Volume 40, Number 6

McLennan Community College, Waco, TX http://www.mclennan.edu/hherald/index.htm

March 24, 2003

GSA hosts first meeting

Erica Sanchez Staff writer

Gay students and their supporters now have like-minded people to turn to on campus because of a new organization, the Gay-Straight Alliance.

The organization, which had its first meeting on March 18 with a turnout of about 10, brings students together to fight discrimination and support gay and lesbian students.

Alesha Vardemen, student activities coordinator, said she was proud of the students for stepping up and starting the organization.

The idea originally came from Tabitha Maler, GSA president, who said she soon found others who shared the same goal.

"I just want (people) to know that we are not going anywhere and we deserve the right to be here just as much as any other organization. We are normal, everyday people just like everyone else," Maler said.

The founders were warned of the difficulties and negative feedback they might receive by starting the organization, Maler said.

Faculty Advisor Julie Groman said the attitudes of discrimination against gays are based on ignorance.

"The more education, the more the community will understand," Groman

She would like to see the group educate those people, she said.

Police Report:

Suspect shot

police chase

A 34-year-old narcotics

suspect was shot after he led

Texas Department of Public Safety

officers on a high-speed pursuit

onto MCC Campus, according to

DPS narcotics officers said they

had the suspect under surveillance

as he went to area stores to

purchase chemicals used in

making and manufacturing meth-

Officers called a marked car to

stop the suspect's vehicle, but the

man tried to evade police, officers

Troopers chased the driver onto the MCC campus, where officers tried to block his escape,

The suspect then tried to run over a narcotics officer, the report

The agent said he fired several shots at the fleeing suspect in self

Officers found the suspect in a

After he told troopers he had

drainage ditch two miles away after

he abandoned his vehicle, officers

been shot, the suspect was

transported by ambulance to

Hillcrest Hospital, treated and then

later released into officers'

custody and held at McLennan

Sonny Douglas VanZandt, 34,

has been charged with attempted

capital murder, felony evading

arrest, and possession of

chemicals with intent to

manufacture, the DPS report

McLennan Community College,

campus police received many

See "Police" Page 2

Before spring break began,

defense, not knowing that one

shot hit him in the left bicep.

according to a DPS report.

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LaSonya Darby

Staff writer

DPS troopers.

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Digital image by Jorge Trujillo

Students discuss the Gay-Straight Alliance and its objectives.

Many at the meeting agreed that Waco's location in the "Bible Belt" makes it difficult to establish and make known organizations that support gays.

The group seeks to involve its members in other organizations such as Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, The Court, Gay and Lesbian Alliance of Central Texas, and the Gay Rodeo Association.

Many of the students at the meeting said they did not know these organizations existed in Central Texas.

Waco also has pride events, which

include a parade and a formal dance.

Members will be given opportunities to attend these events, as well as gay-pride events in Dallas and Austin, which include the National Day of Silence, when people gather to recognize and protest the silence gay people face each day.

The group will also participate in the Highland Games on April 25.

"Just being involved in the organization does not make you gay. After all it is a straight world and it means a lot to have someone who is not gay standing up for you," Maler said.

"We have a lot of strong-minded people who really want to see this organization get off the ground."

The organization meets every other Tuesday at 1 p.m. in the old student center.

Students at institutions other than MCC are encouraged to attend, but because of campus regulations they cannot become members.

Faculty advisors are Julie Groman, Kim Roppolo and Jerry MacLauchlin.

Seven percent cuts continuing threat to MCC finances

Erica Sanchez Kelly Coleman Staff writers

McLennan Community College is still playing the waiting game to see when, and if, budget cuts will go into affect.

The seven percent cut in community colleges' budget that Gov. Rick Perry proposed has not been approved by the legislature yet, but MCC must be prepared to run the school on a reduced budget, said Dennis Michaelis, President of McLennan Community College.

Parking lot construction has been delayed and a hiring freeze is in place, Michaelis said.

Tuition may be raised next year to make up for the lost budget money, but officials are trying to effect students as little as possible, he said.

