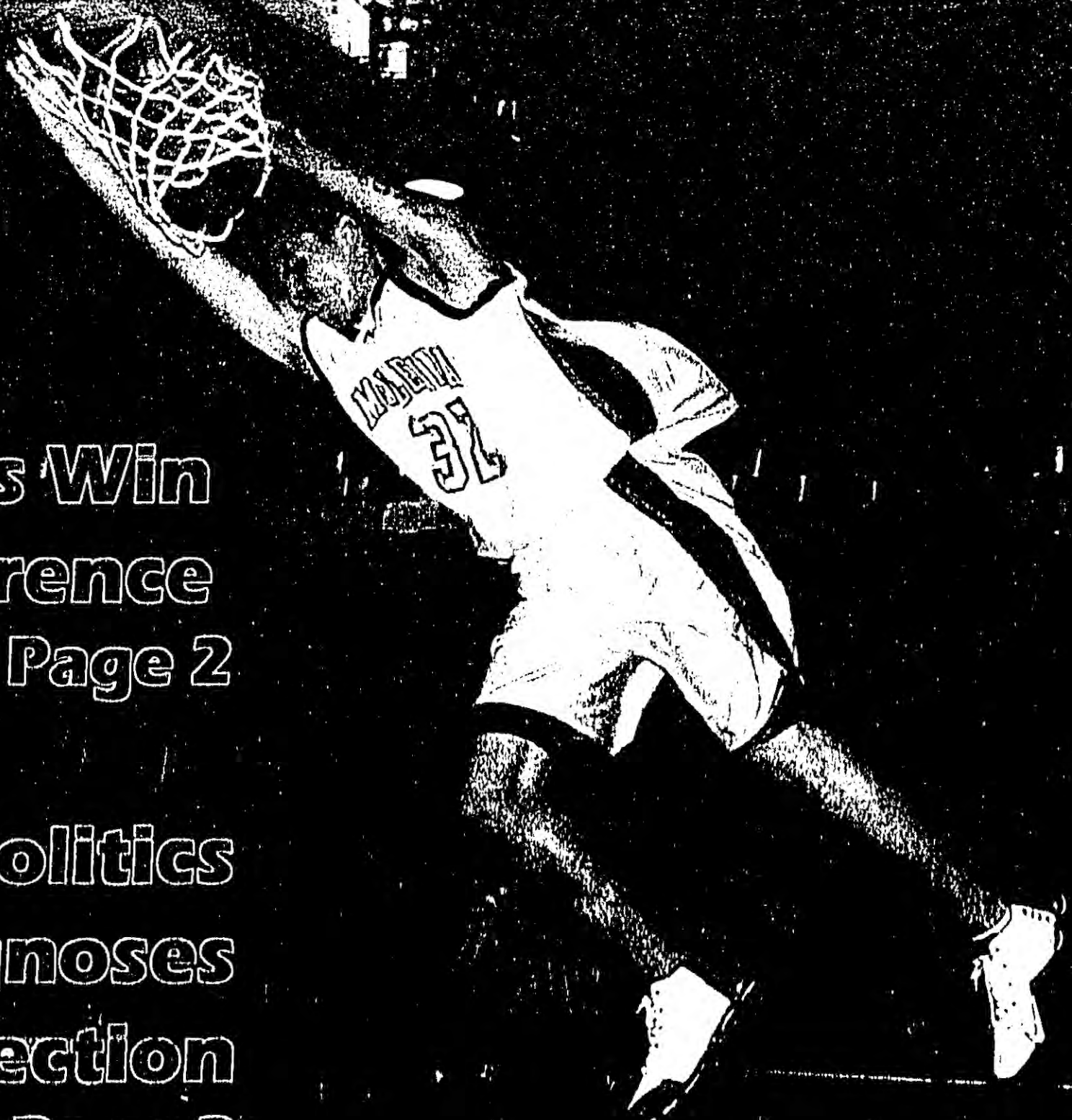




Highland Herald

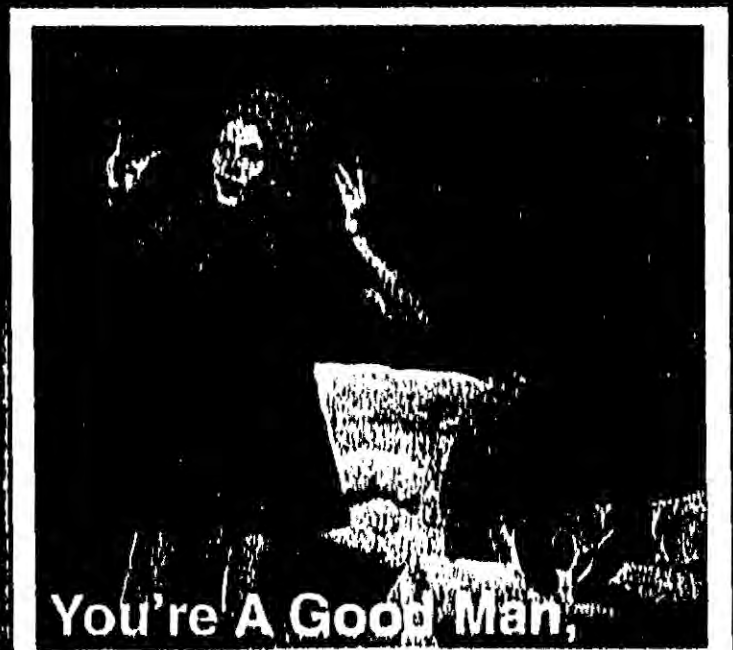
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You're A Good Man,
Charlie Brown



Student Life

SGA Lobbies In Austin For Funding

Micah Patzke
News Editor

Eight of MCC's SGA members joined with more than one thousand student government representatives from across the state to lobby for increased funding for Texas community colleges.

The Texas Junior College Student Government Association (TJCSGA) sponsored the first ever Texas Community College Student Day on Feb. 17 at the State Capitol.

Advisors Ashley Cruseturner and Alesha Vardeman accompanied the students, along with MCC President Dennis Michaelis and Vice-President Lynn Abernathy.

The Texas Community College Student Day began at 9:00 a.m. on the steps of the Capitol with a welcome speech from Senator Royce West.

The students then split into two groups, half proceeding to the senate gallery and half to the house of representatives.

"It was so crowded," said Cruseturner, "the gallery over the house will accommodate about six hundred and we had to do it in two shifts."



Digital Image by: Nikki Birdwell

The Capitol in Austin, where lobbyists discussed funding issues.

The TJCSGA was recognized by a resolution from the house floor.

Lunch was provided by the Gulf Coast College Consortium on the Capitol grounds and followed by a speech from Senator Todd Staples.

Students then dispersed to meet with their local legislatures.

"Our theme for the day was restore community college funding," said Cruseturner.

"The percentage that the state has been paying and what they originally said they would pay has been diminishing over time, we want that restored," he said.

Cruseturner said funding for community colleges had been on the decline for quite a while, but there was a precipitous drop during last session's budget crisis.

"We took a big hit," he said.

