCC won for its outstanding programs such as General Education Development (GED) classes, basic reading, writing and spelling classes, English as a second language, Family Literacy, High School Diploma, and Workforce Education programs.

More than 95 percent of the students who started the program in 1997 completed their beginning level or made progress in that level.

Eighty percent of the 520 adults enrolled in the adult secondary programs and 80 percent of the 118 students identified as welfare participants completed the program.

The program serves 4,000 adult students in isolated rural and concentrated urban areas.

Classes are offered Monday through Thursdays from 8:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. in the four county areas of McLennan, Falls, Bosque, and Hill.

# Irish duo to visit MCC

Continued from page 1

Ann Duncan's Public Speaking Class. Also on Monday, Devlin will give a presentation, *Building Community Through Workforce Development* in the Art Center Courtyard at noon.

On Tuesday, March 28, Devlin is scheduled to speak to Don Fisher's Mass Communications class at 9:30 a.m. on *A Look at Northern Ireland in Journalism*, and to Brooks Wilson's Economics class on *A Look at the Northern Ireland Economy* at 11:10 a.m. McKenna will again speak to Duncan's Public Speaking class between the hours of 9:35 a.m. and 12:45 a.m. Both men will speak to Nancy Ray-Mitchell's evening Human Resources Development class in AC 205 at 7:30 p.m.

On Wednesday, March 29, McKenna will speak to Linda Hatchell's British Masterpieces class at 10:20 a.m. on *Ireland in its 20th Century Literature*, in LA 214. He will speak again about Ireland in the Movies at 1:15 p.m. in the Highlander Room. Devlin will be speaking at 12:45 in the Highlander Room about Higher Education in Northern Ireland. At 6:30 p.m., both men are scheduled to speak to Louie Maze's International Business class in AC third floor conference room.

Thursday and Friday, March 30 and 31, will be slower days for the two gentlemen. They will convene for dinner with the Irish Committee members before their departure on Saturday, April 1.

# SGA expands with elections

Cedric Iglehart  
Staff Writer

The Student Government Association elected representatives for Spring 2000.

The representatives for the sophomore class are Dikshita Patel, LeAndrea Ingram, Doug Thompson and Kellie Baugh. Representing the freshman class are Monty Woodley, Raheem Mitchell, Jarrod Hogue, Laurie Elliot and Mike Nicoletti.

"I've always been active in high school," said Hogue, a computer science major and graduate of Connally High School, "and this year I plan on bringing some new ideas based on my talents with using the computer in the area of advertising and what-not."

In addition to the new crop of members, this year's SGA will differ because of the appointment of a public relations officer.

Freshman Ellen Perez, a graduate of Midway High School, is serving in that capacity due in part to her contribution on the recent Black History Month celebration.

Perez said she hopes to help the Student Government Association attain a more visible presence off-campus.

"I plan on going out into the community and doing more volunteer-type work," she said.

Alesha McCambridge is the SGA sponsor for this semester. She said she was very pleased with the growth of the organization and is optimistic about the future.

"We are so excited because we've grown from six to sixteen since the last election," she said.

With such an increase in new representatives, the SGA could potentially be plagued by problems that come from having such an inexperienced group. In order to combat that problem,

McCambridge and a majority of the members will be attending the State Student Government Convention for Junior Colleges in Corpus Christi from April 6-9.

"It's a place where they (the members) can learn about what they're roles are," McCambridge said. "They learn how to do their jobs, attend training/leadership sessions and get to meet other SGA members from other junior colleges."

Despite the fact that the SGA more than doubled in size this semester, there is still one sophomore representative spot remaining. To ask questions, call 299-8443.

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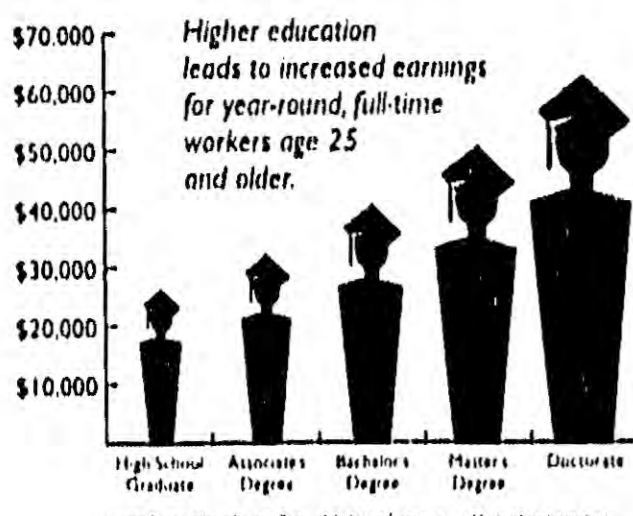
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### \* NEW FEDERAL CHANGES MAY AFFECT YOUR FINANCIAL AID \*

On October 7, 2000 a new federal law will go into effect that all students receiving financial aid need to be aware of. This law concerns the refunding of financial aid monies to the federal government by students who withdraw or who are dropped from their courses. Specifically, students who drop all of their coursework within the first 60 percent of the semester will be required to repay a portion of their grant monies.

For Example, if a full time student receives a Pell Grant award of \$1,500, the Pell would typically pay approximately \$500 in tuition and fees, \$250 for books, and the remaining \$750 would be disbursed to the student. If this student completes 20 percent of the semester and then drops all classes, 80 percent of the grant funds must be repaid. The College must refund \$400.00 (80% of the tuition and fees) to the federal account. The student must repay \$300.00 (80% if the \$750 divided by one half) to the College within 45 days. If the student fails to repay the funds within 45 days, that student will be ineligible for any further financial aid at ANY school until repayment is made.

#### What can you do to minimize the impact of the new law?

- Plan your schedule each semester to ensure that you can complete the coursework for which you have registered.
- Attend class regularly to keep up with the coursework, and to ensure that you are not dropped for non-attendance.
- If an emergency comes up, talk with a counselor in Career Development Services about your options before dropping coursework.

If you must withdraw, consider remaining enrolled in a course or two until you are sure how the situation causing the withdrawal will be resolved.

From the President...

## Progress vs. Costs: A Balancing Act

Dr. Dennis Michaelis  
MCC President

Over the last few days, you may have been hearing about the possibility of a tuition increase at MCC for the 2000-2001 year. While no one likes to think about the cost of education going up, it is a fact of life that innovation costs money. And, while much work remains to be done by administrators and board members before tuition rates are set for next year, the balancing act between innovation and cost is an issue worth discussing.

