

Highland Herald

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April 12, 2000

Tartan scholars named

Tartan Scholars for the 2000 Fall Semester are:

Crystal Bajer, Heather Nicole Chandler, Michelle Leigh Gold, Christopher Scot Hoaglan, Shayla Hughes, Tatiana Ivanova, Melissa Jones, Robert L. Malone, Kimberly Mansfield, Angela Ragan, Janet Rowe, Amy C. Waits and Lorrie Ann Webb.

"I want to thank the Tartan Selection Committee for their thorough and exhausting work: Susan Spooner (Chair), Leslie Maggard, Linda Reichenbach, Phyllis Tipton, and Jimmy King," said Dr. Gilbert M. Montemayor.

"I particularly want to thank Dean Schneider, Brenda Price, Marry Bass, and Lea Ann Buchanan for all the "behind the scenes" work they do to make this selection process possible," said Montemayor.

Faculty receives longevity awards

Dylan Newhouse
Staff Writer

Awards were presented to employees of MCC for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, and 30 year terms of employment at the 25th Annual Service Award Ceremony April 7 in the Ball Performing Arts Center.

President Dr. Dennis Michaelis opened the ceremony, calling it "an important day, to recognize the years of service that people have committed to this institution."

The 30-year veteran professors were featured in slide presentations of their lives, set to music. Each also received a bronze.

Michaelis said he is already looking forward to next year's event.

"Next year, we will have to come up with something to recognize 35 years of service."

The 5-year honorees were Charles Arriola, Central Utilities; Anne Borsellino, Business Programs; Reuben Bravo, Campus Police; Steven Brown, Central Utilities; N.C. Cain III, Custodial Services; Vince Clark, History and Govern- See "Faculty" on page 6

Gas prices raise spending

Leah C. Turner
City Editor

With gas prices soaring, the cost of campus life has risen to an all time high.

Even though MCC buys gas at whole sale prices and in great quantities, school outings are costing each department more than ever.

Johnette McCowan, vice-president of financial affairs, said assessing the full impact of fuel increases is difficult. Most departments, she said, have enough flexibility in bud-

getting to shift money from other funds into travel. She said that no department asked for a budget revision in February to cover increased fuel costs.

Individuals, she said, are paid on a per-mile basis, and fuel costs eat into those payments. The hardest hit department is athletics, using most of the school's budgeted gas allowance during peak basketball or baseball seasons, she said.

With the school currently paying \$1.22 a gallon, gas estimates for March total

\$1952.00. That's \$288.00 more than MCC would have payed for the same amount of gas in November.

However, Dianne Feyerherm, who handles the gas accounts for each department said, "The increase really isn't that much."

Other departments that use gas on a consistent basis are the police and the grounds crew.

Larry Radke, chief of police said he hadn't noticed a difference in his department's gas bill. Despite the inflated school

budget, student outings will continue without a hitch.

"People, when they have a budget, have to make decisions according to their priorities," said President Michaelis.

However, many students that commute to campus may end up paying as much for gas as for their classes.

"I have to drive from Robinson everyday and it takes twice as much to fill my tank as it did last semester," said Kammi Kasner, a freshman.

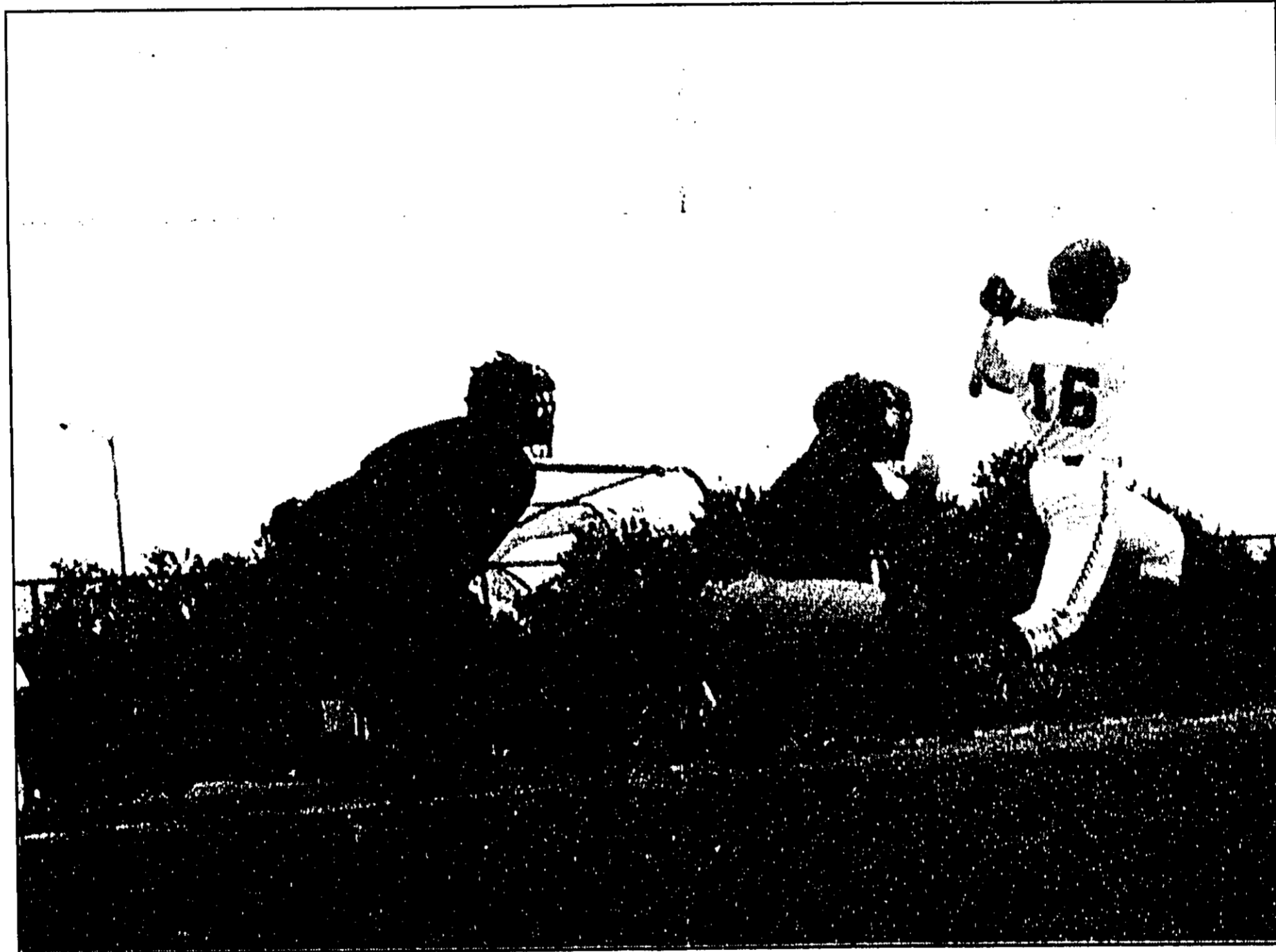
Amid the rising gas prices,

car pooling might help students save gas.

