



Highland Herald

Friday, Feb. 17 - Volume 45, No. 6

Slam Poet E-Baby
Performs at Valentine's
Coffehouse event

Phi Theta
Kappa
Takes Blood
@ Valentine
Crush Party

No. No. Number
These are the
Open on Feb 17

This Time Around

3 Spoken Word Artist E-Baby: recites his poetry, shares his life experiences and captivated listeners at the Valentine's Coffee House.

4 Men's Basketball: hold on to their number one position in NTJCAC play despite one loss.

5 Women's Basketball: reclaim the number one position in NTJCAC play defeating Temple College.

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On the cover: E-Baby, Slam Poet from Washington DC performs at the LTC.

Digital image by Toby McElroy



Highland Herald

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The *Highland Herald*, a student-run publication, is a laboratory product of the students in the MCC Communications Department. It is published on Fridays, every two weeks. All opinions are the sole views of the specific author only, and not necessarily any of the faculty, staff or administration of MCC.

Letters to the Editor

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

All letters become the property of the *Highland Herald*, and the staff reserves the right to edit letters for content, taste, grammar and spelling. The staff reserves the right to refuse publication of any letter. Anonymous letters will not be printed.

Guest Contributions

The *Highland Herald* also welcomes guest news contributions, photos, opinions and comic strips. The same policy applies to guest contributions as applies to letters to the editor.

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Coming Up...

Feb. 18: Medicare workshop in the Conference Center 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Feb. 18: Highlander Basketball takes on Ranger College at 7:30 p.m. in the Highlands; Highlassie Basketball also plays Ranger at 4 p.m.

Feb. 21: 21st Century Slavery - Living Proof, Simon Aban Deng Lecture in the Conference Center at 11:10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Feb. 21: Highlassie Softball vs. Blinn College at the softball field at 1 p.m.

Feb. 22: Highlander Baseball vs. San Jacinto College at the baseball field at 12 p.m.

Feb. 23-25: McLennan Theater presents "No, No, Nannette" at the PAC at 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 24: Highlassie Softball vs. Alvin at the baseball field at 1 p.m.

Feb. 24: Foundation Board Meeting 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at the Conference Center.

Feb. 25: Highlander Basketball vs. Southwest Christian at 6 p.m.; Highlassie Basketball also plays Southwest Christian at 4 p.m.

Feb. 27 - Mar. 10: MCC Gala Exhibition at the PAC

Mar. 1: Phi Theta Kappa Orientation at 2:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. at the Lecture Hall

E-Baby's Thoughts in Ink

Dominik Young
Staff Writer

There is more to spoken-word artist E-Baby than long dreadlocks, wearing a t-shirt, baggy jeans and black tennis shoes.

All he wants people to remember is his poetry, he said, adding that this is more important than all his other accomplishments combined.

E-Baby, a poet from Washington, D.C. performed on Feb. 14 at the LTC, reciting his previous works.

Spoken word is an art form associated with urban sub-culture in which lyrics, poetry and stories are performed or

"Poetry chose me. You can't ask a football player why he chose football. God gave him the skills needed for that talent."

--E-Baby

recited, he said. There are two types: performance poetry and political/social commentary.

E-Baby is known on the college circuit for competing in performance poetry contests.

His website states that he became the 2001 Blackwordsonline.com Grand



Spoken word artist E-Baby drops a new verse on the audience at the Valentine's Day Coffee House on Feb. 14.

Digital image by Toby McElroy

Slam Champion; the 2002 Vicious Thursday's Weekly Poetry Competition Winner; and 2005 Capital Jazz Fest Poetry Slam Second Place Finalist.

While poetry is E-Baby's hobby, he works in acquisitions at the Library of Congress, where he started the Hurricane Book Relief to provide free books for Katrina and Rita victims.

His creativity comes from the support of his artistically gifted parents, he said.

Initially, he said, Eric Smith wanted to be a more traditional writer, but his life took a different turn as E-Baby, a turn he didn't intend to take.

"Poetry chose me," E-Baby said, adding "You can't ask a football player why he chose football. God gave him the skills needed for that talent."

The life can be hard to handle, though it can also be a source of creativity, he said.

E-Baby said he uses his "blessing from God" to craft his experiences into powerful and thought-provoking poetry.

"It's not about me, but about poetry. I want you to take a word or phrase and adapt it to your life," he said.

E-Baby's 2004 debut project, "My Thoughts are in this Ink," is available at www.ebabypoems.com.

After his tour in Texas, he will start working on his sophomore effort "Inktoxicated".



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The Stone Circle

Spring 2006

Volume 5, Number

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'Landers Lead Despite Loss

Alicia Lacy
Assistant Sports Editor

The Highlanders hold on to the number one position in North Texas Junior College Athletic Conference play, despite their one loss to the Temple Leopards on Feb. 11 at MCC.

The Highlanders fell short with a final score of 82-80, despite 23 points scored by freshman forward Marlon Vincent, followed by sophomore guard Allen Coleman with 13, freshman guard Jonathan Walker with 12, and freshman guard Chris "C.J." Richards with 11 points, according to MCC Sports Information Specialist Kevin Tankersley.

"Pretty much at game time anything can happen at any given time, both teams played hard and we have no regrets," said sophomore forward Jackie Ranson.

The 'Landers put up a valiant struggle despite having their leading scorer Marvin Gentry out with an ankle injury along with Hector Mukweyi who also suffered an injured ankle.

"Despite Jawan Bailey's foul trouble in the second half and Allen Coleman who suffered foot cramps at the end, we fought," assistant coach Darren Silver said.

Freshman forward Chester Moore was also out of the game due to a knee injury and will be out for the rest of the season.

Shots made by Ranson and Richards gave the 'Landers a two point lead at the half with a score of 39-37, but they were soon trailing at the start of the second half with an 11 point deficit.

In the last few minutes of the game MCC tied the game up with 80, but the Temple Leopards' Robert Hartfield sank a shot to give Temple the lead in the last

"At game time anything can happen at any given time; both teams played hard and we have no regrets."

--Jackie Ranson

few seconds of the game.

MCC's CJ Richards went to the foul line and missed two shots leaving the score at 82-80 with 20 seconds left on the clock, Tankersley said.

MCC's Coleman was fouled during one last drive, but no call was made.

"There was certainly contact, and a lot of times the referee wants the players to decide it and not their judgment. You get some of them sometimes and you don't. It was a well officiated game for the most part," Silver said.

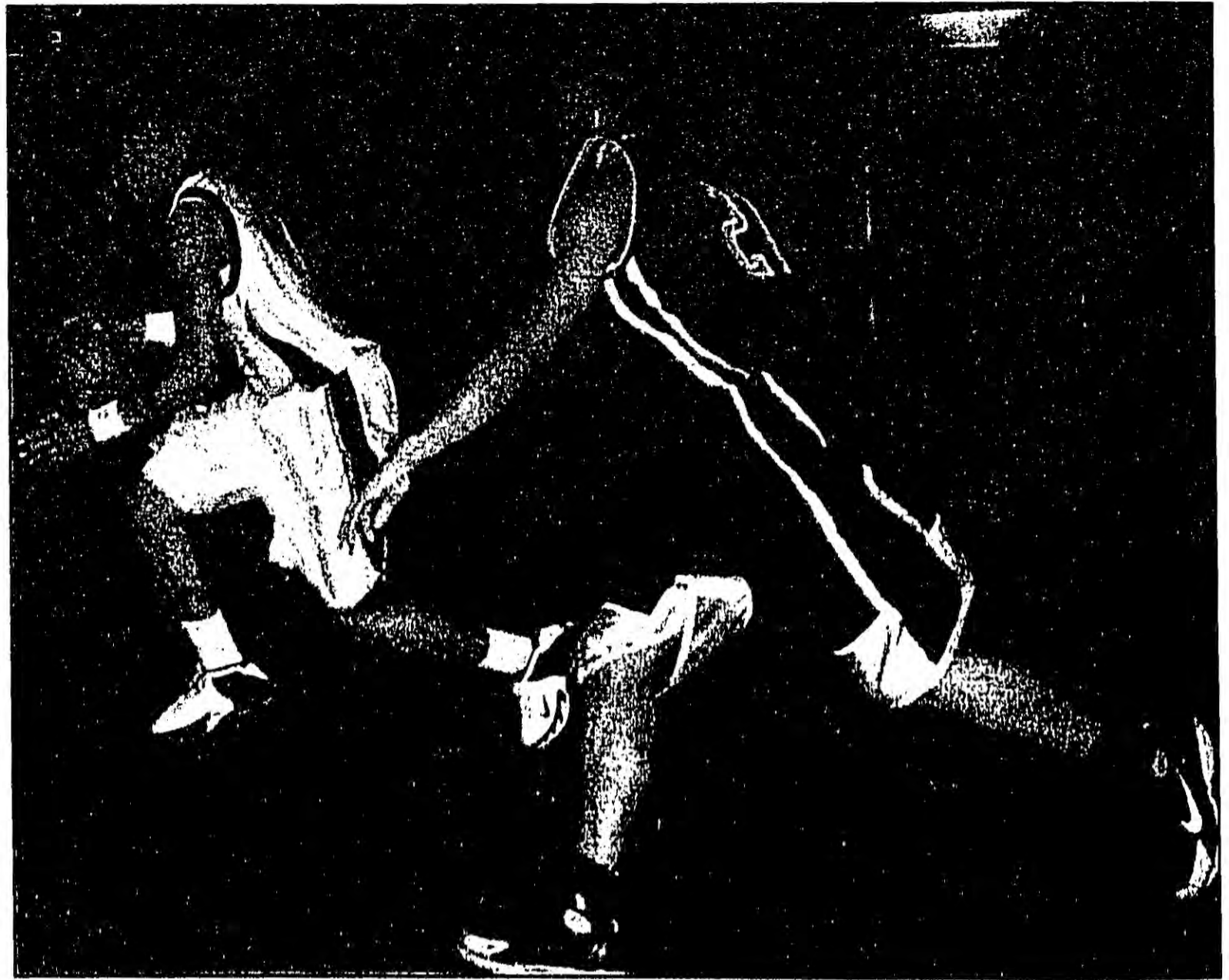
The Highlanders will travel to Weatherford on Feb. 15 for their third gathering this year.