Little more than a decade ago, computers were a rarity on our campus. In fact, in 1988, students had access to only two outdated computer labs. Library resources, admissions and registration data, business office transactions, and many other administrative functions were still tracked primarily with pencil and paper.

Thanks to the commitment of forward-thinking board members and progressive faculty and staff, technology now is intrinsic to almost every college function. Today, there are more than 1,600 networked computers on campus for students, staff, and faculty use. Not only does this technology upgrade and streamline the "business" side of going to college, but it encourages learning through use of the Internet, computer tutorials, and other technology-enhanced curriculum. There are many colleges in Texas that haven't been as aggressive in technology as MCC has. As a result, those colleges may have lower rates for tuition and fees. But I must tell you that I do not apologize for providing aggressive leadership when it comes to technology application for every part of our college. Because today, I feel that if we don't stay on the leading edge of technological innovation, we will be left behind faster than at any time in the history of mankind. There is a cost associated with being on that leading edge, and it is not an understatement to say that MCC has invested millions of dollars in technology for the benefit of students.

But technology is not the only reason our costs increase each year at MCC. Since our founding, MCC has prided itself on being especially responsive to the educational needs of the community. This means that when local businesses have expressed a need for specialized training, MCC has been there to customize curriculum to help their employees succeed. When there was a need for more nurses at our local hospitals, MCC responded with a new evening program. When the City of Waco needed a training partner to prepare firefighters to serve our community, MCC established a fire training academy. When innovations in the video, graphics, and music industries dictated a need for an even more diverse set of skills, we created a new Multimedia Production program that will assure that MCC's graduates can enter the job market with skills that are eagerly sought and highly compensated.

These are just a few examples of the initiatives MCC has taken over the past few years to enhance learning and opportunity for our students. Like technology, programs like these come with a price tag. Our job as administrators and board members at MCC is to weigh the benefits with the costs and make sure that the ultimate benefit is to our students and to the community at large.

Yes, the MCC Board of Trustees may decide to increase tuition for next year. But, the thing I can promise you as a student is that the decision to do so will only be made after a great deal of thought and consideration and will be made only if the board is completely convinced that it will enhance learning opportunities for MCC students.

Out there...

## Teacher plays quiet game

Leah C. Turner  
City Editor

A six year old shot in the neck at school. A gun with the blood and fingerprints of a first-grader on it. Testimonies from babes no one is sure were even there. Chaos and confusion weigh heavily on everyone's minds, especially the one adult capable of clearing the matter.

Traumatized. In shock. What to say? What to do? Police and reporter's questions echo from all corners of the stuffy room. Then a hand grabs her, pulls her out, and tells her not to say anything until her lawyer is present.

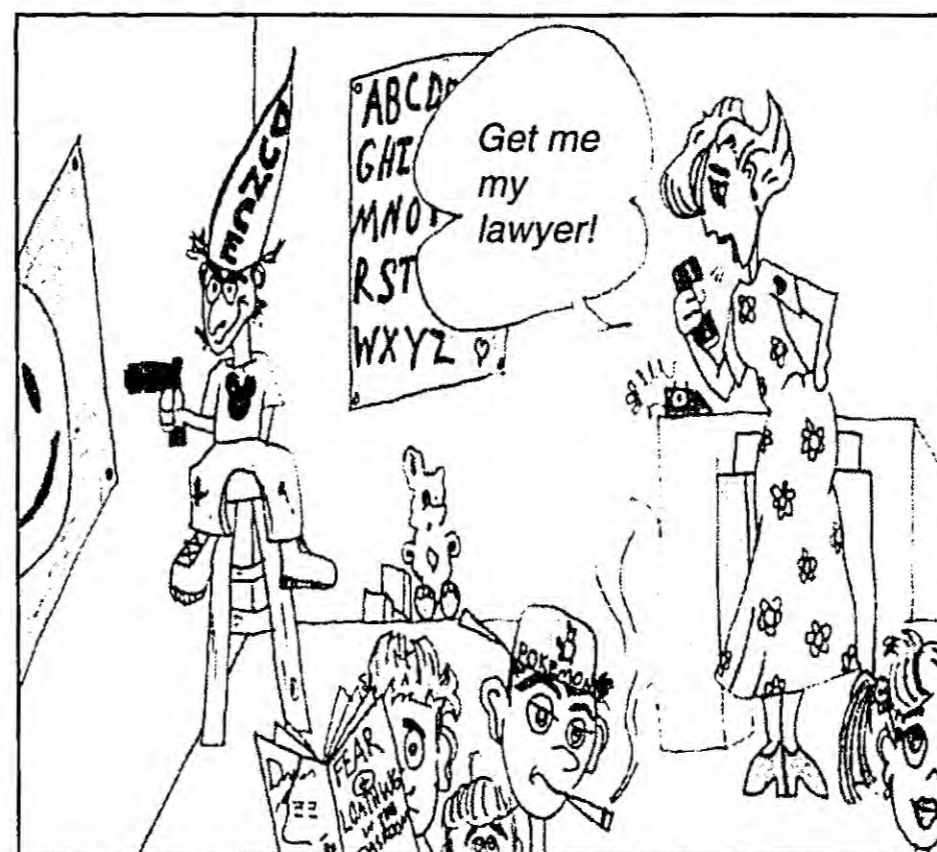
The six-year-old's teacher, the only adult who witnessed the shooting, refuses to comment.

Conflicting stories pour in, but still the teacher maintains her silence.

Why? Is it not her responsibility to report the truth as she saw it? Her duty even?

What's stopping her from stopping the anarchy?

She has done nothing wrong. What does she have to fear?



Comic by Dylan Newhouse

In this litigious society, she has everything to fear. The loss of everything.

While the person most responsible for the death of an innocent child has everything to gain. How is that possible?

The boy's mother, liable for her son's actions, can sue for irresponsibility on the part of the teacher. Not to mention the legal actions the parents of the rest of the children in the classroom can, and probably will,

take on advice of counsel.

So, the lawyer's job is ensure that the teacher does not mention anything that might lead the public to believe she noticed something strange the day of the shooting before hand. Because if she does slip, she is open to allegations from anyone from the boy's mother to the pope.

So instead of speaking up, she retreats into her lawyer's corner.

But what happens when the crucial pawn becomes mum?

