



Highland Herald

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Board speeds up LTC opening date

\$182,000 buys fall 2001 moving day

Jana M. Vaculik
Jonmichael Swetnam
Staff writers

The Board of Trustees will spend an extra \$182,000 to complete the new Learning Technology Center next fall.

The new projected completion date for the \$6.5 million state-of-the-art study and research facility is October 2001, five to six months earlier than expected.

The contract was awarded unanimously to the Waco Construction Company, not the lowest bidder, but the fastest.

The low bid would have completed the project by March 2002. Now the college will start moving in after the October 10, 2001, completion date.

The time frame for the project is not expected to exceed 375 days, and Waco Construction will pay MCC \$500, increased from \$300, for every day the project is late, according to the board action.

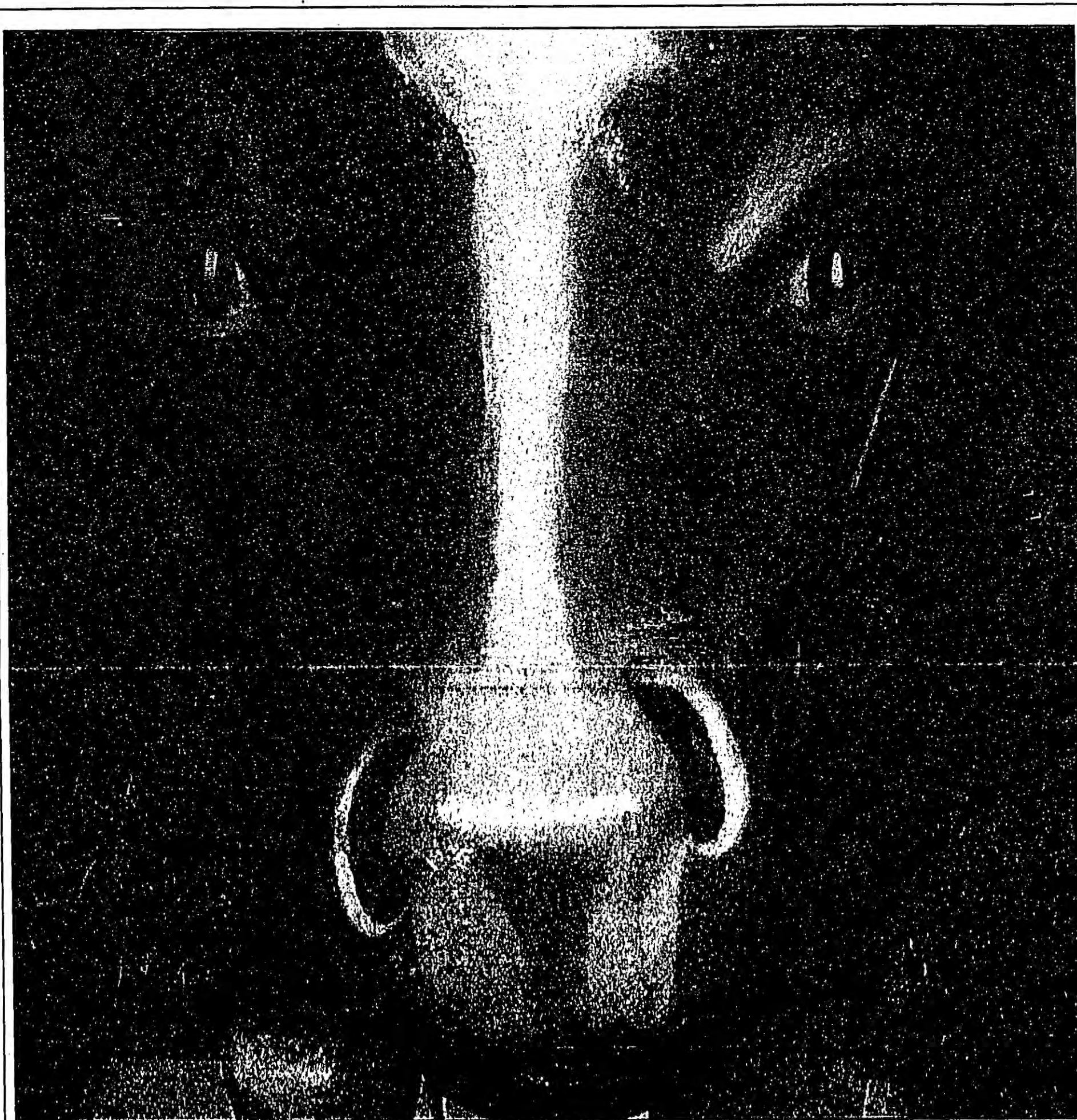
"It is important to move in during the Fall of 2001," said President Dennis Michaelis.