"Well, we pretty much got the game plan mapped out; all we have to do is go out and execute, and as far as the loss on Temple, we don't dwell on losses, we pretty much learn from them and go from there," Ranson said.

"Going up to Weatherford, you just got to stay focused anytime you're on the road. You have to have a little more mental toughness than you do at home because of the crowd. We've beaten them twice this year, so we just have to do what we've done the other two times this season," Silver said.

Mukweyi and Gentry will return to the court this week, Walker said.

The Highlanders' next home game will be on Feb. 18 at 6 p.m. against Ranger College.



Jonathan Walker breaks past a Temple Leopards' defender during MCC's Feb. 11 game in the Highlands Gym. Walker is a freshman from Dallas, Texas.

Digital Image by Christina Taylor

Apologies from the Herald

The Highland Herald staff apologizes for an error that occurred on page 4 in our Feb. 3 issue.

We incorrectly identified Mark Moore of the men's basketball team as Tyler Schwartzinsky of the baseball team.

We apologize to both players as well as their teammates and coaches.

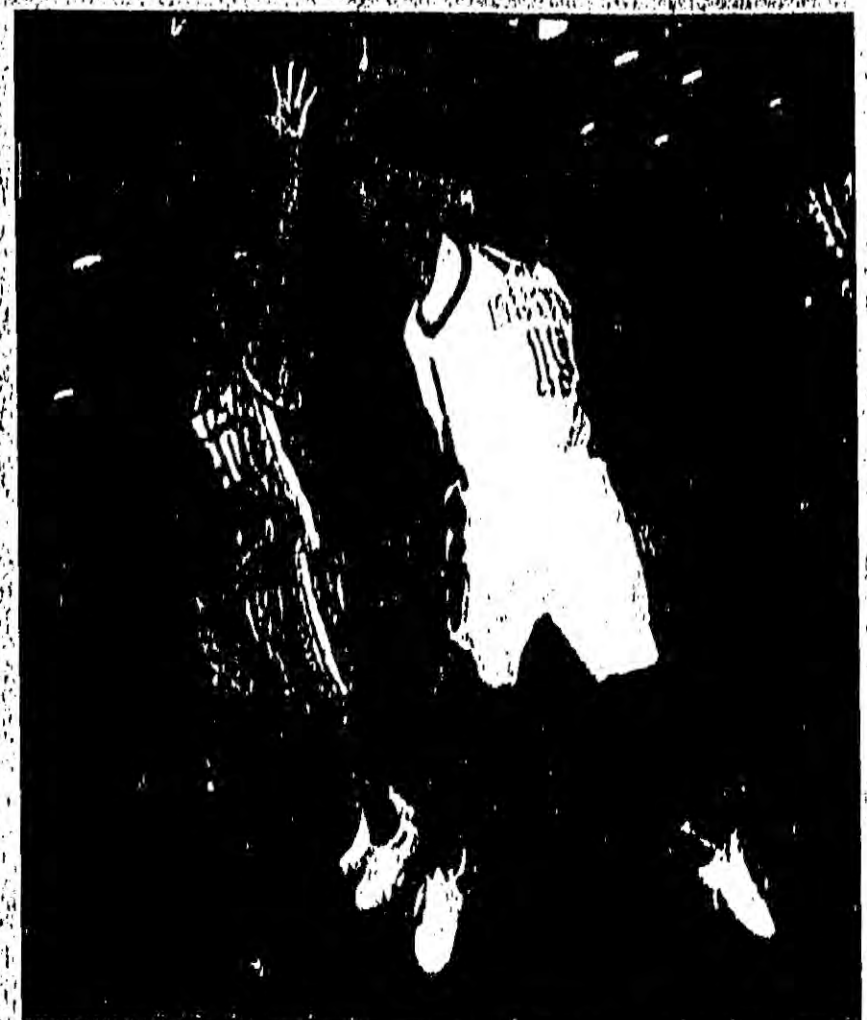
Moore, pictured at right, is a sophomore from Corpus Christi.

Schwartzinsky is a freshman from Robinson.

We are sorry for any inconvenience this mistake may have caused.

In the same issue, the image at right was credited to Christina Taylor. The image was taken by Allen Fisher.

If there are any questions please contact Brent Losak, Editor in Chief at (254) 299-8524.



Revenge of the Highlassies

Matthew Clark
Staff Writer

The MCC Highlassies have vanquished every team in their path as they reclaim the lead in the North Texas Junior College Athletic Conference.

It's been an exciting trip all season long to see what team will capture the conference title.

The first NTJCAC game for the Highlassies, inopportune against the Temple College Lady Leopards, resulted in a McLennan loss from a one-point final deficit.

Since the defeat, the 'Lassies have been unbeatable, averaging 77.1 points per game while only allowing an average of 55.1 points to be scored against them each match.

The Highlassies have taken their game on the road, crushing teams like Ranger, Southwestern Christian, and most recently Grayson at a Feb. 4 game in Denison.

The Grayson Lady Vikings held off the Highlassies at halftime, on top 34-31 as the teams headed into the break.

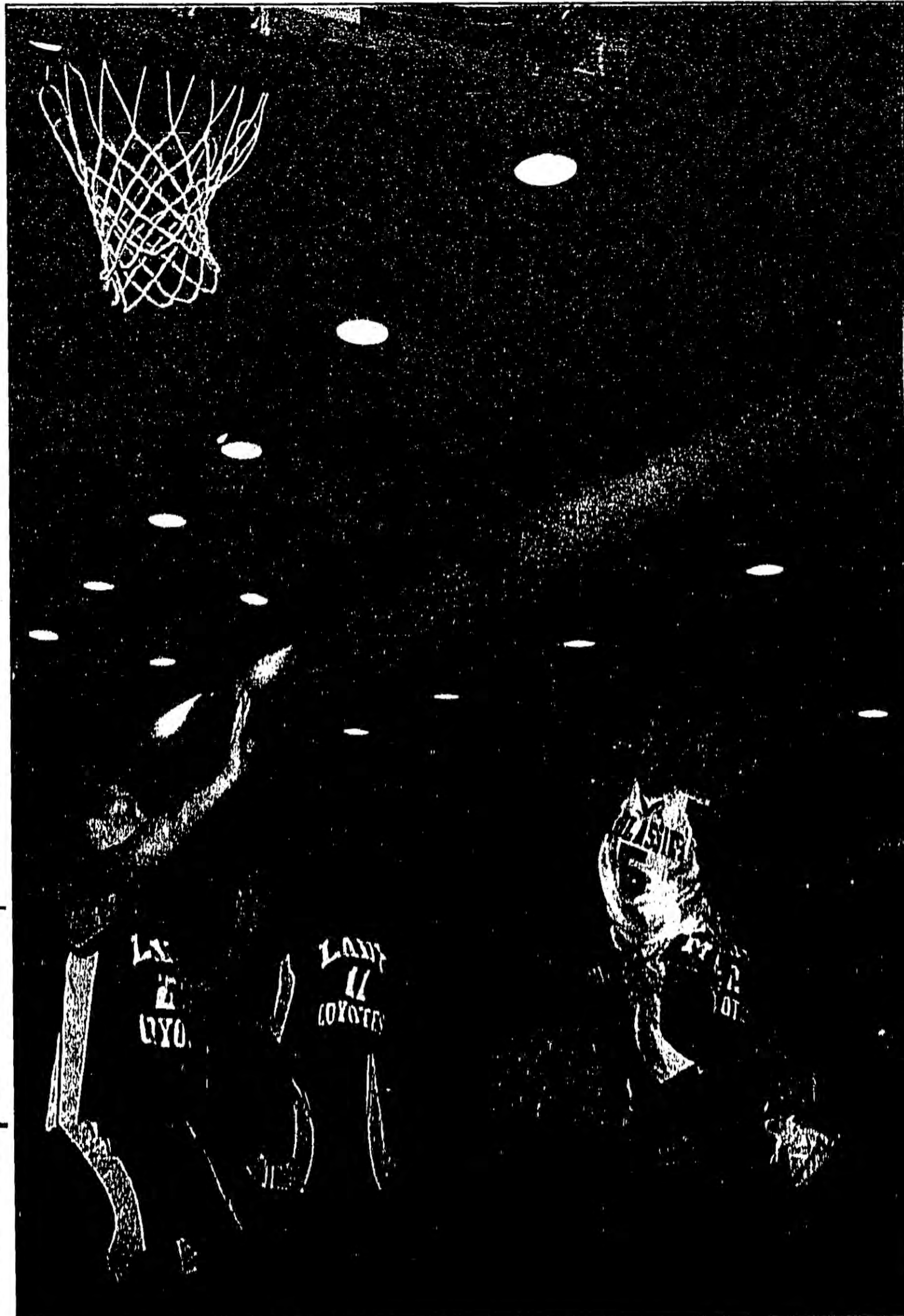
MCC trailed Grayson until late in the competition, when a Patty Massey score put the 'Lassies in the lead 52-51 with five minutes left in the game.