An unexplainable tragedy lacking only a stamped seal of accuracy explodes into a full-blown controversy. If not immediately put out, flames spread like wildfire until a forest is blazing orange and red.

We need to put the fire out immediately and without a second thought. The blame belongs with the person responsible for the boy living in a flop-house (where he obtained the gun) in the first place.

The teacher should not have to hesitate to tell what she saw. Is this not the United States where the 1st amendment guarantees all citizens the right to free speech? Ku Klux Klan members can come to Waco and say whatever they want under the protection of the law, but an upstanding member of society and role-model for our youngsters can not provide important information on the spot for fear of being sued. Let's get our perspectives back in focus before the same laws created to protect the innocent ruin innocent lives.

Green Scene...

## Biotech foods harbor toxins

Mandolin Shannon  
Staff Writer

Are Franken-foods coming to a store near you? If you are like most people in America, you probably do not even know what a Franken-food is. This new type of genetically engineered food, also known as Biotech food, is carried in most stores across the nation.

Some of the most noted genetically altered foods are the "Roundup Ready" soybean, the controversial "Bt corn" and tomatoes that are spliced with fish genes.

Genetically engineered food is under fire from numerous groups across the globe. Various reasons are behind the demand for strict regulations to be placed on the development, production and marketing of genetically altered food products. Those who oppose geneti-

cally engineered foods often mark religious beliefs, environmental concerns and civil rights issues at the core of their stand.

However, the genetic alteration of food crops is nothing new. For example, crossbreeding livestock for certain traits, or saving seeds from successful plants are both forms of genetic engineering which have been going on since the dawn of agriculture.

However, recent developments in science and technology have forced, what some organizations are calling, unnatural genetic combinations into our food supply, and into the environment.

These new altered species have not evolved with our natural environment.

Given this fact, many argue the possibility that these genetic mutations could interact with our environment causing det-

perimental results.

For example, Bt corn has been linked to death in Monarch butterfly larvae.

Bt corn is so named because it has been spliced with the toxin, *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt), which naturally occurs in soil microorganisms. Bt wards off corn borers which can minimize corn crop output drastically. However, Bt can also potentially wipe out beneficial insects.

Pollen from Bt corn, containing the Bt toxin, often blows onto nearby fields, where it may be ingested by pollinating insects, such as bees and butterflies.

Laboratory studies at Cornell University have shown that, when ingested, Bt corn pollen lowers the survival rate of Monarch butterfly larvae. This laboratory study concluded that about half of the Monarch butterfly larvae that fed on leaves dusted with Bt corn pollen died.

This fact alone is cause for alarm. However, implications of genetically altered plants could reach much further than that one species of butterfly.

When genetically engineered plants are introduced into our environment, they are free to interact and cross-pollinate with wild and cultivated plants. We can not control genetically altered crops once they are in fields across the country. Moreover, traditional crops can cross-pollinate with Bt pollen which could potentially wipe out traditional corn crops.

Many Americans do not seem to be concerned about these new food crops.

However, they are now under scrutiny due to efforts of concerned citizens. There are also some strong grassroots organizations across the country which oppose genetically engineered foods.

Scientific facts and the efforts of concerned groups have influenced a few American food producers to restrict the use of these crops in their products.

Frito-Lay Inc. recently announced that they would no longer allow Bt corn to be used in its products. Additionally, both Gerber and Heinz have stopped using genetically modified food in their baby food products.

Many global citizens are leery of all genetically engineered food products.

In Europe, opposition to genetically altered food is much more volatile than here. European citizens are outraged over the introduction of these altered foods into their diet.

Many are asking their governments to place restrictions on the import of genetically altered corn and other grain due to their strong feelings about these practices.

We can not predict the outcome of recent debates in regard to genetically engineered foods. Nor can we be certain what effects these new plants will have on our environment. Genetically altered crops hold unknown possibilities for the future of agriculture and for us.

Do you realize that every time we pass a person holding a sign on the corner that says, "God bless, will work for food," we cringe.

Our inner conscious goes crazy as we contemplate whether or not to give them money, and then come to the conclusion that they would just waste it anyway, so we pass them by and look the other way.

Why is it so hard for us to trust the helpless?

A couple of weeks ago I was approached by a woman in the Super Wal-Mart parking lot in Bellmead. She appeared to be lost when I first

## Trusting Hearts

saw her and when she approached me I thought "Oh God, what now?"

She proceeded to ask me for a ride, saying that she lived just around the corner and that she couldn't find her ride.

Quickly my mind began to race... "What should I do, could this be a scam, will she kill me, what if she tries to take my purse or money, better yet, my car?"

She appeared to be in her late 40's, so I cautiously decided, "how much harm could she possibly do to me?"

Lucky for me, her story was true and I dropped her off at her home.

She repeatedly thanked me and said that it's not often young people do others a favor and she wished she could repay me.

My reward was the fact that I had helped someone out, it made me feel good, and I lived to see another day.

I then naturally felt bad that I had not trusted her from the start. It made me realize how suspicious and untrusting I am of strangers.

I know that I am not alone in this and we should do something to fix it.

Maybe not giving strangers a ride because that puts us in a bad position, but just giving a little to make our world not so hostile.

Most of us never take the time to help others, even just to smile as we pass by a stranger because we don't know who to trust and who not to. It's sad, but it's true.

Helping others is a reward in itself, especially when you see that it makes them smile.

Jennifer Holomek  
Feature Editor



# Sports Day

Highland Herald



## 'Landers sweep 12th ranked team

Aaron Smith  
Staff Writer

### San Jacinto

The bigger they are the harder they fall. That was the attitude the MCC baseball team used going into its doubleheader with the nation's 12th ranked team the San Jacinto Ravens. The Highlanders did not disappoint as they played perhaps their best ball of the year, sweeping San Jacinto in impressive fashion 8-5, and 4-1 Feb. 22 at Highlander Field.

In game one, the Highlanders took charge of the game with a 6-run second inning in which they pounded out 6 hits and sent 11 batters to the plate en route to their 8-5 victory. The Highlanders were led by second baseman Patrick Beale who went 4-4 with 3 doubles and 3 RBI's on the day.

The Highlanders also received another solid pitching performance from lefty Sean Henn (3-0) who went 5 2/3 strong innings giving up 4 runs (3 earned) on 5 hits and striking out 4 on the day.

"It's good to see us jump on top of them early," Head Coach Paul Miller said. "It's very important to jump on a team like that early because if you don't it might be a long day."