"All of the checking we've done has been positive," he said.

Board members said they accelerated the project to alleviate some of the inconvenience suffered by the students and faculty due to the recent construction.

The board wishes to thank the students for their patience and understanding during the renovation, Michaelis said.

"This has been a very, very



Digital image by Andrea Garza

The MCC Board of Trustees announced at the September 26 meeting that they will consider buying a WACOW like this one starting from the pedestrian suspension bridge entrance downtown. The painting/sculpture is part of the "museum without walls" exhibit WACOWS: A Moving Experience. The cows, painted by various local artists, are on display all over town.

important project. I am excited and pleased to make a recommendation to the board. A lot of people were involved in this process," said Michaelis.

He said he believes the completed facility will give a favorable impression during the inspection of the campus by the Southern Association of Col-

leges and Schools.

The campus ecology is also a prime concern of the project, Michaelis said, adding that he would like to see as many trees

undisturbed as possible.

The Learning Technology Center will incorporate new technologies in a nontraditional setting.

It will include a long-distance learning lab, the academic success center, a food court, conference rooms, and wireless technologies.

The center will be a twenty-four hour, seven-day a week facility independent of the rest of the campus.

It will be totally self-sufficient in heating, and food service.

"It is truly going to be a twenty-first century facility," said Michaelis. "It is going to be unlike anything in the state in the way that it incorporates technology and a nontraditional environment."

Michaelis also described the facility as a "people friendly" setting.

A groundbreaking ceremony Oct. 26, at 5 p.m. will inaugurate the facility. A dinner will follow at 6:00 p.m. with a board meeting at 7:00 p.m.

The board hired Myron Allen, a Colorado native, as a Computer Programmer.

Allen worked 20 years as a locksmith before coming to MCC Michaelis said.

Allen taught himself computer programming. His first computer job was an internship for the Rodeo Cowboy Association.

Trustees also considered getting into the cattle business—fiberglass style.

The board will discuss the purchase of a "WACOW," part of the city's "museum without walls" project, entitled "WACOWS: A Moving Experience."

Approximately 40 of the fiberglass bovines painted and decorated by local artists will be displayed throughout the city. Local businesses and other organizations will purchase the works for permanent display.

Science department updates its gear

Drew Haley
Staff Writer

MCC sciences plan to move into the 21st century during this semester by providing the most up-to-date equipment for labs and classrooms.

Department instructors are busy cataloging equipment.

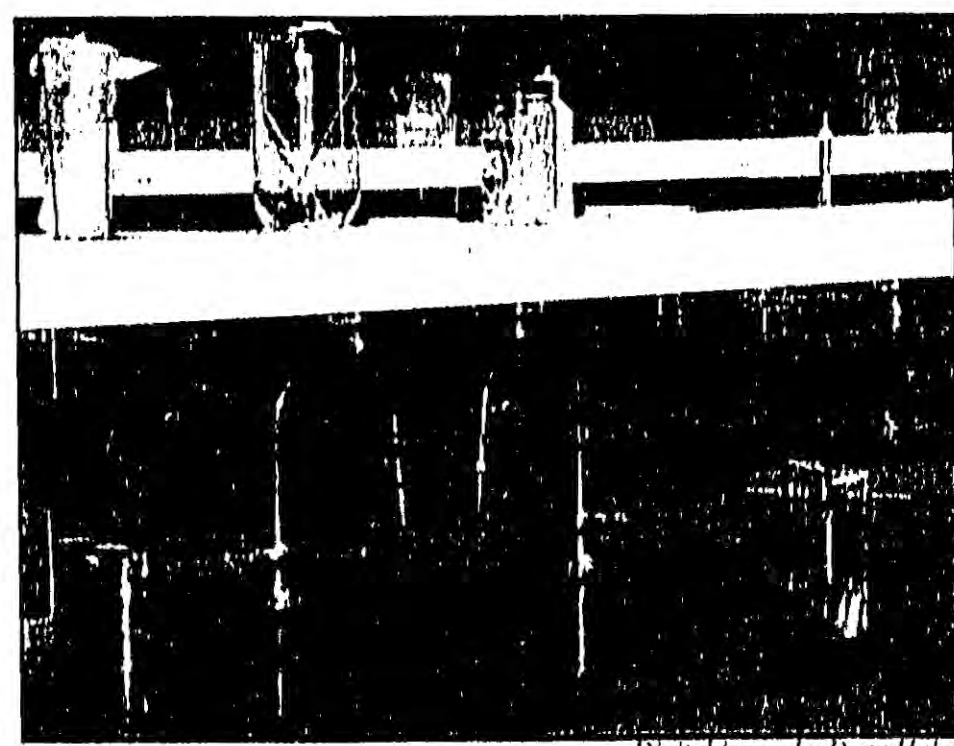
"Modernizing my department is a priority," physics instructor, Jeff Watson said. "Much of our equipment is old and nonfunctioning," physics instructor, Jeff Watson, said. The chemistry department is

working on acquiring Powerpoint software for all the classrooms instructors.