After that play there was no looking back, as McLennan powerhoused the opponent to win the bout 60-54.

Three days later, Kaylon Hodge, the MCC sophomore from Hillsboro was named the conference's player of the week for women's basketball.

Hodge averages 6.0 points per game while contributing 3.3 rebounds and 1.5 steals on an average game.

With eight wins out of the nine conference games played, McLennan has been victori-



"I think that after the last time we played them, [our players] were focused and had the determination to get the job done."

--Ricky Rhodes

ous against every school in the NTJCAC, while taking revenge on Temple, the team responsible for the Highlassies' only conference upset.

"[We] came ready to play," said Highlassies Head Coach Ricky Rhodes of the Feb. 11 rematch at The Highlands. "I think that after the last time we played them, [our players] were focused and had the determination to get the job done."

The Lady Leopards took an early lead before MCC tied the score at 13 with 11:52 left in the first period.

A three point shot by Shareke Boswell - her first of two for the night - ended the half, Highlassies up 38-32.

Temple attempted to comeback in the second half, playing fast, aggressive basketball.

Knowing that every basket could make the difference,

Turn Perkins heads in for a layup as the 'Lassies continue their winning streak. They currently lead the conference.

both teams traded off three-point shots when a crowded lane left other options less than desirable.

Brandi Crouch widened McLennan's lead to 13 points when she sunk a basket with 3:48 left to play, score 66-53 'Lassies.

Digital Image by Allen Fisher

No Temple endeavor proved successful as the MCC Highlassies dethroned the conference leaders with a final score of 68-57.

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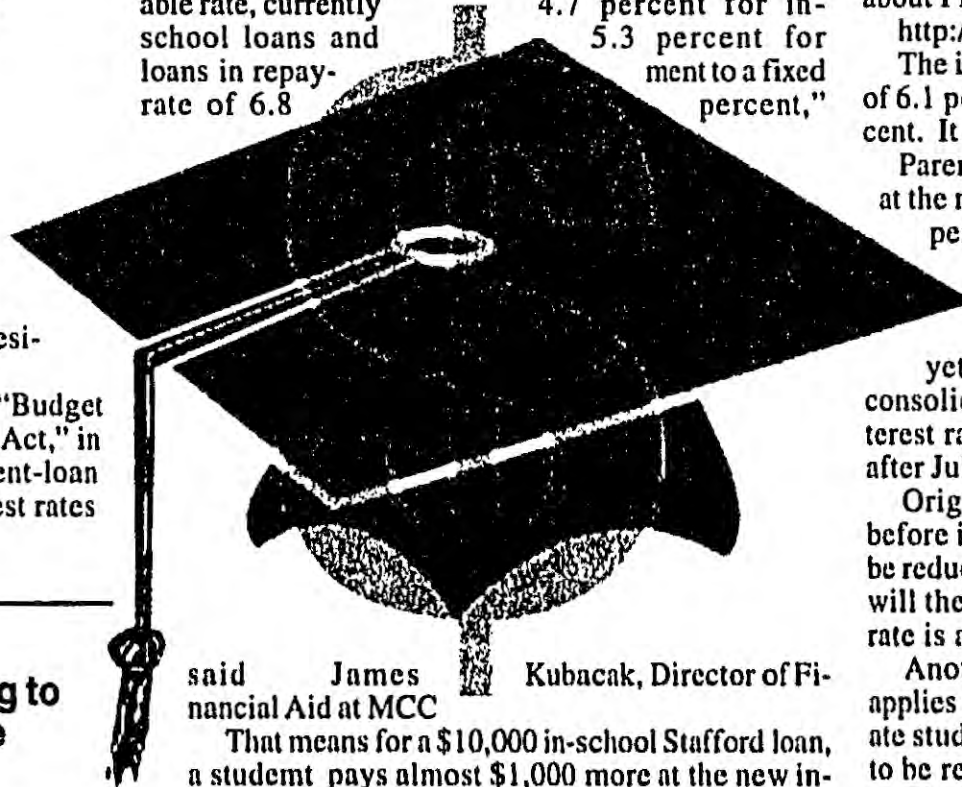
\$12 Billion Cut from Loans

Deficit Cuts Mean Students and Parents Will Pay More

Brent Losak
Editor in Chief

Senate Bill 1932, which includes a record \$12 billion federal student-loan funds reduction over five years was signed into law by President George W. Bush on Feb. 8.

The legislation, popularly known as the "Budget Reconciliation Bill" or the "Deficit Reduction Act," in addition to paring back total spending on student-loan finance, also makes several increases in interest rates and fees for both student and parent loans.



payments subsidized by the federal government, or not determined by financial need and unsubsidized.

"Stafford loan interest rates will move from a variable rate, currently 4.7 percent for in-school loans and 5.3 percent for loans in repayment to a fixed rate of 6.8 percent,"

financial aid that has been awarded, according to <http://bwn.t.businessweek.com/Glossary/definition.asp?DEFCode=P22>. For more information about PLUS loans, go to:

<http://www.parentplusloan.com>.

The interest for PLUS loans was set at a variable rate of 6.1 percent and was projected to increase to 7.9 percent. It will now increase to a fixed rate of 8.5 percent.

Parents will pay nearly \$1,200 more for a PLUS loan at the new 8.5 percent rate compared to the current 6.1 percent rate, and \$300 dollars more at the new rate than they would have at the projected increase to 7.9 percent.

Students who are still enrolled and have yet to begin repaying their loans were once able to consolidate their loans to take advantage of lower interest rates. They will no longer be allowed to do this after July 21, Kubacak said.

Origination fees, which are deducted from the loan before it is disbursed to the student, said Kubacak, will be reduced from 3 percent to 2 percent on July 21. They will then be "reduced by .5 percent each year until the rate is at 1 percent," he said.

Another aspect of the law to take effect this year applies to Pell Grants, which are awarded to undergraduate students by the federal government and do not have to be repaid.

First and second-year students majoring in math, science, and selected foreign languages will be eligible for up to \$750 and \$1,300 a year, respectively. Third and fourth-year students may receive up to \$4,000 a year.

"This is one of the provisions we will have to wait for clarification from the Department of Education as

See BUDGET, Page 11

'Obviously, it could have a very negative impact on students going to college, which ultimately hurts the entire nation.'

--Dennis Michaelis, MCC President

Most of those changes will take effect on July 21 this year.

Stafford loans, given directly to students that can be either based on level of financial need with interest

said James Kubacak, Director of Financial Aid at MCC

That means for a \$10,000 in-school Stafford loan, a student pays almost \$1,000 more at the new interest rate over a four-year period.

Parent Loans for Undergraduate Students, or "PLUS loans," are loans given by the federal government, either directly or through private-lender companies, to parents of undergrads who meet the eligibility requirements. They can provide up to the full cost of the student's tuition, minus any other fi-

IRS's New 'Dungeons and Taxes'

Allen D. Fisher
Managing Editor

Virtual characters, virtual items, virtual money and, now, virtual taxes.

The Internal Revenue Service may soon be taxing game components that don't exist outside an imaginary computer-generated game world.

Trading game components for the massively multiplayer online role-playing games such as EverQuest, Ultima Online, Star Wars Galaxies, City of Heroes and World of Warcraft, are now being threatened with taxation.

Players buy the games, then participate online with thousands of other purchasers.

The player selects or creates a character such as a warrior or wizard, then starts on a quest doing battle

'The IRS is just trying to get people's money.'