With the game tied 1-1 in the 4th inning the Highlanders took the lead for good when shortstop Jacob Moss hit the go

ahead solo homerun. The Highlanders went on to add 2 insurance runs in the deciding 3-run 4th.

"It was good to see all phases of our game working at one time," Miller said. "We played our best ball of the year and we needed to beat a team the quality of San Jacinto."

The Highlanders' Lee Gwantley and Dennis Cervenka combined, held off the explosive San Jacinto offense to 1 run on 5 hits in 7 innings worth of work.

The defense helped the pitching out by playing 7 innings of error-free ball and making a couple of highlight film plays in the process. The Highlanders made good use of their 6 hits with 4 runs in clutch situations.

### Ranger

The comeback kids. The Highlanders lived up to that billing as they battled back from a 3-run deficit twice and capped it off with a game winning single by Catcher Chris Churchill on the way to their first conference victory 7-6 March 1 at Highlander Field.

After falling behind 3-0 going into the bottom of the third, the Highlanders came back to tie the game with 3 runs scored on right fielder Austin Cranford's inside the park homerun. But Ranger showed they came to play as well with



Digital image by Corey Farrar

Strong pitching by Lee Gwantley enabled the Highlanders to sweep 12th ranked San Jacinto on February 22.

a 2-run 5th and one run in the 6th.

But the Highlanders fought back with the aide of the long ball to tie the game with a 3-run 6th inning. Getting it started with a solo homerun was Churchill who went 3-3 on the day with a homerun and two RBIs. With the score 6-4 in the 6th centerfielder Jeremy Johnson completed the second comeback with a game-tying 2-run homer.

"I'm really glad to swing the bat well but I'm even more glad to get the win we really needed to get. That first conference win was very important," Churchill said.

In the bottom of the 7th, Churchill came through once again with a Seeing Eye game-winning single. The win proved

the Highlanders have the ability to come from behind no matter what the circumstance.

"It was very important to get our first conference win," Miller said. "But what impressed me more than anything was the way we kept coming back. I think that shows we're starting to come together as a team."

"It's good to see Chris finally start getting some to go his way. He had been swinging better of late but not having anything to show for it," Miller said. "It's good to see him get rewarded for his hard work."

In game two, the Highlanders were not as fortunate losing 7-6 in a 10-inning seesaw affair.

With the bases loaded in the 10th inning sophomore lefty

Cervenka hung a curve ball over the plate and Ranger's Josh Earley deposited over the left field wall for a grand slam to give Ranger a 5-2 lead.

In the bottom half of the 7th, Jonathan Marshall and Brandon Johnson had back to back singles. With runners on the corners and one out, Beale brought home Marshall with a RBI groundout and after a Cranford walk, Johnson proceeded to steal third and home to cut the deficit to 5-4. Down by one, the Highlanders sent game one hero Churchill to the plate. He came through once again with a game-tying R.B.I. double down the leftfield line.

In the top of the 10th, the Highlanders again gave up a run with sloppy play. But in the bottom half of the 10th, the Highlanders threatened to make another comeback in their last at-bat with the bases loaded and only one out. Unfortunately, they couldn't push a run across and went on to lose the second game 7-6.

With the doubleheader split the Highlanders would go to 12-8 overall and 1-3 in conference

### Collin County

Game one began on a good note; before the game a field dedication was held in honor of M&M Mars for donating the new outfield fence at High-

lander Field.

The Highlanders jumped on top in the 2nd with two runs and never looked back. But the story of the day was the pitching of Makowski. His only hit allowed was a two-out fifth inning infield single.

The Highlanders put Makowski at ease with an 8 run 11 hit barrage led by rightfielder Danny Muegge who went 3-4 in game 1 with 3 RBI's. With the win the Highlanders improved to 14-13 overall and 2-5 in conference

In game 2 the Highlanders were fortunate to win 9-8 in a game where they made five errors and at times very wild pitching. But once again, clutch hitting and game 1 starter Carl Makowski aided the Highlanders to the victory.

With the Highlanders down 8-7 going to the 7th second basemen Patrick Beale tied the game with a game tying solo homerun. In the 8th inning, first baseman Brett Cooley would give the Highlanders the lead with a RBI single. But in the top of 9th Colin County led off the inning with a double that's when Paul Miller brought in Makowski in to put out the fire and that he did as he retired all three batters in order to shut the door on Colin County.

With two wins the Highlanders improved to 15-13 overall and 3-5 in conference.

## 'Landers win last home game

Corey Farrar  
Staff Writer

Cedric Palmer scored 16 and Kendell Garland 15 for the MCC Highlanders as they defeated the Hill Rebels 77-65 on Feb. 21 at the Highlands.

The 'Landers improved to 13-16 overall and 6-9 in the North Texas Junior College Conference with the win. The Rebels, who had already clinched a spot in the Region 5 tournament in Lubbock, fell to 16-13 and 10-5. The

game marked the last time that six MCC sophomores would play at the Highlands.

Sophomore Cerwin Thompson scored seven of his 14 points in the first half, leading the Highlanders to a 32-30 half-time lead.

"We did a good job getting easy baskets in the first half to

take the lead," MCC Head Coach Steve Shields said.

Palmer, in his third game back from a knee injury, was again dominant inside as the 'Landers pulled away in the second half. But down the stretch it was Garland who took control, nailing down perimeter shots to keep the Rebels from ever catching the 'Landers. He scored a game-high 13 in the latter period.

"In the second half we just made shots," Shields said. "The bottom line is, you have to make shots to win games, and tonight we did."

MCC played the game without freshman Jason Lawrence who was suspended for the season for violating unspecified team rules.

The Highlanders followed up their final victory with an overtime loss at Cisco Junior

College on Feb. 24, 78-76.

The 'Landers were led by Thompson with 19 points. Randy Johnson and Steven Helm threw in 14 apiece. After coming back from a ten-point deficit with 3:09 remaining in the game, a Thompson follow-up after an offensive rebound sent the game to overtime tied at 69-69.

In the overtime period, MCC had one final chance at the win. Trailing by two with time running out, Helm launched a desperation 3-pointer. As the shot fell off the mark, the 'Landers season ended at 13-17 and 6-10.

The loss ended a disappointing year for the injury-ridden 'Landers.

Fighting hard yet falling short was a fitting close. But Shields stressed that it is not from lack of effort.

"We don't have quitters. We've got guys who have excelled in the classroom and excelled on the basketball floor, especially from an effort standpoint.