"People might want to be more creative about ride sharing. If there is anything we can do to hook people up with ride sharing programs, we'd certainly be glad to do so," said Michaelis.

Some students may need to resort to more drastic measures to continue their educations. It is foreseeable that there might be an increase in the number of students enrolled in internet courses, said Michaelis.

Swing Batter, Batter...



Digital image by Marcos Garcia

Conroe Sophomore Patrick Beale delivers one of the Highlanders' 13 hits into left field during a sweep of Vernon on April 3. For a complete Highlander baseball wrap-up, see page 4.

Tuition on the rise

MCC Board of Trustees approves increase

Charles Farr
Sports Editor

The MCC Board of Trustees approved an increase of four dollars per semester credit hour at the board meeting, March 28.

The tuition increase will be in effect for the Summer 2000 session. The increase will generate \$452,000.00 for the school. This include a community survey, nearly cuts the proposed \$952,000.00 budget increase for 2000-2001 in half. Later meetings will decide where the other half of the money needed will come from.

"We are not alone in this. I am

pretty sure the other community colleges are facing the same issue and will come to the same conclusion," said MCC President Dr. Michaelis. Even with the increase, MCC tuition is still below the average tuition rate for the state of Texas.

Other items on the agenda presented to the board for the construction of a Cellular Tower on the MCC campus. The proposed plan would allow Primeco to construct a 150 ft. tower, on a 50 ft. by 50 ft. security fenced compound. The location would be in the woods

75% are for a tuition increase, if there are no other means to appropriate money for the school. 84% would like to see more courses offered off campus, and 95% believe that MCC is offering its students the latest technology.

A representative of Primeco Personal Communication presented plans to the board for the construction of a Cellular Tower on the MCC campus. The proposed plan would allow Primeco to construct a 150 ft. tower, on a 50 ft. by 50 ft. security fenced compound. The location would be in the woods

Enroll using the 'net

Rachel Hunley
Staff Writer

Enrollment at MCC will be easier for students and staff next semester.

In the past, MCC students options for registration have been limited to phone and late registration. Now students can register via the internet.

Registering through the internet will make it easier for students to enroll at home, on their lap-tops, or anywhere there is access to the world wide web.

"If a student wanted to register at 2:00 a.m. they could, and if they decided to add or drop a class, all they would have to do is log on to the internet and do so without coming to the campus," said Karen Clark, Student Administrations

See "Enrollment" on page 5



Digital image by Marcos Garcia

Omngh College president Senmus Devlin addressed the MCC Board of Trustees during their March 28 meeting. For a related story, see Page 5.

located north of the main student parking lot.

A motion was passed for Dr.

Michaelis to review and execute a contract concerning the construction of the tower.

'Signals' sends across message

Leon Darden
Staff Writer

Smoke Signals, a story of two Native Americans cross-country journey of self-discovery, led to a discussion of domestic and cultural violence during the March 22 millennium movie and discussion series.

After the movie, sociology professor Dr. Sydney Landis lead a heated open discussion on the role violence plays in society and in our lives.

Many of the concerns brought up in the discussion involved the progressively

negative way children are being raised, as well as racial and domestic violence. Some attributed the problems to today's youth or a consistent lack of parental guidance.

Others said violence on television and in movies is taking on the responsibility of training children. Other students brought up how in the past, a child could depend on his or her parents as well as the neighbors for discipline when necessary. Now, if one tries to discipline another's children, he or she could be brought up on criminal charges or face some form of retaliation by the parents.

However, when the discussion centered on the case of the Columbine High School shootings, participants considered that the shooters were raised in a seemingly positive environment with both parents in the home. As it was said in the discussion, some of the blame has to lie within the individual; one can only use society's problems as a scapegoat for so long.

Next on the agenda was racial violence.

"Who is to blame for racial violence in America?" one participant asked.

Many in the discussion said

they believe that society is partially to blame, but much of the responsibility lies with the individual.

One example cited was that black-on-black crime is up 30 percent as reported in a November issue of U.S.A. Today. It was noted that survival was a key issue in black crimes against one another.

One person said that the inability to recover from the oppression of the past was instrumental in black people killing one another.

When people from the same race, primarily black people,

use violence as a means of survival, competition can often turn deadly. It was pointed out that this often happens in the corporate world in a more "civilized" way.

Also discussed, was domestic violence in America. Everyone agreed that domestic violence is unacceptable in society, and there is never a good excuse for it. As another participant stated earlier in the morning, most individuals know right from wrong, and domestic violence is no exception to this basic precept. It was agreed upon that domestic vio-

lence should be prosecuted as severely as any other criminal offense especially if children are involved.

There were many opposing opinions, but the discussion of these societal issues may have made some participants reconsider their stance. There are no solutions to these issues, but one thing the discussion group agreed upon was that the only way a change will come is if each individual in that lecture hall started with themselves and passed it to their children.

Rambo named faculty president

Dylan Newhouse
Staff Writer

MCC Theatre director Jim Rambo has taken on another leadership role within the college.

Rambo recently took over the elected office of president of the Faculty Council.

The council, made up of representatives from every department on campus, exists to represent the faculty at board meetings.

Rambo was chosen in a faculty-wide vote. He said he is confident in his new role.

"Thus far, the council has had excellent leadership, which I plan to continue. MCC is very much a 'faculty advocacy' campus," he said.

Rambo said his main concern will be "accommodating

links from the faculty to the board, and from department to department."

Another function of the council will be to self-examine the college for Southern Association of Colleges

accreditation. This process involves extensive reports on all aspects of MCC.

Rambo referred to the council as a "strong, vocal group," calling it the "muscle of the faculty. The Faculty Council should be a force of positive strength," he said.

Rambo has taught for more than 20 years and has directed approximately 65 theatrical productions since 1973. He is the recipient of five directorial



Rambo

awards from the American College Theatre Festival.

He was named Educator of the Year for Community/Junior Colleges by the Texas Educational Theatre Association

in 1985. He is the past chairman of the TETA Adjudicators Association and has been a University Interscholastic League critic-judge since 1977. During this time he has judged more than 100 contests and festivals, including the state one-act play contest four times.

Rambo has presented numerous acting and directing workshops and convention programs throughout the Southwest.

He holds a BA from Abilene Christian University and MA from Texas Tech University.