--Levi Barner, Gamer

with other players or game-generated enemies. The character can "earn" advantages, or game components, such as imaginary weapons, potions and other "devices" that give enable the player to compete more successfully.

These components can be traded for other game pieces, or "bought" with "game money."

But these massive multiplayer online games, often called MMOs, have now become a new source of real income.



Levi Barner plays the online multiplayer game, Star Wars Galaxies.

Digital image by Allen Fisher

"On April 15, 2004, I will truthfully report to the IRS that my primary source of income is the sale of imaginary goods—and that I earn more from it, on a monthly basis, than I have ever earned as a professional writer," wrote Julian Dibbel, in "Legal Affairs," an online magazine dedicated to issues of law.

Dibbel said he made a total of \$11,000 on e-Bay selling imaginary goods that his character won, \$3,900 of which was in the final, most profitable month. All on a game called Ultima Online.

"It's ridiculous; it's just a game," said Levi Barner, a long time MMO gamer. "It's a private transaction between two people. The IRS is just trying to get people's money. And how are they going to track down every single sale?"

To play these online games, some kind of connection to the Internet is required. CD's to download the game can be purchased at almost any computer

or video game store, along with a game card for those who don't want to give your credit card number out over the Internet.

Almost all MMOs require a monthly fee, ranging

See TAXES, Page 11

Attention Students!

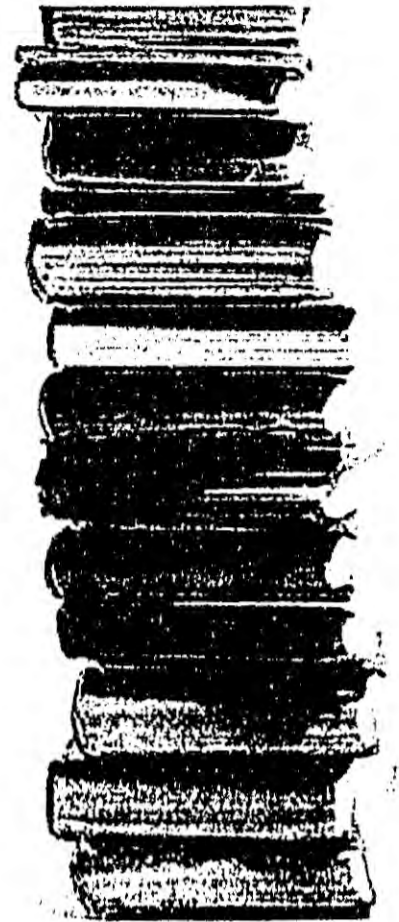
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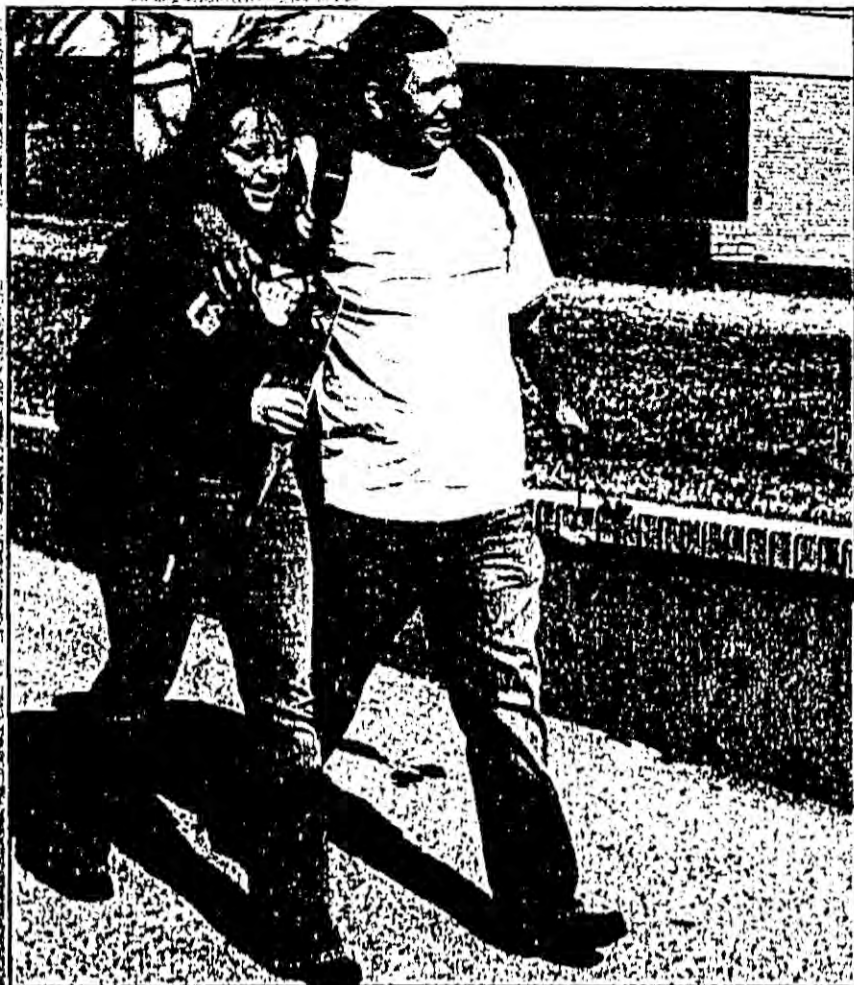
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'06 Valentine's Day at MCC



Edgar Barragan and Ana Ordones show off their carnations while leaving the LTC.



Freshmen Kim Travell and Ashley Satchell help out by unloading the coolers.



Freshman John Swan and Sophomore Erica Boswell celebrate Valentine's Day after dating for 11 months.

Kitty Clark
Staff Writer

The Learning Technology Center commotion of love on Valentine's Day as Activities hosted the annual Valentine's money for campus organizations and help community to the campus," said Alesha Activities Specialist.

Several groups including the Student Association, Nursing Students Baptist Student Ministry, sold Valentine's by

"This event has blossomed into a major various campus organizations," she said.

The Nurses Student Association sold candy bundles to raise money for and travel to conventions, said Barbara administrator.

Valentine's Day is a day to show what's true in your heart to those you love and to strangers, and for nurses, we need lots of caring all year round," said Tamara Krc, an MCC nursing student.

Baptist Student Ministry sold one-dollar carnations.

For all those guys who don't know what to buy for Valentine's Day, start with flowers and chocolate and you could never go wrong with a romantic dinner plan," BSM member Sabrina Cooper said.

The BSM sale plans to use the funds from the party to help with the costs of mission trips.

Some students who attended the party weren't as enthusiastic about the holiday.

Valentine's day is a day for card companies and chocolate factories to make extra money," said Cox, an architect major.

Barbara Hills, Computer Information Systems Instructor agreed, saying, "[Valentine's Day] is a 'Hallmark Holiday; chocolate, card and flower companies make a killing, plus it's a time for couples to try and outdo each other."

Barbara Hills admitted it was a chance to "keep up with the Joneses" but added, "It's also to show the one you love how much you love them."

Valentine's Day is supposed to be for that special someone, and appreciation for that person should be shown everyday, not just once a year," Reno Villella, an MCC student said.



Skylee Herring saves lives by donating to Carter Blood Care.

buzzed with the MCC Student Crush Party" to raise bring a sense of Vardeman, Student