The lab computers are a great help in displaying laboratory procedure and in the demonstration of the desired affects of experiments, Watson said.

The physics department is working along the same lines in regard to computer use in the labs.

Students could use computers in testing physical properties and simulating experiments they would not normally be



Digital image by Drew Haley

Equipment in the science department is due for an upgrade this year

able to conduct. The more up-to-date technology would allow students to study the affects of quantum mechanics without having particle accelerators on

hand. This is important because many pieces of science equipment are incredibly expensive.

See "Science" on Page 4

FlexTrack opens student options

Jana Vaculik
Staff writer

Students who need to squeeze in more courses can check out FlexTrack classes which provide "learning at the speed of your life."

The FlexTrack program offers a variety of classes for the busy person who may only have a few weeks to complete a course instead of a semester. Students can start and finish a FlexTrack class in as little as three weeks. Classes contain all the elements of a full semes-

ter, just in a condensed format.

For instance, a working mom can enroll in FlexTrack classes and earn her degree quickly. A resident who is busy during the week can take weekend classes.

"The classes targets older learners, the nontraditional student," Matt Allen, Admissions Specialist said. "They are college level courses in a short amount of time."

Options include minimesters in October for the fall, in winter before the Christmas holi-

See 'Flex' on Page 3

Theater students go extra mile

Michelle Gold
Entertainment Editor

They sweat and toil for hours every day building a small part of the whole picture. They balance on beams 50 feet in the air to adjust a certain spotlight. They stay up until three o'clock in the morning to finish painting before the production opens the next day. Without them, the show could not go on.

Theater techies, as they are known in the acting world, are the people the audience doesn't see. They put together the skeleton of the show such as the set, costumes, lights and sound. The only recognition techies receive is his or her name in a program and the satisfaction of seeing the actors, the set, lights and costumes blend together because of their hard work.

While most of the MCC theater students are mainly actors and only briefly touch on the technical part, there are students each year that focus on being a techie.

"I do basically what everyone else does in the crews, but I put in twice as many hours. I guess you could say that I make up in the technical aspect where as I stay out of the acting," said Dylan Henderson, one of the few pure techies at MCC.

Dylan got involved in theater in high school where he mainly ran the technical part of shows. He chose to attend the MCC theatre department because he wanted to learn a little bit of everything before focusing on just technical design.



Digital image by Andrea Garza

Construction crew men Dylan Henderson, left, and Andrew Love work on the set for *Man and Superman*. MCC theatre students not only put in many hours rehearsing but also spend as much time working on sets, costumes and lighting.

Usually, in professional and major university theater, techies do not cross over into acting. They focus on the area of technical theater they wish to pursue.

Here at MCC however, the actors and techies are mixed. Every MCC theater student is

required to learn how to put together and run the show from off stage as well as on.

"It can be like learning a new language for the freshman involved in set and lighting crews," Tim Poertner, Scenic/Lighting Designer and Technical Director said. "The first show can be a real struggle

because almost everyone is new and teaching takes time out of building. But as the year progresses, the students learn more and everything gets built faster."

After auditions for a performance are held, all MCC theater majors are categorized into cer-

tain crews such as lighting, set, costume, publicity and props. The students meet in crew twice a week for a total of five hours. Once in their designated crew, they begin planning the show.

After four weeks, the students "learn how to use the machines," See 'Crew' on Page 5

MCC

music displays talent

MCC students, faculty, and guests showed off their musical talent with a recital on Sept. 19 and a modern concert Sept. 2.

John C. Schmidt and Mary Beth Smith performed songs by John Knowles Paine on Tuesday. Schmidt, a visitor from Southwest Texas University, played piano while Mary Beth Smith sang soprano.

The audience also had a chance to learn a little about Paine, an American composer from the late 19th century.

Bill Howard and Friends entertained a decent size crowd for its second year running. Calling the concert "Bill Howard and Friend in Concert, Version 2.0", this year's show proved to be light-hearted with deep moments of a variety of musical talents.