MCC students and advisors met with Senator Kip Averitt.

"He is on one of the finance committees that's going to be very important for funding and he promised to work as hard as he could to influence his committee," said Cruseturner.

"If he exerts his influence it's lucky for us that we've got somebody there that close to the process," he said.

"Senator Averitt supports MCC fully, one-hundred percent, and we appreciate his help," said SGA Parliamentarian DeLeon Harris.

For more information on TJCSGA visit www.tjcsga.org

Expansion And Construction For MCC

Daniel Defoe
Staff writer

McLennan County will vote on campus for bonds to provide new construction funding and renovations for the Science Department and University Center at MCC.

The proposed 120,000 square foot new science building will be almost four times as big as the current facility.

"Almost every degree program at MCC requires science as part of its curriculum. What you're trying to do is funnel 8,500 students through a facility built for 3,500," said Kim Patterson, Director of Community Relations and Marketing.

"There are currently 1,750 students enrolled in science courses this semester. Administrators and faculty in the science department believe they could easily double that number."

The bonds will also pay for new equipment for the science labs.

"Our biggest problem is lab space. Our current lab facilities are not adequate for our student body. Biology classes fill within the first four weeks of enrollment due to the limitations of our lab size and number of labs," said Jeffrey Watson, Instructor of Physics and Developmental Math.

"There are several pieces of equipment needed, but the bond issue can only help with equipment expected to last more than 25 years. The science equipment that falls into this category are things like spectrometers, autoclaves, power supplies and smaller equipment for use in physics and engineering mechanics," he said.

The Division of Health Sciences will use the remodeled

current science building.

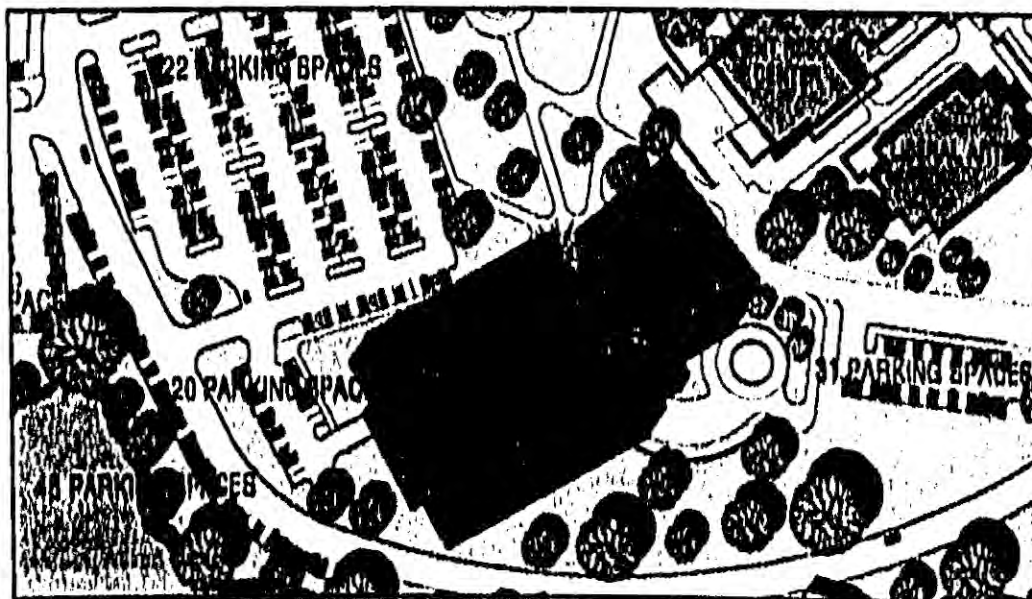
"Their needs are much different than the needs of science," Watson said. "Therefore, the building must be renovated to fit their needs. This renovation will allow the college to consolidate several Health Sciences Departments into one geographically close area."

The bonds will pay for another major project, construction of a University Center building.

"Currently the classes are being taught where we can find space for them," Patterson said.

"Most of them are on the evenings and weekends. What this building will allow us to do is add day programs for the University Center."

Commitments from the University of Texas at Arlington and Tarleton State University to introduce day programs are in place, she said. There just isn't enough space.



Digital Image Provided By: Ross, Butler, Dudley & Ross, Inc

Project Plans for the New Construction, detailing the new lab building.

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Student Life



Digital Image By: Kelly Patterson

"Doctor Politics" at the "America Divided" lecture.

Brent Losak
Staff Writer

"Forget the 2004 election. Go to sleep. Your arms are getting heavy. Forget the 2004 election. You will remember nothing about the 2004 election."

Then he snapped his fingers. He is Dr. Steffen Schmidt, political analyst, author and Iowa State University professor. On Feb. 16, he delivered "America Divided: An Analysis of the 2004 Election," to a standing-room only audience in the MCC Lecture Hall.

Schmidt has made several appearances on CNN and has written for, among others, the BBC and the New York Times. He has authored six published books, as well as lending his name to American Government and Politics Today, a Wadsworth Publishing textbook used at MCC. Government Instructor Mike Campenni said he contacted the publishing company to request that Schmidt drop by MCC while in Central Texas to attend the Texas

Doctor Politics Hypnotizes Crowd

Community College Teachers Association (TCCTA) convention in Austin on Feb. 17.

Campenni, who provided an introduction to the event, explained that Schmidt is known as "Dr. Politics" for his emphasis on political discussion with his students, but perhaps more because he hosts a syndicated political radio talk-show.

As students waited for the lecture to begin, a slideshow of politically-themed images cycled slowly on a large projection screen at the front of the room, depicting scenes of political conventions, protests, and various provocative campaign messages.

Dr. Politics commenced by saying that George W. Bush got more votes than any American presidential candidate in history, but that John Kerry received the second most votes ever. He then emphasized the importance of voting, calling it "one of the few things we have ... where we can actually try to change the outcome of things."

Next, he introduced the central theme of the presentation: "Red and Blue America." While red and blue represent the Democratic and Republican parties, respectively, they also symbolize a broader sense of ideological schism in the United States. Several maps demonstrated a red/blue breakdown of the country by electoral votes won for either Bush (Red) or Kerry (Blue) in 2004, and then by population of "red" and "blue" voters, on both the state and county level.

Dr. Politics questioned whether Americans are "red" or "blue" in an abiding manner, rather than just during elections, although he said the 2004 presidential election increased awareness of intense points of debate in the current U.S. climate.

Dr. Politics outlined some "general trends" occurring in America right now.

One is that the Republican Party has been increasing its influence since 1994 and the "Contract with America," where the GOP gained a majority in both the House and the Senate, exemplified further by seats gained in 2004, and by the defeat of Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, who Dr. Politics said was, other than Bill Clinton, "the most important Democrat in the country."

Another controversy currently in the public eye centers on University of Colorado Professor Ward Churchill. Dr. Politics mentioned that he is organizing a panel at Iowa State University to discuss the issue and its application to the First Amendment and academic freedom, adding, "We're not going to invite Ward Churchill because we want to continue to receive

money from our alumni." Next, he listed four factors for predicting presidential elections.