Rambo has completed additional studies at the University of Illinois Directing Colloquium for the Theatre Today and the University of Connecticut under theatre faculty from the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts.

He is a past nominee for the Piper Professor Award from Western Texas College, where he taught prior to coming to MCC in 1992.

He was also the recipient of the 1994 Texas Educational Theatre Association Founder's Award, one of that organization's most prestigious honors.

He was the former president of TETA.

Rambo is a member of the Association for Theatre in Higher Education. He was MCC's 1998 Minnie Stevens Piper Professor nominee and nominee for U.S. Professor of the Year sponsored by the Carnegie Foundation.

In addition to directing plays and musicals for MCC Theatre, he teaches Acting and Theatre Appreciation.

Grease ends with a bang

Theatre department breathes life into 'fifties musical

Dylan Newhouse
Staff Writer

Grease, ended its run with a fun show full of strong performances, Saturday, March 25. The last engagement of a production is typically the strongest, but by all accounts the Saturday show was on par with the rest of the run.

MCC Theatre interpreted Grease, as being as much a 50's rock concert as a dramatic narrative, and this made for a good time for audiences. The cast clearly enjoyed their roles, unabashedly playing to the audience in a Vaudeville fashion.

The show opened with the entire company setting the mood with Alma Matter and the doo-wopish *We Go Together*. MCC's abundance of vocal talent always makes choral numbers a treat.

Daniel Hronck and Andrea Burghart brought Sandy and Danny's puppy love to life. An appealing on-stage couple, their voices joined beautifully on the always-popular *Summer Nights*.

Lee Trull's Vince Fontaine was an effective disc jokey/Greek chorus. Other showstoppers included the reflective

There Are Worse Things I Can Do, sung by Julie Linnard as Rizzo. Also, Grease Lightning, by Michael Simpson's Kenickie, was a rousing rocker.

Grease was a showcase for MCC talent and a well-staged and executed musical. And, judging by audience reaction, is sure to be remembered for a very long time.

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Upcoming events

Wed. April 12 1:30 p.m.

Annual Awards Assembly at the Lecture Hall.

Friday, April 28

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Highland Games, sponsored by student activities. Various student organizations will sponsor games and events for this campus-wide event.

•Phi Theta Kappa will hosts the annual Banana Split Eating contest. Both the men's winner will receive a three-month membership to Gold's Gym. The women's winner will receive a three-month membership to Figure World.

•Baptist Student Ministry is sponsoring the annual 3-on-3 basketball tournament, offering numerous prizes.

•The Soccer Club in sponsoring a dunking booth.

•The Day Student Nursing Association is hosting Bingo for prizes.

•L'Esprit de France (French Club) will sponsor Petanque, a French yard game.

•The commercial music program will provide live music from 10 - 1.

There will be a kid-friendly area, with activities designed for children.

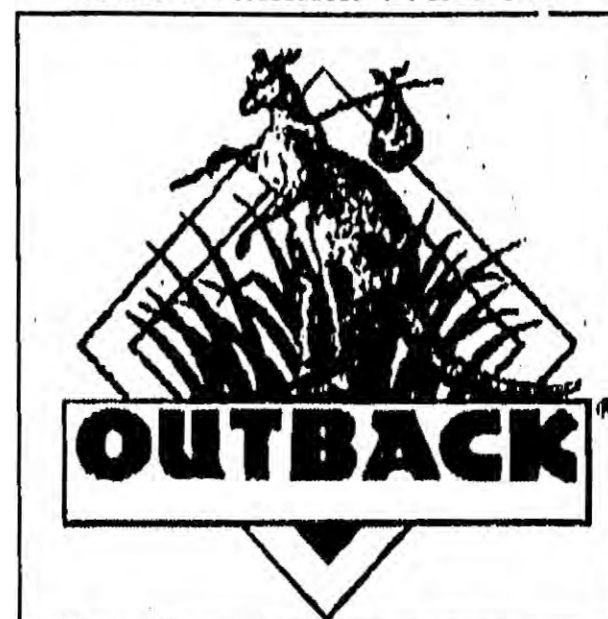
Highland Games 2000 t-shirts will be available for \$5.

For more information or to register your group to participate, call Alesha McCambridge, Student Activities, 299-8443.

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Honoring Commitment

Dennis Michaelis
MCC President

As I write this message, with the Highland Herald's deadline looming over me, it is a very proud day for McLennan Community College.

This afternoon, the college will close an hour early to give us a chance to honor one of our most outstanding assets: our employees. At today's Service Awards Ceremony, MCC will honor 75 committed folks who have devoted between 5 and 30 years of service to our college and to our students. Their service records combined amount to more than 1,000 years.

In today's workplace, the average American worker is likely to change jobs several times during the course of his or her career. This societal trend is markedly different from the way it was when my parents, entered the workforce. Gone are the days when people graduated from high school or college and then landed a job where they would remain for 40 years or so, assuring them a regular paycheck and a comfy retirement. This Leave-it-to-Beaver scenario, while the backdrop of many American dreams, is as dated as the grainy reruns on Nickelodeon.

Thanks to technology, jobs today require continual learning, growth, and change. The body of knowledge required of workers today can no longer be neatly wrapped inside a degree so that you can consider yourself done with learning. In today's information-driven world, skills learned are only as relevant as the release number on your software. Tomorrow, you will need to know more.

And this is where you, as a community college student, will benefit. As a student at MCC, you have more than 1,200 computers and the latest computer software to assist you, no matter what your learning style. Help, either human or electronic, is always available for those who need it in one of our many labs and tutoring centers. Each day, as you go through your daily routine of classes and studying, perhaps the most important thing you are learning is how to learn.

Which brings me back to our service award recipients. This afternoon, we will take a look back at the careers of several faculty members who joined the college in 1970. While I realize that many of you weren't even alive then, even for those of us who were, 1970 seems like a distant memory. Think for a moment how much the world, and MCC, has changed in the 30 years since. Think for a moment how much these five faculty members have had to grow and learn to keep pace with the changing needs of our students. The same can be said of the 8 twenty five year award recipients, the 14 twenty year recipients, the 8 fifteen year recipients, the 18 ten year recipients, and the 22 five year recipients. That adaptability, more so than the fact that they've shown up for work every day for three decades, makes me proud to honor them today.

Most of us will never achieve a 30-year milestone in any job. But the commitment shown by people who devote their entire careers to one employer and one mission is admirable. You and I are the beneficiaries of their character, and for that we all owe them a huge "thank you."

Smokers choose the habit

Lindsey Hayworth
Managing Editor

Calling all smokers: social smokers, nonsmokers, addicts, and first-timers.