"At any rate, we at MCC and other community colleges simply must be looking at what we will do if the reduction is passed," Kent Hoeffner, Liberal Arts Division Director, said.

my division and identity specific areas where there might be funds that we could function without spending," Hoeffner said.

Short-term affects of the budget cut include reducing the availability of new equipment. Old printers used in the computerized English classrooms may not be replaced. Instructors who might have planned to purchase new videotapes for classroom use may not be able to, Hoeffner

"In the short run, the places we will have to cut in my area would probably not be particularly apparent to students. In the long run...well, that's another matter," he said.

The Heart of Texas Council of Governments is not a state agency, but since they receive money from the agencies they must also prepare for the seven

percent cut. HOTCOG is an organization formed in 1966 in order to help cities, counties and school districts deal with federal and state governments. It handles a

number of projects and programs' under grants and contracts provided by state agencies, , said Leon Willhite, Executive Director of HOTCOG.

"We will be impacted just like MCC will be. We are in the middle of this business and we are very concerned about what's done," Willhite said.

The Texas Workforce Commission gives HOTCOG about 15 million dollars annually in grant money. Local TWC employees also work with HOTCOG daily, he said.

State agencies have also been directed to reduce 7 percent of their budgets over the remainder of the fiscal year. This means that they have to cut out 7 percent of this year's money between now and the end of August, he said.

That is almost like cutting 14 percent for a full twelve months, Willhite said.

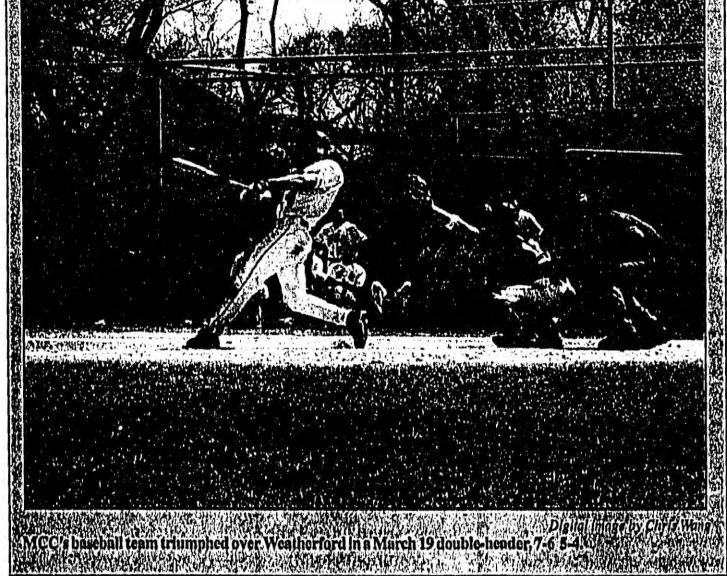
"It is a pretty healthy cut. Seven percent is more than "At this point I've been asked to seven percent per year, it's look carefully at the budget in seven percent of years worth to absorb in about seven months," Willhite said:

... In order to decide how HOTCOG will make up for each seven percent cut in their different grants, they will follow the instructions that all state agencies were given, Willhite said.

Willhite said the instructions include minimizing the impact of direct services, eliminating foreign travel and eliminating capital purchases for the rest of the year, such as the purchase of computers.

Additionally, consultants and professional services are to be reduced or eliminated when possible. Agencies are also directed to reduce administrative costs, which may mean cutting staff such as accountants, administrative staff or department heads.

Staff cuts are a possibility. but that will be avoided as much as possible, he said, adding that HOTCOG will first try to cut back travel or capital expenditures.



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MCC President honored

Dr. Michaelis to receive Shirley B. Gordon Award

Kelly Coleman Staff writer

Phi Theta Kappa International Michaelis' essay.

has chosen McLennan Community College President Dr. Dennis Michaelis to receive the Shirley B. Gordon Award at the Phi Theta Kappa International Convention in Annheim, CA., on April 4.

"The honor really isn't mine, the honor is the society's," Dr. Michaells said. "What really makes this award special

is that it's student nominated." Gordon award nominees must he college presidents or campus CROs of two-year and four-year colleges. An essay written by a

Member and Student Government It is presented to

> 15-20 recipients annually out of himdreds of nominations from four countries.