They are: the presence of an incumbent president in the race, the state of the economy leading up to the time of the election, the national employment situation leading up to the time of the election, and the approval rating for the incumbent president preceding the election.

These four factors, Dr. Politics said, "told us that Bush was going to win long before the election



Digital Image Courtesy of: Orlando Bama

The Doctor takes some last minute Q & A.

actually took place," and that they "have predicted almost every presidential election in the last thirty years." What Dr. Politics called "proximate" factors included: values, fear of terrorism and likeability—"Who would you rather have a beer with?"

Dr. Politics concluded with what he called "things you can go away with." These were the 2006 House and Senate seat elections and the 2008 presidential election, which he said would be the first presidential election since Eisenhower where the "field is completely wide open," because there will be no incumbent president or vice president in the race.

A Q-and-A session followed, with questions ranging from a possible constitutional amendment allowing for Arnold Schwarzenegger to run for president, to the chance of a Condoleezza Rice/Hillary Clinton presidential face-off, to who could beat Hillary Clinton.

Dr. Politics responded, "Who could beat Hillary? Bill! He could run as a Democrat and she could run as a

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Student Life

Who Is Ward Churchill?

Brent Losak
Staff Writer

A Professor and former Chair of the Ethnic Studies Department at the University of Colorado. He wrote an essay entitled "Some People Push Back: On the Justice of Roosting Chickens" in the immediate wake of the Sep. 11, 2001 World Trade Center attacks, wherein he labeled many of those killed in the towers "little Eichmanns," in reference to Adolf Eichmann, head of the Gestapo Department IV B4 for Jewish Affairs in Nazi Germany's Reich Security Main Office.

The essay was condemned by family members of some victims of the WTC attacks, and by the Grand Governing Council representing the National and International leadership of the American Indian Movement (AIM).

A brief debate between Dr. Politics and a student epitomized an image Dr. Politics used to symbolize the theme of his presentation: that of a bridge, with two uncompromising ideological stances on either side.

The student attempted to clarify what he considered

the most pertinent issue of the Ward Churchill controversy—Churchill's assertion that the WTC attacks were predictable consequences of such policies as the deaths of 500,000 children as a result of U.S. "surgical bombing" in Iraq, saying "We should not be surprised when some people hit back."

'Dr. Politics' on the 2004 Election, See Page 3

Dr. Politics replied that he wasn't interested in whether Churchill was right or wrong, but would rather focus on other aspects of the issue: "Ward Churchill is kind of irrelevant, like a lot of individuals are irrelevant. What is important... is the principle of freedom

of speech, the principle of academic freedom, the principle of accountability, the principle that when you say something, you have to live with the consequences of that, regardless of whether it is true or not."

The student persisted, "Or the consequences of murdering a half a million children. There are consequences for that."

And as Dr. Politics motioned to another student with his hand raised, the issue was left like so many others discussed in the presentation—divided.

Are Americans Really Either 'Red' or 'Blue?'

Brent Losak
Staff Writer

Dr. Politics' answer: "Sort of," but they are also "gray, and purple and undecided."

Dr. Politics on the two-party "duopoly":

"Elections are dominated by red and blue Americans," that is, "passionate Democrats or Republicans."

"The system is absolutely written to make sure that third parties only in the rarest of moments can have somebody elected."

Dr. Politics suggests that people who are disenfranchised by the current two-party system "should continue to work for their causes the way they are now, through lobbies and interest groups, and by trying to work with the people who are elected that sympathize with them, because starting a new party or trying to run their own candidates usually is a diversion from what might work."

SGA Plans Musical Events

Brent Losak
Staff Writer

Vice President of Student Services Lynn Abernathy, SGA Advisors Alesha Vardeman and Ashley Cruseturner all attended the Feb. 16 Student Government Association meeting, as well as Jim McKeown, who was in January voted SGA Advisor of the Year, along with Ariana Hernandez as SGA Student of the Year.

SGA members will collect donations for the Red Cross at the Faculty Jazz Ensemble Recital (Tsunami Relief Concert) at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 28 in the Ball Performing Arts Center. They will accept donations at main entrances before the event and at a reception with cake and punch afterward.

Phi Theta Kappa will present "Great Jazz Divas," a Women's History Month event, free of charge, at 7 p.m. on Mar. 8, in the Student Center.

'Politics' Pg. 3

Republican."

After the event was officially adjourned, some students rushed up to Dr. Politics to have their queries considered.

One student asked about immigration reform, and Dr. Politics said that part of the reason the U.S. economy is "growing twice as fast as the European economy is because of immigration and an expanding labor pool." Finally, another student asked whether the use of the word "values" in polling was too ambiguous to accurately gauge public opinion.

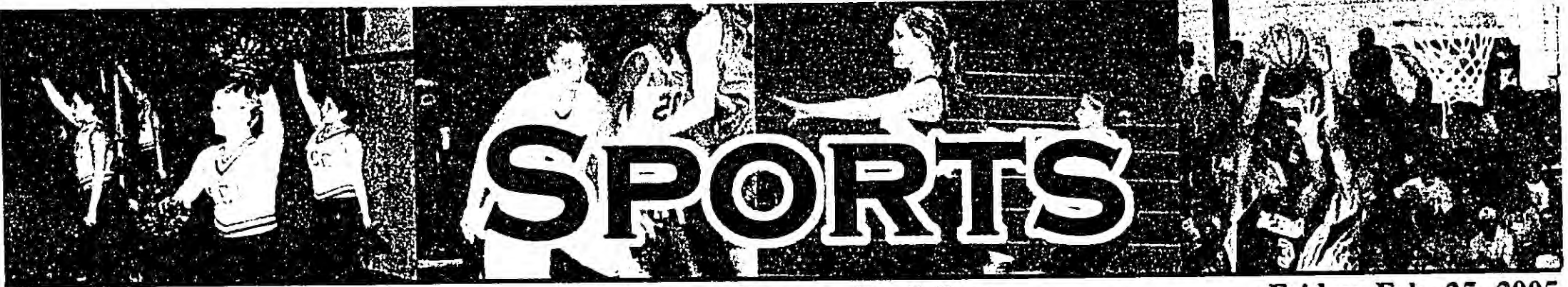
Dr. Politics said the broad term "values" is consistently popular as a stated determinant of people's voting decisions, yet many of the areas it encompasses are not necessarily as independently influential.

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Mailing Address: Address, City, State and ZIP. If mail cannot be delivered to your residence address.			
Date of Birth: month, day, year	Gender (if optional) <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	I understand that giving false information to procure a voter registration is perjury, and a crime under state and federal law.	
TX Driver's License No. or Personal I.D. No. (Issued by the Department of Public Safety). If none, give last 4 digits of your Social Security Number		I affirm that I • am a resident of this county; • have not been finally convicted of a felony or if a felon I have completed all of my punishment including any term of incarceration, parole, supervision, period of probation, or I have been pardoned; and • have not been declared mentally incompetent by final judgment of a court of law.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Check if you do not have a social security, driver's license, or personal identification number		Date	
Telephone Number, Include Area Code (Optional)		Date	
City and County of Former Residence in Texas		Date	
Signature of Applicant, or Agent and Relationship to Applicant or Printed Name of Applicant if Signed by Witness and Date.			