Now days there seems to be an increase in the number of under age smokers, or so that is what society leads us to believe.

The smoking trend has been around since the days of Sir Walter Raleigh, Frank Sinatra and Cary Grant. It was looked at as being sexy, appealing, and domineering.

Now, opinion has reversed itself. Not only is smoking seen as a health issue, but has also been banned from certain public places, especially in California.

Ever since the surgeon general stamped the mark of disapproval on various items containing tobacco, the sexiness of smoking has decreased, but the

trend has not.

Why is this?

Some might say it is the addiction factor while others disagree and believe that generations are now being more rebellious than ever.

What better way to rebel than to be a smoker? What?

When I was in high school, I could count the number of my friends who "occasionally" smoked on one hand, today most if not all have at least had a puff or two. Some are now even addicted.

What's all the hype?

Bad breath, smelly clothes, and, oh yeah, the slow, painfully long and drawn out inevitable death. Sounds appealing doesn't it? Many smokers surround themselves with fellow smokers and therefore are more apt to continue inhaling. One exception may be those of us who grew up in a smoking environment are less likely to be-

come smokers.

So what's the deal?

I have succumbed to revel in the smokers joy of that nicotine high. Honestly, I can't tell you exactly why I did it.

I had gone 18 years without having any curiosity whatsoever and one night, BAM! I gave into temptation that hadn't ever existed in me before.

(I didn't inhale though)

I believe in the addiction aspect. Why else would the tobacco companies hold back pertinent information? For the big bucks, baby. Not only did they know that smoking is addictive, but they knew it long before the public.

The tragedy is that these companies are now getting a bad wrap. Deservedly so? You might say.

Juries are now handing out huge settlements to the post-surgeon general warning smokers. This week two lucky and

one dead smokers were given millions of dollars on the argument that they trusted the tobacco companies regardless of the surgeon general's warnings.

Are we now trying to punish tobacco companies for the lies they told in the past?

An eye for an eye. They wronged us so they shall pay.

A new smoking trend has begun. As the law suits increase so does the price of cigarettes.

Companies now have to do what they can to keep the demand high. Underage smokers are being encouraged to light up at even earlier ages now.

Society has created an endless cycle of cause and effect.

We did this to ourselves.

We all know that smoking is bad for us, as well as addictive, and each one of us is able to choose to be a smoker or a non-smoker.

Gas increase tightens budget

Jennifer Holomek
Feature Editor

As students we all know what it's like to be dirt poor.

A penny glistening on the ground never looked so good and as we hurried to grab it before anyone else could, only to find out it was someone's thrown-out beer cap. Bummer.

Well okay, not really, but you get what I'm talking about.

We value our money. Every day we are faced with the dilemma of how we will eat and go out at the same time, but now to add to the problem the gas prices have made it to where we now need a ride, especially if you commute back and forth to school.

I know that living out in sur-

rounding areas such as Riesel, Axtell, or perhaps Crawford that are 30 miles away from Waco the price of gas is really becoming a problem.

I live in Riesel and if I don't get gas in Waco for around 1.40 then I have to pay 1.50 at home. It's robbery.

Why?

Because the people in the Middle East feel it's necessary for the cost to go up, and so they are holding out on us. That's just not fair.

I drive a little "rice burner" as most would call it and I have gone from paying 10.00 to fill up my car to 15.00.

So I know that all you men out there with your big monster trucks have to be paying at least close to 30.00 to fill up now, if

you are even able to fill your vehicle.

I know that most of the time I put 5.00 in here and there.

This is uncalled for and from the way it seems it's not going to be getting any better any time soon.

I think that maybe it's the idea that people will stop driving as much and stay home, but that isn't unlikely to happen.

I can't stay home, and I know that most will not either.

As I said, I live in Riesel go to school in Waco, work 10 miles from my house and work out at a gym back in Waco. I probably drive back and forth a total of four times a day, which is far from cheap.

I know that I am not the only one faced with this problem.

Many students who attend MCC commute because we are still too poor to break away from mom and dad, and now we are expecting us to pay more for gas. What next? Will the 99-cent cheeseburger now go up to two dollars?

I don't have a solution to the growing gas problem; however, some words of wisdom would be to find a friend with money.

Not really.

We need to be more aware of what we are doing and what is a priority and what's not.

The value of a dollar should not be underestimated as the 10-10 commercials tell you: a dollar can get you a long way, long distance calls and now gas.

Save your money.

The Highland Herald Staff

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Letters Policy

The Highland Herald welcomes letters from the students, faculty and staff of McLennan Community College. Please keep them brief.

All letters become property of the Highland Herald, and it's staff reserves the right to edit them for content, taste, grammar and spelling.

Politically correct terms earn stigma

Leah C. Turner
City Editor

In the U.S., where the First Amendment rules, why are some topics still taboo?

The more society's taboos are let out into the open and talked about, the more the stigma will disappear. Or at least it would if the people bold enough to openly discuss our society's taboos were not so consistently and vehemently attacked and immediately silenced.

Too often, people do not broach forbidden subjects for fear of being falsely accused. Accused of being a liker or a hater or even an example of our taboos.

No one wants to be accused of being a "fag", yet no one wants to be accused of being a homophobe either. No one wants to be accused of being a racist so the subject of race can never be completely and

No one wants to be accused of being a "fag", yet no one wants to be accused of being a homophobe either. No one wants to be accused of being a racist so the subject of race can never be completely and openly discussed.

openly discussed.

Just how controlled must our speech be? What can we talk about? Puppies and flowers and everything nice? We talk about the weather, we talk about the latest movie. God-forbid we talk about a controversial movie.

If no one mentioned *American Beauty* for fear of being judged, the point of the movie (to bring out tough, but real issues, in society) is lost.

How can all this tiptoeing be supported by our national politicians? Because a candidate must not step on any toes. Nor can a company who wants business.

The world is full of people

air and began making accusations.

She loudly announced that we were making fun of "faggots" and talking about black people and all sorts of taboos.

She failed to realize that her demand for ignorant avoidance of such things was only drawing more attention to the separation of "fags" or "niggers" in society. She was exacerbating the problem she saw herself solving.

We were in no way putting others down, but we were shedding light on several forbidden topics.

Making topics taboo does not make them disappear, it only reinforces the lack of acceptance of others and of what's different. If such subjects were open for discussion, they could become "normal" and accepted. Maybe even the horror of hate would disappear.

Words have no meaning until we give them meaning.

Sports Day

'Landers looking to turn corner

Aaron Smith
Staff Writer

Temple College

The Highlanders proved they haven't turned the corner just yet as they split a doubleheader with Temple College, winning the first game 10-3 and losing the second game 9-8 on March 22 at Highlander Field.