Government Association and goodies to passers-

fundraising day for

baked goods and community projects Hills, MCC nursing

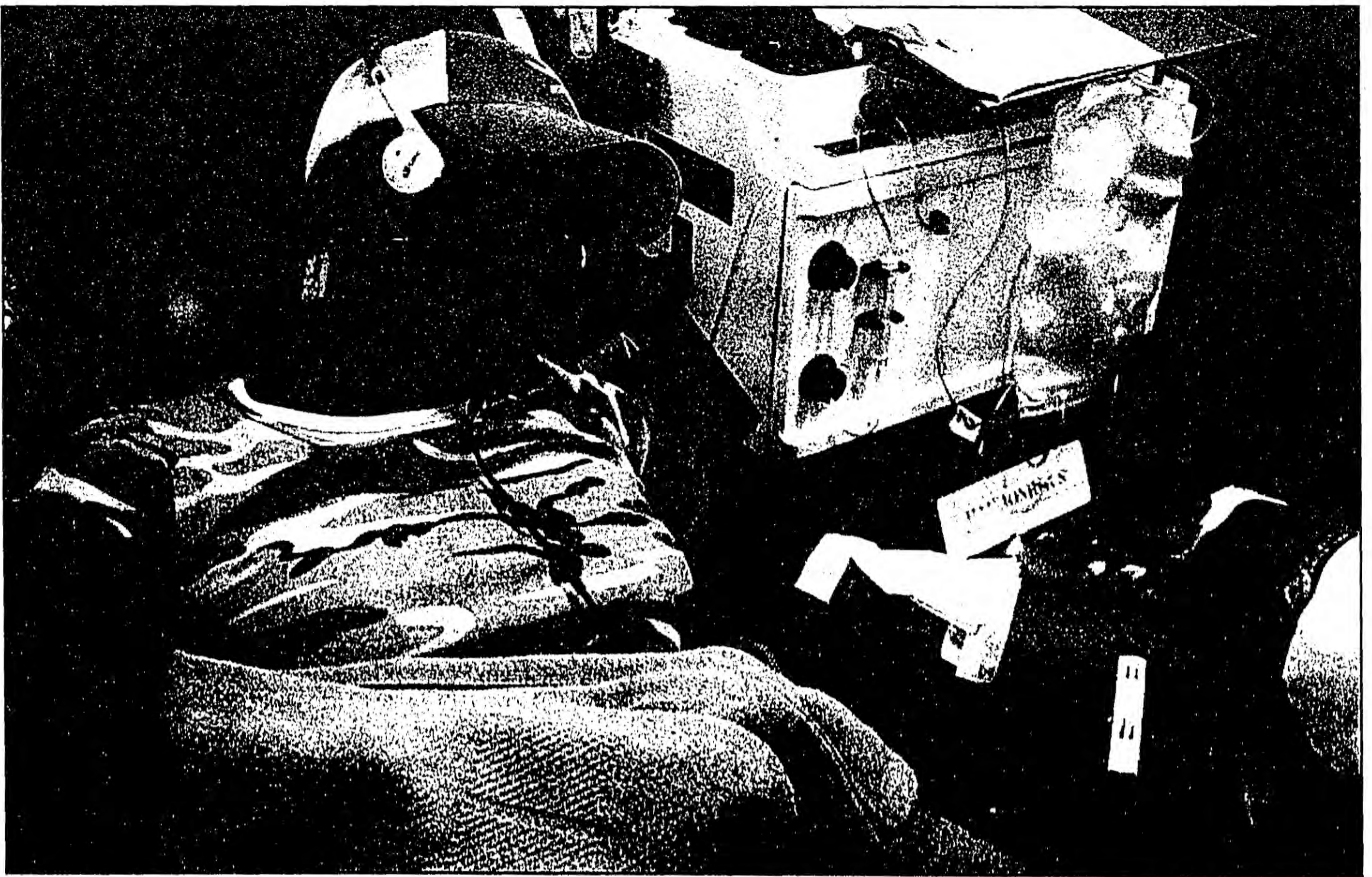


Alesha Vardeman, Dave Doy and Sabrina Cooper stop by the BSM booth.



Physical Therapy students Brad Robinson and Martha Anhalt light up the day by selling candles.

Digital Images by Kathryn Blake and Kitty Clark



Teneshla Raynor watches closely as the needle is inserted in her arm at the Phi Theta Kappa Blood Drive during the Valentine's Day Crush Party on Feb. 14 in the ITC.

Digital Image by Toby McElroy

PTK Draws Blood, Saves Lives

Cuyler Ayers
Staff writer

Since 2000, Phi Theta Kappa has tried to raise students' awareness about hospitals' constant need for blood by hosting four blood drives each year.

Phi Theta Kappa, MCC's honor society, hosted its third blood drive of the school year at the Valentine's Day celebration.

"We want to encourage MCC students to start donating now so that they will get used to donating blood over their lifetimes and that they will be regular donors," said Troy Dodge, Phi Theta Kappa Acting Service Team Leader.

The drives are spaced to maximize the amount of blood collected.

"We try to keep it at two (per semester) because a person can only donate blood every three months and by spacing it out like that we give people the opportunity to donate each time," Dodge said.

Carter Blood Care draws the blood on behalf of Hillcrest and Providence hospitals in Waco.

Carter does about 40 blood drives a day, most of which take place in the Metroplex.

Each MCC drive collects an estimated 50 to 75 units, equaling on average 200 to 300 units each year, Dodge said.

"Carter takes the blood, and then they'll divide it among (hospitals) where it's needed," Dodge said.

"The blood here usually stays in Waco," he said.

Donated blood can play a crucial role in determining a patient's survival.

"For a healthy person to donate blood, it's not a problem for their body at all; they can reproduce the blood, but for someone who is in a dire situation in a hospital or for someone who has a blood disease, it's very important to them," Dodge said.

Dodge went on to describe the donation process.

"It takes probably just under an hour for one person to donate. You have to give some personal information--you fill out a form and then you get a blood-donor card. If you don't already have one--and of course you get a free t-shirt," he said.

"I think giving blood is positive because you can help somebody that's not as fortunate," said Teneshla Raynor, a blood donor.

Donors received a free t-shirt. The Spring semester's Joy Drive will take place at MCC's Easter celebration in the

spring.

If you would like to donate, the Carter Blood Care center is located at New Road and Waco Drive right by On the Border. Their office hours are: Monday thru Thursday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Casey Smith winces and holds a friend's hand as she gives blood at the Phi Theta Kappa Blood Drive on Feb. 14 in the ITC.

Digital Image by Toby McElroy

TAXES, *From Page 6*

from \$10 to \$15.

"Why the sudden interest? That's what I want to know," said an online trader, who refused to give their real name out of IRS fear.

"I have done this for about 5 years now, and it's getting me through college. I worked at a game store, but that wasn't enough. I'm making more money now than I did working there. Why does the IRS want to tax money that doesn't really exist?"

EverQuest, an online game with 450,000 subscribers, has playable characters that range from Wood Elves, a race of humanoids that live in trees, to Vah Shir, a cat-like race from the moon. In the virtual world, the kind of imaginary economic activity can be measured in real-world terms like "gross domestic product."

"Eh, it's not going to change the game really," said Ben Borom, another long term gamer. "It's still going to be a game, and soon it will fall and a different game will take its place."

But just how much do these items and accounts cost? Try \$650 to \$1300 for a high level character on any given game. Even \$35 to \$40 for large amounts of currency. This leads up to a possible \$880 million exchanging hands, according to e-Bay pricing totals.

Getting fair prices on these virtual currency/dollar exchanges can prove challenging, since there is no reliable data to get a set value.

"I have looked at this data acquisition issue for some time and...keep hitting a brick wall," said Dan Hunter, an assistant professor of legal studies and business ethics at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

These transactions take place in the real world and the online world. An advertisement of the product is sold on an online auction, such as eBay, and when the real cash money is received, the players will meet back up in the game to exchange the money.

There are now even online companies, such as IGE or a Chinese website called GameUSD, that will sell online currency, acting like a "middle man" to sell to other players.

Gamers expressed worry about just how far this will go, with taxes now, and then come the insurance claims next week.

BUDGET, *From Page 6*

far as eligibility and other provisions," Kubacak said.

One component of the law that will take effect July 21, 2007 is an increase in limits for subsidized Stafford loans by approximately \$1,000 for both first and second-year students.

"It is important to note that there is no increase in the aggregate lifetime maximum of \$23,000," Kubacak said.

Much of the "savings" included in the law "comes at the expense of the student," he said.

'College loans secured by the federal government helped this "poor South Waco kid" go to college. Military policy may dictate domestic cutbacks, but let's not put the burden on the backs of students.'

adding "While the effect of the bill will not greatly impact MCC, the impact on our students will be delayed until the student borrowers go into repayment with the higher interest rates, ..."

Supporters of bill have said that the new budget saves needless spending on "inefficient" social programs in order to offset the national deficit.

Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX), state Sen. Kip Averitt (R-TX 22nd) and Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX) could not be reached for comment.

Others have said the bill unfairly places the burden of paying off the national debt on college students and their parents.

State Rep. Jim Dunning (D-TX 57th) called the bill "short-sighted."

"I think that we need to be doing things to make

college easier for people rather than more difficult," he said.

"At the state level there have been a lot of bad things happening in regard to making college accessible, from tuition deregulation, which has increased tuition costs at the state institutions severely, to the elimination of the Texas Tomorrow Fund, which was an outstanding program, ..." Dunning said, adding that it will "cost the state and the country in the long-run."

Rep. Chet Edwards (D-TX 17th) has also said that the bill will "harm America's future," according to a press release from his office on Feb 1.

The "student aid cuts won't reduce the deficit. Instead, they are being pushed so the Congressional leadership can pass an extension of recent temporary dividend cuts that give a \$220,000 annual tax break to those making \$1 million a year in dividend income," Edwards said.

Some local MCC faculty also shared their views on the bill.

"Governments establish national agendas. What are our priorities? It may be as simple as the issue of relevance," said Paul Holder, instructor of political science, adding "College loans secured by the federal government helped this 'poor South Waco kid' go to college. Military policy may dictate domestic cutbacks, but let's not put the burden on the backs of students."

Dennis Michaelis, President of MCC, expressed concern about the raising of interest rates on loans.

"I certainly think it is most unfortunate that students will be forced to pay much higher interest rates on student loans. Obviously, it could have a very negative impact on students going to college, which ultimately hurts the entire nation," Michaelis said.

Michaelis also voiced disappointment with budget recommendations that were proposed after President Bush signed it into law.