'Lassies Dismantle Leopards

Blake Abbe
Sports Writer

After waiting nearly 21 years for the sweet smell of a championship, the MCC Highlassies can now say they have reached the pinnacle of the regular season.

The 'Lassies won the North Texas Conference Feb. 23 by beating the Temple Lady Leopards 76-53. The 'Lassies' conference record is now 11-1, but the winning started way before the season began.

"I think our kids really worked hard from day one," said head coach Ricky Rhodes, "It paid off today."

Highlassies' Margaret Wimbish was hot during the first half with 15 points that buried the Lady Leopards in a 38-31 hole at halftime.

In the second half, the whole team caught fire and exploded for a 17-3 run in the first five minutes.

"We talked about the first five minutes of the second half," coach Rhodes. "Let's come out and play with some intensity and we did that with the 17-3 run."

When the run was at its peak the score was 55-34, and it left the Lady Leopards in a state of turmoil. All was not lost though for the away team as they constructed a 14-2 comeback run mid-way through the second half. The lead was cut to 13, but that was the closest the Lady Leopards would get the rest of the game, as the 'Lassies defense stepped up and took a stand.

"You have to give them (Temple) credit because this is college basketball, and there is

not going to be a team that is going to quit," Rhodes said. "They came back and fought hard. We had a little lackadaisical attitude toward the game, but then we eventually picked it back up and found a way to win."

For sophomores Leslye Yates, Margaret Wimbish, Pilar Pinkus, Sharese Boswell, Tanesha Barefield, Valerie Suarez and Rebecca Arnold this game was their last in front of the MCC home crowd. "I'm going to miss coach always yelling at me," Wimbish said jokingly.

The Highlassies are looking forward to the playoffs, and are fairly confident in advancing deep into the postseason.

"We are going to nationals," Wimbish said. "That's a guarantee."



Digital Image by: Lew Geffron
Kaylon Hodge dribbles past Temple's defense.

'Landers fall short

Michael Neglin
Sports Writer

The MCC Highlanders lost a heartbreaking game to the undefeated, third-ranked Temple Leopards 95-86 in their last home game of the year.

With the loss, the 'Landers (22-6, 9-3) were eliminated in their quest to win their conference.

Throughout the game, there were questionable calls and non-calls, especially during the stretch run, in favor of Temple.

"It was a big foul discrepancy towards the end of the game, and it really hurt us" said Highlander coach Kevin Gill. "We have to execute better at the end of the game, but if we got the same calls they got, it would have been a lot better game."

Right from the start of the game, there were fireworks on and off the court as the 'Landers and Leopards traded momentum, with fans roaring for their respective teams.

Temple then raced out to a 10 point lead.

When it seemed the game may have been out of reach, the Highlanders went on a 22-6 run, dominating and confusing the Leopards en route to a 48-43 halftime lead.

The first few minutes of the second half consisted of back and forth play between the two teams until a 7-0 Temple run with 12:52 remaining gave the Leopards their first lead since the first half.

The Landers responded with a 7-2 run, which tied the game at 67.

The two teams then traded baskets until the Leopards went on a 8-3 run with 1:56 remaining to take a 85-81 lead.

The Highlanders answered with Kenny Wilson's three- pointer with just over ninety seconds remaining.

The Leopards then forced a turnover leading by three points. Trailing by 3, the 'Landers opted to foul and extend the game's final minute instead of making a defensive stop.

The Highlanders then missed a couple of shots, while the Leopards made their free throws, resulting in the final nine point margin.

It was the last home game for six sophomores. Among those six were Chris Ross, Rajuan Plair, Jacob Rogers, Kenny Wilson, Albert Vazquez and Wes Pondley.

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Texas Hall Of Fame Inducts Members

Eric Geoffrion
Sports Writer

Enshrinement into the Texas Sports Hall of Fame requires one to have brought lasting fame and honor to Texas sports, and the 2005 class of Rayfield Wright, Mary Lou Retton, Wayne Graham, Jeff Bagwell, Craig Biggio and Harley Redin certainly meets that criteria. A reception honoring this year's class of inductees was held at Baylor University's Ferrell Center.

"I am really tempted to say that this is the best class of inductees in the history of the TSHOF. This class reflects all of the best things about this museum" Brad Sham, Master of Ceremonies, said. And coming from Brad Sham, who just completed his 26th year as the "voice" of the Dallas Cowboys and has won the Texas Sportscaster of the year award eight times, that is a tremendous compliment.

A who's who list of present inductees and guests showed their support for the 2005 class, including former Dallas Cowboy Bob Lilly, Tom Landry's pick as the greatest player ever to wear the Cowboy uniform, 11 time pro-bowler Mel Renfro, and Drayton Melane, owner of the Houston Astros to name a few. Olympic gold medalist and surefire future Texas Sports Hall of Fame inductee Carley Patterson was also in attendance to show support for Mary Lou Retton.

Dallas Cowboy, Rayfield Wright was the first to be inducted. One of the greatest offensive tackles in NFL history, Wright was inducted into the Dallas Cowboy Ring of Honor at Texas Stadium October 10, 2004, and joins fellow Cowboys Bob Lilly, Tom Landry, Tex Schramm, Mel Renfro, Troy Aikman, Don Meredith, Roger Staubach, Randy White, Jimmy Johnson and Bob Hayes in the Texas Sports Hall of Fame.

The 6'7", 250 pound, seventh-round draft pick, "Big Cat" was a force to be reckoned with on the line from 1967-1979. Wright's career is a laundry list of accomplishment: five super bowls, two superbowl rings, six consecutive pro bowls, Offensive Lineman of the year in 1972 and 1974 and All-Pro four times. Wright played college ball at Fort Valley State College in Georgia.

"It's a long way from Fort Valley State College to the NFL," said Wright. "It's a great honor," he said.

The second inductee was former Wayland Baptist Flying Queens coach Harley Redin.

Redin coached the Flying Queens from 1955-1973, accumulating an astonishing 431-66 record. Redin reached 17 Amateur Athletic Union tournaments and won six National Championships. Redin took over in 1955, leading the Flying Queens to victory in their first 76 games, an accomplishment later crushed by a 131 game winning streak. At age 85 Redin was the oldest in the class of 2005, and he wouldn't let anyone forget it.

"They got me up here with some young whipper-snappers," said Redin.

"When I received notice about three months ago that I was selected, the first thing I thought was, 'that's three months'. At my age I don't make many long term plans, so the first thing I did was go get a physical."

The next two inductees formed the cornerstone of the Houston Astros franchise and have played together for 14 seasons. Jeff Bagwell and Craig Biggio made their mark in the Astros organization and Major League Baseball. Bagwell was the first Astro to win the National League Rookie of the Year and MVP award. Jeff is also a four-time All-Star and Gold Glove winner. Biggio also holds the club records for seasons played (17), games (2,409), consecutive games (494), at bats (9,221), runs scored (1,603), hits (2,639), singles (1,790), doubles (564) and assists with 4,666.