Recipients are honored for demonstrating support for a Phi Theta Kappa chapter or the society as a whole.

"This prestigious award is huge for our college as a whole, in

addition to him personally," said Alesha Vardeman, Phi Theta Kappa advisor.

Michaells

"Bach chapter of Phi Theta Kappa is allowed to nominate one person," Vardeman said, "There Phl Theta Kappa member about are 55 chapters in Texas alone, is enhancing our reputation as a

application for the award, in the United States, plus chapters in Germany, Japan and Canada President Bill Mears wrote Dr. and there are hundreds of nominees."

> "There is no better friend to us than Dr. Michaelis," Mears "He has always been available

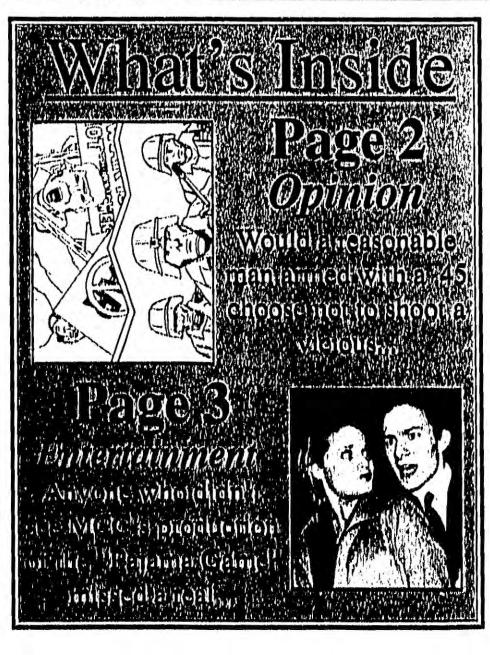
to our organization and is a good all-around guy."

Dr. Michaelis commended Phi Theta Kuppa for its contributions to MCC.

"They've done many service projects and are doing a great job," Dr. Michaelis said.

Mears said the award is about even more than recognizing one person; it's about recognizing a college.

"This is a great honor not only for him, but for MCC, because it the chapter's nominee is the entire Add that to all of the other chapter great school," Mears said.



Is it simply unnecessary?

Dylan Smith

Staff writer

The most wealthy and powerful nation in world history has spoken and, by the time this is printed, will be at war with a third world dictatorship-a dictatorship, like a score of others, that has weapons of mass destruction (WMDs).

The aggressor in this case, the United States, is also the nation with the world's biggest stockpile of WMDs and the only nation in history to use nuclear weapons in conflict.

The rest of the world, meanwhile, shouts in opposition to this war. In one poll after another a majority of the world opposes a pre-emptive attack under any circumstances. In addition, a great number support such action only with UN backing. There is a landslide majority of the world that opposes what the U.S. is doing.

And, by low estimates, 90 million Americans-four times the population of Iraq—openly oppose this unprovoked attack. That is quite an amazing number when you consider that, according to a study by Fairness and Accuracy In Reporting (FAIR), on U.S. network news programs only 17 percent of 393 on-camera sources "represented skeptical or critical positions on the U.S.'s war policy".

Despite practically being an island in a sea of opposition, George Bush is moving forward with a crusade to bring democracy to Iraq. But what does Bush mean by "democracy"?

Will this be a democracy where ordinary citizens debate and set the agenda for the country and the leaders reflect that agenda? Or will Bush's Iraq be the all-to-familiar "democracy" where the president pays no attention to anyone but his own circle of advisers who set the agenda, and the

his every word? The latter is an American system: Bush pays no attention to the people; the people listen in awe to Bush. It is in fact no democracy at all, and it is the system that George Bush seeks to implement in Iraq and beyond.

people submit to his rule and hang on

The Bush plan would enlist the help of a U.S. oil corporation to rebuild Iraq's oil fields when they are likely destroyed. The Pentagon contract was given to a subsidiary of Halliburton Company, for which Vice President Dick Cheney served as vice president from 1995 to 2000.