The show started off with a few keyboard notes in total darkness before the band exploded into full melody as the lights illuminated the stage. They started off with an upbeat instrumental by Billy Cobham called "Quadrant 4" and

See 'Music' on Page 3

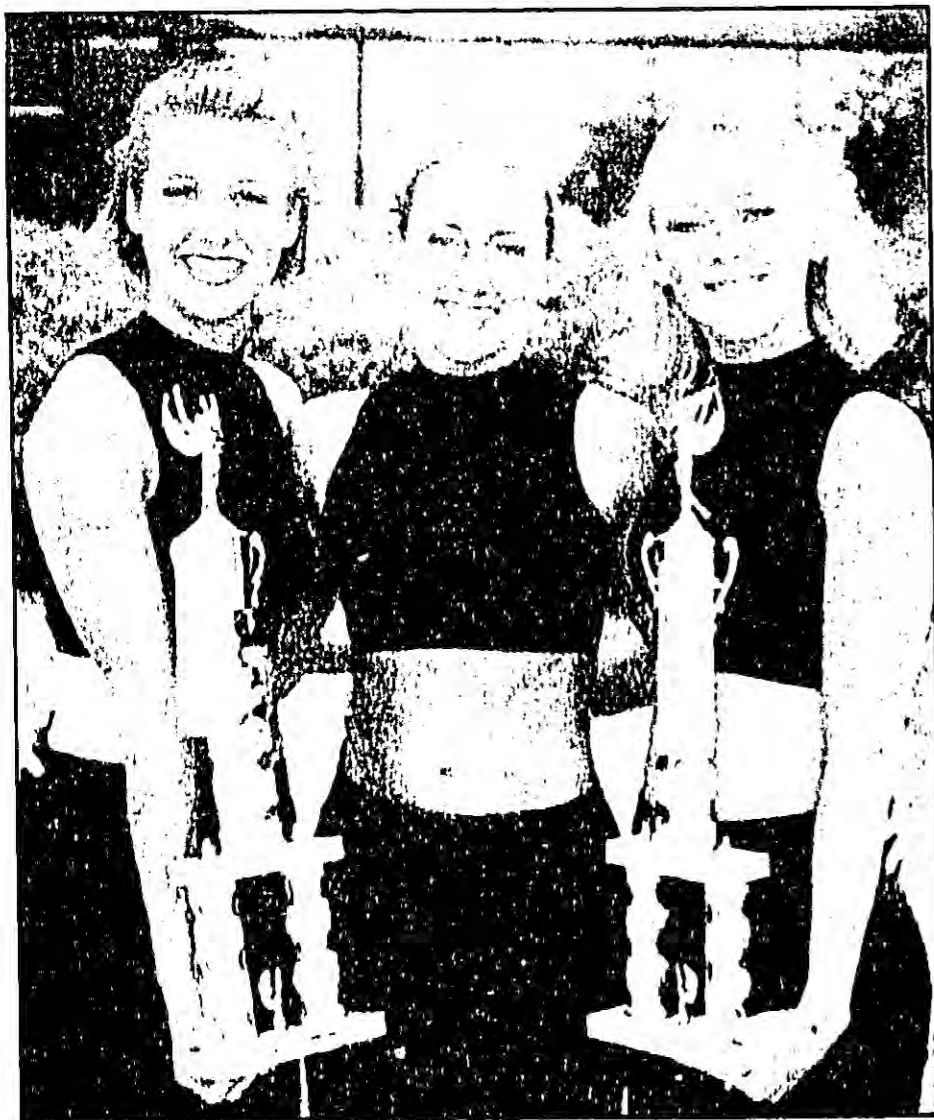


Photo by Sandy Hinton

L.A. Cindy Geary, left, Captain Jessica Bastian, middle, and L.A. Jessien Anderson smile proudly with their awards they won at a summer dance camp. The Dance Company is working hard for this year's season.

Dance team dominates 'big schools' at camp

Michelle Gold
Entertainment editor

The MCC Dance Team started off early this year by attending two dance camps this summer where they dominated such schools as University of Texas and Texas A&M.

The three officers who attended the NDA camp held on Southwest Texas Campus in San Marcos, Texas from July 21 to 24 competed against colleges from all over the South and Midwest and won third in the Fight Song Competition.

Captain Jennifer Bastian, L.A. Jessien Anderson and L.A. Cindy

Geary, the three officers, also won a superior trophy and spirit stick for their hard work, as well as eight blue ribbons and one red ribbon on their evaluations in the class dances.

All of the dancers on the squad attended the NCA/NDA Collegiate Camp at the SMU Spirit Camp where they received second place against thirteen other schools in their division and another spirit stick for their dedication. The Dance Company also was one of the nine teams out of 24 to receive a "Bid to

See 'Dance' on Page 3

MCC Theatre Presents

George Bernard Shaw's



MAN AND

SUPERMAN

Directed by Jim Rambo

Oct. 11-14

Box office opens Oct. 4

Call 299-8200

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Crew builds pride

Continued from Page 2

sew seams, and do hems and a little bit about patterning," Costume Designer Kathleen Cochran said about the costume crew she supervises. "They also come away proud, knowing they did something they could never do before."