The two expressed their gratitude to the fans and the front office for letting them come and make a difference. Biggio dedicated his induction to the memory of his deceased teammate Ken Caminiti.

"It's a tremendous honor, to come here and spend 14 years of my career here. The people of Texas have been so good to me and my family. We've had a good run in Houston. We've been to the playoffs, and were one game from going to the World Series last year, which was a heck of a lot of fun. I congratulate all the inductees, it's really an honor," said Bagwell.

"It's a very nice compliment and makes you feel appreciated - that you are doing the right things for your sport," said Biggio.

The fifth member inducted was baseball coach Wayne Graham. Graham began his memorable coaching career at Scarborough and Spring Branch High Schools, where he accumulated a 98-13 record. Graham then traveled to San Jacinto Junior College, winning five national titles and posting a 574-113 between 1981-1991. He was voted National Junior College



Digital Image By: Eric Geoffrion

Texas Hall Of Famer Mary Lou Retton signing autographs.

coach the Rice Owls. While at Rice, his team won the 2003 College World Series beating Stanford 14-2 and putting a perfect ending to a 58-12 season. It was Rice's first championship in school history. Graham's career record is an amazing 1,157-351.

"I'm particularly honored to be a member of this class of inductees, because if you look at these people the one thing that comes to mind is that they gave it everything they got. I never knew I would meet Mary Lou Retton. She's America's sweetheart."

Rounding out the list of inductees was Olympic gold medalist and "America's sweetheart" Mary Lou Retton. In the Los Angeles 1984 Olympic Games, Retton became the first U.S. woman in history to win the gold medal in all-around gymnastics competition. She went on to win five medals including: silver in vault, bronze in floor exercise, bronze in uneven bars and received a medal for being a member of the U.S. team that won silver - all at the age of 16.

"I was 16 when I won the Olympic gold medal, so I wanted to win the gold medal and get my drivers license," said Retton.

Retton's five medals hested everyone else in the 1984 Olympics, earning accolades as Sports Illustrated's Sportswoman of the Year, and AP Athlete of the Year, not to mention a memorable Wheaties cover.

Despite the global scope of her accomplishments, Retton said she is still humbled to be an inductee.

"The Texas Hall of Fame encompasses all sports and is very competitive. To be recognized by this organization is a huge and very prestigious honor. I'm humbled by the list of inductees and by our 2005 class. I'm in awe. I'm getting a bunch of autographs tonight."

Retton was also the first female gymnast to be inducted to the Texas Sports Hall of Fame which she described as "awesome."



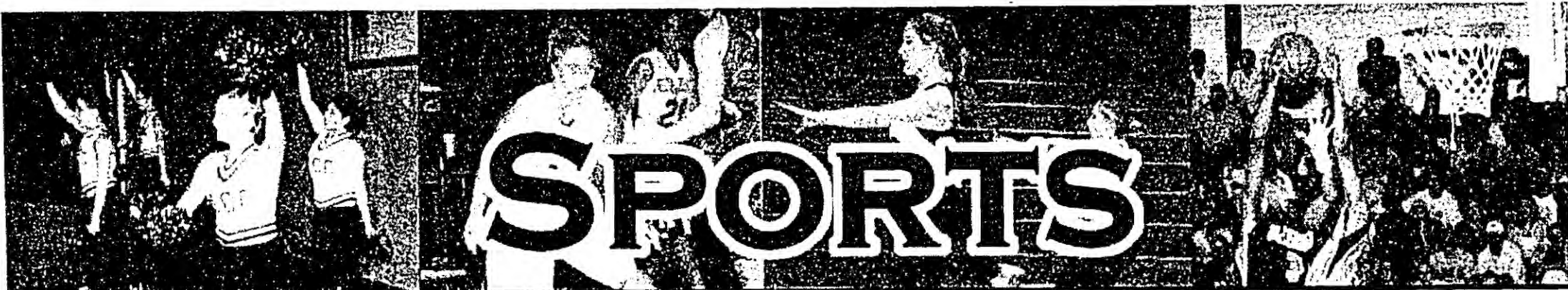
Digital Image By: Eric Geoffrion

Texas Hall-of-Famer Rayfield Wright at his induction ceremony.

Couch of the Year five times. He coached present major league grents Andy Pettite and Roger Clemens at San Jacinto.

"Roger Clemens was the first guy I ever gave a scholarship to."

In 1992 Wayne returned to his hometown of Houston to



Spotlight Players

Margaret Wimbish

Michael Neglia
Sports Writer

This month's MCC women's spotlight player of the month is Margaret Wimbish.

Wimbish, a sophomore, has averaged 17 points per game during conference play, shooting 48% from the field, 29% from three-point range, and 75% from the free throw line, while averaging 6.9 rebounds each game.

Wimbish graduated from Roy Miller High School in Corpus Christi and made 1st team, All South Texas, and 2nd team All State.

In a recent game against Grayson, Wimbish scored 20 points to lead the 'Lassies to a 55-50 win.

Several schools have shown interest in Wimbish, such as Penn State, Kentucky, Kent State, Texas A&M, and University of Charlotte. She plans to play basketball next year and has a possible interest in real estate.



Digital Image by Eric Geoffron
Margaret Wimbish



Digital Image by Pablo Sanchez
Chris Ross

Chris Ross

This month's MCC men's spotlight player of the month is Chris Ross.

Ross, a sophomore, is averaging 9.2 points, 5.2 assists, 3.2 rebounds, 3.1 steals, and 5 deflections per game.

He transferred after last season from Panola Junior College, averaging 13 points and 10 assists per game.

Ross graduated from John Jay High School in San Antonio, and appeared on the ESPN ESPY awards after his team won the state championship game in his junior year when he made a half court shot at the buzzer.

In a recent 67-66 win against Grayson, Ross scored 26 points, while shooting 67% from the field, 7 assists, 5 steals, 4 rebounds, 4 deflections and the game-winning block at the end of the game..

Several schools are interested in Ross, such as Marshall University, Louisiana Lafayette, UTSA and Texas A&M Corpus.

Ross is getting an AA degree and is considering being a sports manager when he's done with basketball..