In game one, the Highlanders jumped on the Temple Leopards early and often as they took control of the game with a 5-run first highlighted by a Patrick Beale 3-run homer. That would prove to be enough for MCC starter Dustin Lansford (4-2) who went the distance in the Highlanders 10-3 victory. After giving up three runs in the fourth, Lansford turned it around much to the delight of MCC coach Paul Miller.

"Dustin just struggled in the one inning when he lost his focus a little bit," Miller said. "But other than that, he had dominating stuff and rose to the occasion after giving up three runs and two walks and a hit batsman with the bases loaded."

In game two, the Leopards took an early lead and were able to hold off a late Highlander rally to salvage the second game of the double header with a 9-8 victory.

"Our big thing was, we gave up nine runs," Miller said. "It's pretty hard to give up nine runs and expect to come back. And yet we almost did. It was a good effort by our guys. We just came up a little bit short."

With Temple up 9-2 going to the ninth inning, the

game looked all but over. But the Highlanders weren't through just yet, as Trevor Tacker led off the inning with a walk, followed by Charlie Prahm's two-run homer that cut the lead to 9-5.

Jeremy Johnson, who was 3-5 on the day, kept the rally going with a sharp single to center. He moved to second on a wild pitch and avoided a tag by the third baseman on Danny Muegge's grounder.

After walks by Brandon Johnson and Brett Cooley, Beale was hit by a pitch, which plated home Jeremy Johnson cutting the lead to 9-6. Jake Moss cut the lead to one with a two-run single. But Prahm, the 11th batter in the inning, struck out on a 3-2 fastball with the tying run on third.

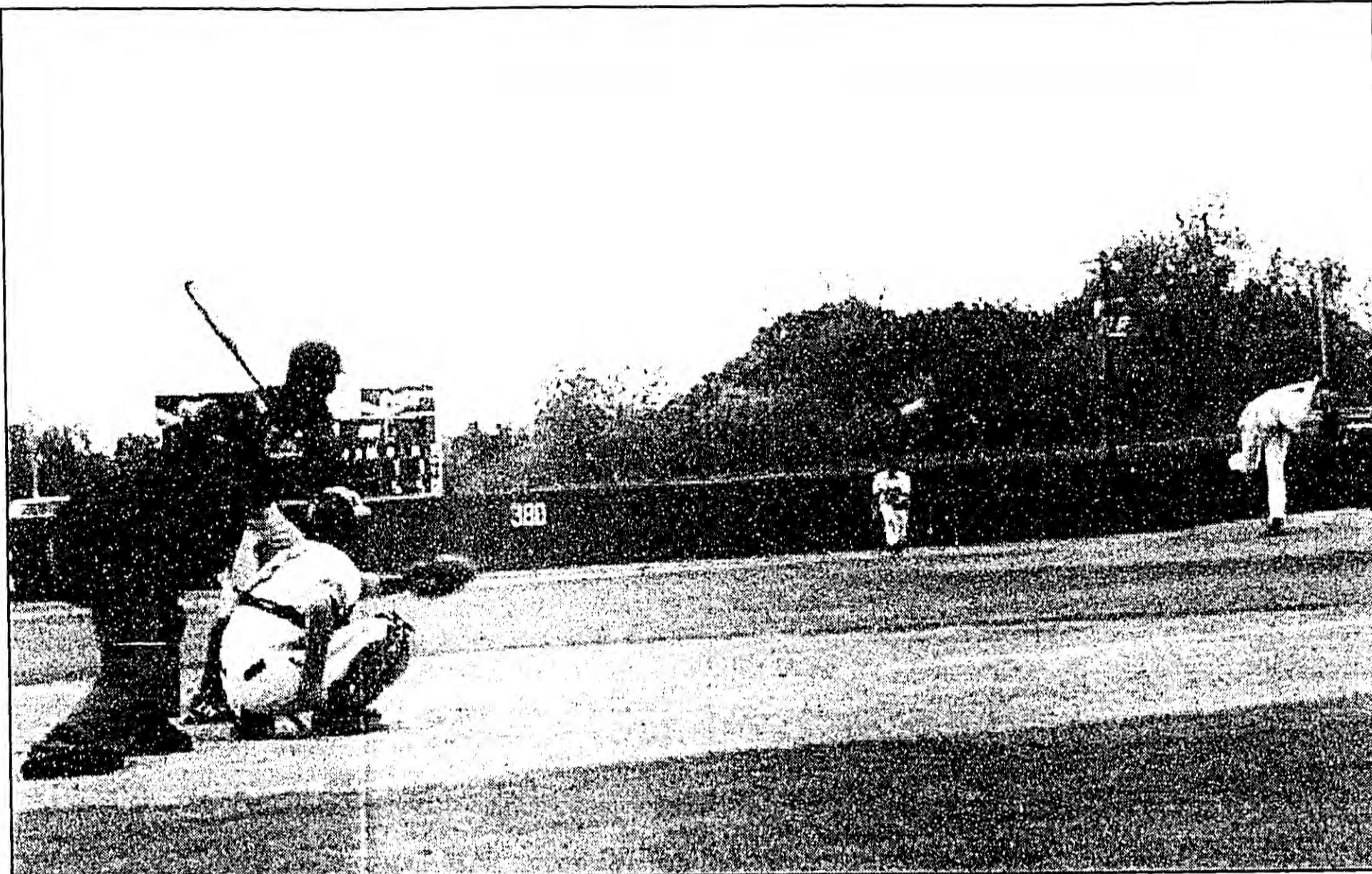
With the double header split, the Highlanders went to 16-16 overall and 4-8 in conference.

Brookhaven

The Highlanders finished the first half of the conference season strong with a doubleheader sweep of Brookhaven 9-3 and 11-1 March 29 at Highlander Field.

In game one, the Highlanders fell behind 2-0 going into the second, but they would tie in the bottom half of the second and never trail the rest of the day. The Highlanders were aided by a solid outing by multidimensional Muegge (3-0) who pitched five innings giving up three runs on seven hits and only one walk. Lee Gwantley then picked up where Muegge left off by pitching two scoreless innings of relief to pick up the save.

With the score 6-3 in the



Digital image by Marcos Garcia

bottom of the sixth Brett Cooley put the nail in the coffin with a three-run homer making the score 9-3.

In game two, the Highlanders once again got a quality start from Carl Makowski (4-5) who went the distance allowing one run on three hits and striking out seven on the day.

The Highlanders offense gave Makowski plenty of room to work taking the lead early, as Chris Churchill deposited a two-run homer over the left field fence putting the Highlanders up for good. The Highlanders offense also received big performances by Beale who went 3-3, and Prahm who also went 3-3 with two RBI's.