Effort hasn't been our problem this year," Shields said.

"Any time you take one player out of any teams' top seven, there is going to be a serious, serious blow to that team. Then you take two players out of the top seven and it can be devastating. Then you take three players out and you have what we've been dealing with at times this year. We lost Christyan Rios, who was our starting three on Dec. 14. (Jason) Russell was out already and he was our starting four. Then Cedric Palmer who was starting at the five missed eight games, it has been tough," he said.

## Hudson honored



Wendell Hudson, athletic director at McLennan Community College, has been named a legend in Southeastern Conference basketball.

Hudson, who played basketball at the University of Alabama from 1969 to 1973, will be honored at this year's SEC mens basketball tournament, which will be held March 9-12 at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta.

The Chick-fil-A Legends of SEC Basketball award was introduced last year "to honor 12 individuals whose accomplishments on and off the basketball court have brought distinction and pride to their institutions and the SEC," conference commissioner Roy Kramer said in a release.

Hudson, former womens basketball coach and most recently athletics director has been at MCC since 1986. He was the first black basketball player at the University of Alabama. After being chosen in the second round of the NBA draft by the Chicago Bulls, he played a year of pro ball before beginning his coaching career at the University of North Alabama. He has also worked at Rice University, the University of Mississippi and Baylor University.

"The award is not only for what I did as a player in the SEC, but what I'm doing now," Hudson said. "Im proud of what I've done besides being a player."

## Highlassies split double header to go 1-1 in conference play

Leon Darden  
Staff Writer

In the first of two games at Highlander field, the Highlassies struck first but lost 10-4 as the North Central Texas College Lady Lions exploded with an offensive barrage of

runs. The Lady Lions scored 3 runs in the second inning, 4 in the third, and 3 in the sixth to take the first game. Sabrina Wale started pitching for the Highlassies, but was relieved by Amy Rousey after three and two-thirds innings of work. Kourtney Westerfield hit a solo

home run in the fifth for the Highlassies. A successful run down in the fifth by Tunya Gonzales and Westerfield added excitement to the final inning. The loss gave the Highlassies 0-1 record in conference play. In the second game, Mundy Hein gave up one

run and pitched a complete game while recording 11 strikeouts as the Highlassies won the second game 4-1. The win improved the Highlassies record to 1-1 overall in conference before the break. In the fourth inning, loaded bases resulted in only one run for the

lady lions. The Highlassies got into an offensive groove of their own pounding out 5 hits and 4 runs to open the lead. It was all defense from there. A 3-4-6 double play by Stacy Pick, Westerfield, and Tandi Thomason started off the fifth. Elisha Bills juggled the ball

three times at the wall to end an exciting inning.

"We had a great team effort. Mandi kept her composure and the defensive support complimented her pitching performance today," Carmuck Berryman, softball coach, said.

# NISOD awards staff

Rachel Hunley  
Staff Writer

Three of MCC's very own: Gary Fultz (Health and Sciences), Linda Reichenbach (French), and Gilbert Montemayor (History and Government) were awarded the NISOD Teacher Excellence Award in February.

The National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development, (NISOD) an organization sponsored by the University of Texas in Austin, conducts research on ways to improve the teaching and learning process. Each year the organization hosts an international conference focused on celebrating the art of teaching. Each NISOD member institution, through recognition of its president, may nominate any number of instructors to receive the Teacher Excellence Award (TEA).

MCC has had as many as six instructors nominated for the TEA, but in the last few years has reduced its nominations to three. One full-time instructor from the Arts and Sciences, Technology Education depart-

*If it were not for the excellence of my students and colleagues, I would not have even been considered.*

— Gary Fultz

ment, and one at large instructor who can be from either Arts and Sciences or Technology Ed. Departments this includes part-time instructors.

Born and raised in France, Professor Reichenbach was an important factor in the start of MCC's French Department.

"I'm very humbled because I was nominated by the students, it's wonderful!" Reichenbach said. I couldn't do this without my students. They motivate me to be excellent at my job. I want students to know that there is so much more in the world. She also said, French is spoken all over, and I want more students to be turned on to it. I am very proud to share this award with Professors Montemayor and Fultz.

Waco native, Professor Montemayor, didn't always want to be a History teacher. Upon graduation from Waco High, Montemayor had two choices in deciding his future, college or Vietnam. Choosing

to further his education, he first attended Hill College, in hopes of being a Pre-Med major. After his first college-level history course, he soon changed his mind.

"My professor made history so personal," he said "After that first course I knew I wanted to be just like him. "I am very honored, and frankly, surprised at receiving the Teacher Excellence Award. I feel like I'm accomplishing what I wanted to accomplish, to make my students feel the same way about history that I felt through college." He said. "It feels good to know I'm doing something right. I want to make history personal for my students and help them relate it to their lives. I love and enjoy teaching, and I think receiving this award is my reward."

As a professor of Health Science, Gary Fultz is extremely excited about receiving the award as well.

"It is a great honor to be a

NISOD award winner because it puts me in a group of people I highly respect. It is far easier for me to be an effective instructor due to the people surrounding me," he said.

"The faculty and staff that I work with are my greatest teachers. I have constant and unlimited support from my fellows."

Fultz said that his students, as well as his fellow colleagues, inspire him.

"Most of my students are single parents, raising kids, going to school and working one to three jobs. Their energy and dedication is contagious. I am empowered by their drive to succeed and build a better future for themselves and their families. If it were not for the excellence of my students and colleagues, I would not have even been considered," he said. "The award is truly theirs."

Fultz, Montemayor, and Reichenbach will travel to Austin for the NISOD Conference held during the last week of May. They will receive the Teacher Excellence Award and will be given the title of Master Teacher.

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And

Discussion Series

Smoke Signals

Wednesday, March 22 at 6 p.m.

After this dead-pan portrayal of two Native American's cross-country journey of self-discovery, sociology professor Sydney Landis will lead an open discussion on the role violence plays in our lives and our society.

Mr. Holland's Opus

Wednesday, April 5 at 2:30

After this inspiring story of a high school music teacher, counseling specialist Johnnie Talton will lead an open discussion on education.

All events take place in MCC's Lecture Hall.

Sponsored by the Pi Chi chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the 2-year college national honor society.

For more information, contact Jennifer Black at 299-8918

## Environmental issues

### "Burning Season" sparks discussion on global warming

Rachel Hunley  
Staff Writer

An open discussion on Thursday, March 16 in the Lecture Hall sparked interest in environmental issues that may be affecting us more everyday.