Men's Bball Scores

Saturday, Feb. 5
at The Highlands

SWCC - 75
MCC - 105
High scorers:
Kenny Wilson 23 pts
Marvin Gentry 21 pts
Albert Vasquez 18 pts

Wednesday, Feb. 9
at Hill

MCC - 90
Hill - 72
High Scorers:
Marvin Gentry 19 pts
Kenny Wilson 16pts
Jejuan Plair 15 pts

Wednesday, Feb. 16
at The Highlands

Ranger - 82
MCC - 131
High Scorers:
Kenny Wilson 27 pts
Albert Vasquez 21 pts
Marvin Gentry 19 pts

Saturday, Feb. 19
at Grayson

MCC - 67
Grayson - 66
High Scorers:
Chris Ross 26 pts, 7 asst, 5 stls, 4 rebs
Marvin Gentry 15 pts

Monday, Feb. 21
at Weatherford

MCC - 91
Weatherford - 95
High Scorers:
Jejuan Plair 21 pts
Marvin Gentry 15 pts

Wednesday, Feb. 23
at The Highlands

Temple - 95
MCC - 86
High Scorers:
Kenny Wilson 17 pts
Albert Vasquez 15 pts
Marvin Gentry 15 pts

Women's Bball Scores

Saturday, Feb. 5
at The Highlands

SWCC - 59
MCC - 87
High scorers:
Kim Robinson 17 pts
Ne'Sheria Massey 15 pts
Tanesha Barefield 12 pts

Wednesday, Feb. 9
at Hill

MCC - 73
Hill - 61
High scorers:
Margaret Wimbish 27 pts
Brandi Crouch 19 pts

Saturday, Feb. 12
at The Highlands

Cisco - 60
MCC - 78
High Scorers:
Tanesha Barefield 18 pts
Kim Robinson 17 pts
Brandi Crouch 16 pts

Saturday, Feb. 19
at Grayson

MCC - 55
Grayson - 50
High Scorers:
Margaret Wimbish 20 pts
Kim Robinson 12 pts

Monday, Feb. 21
at Weatherford

MCC - 62
Weatherford - 77
High Scorers:
Margaret Wimbish 19 pts
Kim Robinson 13 pts

Wednesday, Feb. 23
at The Highlands

Temple - 53
MCC - 76
High Scorers:
Margaret Wimbish 16 pts
Valerio Suarez 12 pts
Kim Robinson 12 pts

Vote

MCC Bond Election • March 29, 2005

On March 29, MCC will ask voters to consider the authorization of \$73.4 million in bonds to finance campus improvements, including:

- Additional Parking on Main Campus
- New 120,000 square-foot Science Building
- New 80,000 square-foot University Center/Classroom Building
- New 40,000 square-foot Emergency Services Training Center
- Renovations to Science, Health Careers, Student Center, and Student Services Buildings

These improvements will enable MCC to provide capacity for the college's projected growth to an enrollment between 12,000 and 14,000 students within the next 10 years.

Have You Registered?

If not, pick up a voter registration card at the MCC Information Desk in the Student Services Building, the MAC Card Office in the LTC, or in the Public Information Office in the CSC. Fill it out and mail it to the McLennan County Elections Office.

Early Voting is March 14-25

For your convenience, an early voting location will be open 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., March 14-25 with extended hours from 7 a.m.-7 p.m. on Thursday March 24 in the MCC Student Services Building.

Election Day is Tuesday, March 29

Check your voter registration card for your precinct number, then check the Waco Tribune-Herald or the MCC web site for your voting box location.



Depleted 'Lassies Win In Cowtown

Blake Abbe
Sports Writer

Despite being plagued by injuries, the MCC Highlassies' softball team pieced together three wins last weekend at the Cowtown Tournament in Fort Worth.

"We have some injuries and that is a concern of mine," head coach Manuel Ordonez said. "We are still not 100% as far as everyone being healthy, but it felt good and we competed well on Friday."

Friday was the first day of the tournament, but the 'Lassies played with confidence and heart finishing 2-0-1.

The Herl girls (Anna and Emily) shut down the opposing team. Anna pitched in the first game against Dodge City. She kept them off balance the whole game and only allowed one run on four hits. Emily pitched in a tight 2-1 win against Northern Oklahoma. Known as a utility player, she proved her versatility by pitching under pressure. The Freshman caused the batters to fight for the five hits she allowed.

"Emily was big for us," Ordonez said. "We have got to play good defense and pitch to be in every game."

'We are not going to be a big strikeout pitching team. We have to pitch with finesse and locate and we have to get better at that.'

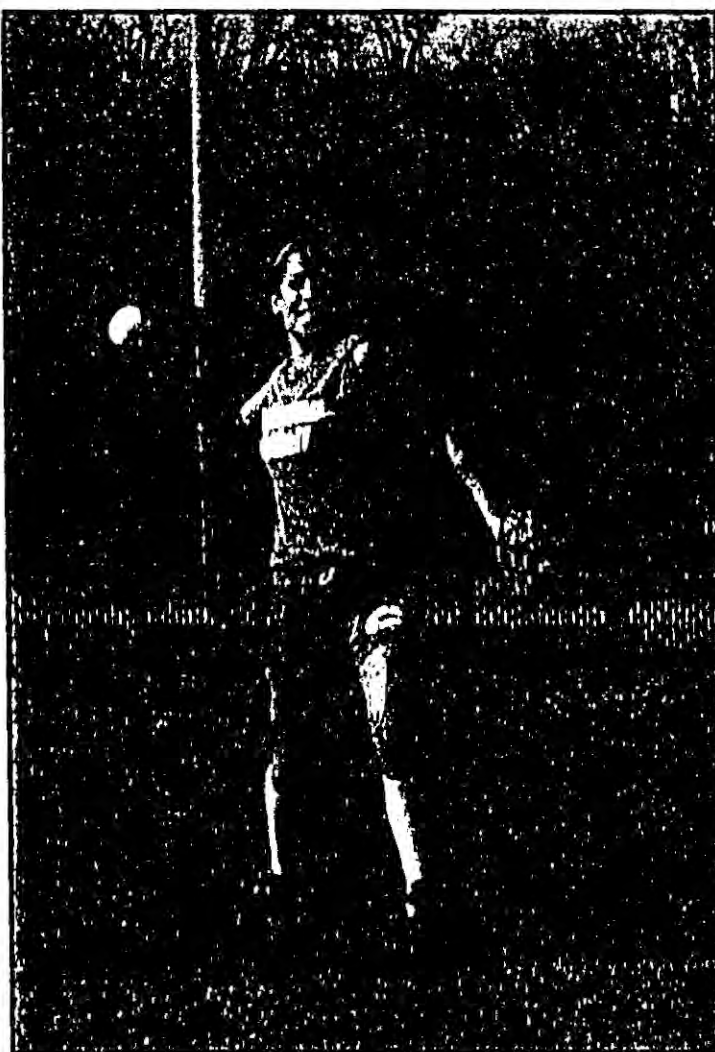
- Coach Manny Ordonez

In the last game of the day, the offense rallied the team with clutch hitting in an exciting 3-3 tie against Blinn.

"It's a drop-dead tournament, so when time expires the game is over," Ordonez said. "We were down to 10 seconds left and down 3-2, and Christina Allen tomahawked one up the middle and tied the game."