There are several MCC theater students who work on crews for the work-study program MCC offers.

Work-study provides opportunities for students to put in many hours learning about his or her certain trade and get paid for it as well.

These students stay on the same crew all year long while other students, mainly freshmen, rotate to get the full experience.

Not only do the students learn about the physical process of putting a show together, but how the set, costumes and lighting actually support the theme of the production.

"The set is a supportive role. If people walk away from the play saying 'Wow, what a great set,' I don't take that as a com-



Digital image by Andrea Garza

Jamie Price cuts a pattern for an outfit. The costume crew is making 12 new dresses for *Man and Superman*.

pliment.

The set and the play are supposed to flow with each other. Also the lighting element is to support the reality, such as day or night setting of the play as well as the mood and theme," Poertner said.

The crews for *Man and Superman* are already busy constructing the set and costumes.

"*Man and Superman* is going to be very interesting. Since the play is nonrealistic, the set will portray that as well. We are keying into the forces of what is going on with the characters," Poertner said.

Poertner said the set will be like its own world within itself with maps, planets, and stars all around. It will not be constructed of just rooms with furniture. There will be room for the characters to wander openly throughout the half wire planet covering the stage.



Digital image by Andrea Garza

Cary Gillespie concentrates on sewing a skirt for the upcoming production of *Man and Superman*. Cary is one of the many freshmen learning how to sew as well as learning other technical techniques of theater.

'El Grito' lecture opens cultural fest

Margo Moreno
Staff writer

MCC International Week kicked off with a lesson about Mexico's National Independence Day, Diez y Seis, in a discussion led by Gilbert Montemayor.

The week is designed to help students find out about other cultures through a study of Mexican Independence, African Cultures and water conservation, ending with the French film "Jean de Florette".

On Monday, September 25th, the lecture was held in the Faculty/Staff dining room in the Student Services building.

The "16 de Septiembre" is more than just a Mexican holiday of independence; it is a way for people to keep in touch with the day that changed the Mexican culture.

This revolution was started by a Catholic priest who read banned books by writers such as Rousseau, Jefferson and John Locke.

Taking the phrase "all men are created equal", Hidalgo made a speech called El Grito De Dolores which sparked the revolution and named him the "Father of Independence" for Mexico.

Started by peasants, the revolution grew to involve Mexican

born Spaniards or Creoles, mixed blood Mestizos, those of Spaniard and Indios native to pre-Columbian Mexico.

This day is celebrated all over the U.S. from Los Angeles to Florida by all the Hispanic communities and many non-Hispanic communities.

"The blood, the Spanish language and the Catholic Church drives us to celebrate the 16th of September," Gilbert Montemayor, Instructor of History and Government said.

The holiday is more than a celebration of independence, it has become a holiday of heritage pride. No longer does the Hispanic culture hide their roots. This holiday is celebrated more in the U.S. than in Mexico, Montemayor said.

"You have got to know who you are in order to move forward. It is a matter of claiming your heritage," Montemayor said.

By 2050 these communities will be the largest minority in the U.S.

It has always been there; growing, making itself vibrant, and self sufficient in order to come back at the right time, Montemayor said.

The Highland Herald will cover the rest of International Week in the next issue.

Dance troupe no 'slackers,' Hinton says

Continued from Page 2

Nationals".

"It was less hectic than last year. Everyone worked really hard and even with a few injuries, we all come through," Captain Jennifer Bastian said about the camps they attended.

Even though the team might have been intimidated by the larger schools, they "worked just as hard: In my opinion, we were

also just as good." Bastian said.

Sandy Hinton, the Dance Instructor said she is looking forward to this year, starting with 17 members as opposed to 15 last year.

"This year everybody has been working harder, and as far as talent wise, I think that we are on a higher level than last year," Bastian said.

"There are no slackers. They

come to practice to get the most out of everything they can, and to learn everything they can. I never hear 'I can't do that'," Sandy Hinton said.

One new addition to the team is J.D., a sophomore, and the first male dance team participant for MCC.

"I felt like I had known them (the Dance Company) for a long time. They were awesome,"

J.D. said on the adjustment to a formerly all girl squad.

"I will admit that I was worried about his adjusting to the team, but he just fit right in. We put him in the front quite often, so we can show off his powerful leaps," Sandy Hinton said.

The Dance Company made their first appearance of the season at a Reicher High School Pep Rally on Friday, September

22nd at 2:30 pm with another pep rally appearance on September 29th at Groesbeck High School. The troupe will also be performing in the H.O.T. Fair parade at 10:30am on October 7th and the Fair Show at the H.O.T. Coliseum on October 7th at 8:00pm and 6:00pm on the 9th. They will still be entertaining the crowd at home basketball games.