The discussion was lead by John Burton, Environmental Science professor.

The evening started with a film portraying the movement lead by Chico Mendes in the early 1980's to save the rainforest as well as the homes and way of life of those living

there.

During the following discussion, the question was raised of whether past deterioration of the rainforest is affecting our lives today.

We could very well be affected because of an apparent chain effect that occurs from the burning of rainforests, Burton said.

The bulk of the rainforest is in Brazil, he said. This bulk supplies us with a majority of the oxygen we need and is known as the "lungs of the world".

The nickname itself sparked worldwide attention and made rainforest preservation an interest. When the rainforest is burned, the smoke from the fire pollutes our air and injures our o-zone layer. This causes a small but significant rise in temperature. Scientists have found that this "Global Warming" is causing a glacial melt in the Himalayas. Glaciers there have been found to be moving on the average of 100 feet per year. This also causes a rise of sea level in our oceans, Burton said.

Two islands in the South Pacific are now submerged underwater.

Discussion centered around the issue that for the last three years, here in Central Texas, we have had record-breaking warm winters, which raises the question: Are all these changes in our environment caused by past changes to the environment? And if so, are these changes reversible?

Some counter-argued that maybe we aren't really doing as much damage as we thought?

## Board of Trustees considers tuition increase

Charles Farr  
Sports Editor

The Board of Trustees of McLennan Community College considered a possible raise in tuition for the fall semester of 2000.

The Board also acknowledged the MCC Adult Education Program's receipt of the Secretary's Award from the U.S. Department of Education at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 29, 2000.

A budget revision of the 1999-2000 school year was approved by the board members, after a very brief discussion.

Tuition increase opened the meeting and was discussed for nearly an hour. MCC president Michaelis outlined reasons for needing a tuition increase. Among them is a proposed increase in the budget for the next year of \$1,310,000.00.

Within this increase is a proposed raise for faculty and staff,

attributed to an approximate 3.5% rise in cost of living.

The meeting opened with a sense of urgency on this issue. The president stressed the importance of making a decision, so MCC students would be informed of an increase ahead of time.

Other board members including , board chair, said they did not feel comfortable making a decision regarding a tuition increase until exact numbers can be determined for the proposed budget increase for next year.

During the meeting Vice President Dr. Jay Box said the school is not required to inform students of an increase until registration.

Therefore, what students have paid for their education this semester might not be enough to buy the same education next semester, and students might not find this out until they have already registered.

Continued from page 1

made it official two days later with an announcement just hours before McCain's.

What little suspense was left came to an end on March 14. Bush and Gore both swept a field of seven states, ensuring their places in November's general election.

Gore has consistently carried key groups of Democrats, including Union Workers, Blacks and Hispanics. Bush has done well among hard-core conservatives. The key in November will most likely be independents and moderates, many of which have supported McCain.

McCain has indicated that he will not run as a third party candidate, saying on Meet the Press, "the Republican Party is my home." An endorsement from the Arizona Senator, who has attracted moderates and first-time voters, could help Bush in November.

Many politicians have said that Bush presented himself as too conservative in South Carolina to appeal to the middle ground, but Bush maintains that he is the reformer in the race.

## Library to be finished by Fall 2000 semester

Continued from page 1

smaller rooms can be made from the partitions.

On the other side of the CSC building construction is underway to improve the Child Services department. Construction is in process to make 3 new classrooms, an infant room, and storage space. Construction will start near the end of March and the renovations are expected to be ready for the Fall 2000 semester.

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# Pulitzer Prize winners grace MCC

Pulitzer Prize winners honored MCC students March 17 with discussions on their personal priorities, artistic styles, and incidentally, what it's like to win the most coveted award in journalism. Each winner shared his or her unique story of triumph.

Oscar Griffin Jr. stunned the tiny town of Pecos, Texas, when he revealed a scandal involving more than \$13 million in Reeves County alone in 1962. Billie Sol Estes, popular around Pecos and known for his red convertible, was quite a smooth talker: So smooth, he convinced farmers in 11 counties to sign legal documents allowing him access to their credit in order for Estes to purchase anhydrous ammonia tanks in their names. The farmers signed in part because of a bonus worth 10 percent of the total tank value they were to receive when the tanks, used primarily in cotton production, were leased. However, the bonus promised by Estes never appeared and, as eventually discovered by Griffin, neither did the tanks.

Estes was not only a smooth talker, but quite the con man.

Griffin sensed something was fishy when, while sitting at a motel coffee shop, he overheard Estes being praised by town farmers. "Right behind me...four cotton folks... (were speaking) in general about Billie Sol, and I was just eavesdropping. One of them said, 'Man, Estes is like manna from heaven.' I believed from that conversation that yeah, there is something truly rotten going on."

Then, Griffin got a call from the woman who headed the retail merchants' association, which printed home mortgages, car mortgages, and even tank mortgages. "(Billie Sol) had offered to buy another membership in the retail merchant's association if she would just quit printing the information about these mortgages on his fertilizer storage tanks."

"That was our first major breakthrough."

"She quit putting the information on the anhydrous ammonia tanks in the newsletter and instead began giving me the information."

Griffin poured over the information and discovered that according to records, 15,000 anhydrous ammonia tanks were nestled in Reeves County. Strangely enough, the 15,000 tanks could not be located.

So, Griffin began interviewing the farmers involved. The farmers, many of whom were unaware of the debt they had accrued for their tanks, would not tell the whole story.

"I got bits and pieces and had to put the story together."

Once together, Griffin printed it for all of Pecos to see in the *Pecos Enterprise and Independent* on February 12, 1962.

Estes stalled investigators as long as he could, but ultimately went to court and was faced with an eight-year sentence.

Griffin, on the other hand, earned a Pulitzer for investigative reporting on what came to be known as the Billie Sol Estes fraud scandal.

The article was reprinted in the *Houston Chronicle* and Griffin became a legend in his own right.

Only four years out of college, Griffin went on to work for the *Chronicle*.

Now retired, he lives in Houston where he divides his time between his wife and four children, three daughters and one son. He and his wife currently plan to move to Lake Conroe.

For most journalists, winning one Pulitzer Prize is the pinnacle of a career. William Snyder won three in the course of five years.