"... Many of the government-funded programs were literally zeroed out that will have an adverse effect on community colleges in particular," Michaelis said.

"The loss of Perkins funding would be especially harmful to our college because much of the funding we receive to keep our workforce programs up to date with equipment and technology comes from Perkins funding," he said.



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'Nanette' brings NYC to MCC

Matthew Clark
Staff Writer

MCC feels a little bit more like New York City this month, with the opening of the McLennan Theater Department's production of the classic Broadway musical "No, No Nanette".

"No, No Nanette" was a 1925 musical transformation of the 1919 three-act play, "My Lady Friends".

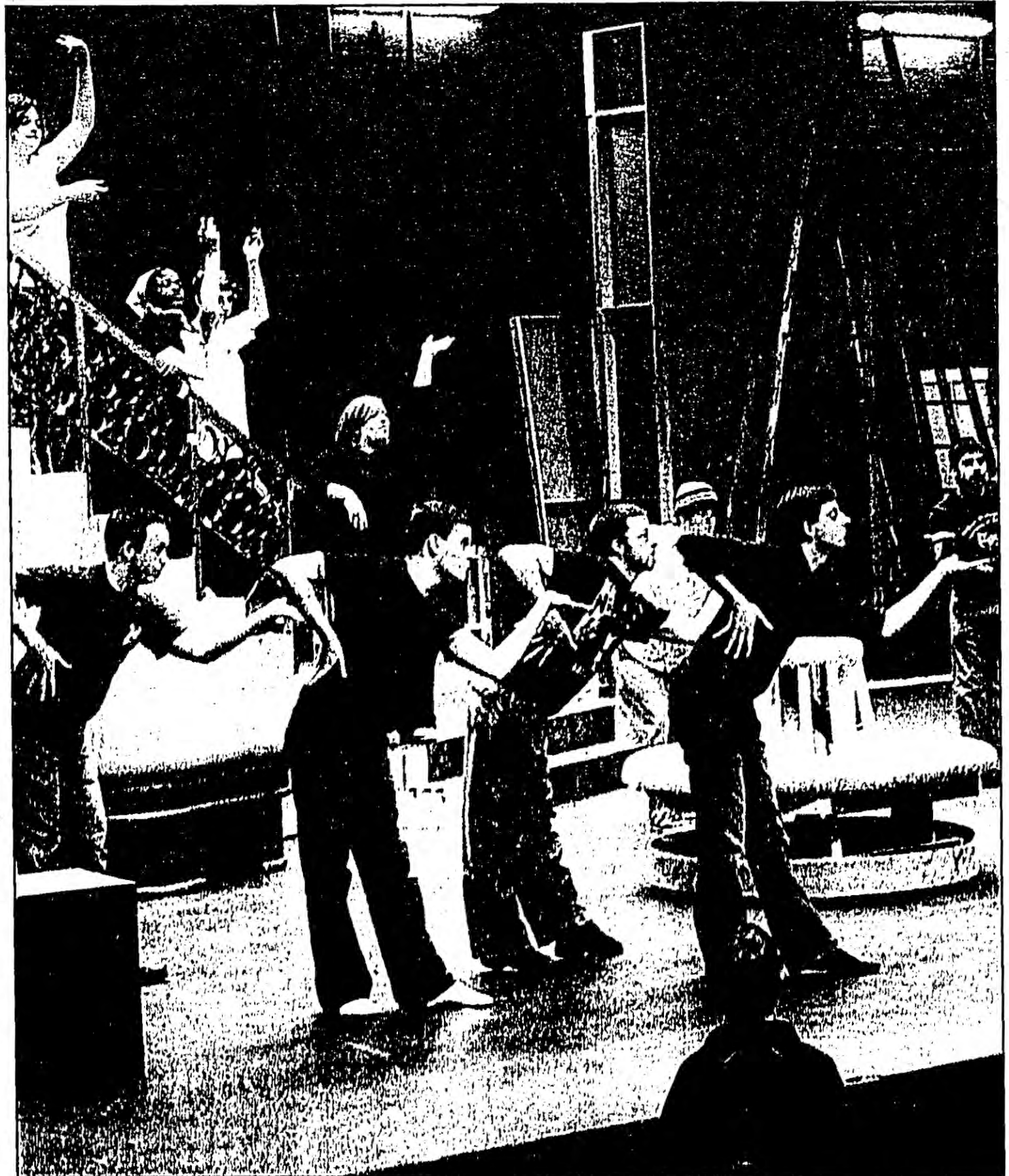
The characters are the same, but the newly added songs made huge hits out of the Broadway show tunes.

The two most famous songs from the show are "I Want to Be Happy" and "Tea for Two."

"All of these were big hits and they've sustained over the years," said Jerry MacLauchlin, director and choreographer.

The 1925 hit musical enjoyed a profitable run on Broadway, but eventually became a distant memory for theatre patrons as newer, flashier musicals and movies captured audiences' attentions.

For a nostalgic walk down memory lane, "Nanette" was revived in 1971, reworking the dialogue and inserting several large dance



No, no Nanette will feature classic musical numbers and full-cast dance routines.

Digital Images by Neil Watson

"All of these were big hits and they've sustained over the years."

--Jerry MacLauchlin

numbers.

The show became an even bigger success the second time around, winning Tony Awards, Drama Desk Awards and a Theatre World Award.

"[The revival] started at the Goodspeed Opera House," said MacLauchlin. "Back in the late sixties and all through the seventies, Goodspeed would get old properties—properties are what you call the plays, the musicals—redo them, give them a little twist and bring them back to life."

The story revolves around Jimmy Smith, a Bible salesman worth 250 thousand dollars who lives in an upscale New York apartment with his wife Sue and niece Nanette.

Jimmy has traveled the country selling Bibles, and during three specific stops on his nationwide trips three different girls have asked Jimmy for money, who graciously obliges since he can spare it.

"It's completely innocent; he's extremely naïve, but the girls think it's something else," said Addison Roush who plays Jimmy's attorney, Billy. "They think he's "Sugar Daddy" and so they contact him to get more money."

Fearing that Sue will get the wrong impression if these girls keep trying to call him, Jimmy asks Billy to take care of the situation.

Meanwhile Nanette's boyfriend Tom has just proposed marriage to her.

"Everyone thinks that she and Tom are going to get married and of course they are,



"It's a twenties musical, everything is happy-go-lucky; just have fun with it."

--Addison Roush

but she wants to raise a little hell first and go to Atlantic City," said MacLauchlin.

The plot begins to unfold when all of the principal characters, including the family maid, decide to go to Atlantic City; each with their own reasons, each not expecting to find the others when they get there.

"So somebody overhears somebody saying something and there are always these mistaken assumptions. There's a lot of comic relief trying to keep the real reasons hidden," MacLauchlin said.

Roush, a sophomore from Waco, has been involved

See NANETTE, Page 15

Rebecca Taflin Stars in 'Nanette'

Christina Taylor
Staff Writer

MCC theater sophomore Rebecca Taflin took an interesting road onto the stage. Her inspiration to pursue theater didn't come from watching movie stars or for the love of money.

"Music is what got me involved in theater. I would say around middle school I became interested after seeing my grandfather in a play. Well, my grandfather and grandmother both inspired me," Taflin said.

Taflin said her passions include film and live theater. "I love live theater for the memory and it's a great experience."



Rebecca Taflin rehearses for "Ramayana" last semester.

Digital

ience. I also like film because you can change many locations to achieve different effects."

Taflin isn't a native Wacoan.

"I was born in Las Vegas and moved to Los Angeles til' I was thirteen. I have been living here the past seven years."

"I can't say that I liked playing one particular role more than another because each role asks something different from you."

-- Rebecca Taflin

Taflin has spent the past seven years living in what she calls "The best kept secret in the nation."

"MCC is the best place to be if you're a freshman or sophomore because at a four-year college as a freshman you won't get the stage time you do at a two-year college," Taflin said. "In both theater and art it rivals many schools," Taflin said.

"My first roles onstage were Puck in 'Midsummer Nights Dream' and Hodel in 'Fiddler on the Roof'," Taflin said.

Being in a production is nothing new to this theater veteran. Taflin has performed in four plays, including "La Strada", "A Man for all Seasons", "A Few Stout Individuals", and "Ramayana", as well as an opera called "The Globolinks".

Choosing a favorite role was difficult.

"I can't really say that I liked playing one particular role more than another because each role asks something different from you."



Rebecca Taflin poses with fellow drama students at a spotlight performance last semester.

Digital image by Lauren McCutchin

ent from you. For instance in a Few Stout Individuals I played Mrs. Grant, Ulysses S. Grant's wife, a complex and deep character. And I played piano in La Strada in a street magician setting. It was a play within a play, a very physical comedy," Taflin said.

Several factors determine who gets cast in MCC productions.

"We do have auditions. There are three parts to auditions: singing, dancing, and acting. This gives them a way to see the range of character and to narrow people down. Then they do call backs to those they feel portrayed the character the best and to get us in a closer setting," Taflin said.