Music flows during Howard concert

Continued from Page 2

flowed with ease into the more mellow song "Cousin Dupree" by Steely Dan.

They slowed down the pace quite a bit with a post World War II bit by Chet Baker called Forgetful before moving onto a swingy piece by Mahavishnu

dedicated to Miles Davis named "Miles Beyond".

Switching gears, the show played an original song, "Granny's Funky Dumplings", composed by Bill Howard dedicating it to his late grandmother.

Sting's "Fragile" was performed next, followed by (It's

Just) Talk by Pat Metheny and ending with the B52's "Love Shack".

The concert was free but contributions of one dollar towards the Commercial Music Scholarship Fund were accepted.

Bill Howard, Beth Ullman, David Bass and Janna Hill were

vocals; Kenny Frazier, Clark Nauert played guitar; Dick Gimble and Bryan Jaska performed on bass; John Kutz and Ed Miles played on drums; saxes were played by Joey Bailey and Rob Page; David Hibbard performed on the trumpet.

FlexTrack classes open educational opportunities for non-traditional students

days and in spring between the spring and summer semesters (attend class four hours daily for three weeks). Express

classes allow students to double up on class time and finish in eight weeks. Saturday school has also made a comeback with

weekend college (attend classes every other Friday evening and Saturday for approximately five weekends).

"This is the first year the college has started a marketing campaign for the FlexTrack classes," Karen Clark, Coordinator of Student Admissions said.

Classes offered include, but are not limited to: conversational Spanish, introduction to

accounting, survey of music business and digital imaging.

Classes with the highest enrollment are fire fighter certification, respiratory therapy, marketing and English composition classes. As of September there are 531 students registered for FlexTrack classes with the maximum of 1,605. Registration deadlines depend on when the class starts according to Registration.

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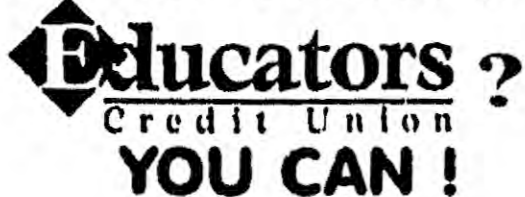
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Correction

In the Sept. 22 edition of the Highland Herald, Sarah Beth O'Donnell, who plays Mrs. Whitefield in the cast of *Man and Superman*, was inadvertently omitted from the cast list. The Highland Herald staff regrets the error.

Who Could Be A Member Of



Attention Students and Staff at MCC, you are eligible for membership at Educators Credit Union. Stop by or call any of our offices and speak to one of our helpful

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Sports



Second round for Highlassies

'Three Basketeers' create optimism

Clay Zachery
Sports writer

Experience is in abundance this season for the MCC women's basketball team.

Five returning players for the Highlassies should provide leadership that was missing from last year's team.

Julie Weise, who is coming off a freshman year where she averaged 14 points and 4.9 rebounds a game, is optimistic about the team's chances of making it back to the NTJCAA Region V Tournament.

"As a team, I am expecting us to return to the regional tournament and hopefully make it to the national tournament. The key to our success is us working together as a team," Weise said.