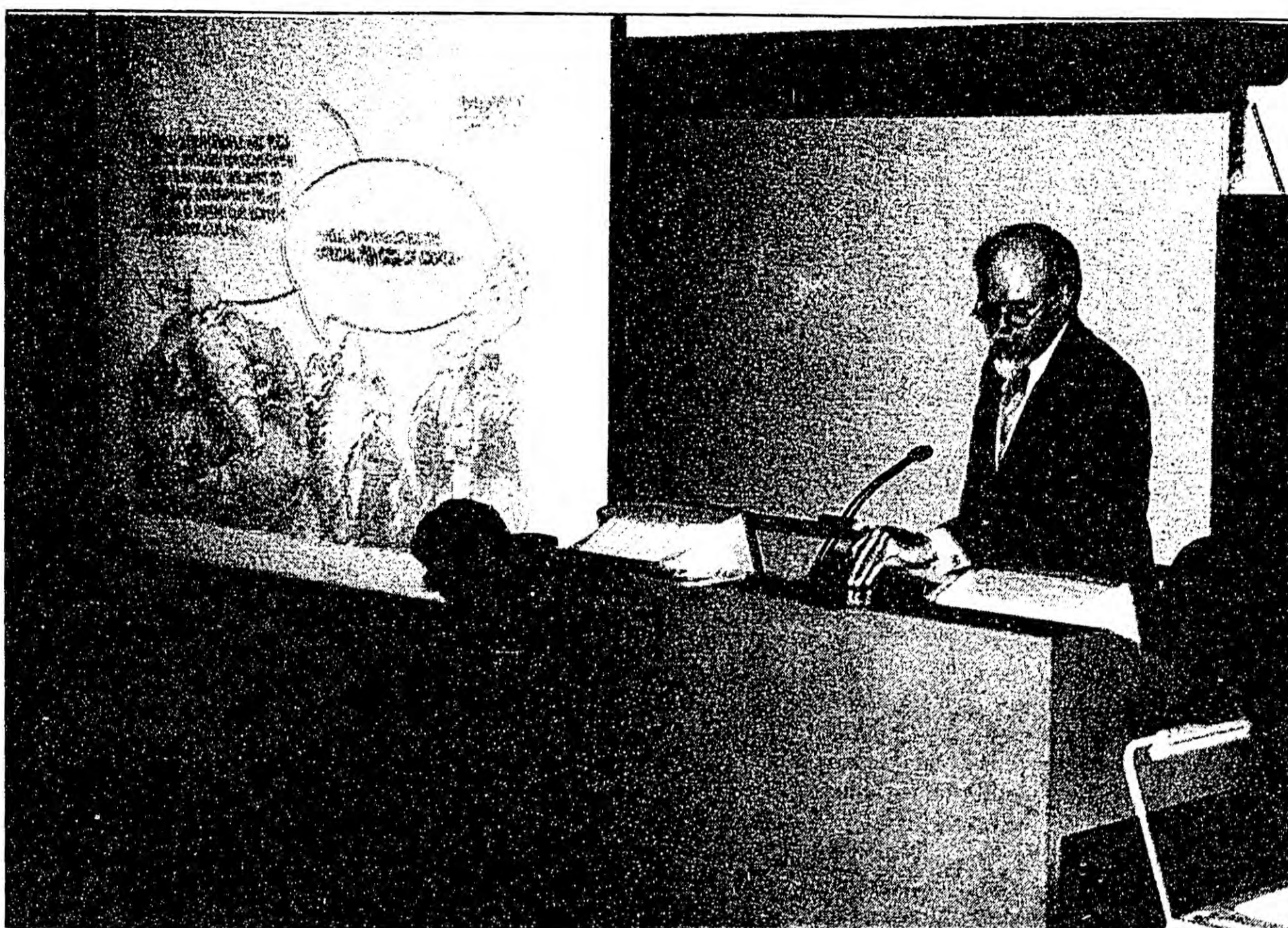
In 1989, Snyder and others won the Pulitzer Prize for Exploratory Journalism. After a series of crashes involving small aircraft, the team from the *Dallas Morning News* began covering the 18-month investigation.

During that time, the team was able to print several stories concerning the disasters, giving their readers insight into the investigation process.

In 1990, Snyder, after reading a small story in the *New York Times* concerning HIV positive Romanian orphans, went to the *Dallas Morning News* asking for the opportunity to cover the problems in Romania. Though the paper was not enthusiastic about his efforts, Snyder decided to take vacation leave and cover the story on his own. He stayed in Romania for two weeks. During that time he spent hours in the orphanages.

"Although I spent days in Romania, I don't think I truly captured the situation with the children. I wasn't able to capture the smells and the sounds in the orphanages," Snyder said. While in Romania, Snyder shot 100 rolls of film, totaling 3,600 frames.

Upon his return, he narrowed the 3600 frames down to only 12. Those selected 12 shots won him his second Pulitzer Prize



Digital image by Rachel Hunley

Cartoonist Ben Sargent, above, Jim Landers, below, and Oscar Griffin, lower left, discuss their Pulitzer Prizes on March 17 at the MCC Lecture Hall.

in 1991 for Feature Photography.

In 1992, Snyder and another photographer were assigned to cover the 1992 Summer Olympic Games in Barcelona, Spain. Working 16 to 18 hour days, Snyder and his colleague captured images of athletes displaying the glory, pain, triumph and spirit encompassed in the Olympic Games. For their efforts, in 1993 they won the Pulitzer Prize for Spot News Photography, Snyder's third prize.

He said such talent in photography comes from practice. Snyder began his career in photojournalism at 14. Shooting for his local small town newspaper, he would rely on his mother to get him to and from assignments.

Upon his graduation from high school, he attended the Rochester Institute of Technology where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Photography.

Shortly after graduating, he began work at the *Miami News*. In 1983, Snyder began work at the *Dallas Morning News*, where he is still employed, and is now a photo-editor.

Another group of journalists from the *Dallas Morning News* won a Pulitzer for a series in the category of International/Foreign News in 1994. It centered around the serious issue of violence against women as well as other women's rights issues.

The seriousness of violence against women was only marginally noticed in most countries of the world until Gayle Reaves, Jim Landers, Kathleen Vincent and other team members put together a 1994 series on the epidemic of violence against women.

Kathleen Vincent is the Art Director of the *Dallas Morning News*. Her artistic contributions and page design helped the team win the Pulitzer in 1994. She emphasized the importance of visuals in attracting the reader.

Gayle Reaves dreamed of a writing career since she was a child. That dream came true when she started working for the *Paris News* in Paris, Texas, after college.