The upcoming flapper-era musical "No, No, Nanette," set around a summer weekend in New York City and on the beach in Atlantic City, demands a lot from its cast.

"I play Nanette. It's set in 1925 around a character named Jimmy Smith. He is my uncle and guardian—a Bible salesman that people trick into giving them money. There are two tap numbers and its amazing to see how the cast pulls together," she said.

"There are three acts so it takes a lot of energy, overall we practice about thirty hours a week," Taflin said.

The production is a combined effort, and Jerry MacLauchlin puts his all into producing a show and has us look good. He



Rebecca Taflin has been a part of many productions in her two years at McLennan Community College.

Budget Slashes Student Loans

Now it's pay up or sign up

Brent Losak
Editor in Chief

I'd say "grab your wallet," but I'd be too late. President Bush signed away about 12 billion bucks of your college money on Feb. 8 last week. And no, this ain't "guns or butter," folks. What do we need butter for anyway? The president just snatched our toast and gave it to Don Rumsfeld. He likes it with the crusts cut off, in the shape of a little Pentagon, and slathered in blood-red strawberry jam. If our national budget represents our national priorities, what does this say about our priorities? Funds for education, Medicare and Medicaid, veteran's benefits and health care are taken and funneled into the "Defense" Department, which is the same old Department of War, despite the name change. Pentagon spending goes up 6.9 percent, weighing in at \$439 billion. College students and their parents will be facing higher interest rates on loans, meaning more people simply won't be able to afford to go to college because of the threat of this greater debt. I guess that's what Bush meant when he said that the

country's greatest advantage has always been not only its educated, ambitious people, but it's hardworking people.

Because cutting student-loan programs means a less-educated America and a less-educated America is one with a larger pool of unskilled laborers who become more and more expendable in the eyes of service-industry employers.

Wages go down, work-hours go up and power further concentrates in the hands of the wealthy.

The backers of this continued military buildup foil their own efforts at increasing national security because a less-educated nation is more xenophobic and less tolerant of the "other," thereby perpetuating cultural conflict between the United States and the rest of the world.

Soviet Russia watched so many of its people become more impoverished and eventually starve while ramping up military spending and we condemned them for it.

'Scuse me America, but could you take a moment and use "Old Glory" to wipe the log out of your eye?

Then again, maybe we want to dumb down the population.

After all, a less-educated nation is more credulous, more willing to follow right along down any ol' rabbit

trail, or better still, any ol' warpath Poppa Bush wants to lead them down, without credible evidence, without moral justification at all even.

Oh and hey! Guess what kids? You can't pay for college anymore? No problem! Just join the armed-forces and they'll promise you that money, and if you live you may even get to collect some of it one day.

Yes, just trade in your soul, and your body, to the military-industrial complex, and they'll tell you everything you want to hear.

Coincidentally enough, this may just solve that shortage of armed-services enlistment that's been goin' around lately. That's a nice, neat ancillary benefit for the powers-that-be.

There's nothing like a de-facto economic conscription policy to kill two birds with one stone.

Let's just hope those courageous young patriots aren't so malnourished and diseased by cheap fast-food and lack of health care that they can't weather the tempest of battle.

Let's all hope they aren't too dumb to not know the difference between a noble cause and a quagmire.

50 Cent Unfit: Rapper not worth his namesake

Domlnk Young
Staff Writer

One has to be disgusted when seeing 50 Cent in a Black History Month display. Is this who young African-Americans idolize? A black history icon should be someone who sacrificed everything for a cause such as Crispus Attucks, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rosa Parks. That individual's main goal must be to inspire people instead of, "Get rich or die tyrin'". An editorial by Allhiphop.com columnist Dason Allah questions "Fiddy" about the G-Unit brand in which the label uses the word "gorilla" instead of "guerilla." You can't blame him since many white supremacists refer to African Americans as primates. During the Civil Rights Movement, children could see their parents as positive role models. Now, they're being raised by crack-heads, thugs, and dead-beats with lose morals. This is evident when seeing 50 Cent's son on television introduce him as "my nigga." Instead of raising his son to be more productive, the rapper is allowing him to promote ignorance. It has always been known that there is tension between African-Americans and the federal government. Hurricane Katrina exposed this to the masses. Many of 50 Cent's peers reprimanded the federal government for its response. Grammy-winner Kanye West spoke of possible racism with his controversial "George Bush doesn't care about Black people" statement while David Banner wrote about class conflict in a Sohh.com article.



"people responded to it the best way they can." Also, the rapper lashed at Kanye West for doing what so many civil rights leaders did before him.

"What Kanye West was saying, I don't know where that come from."

50 Cent's statements have some irony since a

Republican-dominated House committee came to his peers' conclusion, according to the Associated Press.

Tell me again why this rapper is included in a Black History Month display, because he obviously lacks the merits.

Contiactjnsle.com quoted 50 Cent saying he felt

'Landers Beat Wharton

Lance E. Allen
Sports writer

The Highlanders defeated Wharton County 6-3 in a Feb. 13 non-conference game.

The game started with Aaron Williams pitching for the 'Landers.

While he was in, Williams threw four strike-outs and walked only one batter.

The scoring drive started in the bottom of the second with Steffan Guest hitting an R.B.I.

In the fourth inning, Guest added another number to his stats with a home-run to left center that put the 'Landers up 3-0.

In the top of the sixth, Cody Railsback was brought in to pitch, but hit two batters back to back and gave up a run.

Things brightened up when P.J. Burns was brought in to relieve Railsback.

Burns proceeded to strike out three batters in a row.

Wharton had one last chance to score in the top of the seventh, but failed to crack the the 'Landers awesome defense.

An MCC Highlander pitcher lets loose a scorching pitch during a Spring game.



Digital image by Christina Taylor

LASSIES, From Page 5

Concerning Brittany Rutherford, Rhodes said it was too early to speculate when the injured freshman would be back on the court.

"She could be out for another couple of weeks or the length of the season. We just don't know yet," said Rhodes. "We won't know until she goes to a doctor to take a MRI."

Up next, the Weatherford Lady Coyotes (12-10, 7-3) host the Highlassies on Feb. 15 and then the Lady Rangers (3-19, 0-10) come to play Feb. 18 at The Highlands.

Said Rhodes, "We travel to Weatherford on Wednesday, and that's not an easy place to play. If we play like [we have been], our chances are good. But that's where we just have to take it one game at a time."

NANETTE, From Page 12

seven MCC productions and said his favorite part of "No, No Nanette" is the dancing.

"Ballroom dancing is most of the stuff I've learned, and it's a lot of fun. It's really hard though," Roush said.

There are other types of dancing in the show, including a form of jazz that MacLauchlin refers to as "character dance" as well as tap.

"There are three numbers that specifically, just the way the rhythm structure is, it just calls for tap," said MacLauchlin.

Theatergoers should expect many sizable production numbers, some with the full cast of 28 students.

Roush said he thinks that audiences are going to enjoy it a lot. "It's a twenties musical, everything is happy-go-lucky; just have fun with it."

"No, No Nanette" runs Feb. 23-25 and Mar. 2-4 at the Ball Performing Arts Center.

For more information, call the MCC Box Office at 299-8200 Mon. through Fri. between 1-5 p.m.