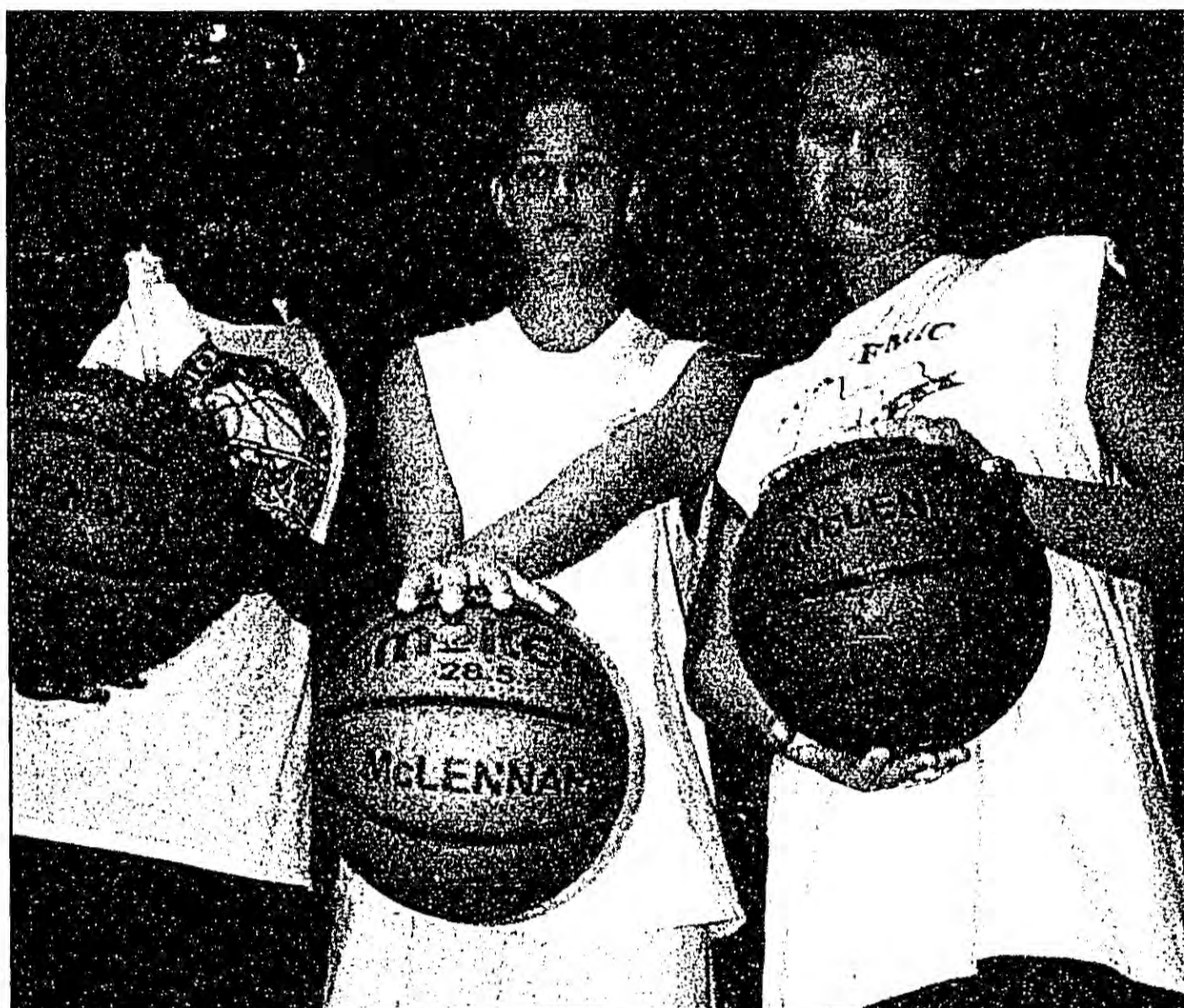
There will also be some court command down low with Vershonda Williams in her second season, and she is hoping to improve on last year's campaign.

"I want us to go to the regional tournament, but I also want us to win the conference this season," Williams said.

She averaged 12.1 ppg and 7.9 rpg last season while manning the low post.

Tammy White had 9.5 ppg and 4.9 rpg in a strong freshman season which she hopes to repeat.

"Our sophomore leadership this year is something that we were missing last season and



Digital image by Aaron Smith

Vershonda Williams, Tammy White and Julie Weise bring experience to the 2000-2001 Highlassies.

should help us to achieve our goals (for this season)."

Last season's team only had one returning letter winner and they still made it into the post season.

This year the Highlassies have a newfound leadership and experience which, according to these three players, should end in a berth to this year's tournament in Lubbock.

The main goal this season for Head Coach Ricky Rhodes is to improve on last year's 14-17 (11-5) record.

According to Rhodes the experience that his big three, bring should help the team go further in the region tournament than last season.

"Last year we made it to the first round of the regional tournament, where we lost to

Howard." Rhodes said.

"This season with our returning sophomores we should be ready for anything that opposing teams have to show us," Rhodes said. "I am hoping to improve on our non conference games this season and go undefeated in our conference."

Dream Team a nightmare for basketball purists

Cedric Iglehart
Assistant sports editor

As another Olympic season draws to a close, I reflect on something that's bothered me ever since the 1996 Barcelona Games.

Why do we continue to refer to the U.S. Olympic Men's Basketball Team as the "Dream Team"?

Consider the origin of the name. It was given to, without a doubt, the greatest assemblage of basketball players ever. Athletes who were so well-known worldwide that only one name was sufficient to identify them — Jordan, Bird, Magic, Malone. I think it's safe to assume that one could not fathom the heights of basketball perfection that were reached during the practices they held.

Now, every two years, we are expected to accept any old offering that the U.S. Selection Committee puts on the hardwood as the "Dream Team".

That's bull.

Surely one has to believe that any team with the talents of players like Kevin Garnett, Vince Carter, Jason Kidd and Ray Allen would be a formidable squad for any opponent in existence right now, but they would do well to finish within 15 points of the real "Dream Team". That team was composed of 10 members who were honored as being among the NBA's 50 Greatest Players of All-time (that's 10 members out of a possible 12). While Garnett is the prototypical player for the future (a 7-footer who dribbles, shoots and plays any position on the floor) and

Carter (a high-flying dunk machine and clutch performer) is the latest to be adorned as the next Jordan, even they would have to continue at their current torrid pace to have a chance at being named to that list.