Also planned is a U.S. occupation of Iraq for up to two years. Details of the plan have not been revealed, but its major objective is to set up a government for the Iraqis. Whether they will appreciate the U.S. occupying their land for two years makes no difference to the Bush Administration. The message is, "We know what's best for you." And that message is sure to inspire more terrorist attacks, as the CIA and FBI have warned.

This is why opposition to this war is so widespread. But it matters not to the President. His advisers, like Chency, Rumsfeld, Wolfowitz, and Perle, have intended to conquer Iraq and control the Middle East's resources since the early 1990s. September 11 merely provided an opportunity to implement their dwindling fantasy.

How many informed Americans were concerned about Iraq when

McLennan Community College



Saudi Arabian terrorists killed 3,000 Americans over a year ago? None, but the administration was chomping

at the bit for it. And now Bush is ruling our country like a king and hiding behind the veil of "democracy."

Was it simply unavoidable?

Anson McCarty

Staff writer

Would a reasonable man armed with a .45 choose not to shoot a vicious thug who is in the process of brutally raping his wife? I should hope not, and most would agree. Should Great Britain and the United States have turned a blind eye toward Nazi Germany and simply have allowed Hitler and his henchmen carte blanche to commit the vilest of atrocities against the Jews and other non-Aryan Europeans? While the average pimple-faced skinhead with an IQ of 75 might mutter something like "Hell, yeah", finding an intelligent person who would agree to that notion, I hope, would be considerably more difficult. And who in his right mind would choose to stand by and allow a despotic tyrant to violate every human dignity of his own people, mutilating and killing political dissidents while engaging in ethnic genocide. The answer is surprising... almost the entire World community...

Strangely enough, those who would prefer that Kurdish and Shiite children asphyxiate on mustard gas rather than violate Saddam Hussein's supposed rights of selfdetermination include a good portion of the American pseudointellectual elite...actors like Martin Sheen, who believe it is not merely the actors duty to entertain and snort cocaine off of the buttocks of a Hollywood hooker, but to educate the Great Unwashed Masses as well (because as we all know, actors on the whole are so

well informed); knee-jerk liberal activists like Michael Moore, who have taken national self-loathing and developed it into an art form; and let us not forget, the average 18-22 college student, who by day, skips political science class to wave the old, clichéd "Make Love Not War" poster and by night, competes with his fellow 'activists' to see who can transport a maraschino cherry in his butt cheeks and plop it into a martini glass for the right to take a Jell-O

Any fool will espouse a belief, appear in a public service announcement, produce a documentary film, or wave a banner. Moral courage arises out of the necessity to defend those beliefs by laying down one's life. To be sure, war is dirty business. It has always been and will always be. Undoubtedly, soldiers, as well as civilians, will lay down their lives in a confrontation with Saddam Hussein. It will be no different than the battle against Nazi Germany. Change the name Hitler to Hussein, Jew to Kurd, Poland to Kuwait, and League of Nations to United Nations, and the parallels are clear. This war is just.

The point to be made is that in certain circumstances, such as Nazi Germany and Iraq, persons who would otherwise extol the virtues of human dignity, yet nonetheless advocate inaction on the part of Great Britain and the United States toward such basic human injustice, commit what is tantamount to moral cowardice.

Letter to the Editor:

SGA welcomes student participation

Open letter to MCC students: Dear Students,

The mission of the Student Government Association (SGA) of McLennan Community College is to represent the student body of this college.

Our goal is simple: we aim to make student life on this campus more responsive to students needs.

We are your voice.

We sit on numerous committees in which the administration and various vendors consult with us to make this college more student-friendly.

Some of those committee assignments include bookstore, food service, scholarships and judicial (adjudicating parking tickets).

This academic year alone, we have advised the administration regarding schedules, parking, commencement ceremonies and several other issues relevant to students.

SGA also conducts special events. This Year SGA presented the 9/11 Memorial, Alcohol Awareness Week, and Race for the Cure. We are currently working on an Hispanic

"As of today, we are moving our weekly Monday afternoon meeting to the LTC at 1 p.m. We invite you to take part in those meetings."