Reaves currently works at the *Dallas Morning News* but has also worked for metropolitan publications like the *Fort Worth Star Telegram*, and the *Austin American-Statesman*.

Reaves is very proud of her award-winning series but still finds it hard to reread due to its very powerful content. That doesn't mean she shies away from disturbing stories. It's actually the opposite, she said she sees the challenge as a motivator for creative blocks.

The violence against women piece, however, originally was intended to be a "day in the life" project on women of the world, but after some of the horrifying stories, it turned into much more.

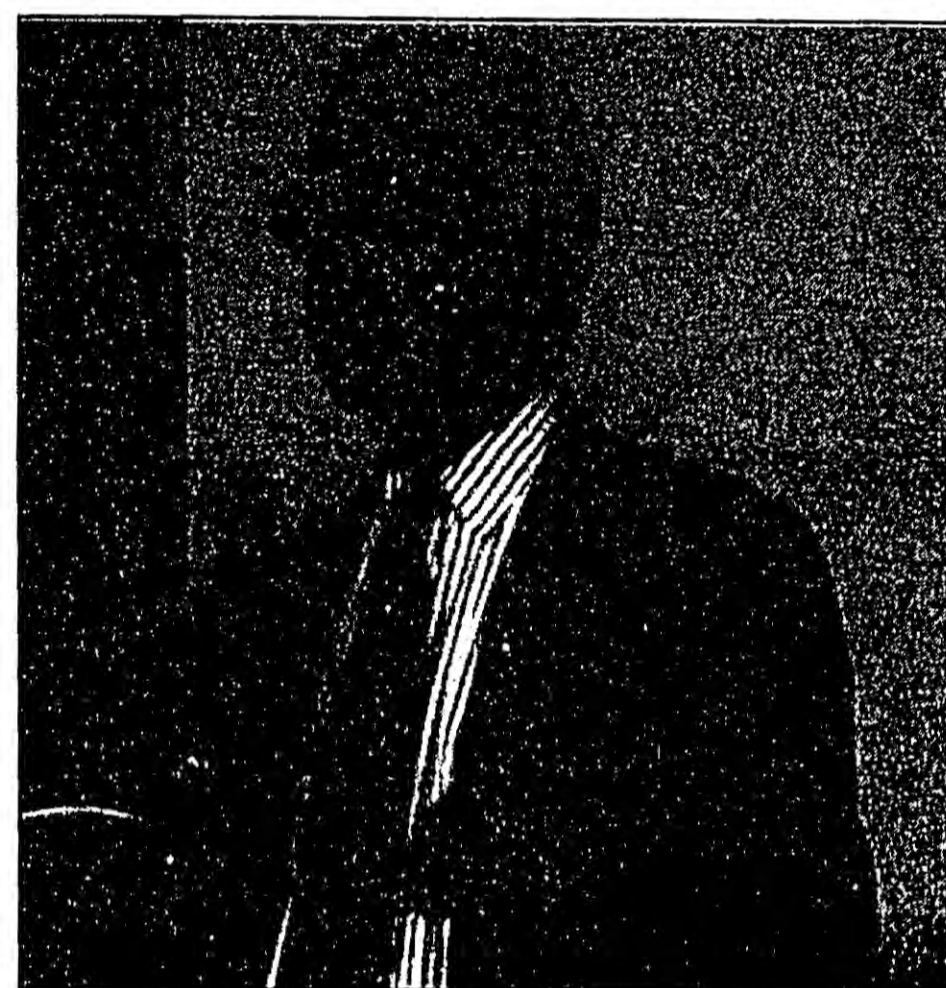
Reaves went to Thailand to do a story on forced prostitution, which put her in compromising situations, but she said her desire to get the story motivated her to take the necessary risks.

In 1998, she came back with a year-long series on domestic violence against women, which saved lives and brought much needed attention to the issue.

Reaves also wrote a localized story about police accused of sexual misconduct with women they detained in the line of duty.

Jim Landers, a Washington correspondent for the *Dallas Morning News*, started at the *Virginia Centennial* and worked in the Washington area before landing where he is today. In 1992 the team at the *Dallas Morning News* working on the violence against women project pondered if violence against women was a question of human rights. Could the world agree on one civil way to treat women? Landers discovered that the best that could be said worldwide was: "a virtuous woman can only be killed by her family."

Landers flew to India to paint a picture in words of the abuse suffered by women, such as genital mutilation, and women killed



because they had no dowries.

Landers said he joined the *Morning News* nineteen years ago, not to change the world, but to make an impact on the society around him; it just happened that his written stories were able to change individuals' lives.

The *Dallas Morning News* is not the only talent pool in Texas. Other syndications, such as the *American American-Statesman*, also have their claims to fame.

Ben Sargent, a syndicated political cartoonist, won the Pulitzer Prize in 1982.

Born to parents involved in the newspaper business, much of his extended family is in the news business. After receiving a journalism degree from the University of Texas at Austin, Sargent spent five years as a self-professed "mediocre" reporter. Sargent was a feature illustrator, and had drawn his entire life. Still, he had never considered cartooning as a career. When the *Austin American-Statesman* offered him a full-time position as a cartoonist/illustrator, Sargent accepted. He has been with the *Statesman* for 26 years.

United Press Syndicate places Sargent's political cartoons in approximately sixty newspapers, including his hometown *Statesman*, the *Dallas Morning News*, and the *Waco Tribune Herald*. He has published two collections of his work. His cartoons feature a bold visual style, full of round, commanding characters. Sargent uses these characters, including the classic elephants and donkeys, to convey his personal politics, which he says "align with those of a liberal Democrat."

Political cartooning, as described by Sargent, is "opinion journalism." He sees his job as that of an editorial writer who, instead of using the written word, uses cartoons to express his opinions.

His 1982 Pulitzer was for a collection of 10 cartoons, mostly about the Reagan administration, which Sargent described as "sort of my golden era."

After the win, Sargent said he developed a slight case of "Pulitzer block," a feeling of inadequacy common to winners of the prize. Still, Sargent said he is duty proud of his win.

"The Pulitzer Prize stands alone as one given solely on the merit of your work," said Sargent. "I would recommend it to anyone."

Leak C. Turner, Lindsey Haysworth, Michelle Gold, Cecile Iglehart, Dylan Newhouse, Matt Schampers, Charlie Furr, Cassie Strickland, Catelyn Aaron, Aaron Smith contributed to this story. Digital images by Rachel Hunley.