The original "Dream Team" players had won 21 championships between them and had representatives in every All-Star Game since 1979 (a streak that is still running), and even though it was hampered by the presence of Christian Laettner, the team still had unprecedented depth. The team was so talented that Hall of Famer Isaiah Thomas and Dominique Wilkins (a surefire future Famer) were left off.

Perhaps the best reason to retire the "Dream Team" name is so we don't ever confuse the originals with that 1994 edition of trash-talking, chest-thumping, crotch-grabbing, streetwise gangstas led by Derrick Coleman, Larry Johnson, Shawn Kemp and perennial NBA problem child J.R. Rider. "Dream Team II", as they were so wrongfully dubbed, used their brand of brash thuggery to embarrass both the league and the entire nation on a worldwide platform during the World Championships in Canada. Go U.S.A.!

I'm certain that someday another group of NBA legends will come together and bring about legitimate comparisons to Dream Team One, but I'm equally certain that day is far, far into the future.

Long live the immaculate memory of the original Dream Team, the greatest basketball team ever.

No doubt.

Science gets new equipment

Continued from Page 1

"As always in science departments there is not enough money to completely refurbish all the field, so it has to be done one piece at a time," Watson said.

The renovation of the science department is pending the cataloging and requisition of equipment.

The funding of this renovation is in the budget for this year.

For sale: World Series title

Money can't buy everything.

But apparently it can buy a World Series. Just ask the New York Yankees.

Major League Baseball is no longer about letting the best team win, it's about letting the team with the most money and biggest market win. Gone are the days where small market teams like the Kansas City Royals, Pittsburgh Pirates, and Milwaukee Brewers could compete for the title year in and year out.

Now Major League Baseball is being dominated by the big market clubs such as the New York Yankees, Atlanta Braves, and the New York Mets. Many have been turned off to the game of baseball due to the fact that everyone knows that the owner who has the most money to spend can buy a championship, and it makes winning a World Championship almost meaningless.

For example in 1997, the Florida Marlins spent nearly \$89 million dollars on a World Championship only to finish dead last the following year after cutting the payroll drastically. As of right now, they have no members remaining from that championship team.

You have the New York Yankees, winners of three of the last four World Series, with an average payroll of about \$95 million dollars. Then you have the Pittsburgh Pirates who were once a dominant team in the National League now struggling to compete with a payroll of around \$15 million.

Is the insanity ever going to stop? Not unless the owners get together and work out some sort of salary cap to even the playing field. If this does not happen in the near future then you might as well cancel the regular season and just give the championship to the New York Yankees or some other big market team every year.

This recent trend is all but killing baseball in the small market cities like Milwaukee, Kansas City, and Pittsburgh. Attendance is dropping, fan interest is dropping and most importantly the teams on the field performance is dropping.

It's a shame that what was once considered America's pastime has turned into a game of dollars and who can make the best deals to improve business.

So, when watching the World Series this fall, be sure of one thing: that the World Champions will be the best team money can buy.

Police Reports

A stereo CD system was stolen from a vehicle while parked in parking lot P at the Community Services Center at approximately 2:00 p.m. on August 29.

Minor damages to the victim's car were sustained as the assailant broke in through the driver side door.

Other reported incidents for the month of September are as follows:

September 1, 2000:

Between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m., four auto lock outs were reported. Officers Frost and Martinez were on sight parking lots M & B.

September 5, 2000:

Between 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., four auto starts were reported. Officers on sight were Martinez, Gonzales, and Lopez at parking lots D, E, & B.

September 6, 2000.

At approximately 10:05 a.m. a vehicle accident was reported in parking lot B in which Officer Frost was on sight. Also, an auto lock-out and start were reported by Lowry in lot P and temporary lot.

September 7, 2000

At 9:30 a.m. Lopez was on sight at College and McLennan for a vehicle accident report.

September 8, 2000

Between 7:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., two auto lockouts, two starts, and found property (returned to owner) were reported. Lopez, Frost, Bravo, and Radke in lots D, E and B, Huen and Cameron Drive.

September 11, 2000 Between 10:40 a.m. and 12:00 p.m., Frost and Radke reported a medical report and two offense reports the Jogging Track and lots B and C. Between 9:05 a.m. and 9: p.m., Officer Lowry, Radke, Frost and Martinez were present report two auto lock outs, a flat tire, an auto start, found and recovered property and a vehicle accident incident at 12:25 p.m. in lots P, B, HPE 204, and McLennan/College Drive respectively.

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