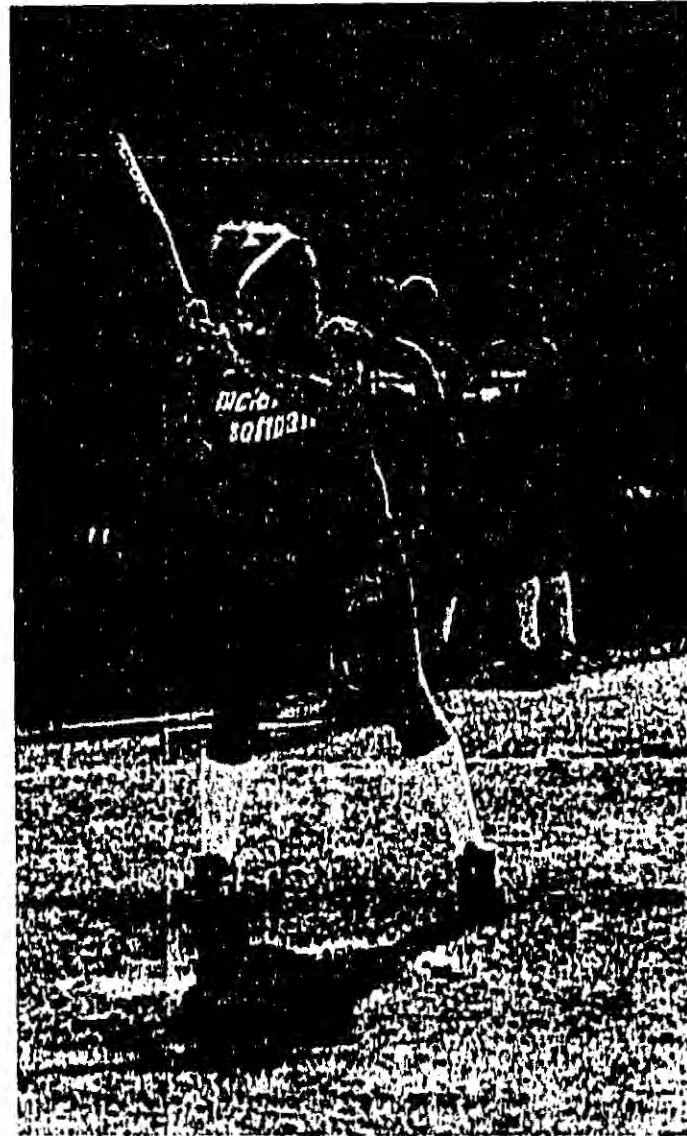
The second day of the tournament was an up and down offensive roller coaster.

The first game showcased a high-scoring firework show. MCC and Cloud County combined to reel off 18 runs. Fortunately for the 'Lassies they doubled up on Cloud County in a 12-6 victory. The two sophomore captains Ashley McElroy and Kelli Shaw took batting practice



Digital Images By: Blake Abbe

Above: Sophomore shortstop Kelli Shaw relays a ball in. To the right: Freshman Emily Herl taking a cut in practice.



against the T-Birds' pitching combining for five hits. Despite going on short rest, Emily Herl earned her second win of the tournament.

The game took a different toll against Western Oklahoma though as the 'Lassies could not amount any offense. The 4-0 loss to the Lady Pioneers displayed a fantastic pitching performance from Lady Pioneers' Hillary Brandt. The four-hit shutout dismantled the 'Lassies offense which was productive for most of the tournament.

"We just didn't hit the ball which was the big factor," Ordonez said. "You get down early and it's hard to battle

back, but the kids did good."

Finishing 3-0-1 in the tournament, the Highlassies are now 7-4-1 on the season. Even though they are off to a good start, coach Ordonez still thinks his girls have plenty to work on before conference play March 5 against North Central.

"We are not going to be a big strikeout pitching team," he said. "We have to pitch with finesse and locate and we have to get better at that. We have got to play good defense and we have got to pitch. If we can do that, then we will be in every game."

The 'Lassies will play two games against Lon Morris today starting at one o' clock.

MCC Linksters Tee Off For Nationals

Blake Abbe
Sports Writer

"There is no place like home," is what Dorothy said when she was trying to get back to Kansas, and for the MCC golf team they would like to go back as well to win the national championship.

"That place I want to be is at Dodge City in the number one spot," head coach Rick Butler said. "The 10 freshmen we have are very talented, and if we can get the right five guys out of the 10, then I think we will have a good shot at the national title."

The leader of the pack for the freshmen is walk-on Jashah Vasquez. In the fall, Vasquez finished three tournaments in the top five and was ranked 18th in the nation.

"It's fantastic to have him," Butler said. "He has been out of school for three years and he is coming back in golf and in school. As a walk-on, he is a pleasant surprise

because he adds depth to the squad."

Next year's team will be experienced with many of the freshman returning, but this year the lone sophomore Lance Avants has had to play role-model for the younger guys.

"His leadership is invaluable because with only one guy coming back, those guys (freshmen) go to him and say 'what's this all about' and 'why do we do this,'" Butler said.

The Highlanders look to improve upon last season when they finished second at the regional tournament and 11th at nationals.

The part of the golf game Butler stresses to his players is not found with a driver. "They hit the ball far and most are pretty accurate, but the thing I really stress more than what they probably like is the short game, especially putting and chipping," he said. "The game is from 100 yards in and they've heard that until they're sick of it."



Hugh Thompson, The Forgotten Hero

Maria Villagomez
Staff Writer

Vietnam veteran Hugh Thompson, 'the forgotten hero of My Lai', appeared at MCC to share his story about the evils of war and the means to resist them.

MCC's conference room was open Feb. 24, 2005 to welcome the former Army helicopter pilot.

"My job was to recon out in front of the friendly forces and draw fire, tell them were the enemy was, and let them take care of it," Thompson told the www.law.umkc.edu website.

My Lai was a Vietnamese village of 347 civilians, mostly women, children and old men who were ordered into a ditch, then shot, by American soldiers.

As he flew back, he saw a wounded lady whose brains were lying next to her; then he saw another. He said he called for help, but the captain who came stepped back and then blew her away.

Thompson and colleagues Lawrence Colburn and Glenn Andreotta reported the massacre, but were labeled as traitors for disobeying orders.

Thirty years later, the Pentagon finally gave Thompson the Soldier's Medal in honor of his courage.

"I have no regrets about doing what I did," Thompson said.

"I was confused for about 30 or 35 years of my life about it, until I received the first phone call," Thompson said.

"It had been a year and a half since the incident and I had completely blocked it from my mind," he said.

"I just wished I would have done it earlier; I would have helped more people," Thompson said.

After the morning session he had lunch with the Tartan Scholars.

"I heard about Mr. Thompson's story from watching '60 minutes'," said Psychology and Sociology Instructor Kurt Chunn, the Tartan Scholarship coordinator.

I felt like he would be a fine person to bring to campus while we had him here," Chunn said.

"Two years ago the Tartan Scholar program brought Mr. Victor Villasenor to MCC as a guest speaker, and so bringing Mr. Thompson in is following a tradition that we would like to continue of bringing speakers to campus who have a positive message for our students here," Chunn said.

"What I can say is that coming here was a very self-rewarding experience," Thompson said.

"I hope that something I said triggers somebody in two ways -do what you have to do and be happy with it," the forgotten hero said in his goodbye.



Digital Image by: Kelly Patterson

Hugh Thompson lectures students and faculty at MCC.

Proposed Budget Cuts May Limit Vocational Funding

Daniel Defoe
Staff Writer

President Bush's proposed budget cut in vocational education has caused concern among the vocational schools that rely on federal funds.