With the score 8-1 in the top of the sixth, the Highlanders sent Jake Morman to the plate as a pinch hitter and he did not disappoint, going deep for a game ending 3-run homer to 10 run rule Brookhaven 11-1. After the game, Miller was pleased at his team's effort and optimistic about the Highlanders' playoff chances.

"I was glad to see us come out and play well today. When we play like we did today we can beat anybody in the coun-

try," Miller said. "I think if we go 10-6 in the second half of conference we can make the playoffs."

With the sweep, the Highlanders improved to 18-18 overall and 6-10 in conference.

Vernon Regional

The MCC Baseball team has had its share of problems this season with hitting in the clutch, but that wasn't the case this time as the Highlanders scored 13 of their 16 runs with two outs, sweeping Vernon Regional, 7-5 and 9-1, at Highlander Field.

"The whole day we functioned with two outs," head coach Paul Miller said, "and that's the key to having a successful offense. You've got to be able to get the two-out base hits and hits with runners in scoring position. Today, we got those hits."

In game one, Vernon jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the first inning when Carl Makowski (5-5) gave up a two-run homer, but Makowski would settle down after that giving up only four more hits in 6 2/3 innings of work.

The Highlanders came back in the bottom of the first with a three-run, two-out rally and took the lead when Patrick Beale singled in the third run of the inning putting the Highlanders up 3-2.

The hot-hitting Chris Churchill stretched the lead to 5-2 with a two-run single. Vernon cut the lead to 6-4, but Makowski worked out of the jam with a double-play ball.

The Highlanders added an insurance run in the bottom of the 6th. Chris Churchill went to the opposite field for a solo home run making the score 7-4.

In the top of the 7th Makowski was within one out of a complete game. Trevor Tacker replaced Makowski to throw for the last out. The Highlanders won 7-5.

"Carl struggled a little because he didn't get some calls that he thought he should have gotten," Miller said. "But to his credit, he never caved in and gave up the big inning."

In game two Dustin Lansford (5-2) held the Chapparals to one run on three hits while registering eight strikeouts in six innings.

"I think that's the best outing that Dustin has had since he's been here," Miller said. "He went right at them and hit with his breaking ball and kept them off balance the whole game."

Jeremy Johnson, Chris Churchill, Brett Cooley, Patrick Beale and Jake Moss put the game away in the first scoring five runs on five doubles.

The Highlanders would add three runs in the fifth and one

in the sixth, then in the seventh. Lee Gwantley pitched a scoreless frame to complete the double header sweep of Vernon Regional.

Ranger

Away from home on April 5, the Highlanders swept the double-header against Ranger College. Brett Cooley came in with three homers to help keep the six game winning streak alive.

The Highlanders were down early with a 5-0 deficit in the third. MCC was revived by Cooley's two-run homer and Charlie Prahm's three-run homer bringing the Highlanders back into the game. Cooley then added a two-run triple in the sixth. Dennis Cervenka saved the game in the ninth, pitching a shut out.

Hill College

The Highlanders were swept by Hill College (5-3, 5-2) April 8 at home.

In game one the 'Landers jumped to an early lead, manufacturing two runs in the third. However, Hill came back to take the lead with a three-run fourth off a Carl Makowski (5-6) pitch, who struck out nine in the losing effort.

Jake Moss's RBI in the bottom of the fourth tied the game 3-3. Hill came back scoring two runs from a squeeze and a 'Lander throwing error, ending game one, 5-3.

In game two Hill led the 'Landers early scoring three in the first, two spanning from walks. The Highlanders returned the favor scoring runs in the first and third. Hill came back however to upset the 'Landers 5-2.

It's NASCAR, baby!

Lindsey Hayworth
Managing Editor

I have experienced the eighth wonder of the world: NASCAR baby, Texas Motor Speedway Direct TV 500. If you have yet to make an appearance, I highly suggest you do so. Fan, or not, once you go racing you'll never turn back.

Imagine a plethora of people from all rungs of the social hierarchical ladder. From the lowest of the low

to well, almost the highest, but you catch my drift. This sport is for one and all.

Men, women, children all come to watch this spectacle, and I do mean watch. From binoculars to scanners- every technological listening and viewing device was in full display. For those of you virgin fans out there, scanners consist of a headset that enables the watcher to listen to the drivers correspond with their pit crew. Pretty neat huh?

As I was sitting in the stands,

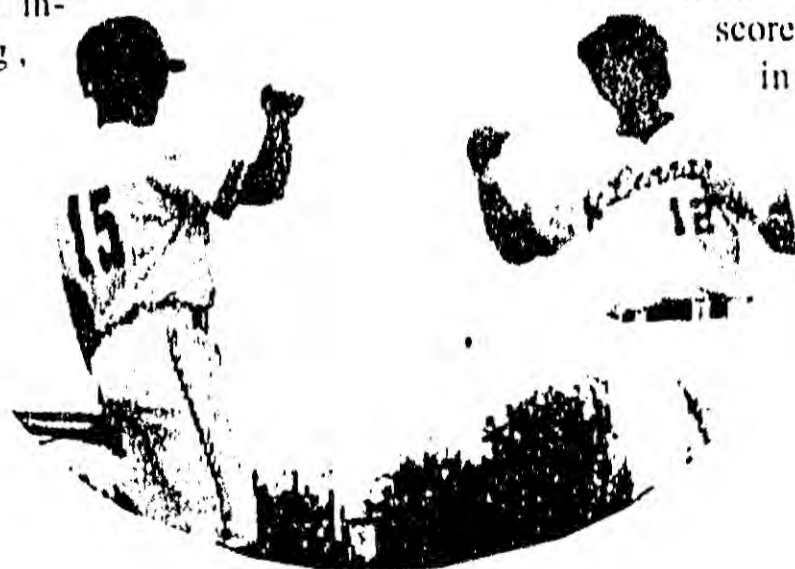
rather standing. I, too, conformed to the many headset-wearers surrounding me. Each time with anticipation as my driver came careening by my head did, in fact, turn. Yep, I was a scanner wearing fool.