Drop Us a Line


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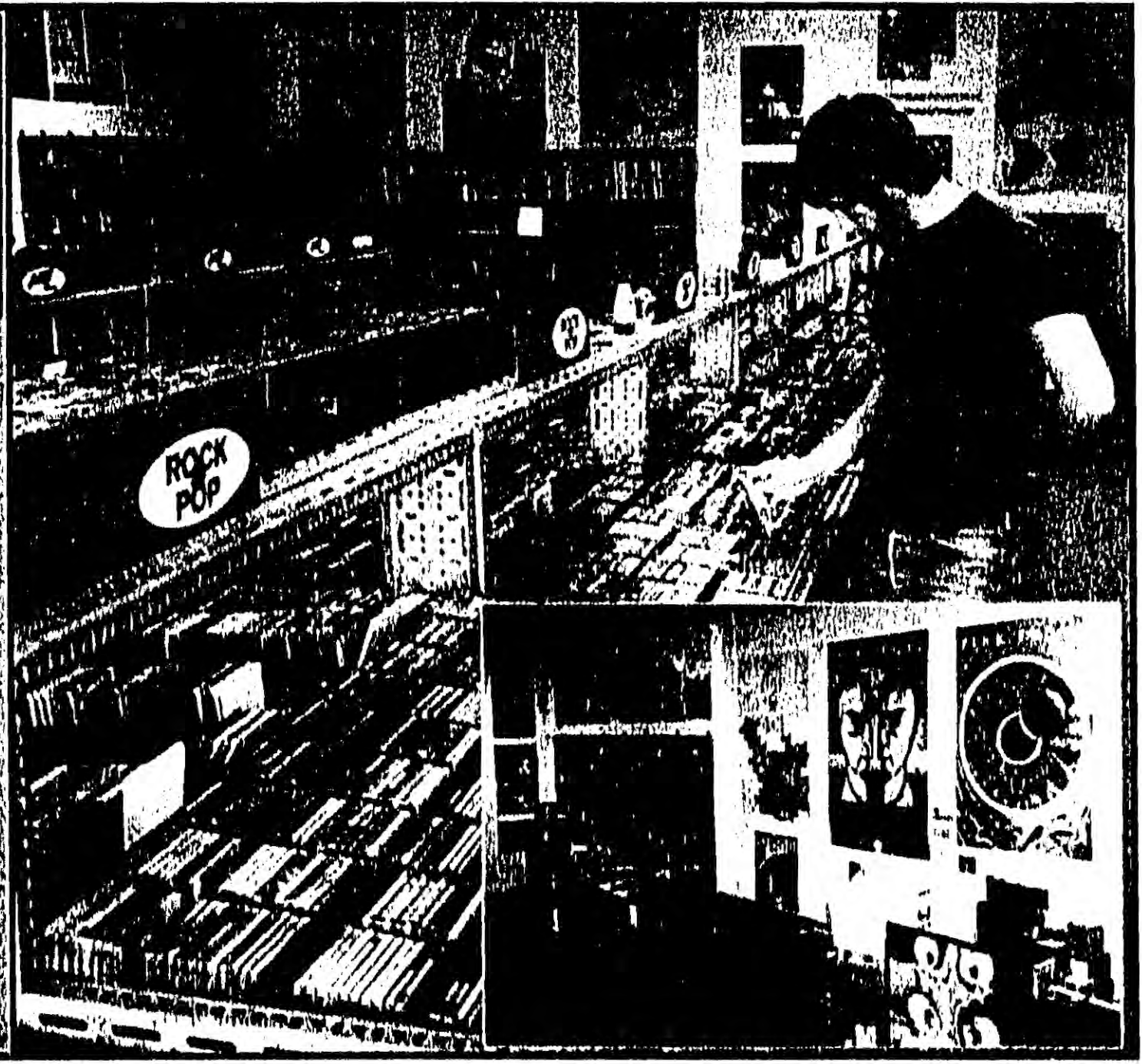
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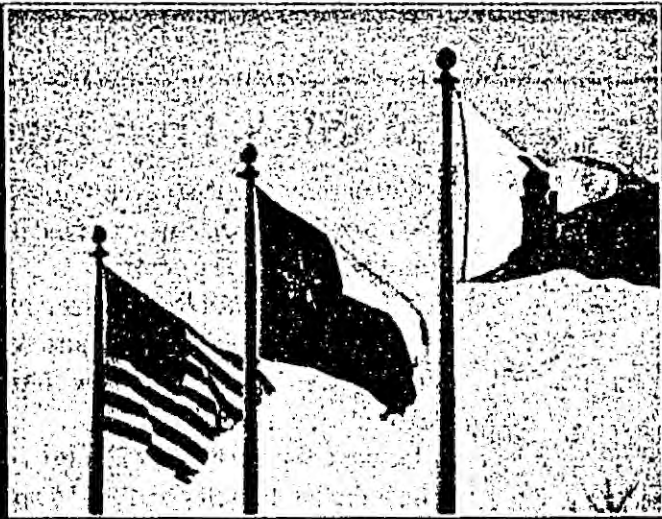


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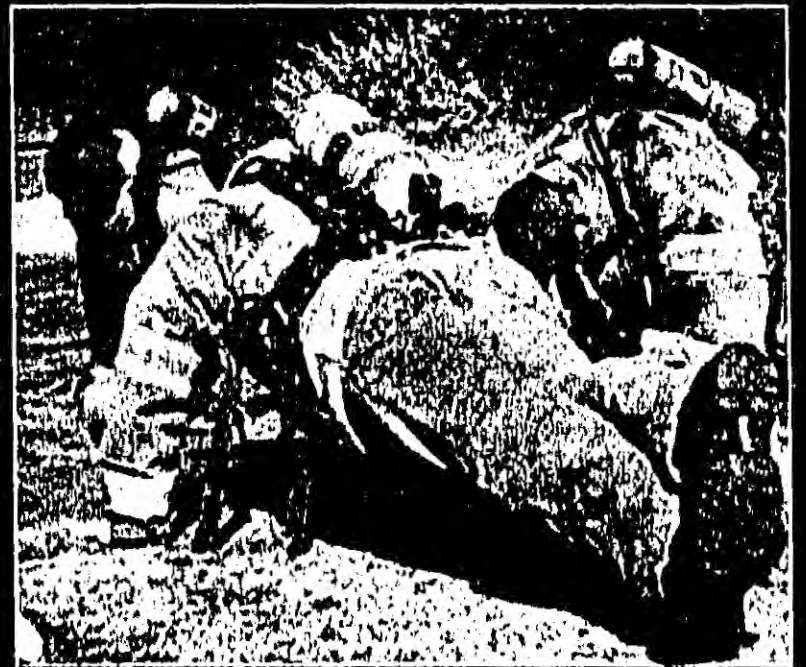
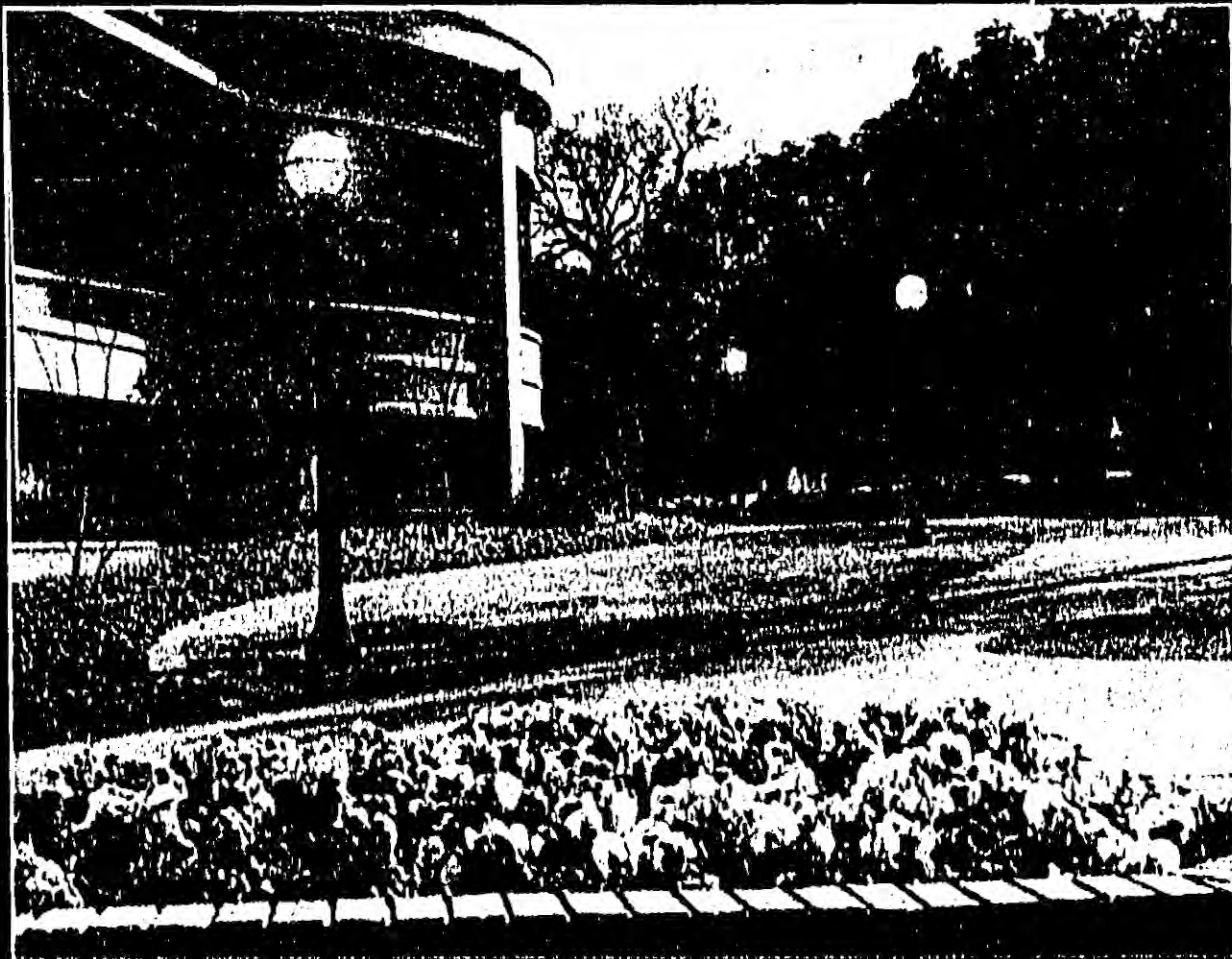
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