Bill Mears, SGA president

heritage festival, which took place on March 23 at the Bosque River Stage. We are busy performing a vital function, and we need your help.

As reported in the Highland Herald, we elected Chris Cochran president for the next school year without the benefit of a campus-wide election.

Our constitution requires that the SGA president have experience in student government. Since only one person who met the qualifications applied to run for the office, the election was uncontested.

While we are extremely happy with caliber and qualifications of our president-elect, we are deeply disappointed that the candidate pool

was so limited. We are taking steps to make our SGA President

meetings more accessible and more

As of today, we are moving our weekly Monday afternoon meeting to the LTC at 1 p.m. We invite you to take part in those meetings.

All MCC students are welcome at these sessions.

You need not be elected to participate in student government. All students are welcome to speak at these meetings. And after attending three consecutive sessions, students acquire voting privileges.

We are also announcing campuswide elections on April 23, 24 from 9 to 1 in the LTC for the following offices: Fundraising, Public Relations, and Historian.

We are engaged in serious business, but we are also having funand learning valuable lessons. We are doing important work, and we need your help.

Get involved with student government. Your college needs you.

Sincerely, Bill Mears 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 property of the Highland Herald, and it's staff reserves the right to edit letters for content, taste, grammar, and spelling.

Please e-mail letters and comments to:

highland_herald@ meestudents. mclennan.edu or drop them off in Room B42 of the **CSC** Building Phone number: 299-8524 Fax Number:

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"Police" from page 1 Then a few days later in the

childish reports, according to police officials. A female student reported a

disturbance at the Health and Physical Education Building on Feb. 24. It turned out that her boyfriend and a few of his friends were following her around campus because they apparently broke up the day before. Campus police arrived and talked to all that were involved. Those involved agreed that they would stay away from each other while on campus, Chief Larry Radke said.

Student Center, an employee walking by noticed a student standing by a computer and thought he was intoxicated. Campus police showed up and talked to the man and found out that he was just waiting on his wife and that he was not intoxicated, Radke said.

On March 4 a young lady went to class and after class was over she noticed that someone had written "stinky" on the back of her car

windshield in shoe polish.

court at the Learning Technology Center, a female student reported that, she was being harassed by a male student that continually called her name about five times and then turned his head around, making it seem like he did not do it.

But not all calls to campus police scom childish.

A call from the Downtown Center came in on Peh, 19 reporting that a femule employee tripped and fell over a couch in the break room. She reported to police that her right A couple days later in the food elbow and neck were hurting but

needing no medical assistance police reported. On March 6 a late report of

criminal mischiof was reported to police concerning two female cosmotology students. One female reported another female student in her class caused a flat tire because she is the reusen why the young lady was fired from her Job, Both women are friends and the cosmetology department sat with both and talked about it, but Just wanted it documented to campus police Radke said.

March 24, 2003

McLennan Community College

Pajama Game romances audiences

Brandy McCarty Guest writer

Anyone who didn't see MCC's production of the The Pajama Game missed a real treat.

The play, based on the book by George Abbott and Richard Bissell, takes place in 1954 at the Sleep Tite Pajama Factory. An employee strike is inevitable if they aren't given a seven and one half cents raise.

During these troubled times a romance blooms between Sid (Jon-Michael Hamman), Sleep Tites new supervisor, and Babe (Neely Robinson), head of the factories union. It seems for awhile their clashing views over the seven and a half cents will keep the young lovers apart, but Sid is allowed a peek inside the companies locked books when he seduces the key away from its secretary, the flirty Gladys (Lynde Nunes). With some quick figuring, Sid saves the day, giving the employees their raise and getting the girl.



Photo provided by Jim Rambo

Neely Robinson and Jon-Michael Hamman preform in The Pajama Game.

The Pajama Game was a well spent Friday evening and six dollars. Even now, a week after

seeing the performance I'm still and Hernando's Hideaway. humming it's catchy songs Steam Heat, There Once Was A Man,

The scenery, dancing, and colorful 50's style costumes were

all outstanding, but the person that sent a murmur through the crowd was Pat (Lucy Glockzin). Glockzin didn't have a lead role, she sang and danced in the chorus line, but she stood out because she looked to be the age of a grandmother.