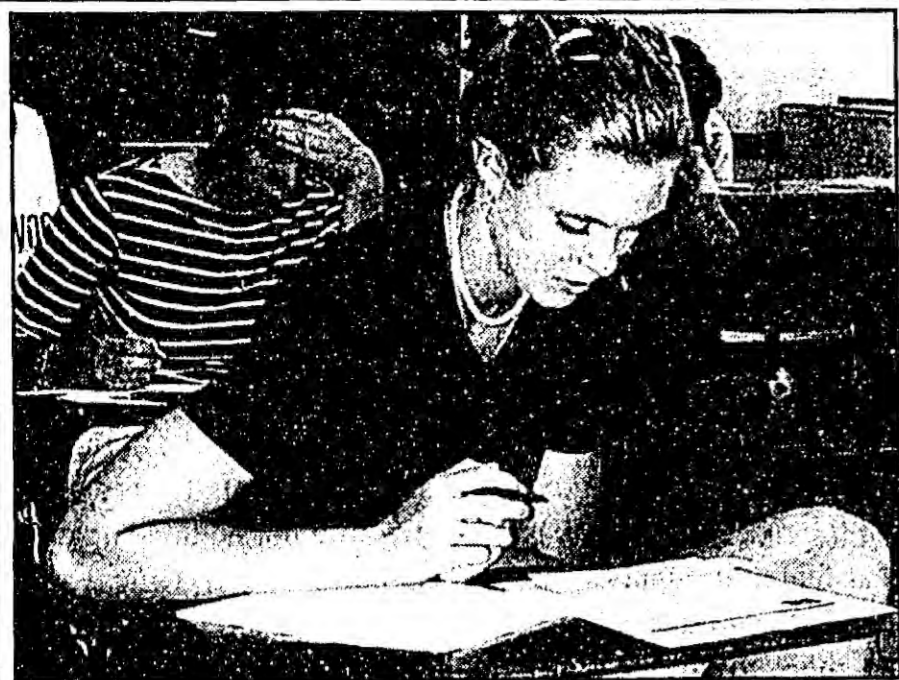
Unless you have witnessed an actual race you have no idea of the feeling that comes along with the beating pulse of the cars racing around the track at 190 miles per hour. My fellow race watchers and I occasionally took our headsets off and the feeling was amazing. Just

the sound of the engines going full throttle and the intensity of the drivers sent shivers. Did I say shivers? more like thrashing waves toppling you to the ground over and over, but I was loving it. Indescribable, like a thousand spark plugs firing in harmonious, operative fashion.

Going to a race one must be fully prepared, not only with the standard 14-inch cooler, well stocked I might add, but bring cash baby, lots of cash.

Never have I seen so many See "NASCAR" on page 6.





Jill Raines, right, and Jill Winningham, both of China Spring High School were among more than 800 students from 20 Central Texas high schools in three districts who competed March 30 in district University Interscholastic League (UIL) competition at MCC. The students competed in 21 events. The top three winners in each category go on to regional competition April 15

Irish Duo teach culture

Matt Schampers
Staff Writer

Seamus Devlin and Stephen McKenna, of Omagh Northern Ireland, spent the week educating MCC students and faculty about the culture, economics, political ideology and "Troubles" of Northern Ireland.

The "Troubles" being those of the civil rights, religious, and political issues that have plagued the country for centuries.

Imagine it is 1836. Throughout the state of Texas there are two main groups of people.

Those who wish to become an independent nation, and those who wish to remain part of Mexico. Those who wish to become independent are mainly of Protestant religions, and those who are Mexican supporters are predominantly Catholic.

You are thrust in the middle of this. You believe that Texas should remain a part of Mexico. Tension between your group and the other grows. War breaks out, and Texas gains its independence. New borders are drawn, and now there are Pro-Mexico Catholic supporters trapped in a society of Protestant Texas Nationalists. The two groups live in the same region with incredible prejudice toward each other.

That is the situation in Northern Ireland as Seamus Devlin put it.

"The history of Northern Ireland is usually shorthand when it comes to the 'Troubles,'" McKenna said during his presentation on the Conflict in Northern Ireland. "It's my hope that we can clear some of it up while we're here."

During several lectures on

the Conflict, McKenna spoke of the hardships, discrimination and inequality the Catholic community in Northern Ireland has had to endure for centuries. Specifically, he spoke of the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960's.

While African-Americans were struggling for equality in America, Catholics were striving for the same in Northern Ireland. In fact, "Dr. Martin Luther King was a major inspiration for Catholics during the Irish Civil Rights Movement," McKenna said.

Catholics in Northern Ireland were made to endure many of the same kinds of hardships as the African-Americans. They were forced to live separately from Protestants Schools were, and in some cases still are, segregated.

Catholics couldn't get well paying jobs because Protestants owned the businesses. Today, Catholics are still two times more likely than Protestants to be unemployed.

"We are trying to find ways of becoming more economically stable and technologically

advanced," Devlin said.

Professional Development funds have made it possible for the Irishmen to come to the MCC campus as part of the International Lecture Series.

In August 1998, Ann and Wayne Duncan, MCC speech and math instructors, met McKenna on a trip to Omagh, Northern Ireland.

The Duncans flew to Omagh to observe the communication processes of the townspeople after a 400-pound car bomb ripped through a crowded shopping district only a year earlier.

McKenna is a retired educator who taught history and literature for more than twenty years in Omagh.

He was also a member of the District Council, and the Social Democratic Labor Party, the moderate republican Catholic political party in Northern Ireland.

During their stay, McKenna introduced them to Devlin. Devlin is the president of Omagh College, an educational institution comparable to McLennan Community College.

*** 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.

Registration made even easier

Continued from page 1

Coordinator.

Although just about anyone will be able to use internet registration, students who need remedial classes and new students still need to see an advisor when registering. Also, any students with holds on their accounts such as tuition fees, library fees, parking fees, etc., will have to take care of their charges before they are eligible to use internet registration.

Students will be able to begin using internet registration for the summer and fall 2000

semesters. The internet registration link-WebAdvisor-will be on the MCC homepage, and has been accessible since Monday, April 3, 2000.

"It will be different for the students, but it will be much more convenient," said Karen Clark.

Students won't be able to register for summer and fall courses at the same time. Each semester will have a separate time period for enrollment. The Summer I courses will be available via internet from April 3 through the 16 with payment due on May 18. Summer II

courses -April 17 through 23 with payment due July 3. And Fall courses -April 24 through May 7 with payment due August 16.

Students can't pay tuition over the internet yet, but work is in progress for it to be available soon. Payments can still be made by credit card over the phone and at the MCC Business Office.

Also available through the WebAdvisor is access to student transcripts, class schedules, and ability to check ones grade at the end of each semester.

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NASCAR: A man's sport no longer

Continued from page 4

trailers(semis) filled with sporting paraphernalia. The drivers had their own. From caps to stickers-shirts to miniature cars-anything and everything you could imagine was going to the highest bidder. It was an amazing: fair-like carnival of racing garb and memorabilia.

I finally made my way

through the hoards of people and into the stands. My gosh, now I know why there is a limit to the size of coolers. Can anyone say "personal space?"

Finally I get settled and crack open my tasty beverage, I am ready.

"Gentlemen start your engines," a roar-blast and they're off.