"The President's spending plan would offer new support for high school reading programs and successful teachers but eliminate federal funding for vocational education and literacy programs that target the families of students at the greatest risk of academic failure," Sarah

Greenblatt of the South Jersey Courier-Post, wrote.

"We haven't received a lot of information yet, but from what I have seen, the president's proposed budget would significantly reduce or eliminate funding from the Carl Perkins Act," Donnie Hagan, Dean of Workforce Education, said. "We use that money to buy a lot of technology and equipment for classrooms to keep current and up to date for students. An example would be computers, equipment in the Health Sciences area and equipment for the fire academy," he said.

"Leaders of the state's vocational are deeply distressed by the proposal, which would eliminate some \$1.2 billion in funds through the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act," Cary Bennett, superintendent of Camden County Technical Schools, said.

"This year for equipment we get over \$300,000 from that program. We would either get drastically cut in that area or lose it entirely," Hagan said. "In order to maintain current equipment for the students we would either have to get money from other areas of the

budget or reduce how much equipment we try to get and maintain."

"We also use additional money received from the Perkins Act to provide services for students, such as interpreters for deaf students and services for single parents trying to go to school," Hagan said.

"Vocational Schools rely on federal funds for purchasing and updating costly equipment that trains students how to use and repair the machinery they will find in the workplace," Bennett said. "To lose this type of aid would just be devastating to all vocational-technical schools in the state."

"Since we're just now learning about the problem, we haven't put together a solid plan yet. We would likely have to make adjustments in budgets to move money over to replace that loss or a combination of that and reducing the amount of equipment we get for the students. The only other option would be to seek other funding," Hagan said.

"Anticipating a spending cut, vocational educators have already sought support from U.S. Representatives Rob Andrews, D-Haddon Heights and Jim Saxton, R-Mount Holly," Bennett said.

"Bush's budget proposal also would eliminate funds for Even Start, a federal program that promotes family literacy. Operated by public school systems, charter schools and nonprofit organizations, Even Start offers adult education, in-home literacy classes, summer school, early-education testing and referral services to families that need intensive services," Greenblatt wrote.



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Ian O'Mallan
Staff writer

Schulz's classic comic strip "Peanuts" comes to life on McLennan Community College's Performing Arts Center stage.

MCC's production of "You're A Good Man Charlie Brown" is taken from the 1999 Broadway Play musical and directed by Jerry MacLauchlin.

The production premieres Feb. 24 at 7:30 p.m. in the Ball Performing Arts Theater and runs through March 5.

Starring in the title role of Charlie Brown is Mark Capalbo, who said he found it very easy to transition into the part.

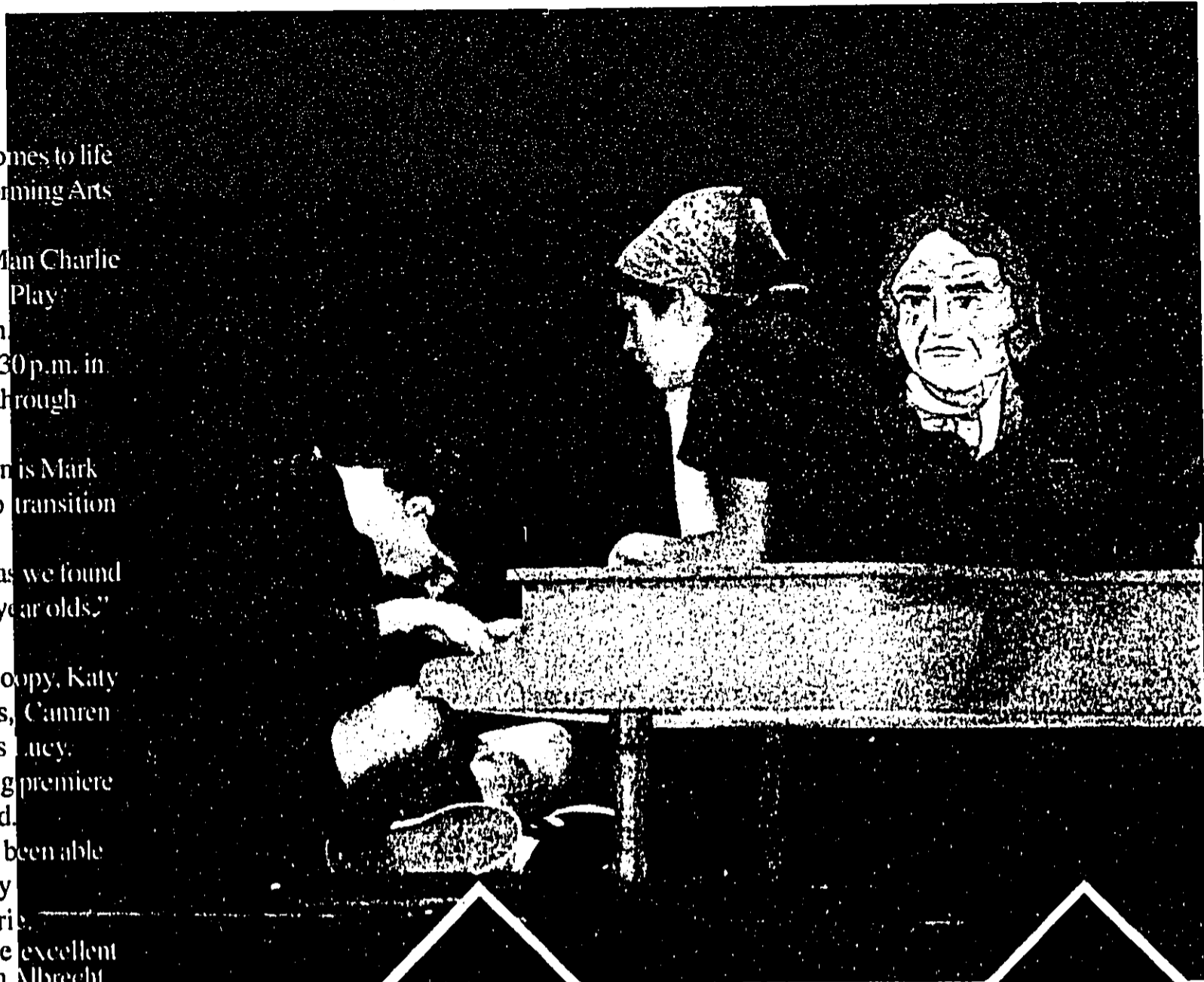
"The play was more of self realization, as we found out as we all just played ourselves as five year olds," Capalbo said.

The play also stars Bobby Sands as Snoopy, Katy Baker as Sally, Aaron McFarland as Linus, Camren Turner as Schroeder and Colette Currie as Lucy.

The cast said they are anxiously awaiting premiere night and their confidence is high all around.

"This is the first play in which we have been able to run smoothly two weeks before the play premieres," according to Colette Currie.

"A lot of our confidence comes from the excellent direction of Jerry MacLauchlin and Karen Albrecht, who have their way of helping the actors ease into their roles," Currie said.



You're a Good Man

Charlie Brown