One of the great things about a community college is there are people of all ages; teenagers just out of high school, mom's returning after the kids have left the nest, and many others.

On the performing arts side of campus, though, I seldom see such variety, mostly late teens to early twenties, hopefully bound for Broadway. I felt it really embodied the diversity of MCC to have students of all ages involved in this remarkable production. During the plays brief intermission even the girl next to me exclaimed over how cute she thought Glockzin was in her green dress, and how much she reminded her of her grandmother.

My hat is off to everyone involved in the performance of The Pajama Game!

This just in:

The Music Association of Central Texas will have its 2nd Annual Groovy Awards at 7 p.m. tomorrow night at the American Legion Hall. Several. of the commercial music faculty have been nominated in various categories. They are as follows: Instrumentalist of the years of Dick Gimble (bass), Kenneth Frazier (guitar) and Rob Page (saxophone) Music Instructors of the year:

Bill Howard, Dave Hibbard, Kenneth Frazier, Pat McKee and Paul Miller The Bosque River Stage has

been nominated for the Non-Club Venue of the Year For more information about the awards ceremony or MACT. please call 757-7257 or visit www.mactwaco.com.

Anitra Cotton Events Specialist. Bosque River Stage McLennan Community College. 1400 College Drive

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Quake slated as D.C. alternate

Only community college production traveling to capital

Magen Rigdon Staff writer

McLennan Community College's production of QUAKE has been selected as one of the alternate plays to the national Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival in Washington DC.

MCC has the distinction of being the only community college selected.

"It's a big honor," said Jim Rambo, MCC drama instructor.

Only one other Texas institution, Sam Houston State University, will be represented at the festival.

The festival aims to promote excellence in college-level theatre productions. The national KCACTF is a competition that claims 35 years of competitive excellence.

Over 1100 productions and 20,000 students were involved last year in the American College Theatre

Pestival nationwide.The selected productions are eligible to receive responses from a



regional KCACTP representative, and some students are chosen to participate in KCACTF programs such as awards, scholarships, and standing." Henry said grants for actors, playwrights, designers, and critics at regional and national levels.

Gregg Henry, Artistic Director for KCACTF and a member of the. national selection team, called and

notified MCC of the selection Henry said that all of the colleges invited to perform had accepted and, should any school not be able to attend the 35th annual national

Photo provided by Rex Maron festival, MCC's production would advance The production was out-

Because of his acquaintance

with the playwright, Melanic Marnich, he was delighted to see such quality and excellence represented by MCC.

MCC and the other colleges will be listed in the national publication, American Theatre magazine, congratulating the award winning productions in advertisements.

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11 n.m. to 3 p.m.

UIL:

Classes were cancelled March 20th to let high school students compete in academic contests.

Hispanic Heritage Festival

Carolyn Barnett Staff writer

McLennan Community College's Intercultural Student Association (ISA) is assisting the City of Waco Parks and Recreation and the Bosque River Stage in sponsoring the Hispanic Heritage Pestival on March 23 storting at 3 p.m.

This celebration of Hispanic culture, food and dance and will be staged at the Bosque River Stage is

At 2 p.m. there will be a Dance Polklorico which consists of

traditional Mexican dances; following at 4 p.m. Pedro Zamora and Los Jokerz and Johnny Bustamente and the LA Band at 5 p.m.

"The ISA will be running booths selling halos with ribbons, and confetti eggs" said advisor Kim Roppolo,

"Loteria" a game like bingo with prizes for the winners, will be featured and door prizes will be awarded.