Cheers go out through the crowd. Round and round they

go. With each drive-by we contort our bodies to get the best view of "our guys."

And the inevitable happens-crash- and thank goodness it wasn't Dale or Dale Jr. A sigh of relief was heard throughout the stadium. Jeff Gordon? What? In turn two, crashed? "Whoo Hoo!" we all screamed.

Yes, I know I am a bit biased, but come on, I don't care for the guy. Besides, no one was

hurt.

Okay, on to the race: nine more cautions were brought out and, thankfully, none were because of the Earnhardts.Eight laps to go and the Budweiser Car 8, Dale Jr. is in the lead.

Texas Motor Speedway was the first win Dale Jr. received in the Busch Series so it is only natural that his first win for Winston Cup Series should come here as well.

As he crosses the finish line for the first time in 12 starts as a Winston Cup racer I turn the scanner up and I hear, "Holy, I need a Bud Light!"

Dale Jr. did it. My guy had won the race. Not only was it a great feat, but Dale Sr. in Car 3, who finished seventh, was also there to witness. What a great way to get a first win.

Dale Jr. was used to winning, after all. He was the Busch Se-

ries Champion two years running.

Last year Tony Stewart became the first rookie in many years to win a race at the Winston Cup level. It was said that it would not be done again for sometime. Well, I guess sometime happened sooner than expected.

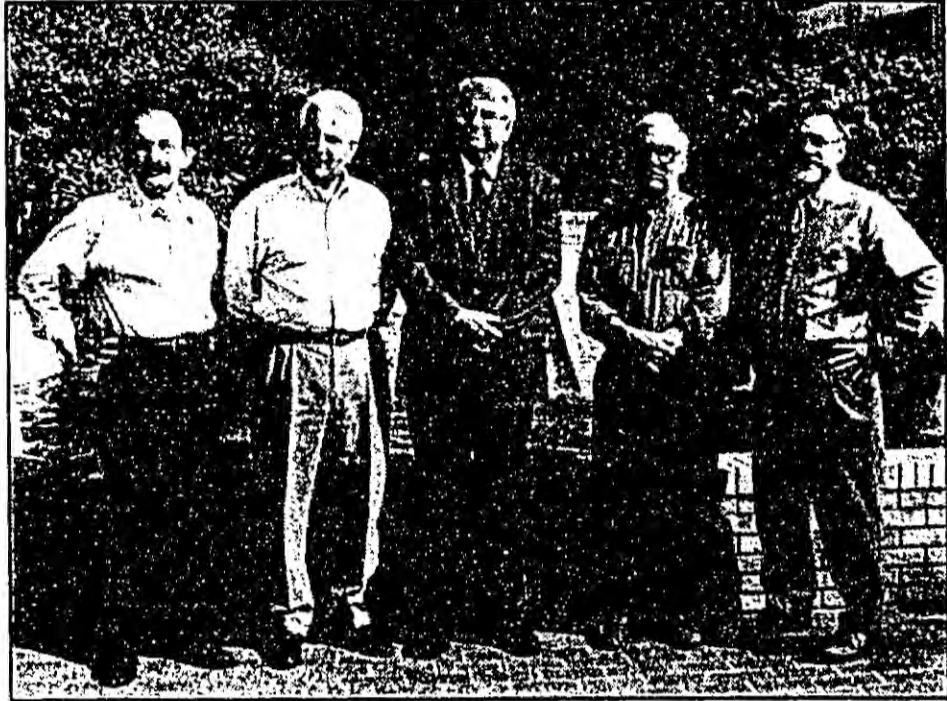
For all of you non fans out there why not give it a try. Hey even a girl can like NASCAR.

Staff receives service longevity awards

Continued from page 1

ment; Adela Cruz-Roark, Student Records; Mary Darden, Community Programs ; Peggy Grooms, Adult Basic Education ; Kim Harrison, Community Relations; Mildred Heggins, Mexia State School; Linda Hilliard, Board of Trustees; Terry Lechler, Financial Services; Janie Ramos, Custodial Services; Sidney Ross, Physical Plant; Margaret Sanders Public Information; Arvis Scott, English faculty; Michael Searight, Network Services; Rita Tejada, RSVP; Billy Tomlinson, Central Utilities; Shawn Trochim, Women,s Basketball and Alma Wlazlinski, Math.

The 10-year honorees were



Digital i mage by Dylan Newhouse

Faculty members receiving thirty year service awards from left: John Chatmas, Rick Butler, David Hooten,William Greiner and Dan Walker.

Donald Aldridge, Grounds Maintenance; Tommy Alexander, Building Maintenance; Ming Chow, Academic Success Services; Karen

Connie, Internal Audit; Randy Cox, Board of Trustees; Shirley Crockett, Adult Basic Education; Rita Davis, Computer Services; Mary Jo Fleming, Vice

President Instruction; Cathy Hagan, Institutional Effectiveness and Planning; Sharon Hammond, Associate Degree Nursing; Donald Hay, Board of Trustees; Laura Hays, Cosmetology; Lisa Lindoff, Mathematics; Lora Perry, Adult Basic Education; Linda Ramirez, SBDC; Wanda Sudbury, Academic Success Services; Kathryn Watson, Student Records and Deborah York, Child Development Center.

The 15-year awards went to Stephanie Abright, Mexia State School; Ava Andrews, Student Admissions; Frank Brennan, Grounds Maintenance; Joyce Beechly, Downtown Center; Jean Crews, Library; Virgila Hawthorne, Mexia State School; Pattie Meier, Central

Duplicating and Karen Norwood, Computer Information Systems.

The 20 year honorees were Lynn Abernathy, Dean of Student Services; John Burton, Mathematics; Richard Coronado, associate Dean of Workforce Education; Catherine Dobbins, Custodial Services; Gloria Evans, Office Administration; Sue Graham, Associate Degree Nursing. Marylea Henderson, Career Development; Kae Hinehline, Marketing; Belinda Hudson, Casheering and Student Accounts; Jerry Jordan General Business Management; Jimmy King, Accounting Facility; James Kubacak, Financial Aid Director; and Mary Ringle, Office Administration; and Lise

Uhl, Music.

The 25 year honorees were Geraldine Carey, Child Development Program Director; Brenda Bodelbower, Radiologic Technology Program Director; Fay Gutierrez, Administrative Assistant, President's Office; Maggie Harbaugh, Library; Sandy Hinton, Dance Company Director; Janis Jackson, Biology; Margarita Sanchez, Reading; Beverly Walker, Office Administration.

The 30-year honorees were Rick Butler, Health and Physical Education; John Chatmas, Art; William Greiner, Mathematics; David Hooten, music; and Dan Walker, Philosophy.

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