The MCC Bookstore will sell Mexican-American books,

Pamily-owned restaurants will set up food booths and venders will offer arts and crafts

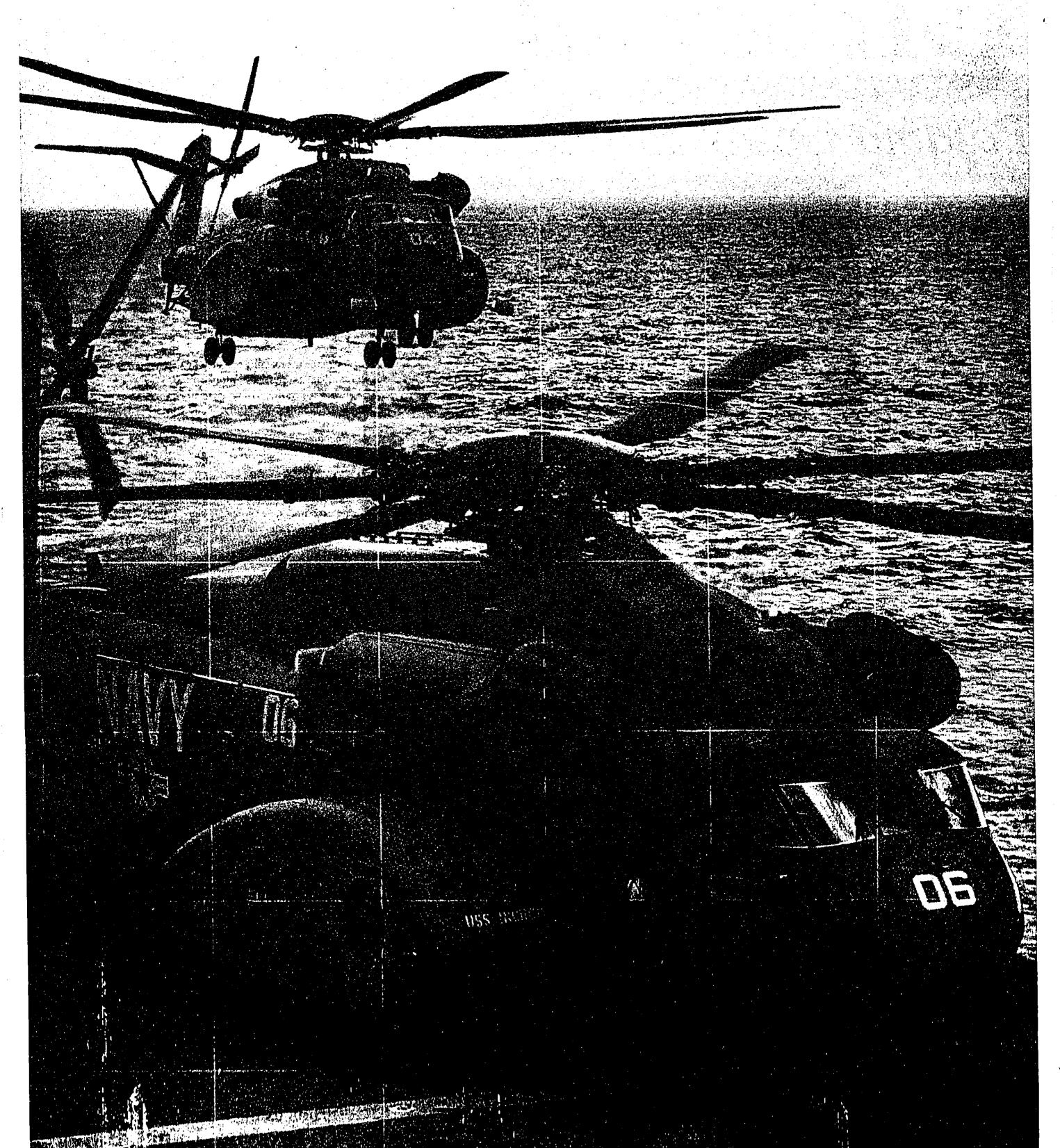
This event isn't just to "colebrate

Mexican-American culture, but to encourage Hispanic students to stay in high school and attend MCC," Roppolo said.

The ISA started about two years ago as a Native American Association, but then last year Roppolo said she saw a variety of backgrounds and enlisted the aid of the administration.

The organization's primary sponsor is the City of Waco Parks and Recreation.

The Bosque River Stage was donated, and the Intercultural Student Association and International Students are providing "human



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