



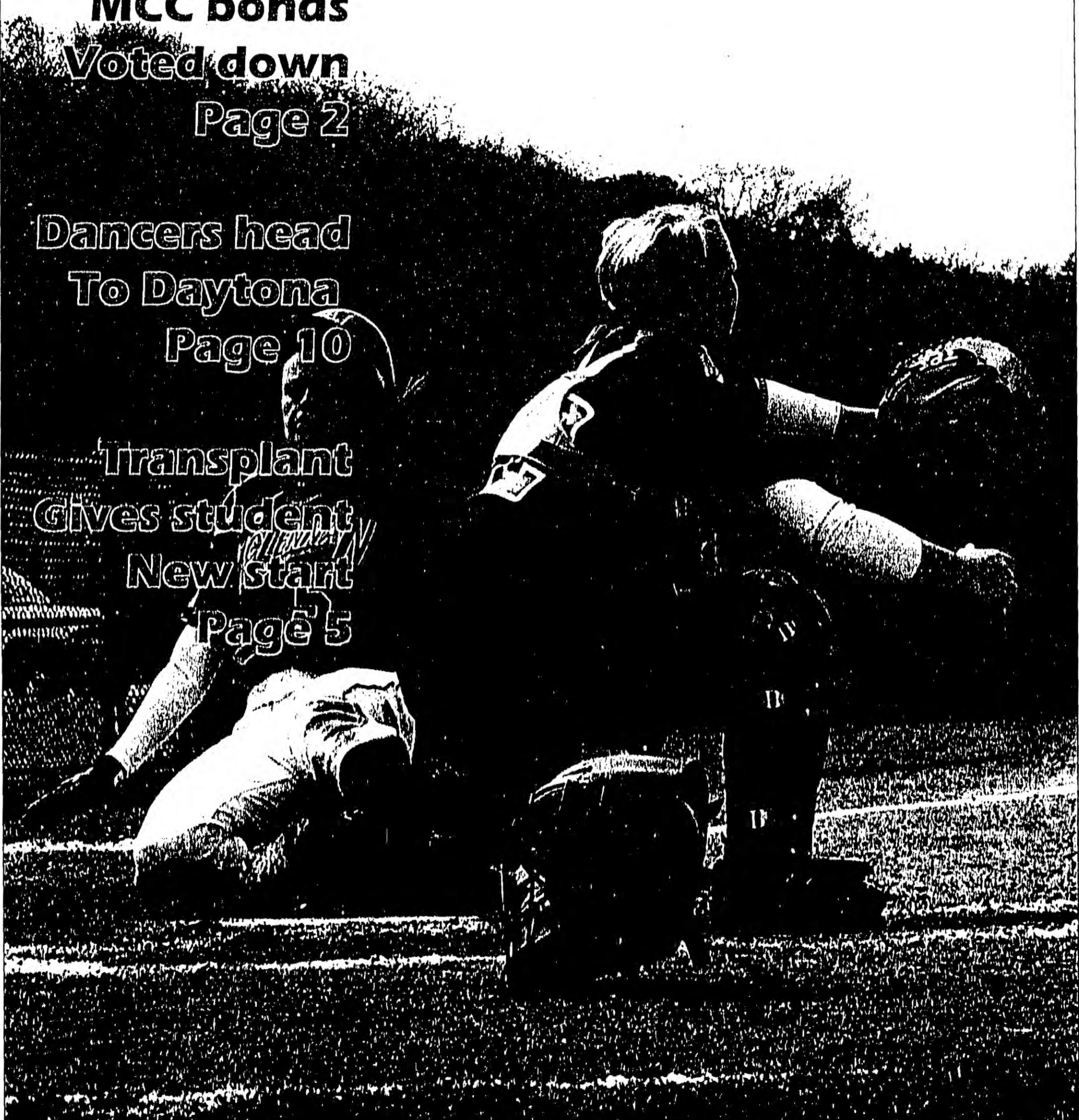
Highland Herald

Friday, April 8 • Volume 44, No. 3

**MCC bonds
Voted down
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**Dancers head
To Daytona
Page 10**

**Transplant
Gives student
New start
Page 5**





Bond Election Returns By Box

Polling Station	For	Against	Total
Weithorn Visitors Center	22	9	31
NeighborWorks Home Ownership Center	5	0	5
University High School	14	11	25
Provident Heights Elementary	48	15	63
Dewey Recreation Center	21	16	37
G. W. Carver Academy	29	13	42
J.H. Hines Elementary	13	2	15
Bracks United Methodist Church	8	7	15
South Terrace Neighborhood Center	2	3	5
South Waco Elementary	5	2	7
Kendrick Elementary	55	56	111
MHMR	103	37	140
Tennyson Middle School	84	124	208
Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit	496	291	787
Dean Highland Elementary	80	67	147
Lake Shore Methodist Church	208	149	357
Waco Center for Youth	7	0	7
Brazos Middle School	78	34	112
Peace Lutheran Church	78	51	129
Acts Christian Fellowship	12	14	26
Lacy Lakeview Civic Center	37	91	128
Robinson City Hall	77	82	159
Robinson ISD Admin. Bldg.	53	88	141
First Baptist Church of Hewitt	117	140	257
Brazos Meadows Baptist Church	76	94	170
Fellowship Bible Church	105	98	203
First Baptist Church of Elm Mott	65	137	202
West Community Center	124	364	488
Axtell School Ath. Mtg.	25	60	85
Mart Community Center	23	45	68
Riesel City Hall	29	35	64
Lorena Middle School	42	86	128
Bruceville-Eddy City Hall	23	57	80
First United Methodist Church	21	41	62
H.G. Isbill Junior High	107	130	237
Crawford Fire Station	32	55	87
China Spring Intermediate	91	176	267
Speegleville Baptist Church	46	71	117
Pleasant Grove Baptist Church	26	30	56
Bellmead Civic Center	40	52	92
Downsville Fire Station	7	19	26
Central Presbyterian	265	207	472
County Total	2799	3059	5858

Bond issue defeated By narrow margin

Daniel Defoe
Staff Writer

McLennan County voters turned down a \$73.4 million bond issue on March 29 that would have built a new science building, a facility to house four year degree programs and other classrooms.

The issue failed with 3,059 votes against and 2,799 for.

"MCC leaders expressed disappointment about the narrow defeat but remained philosophic about its significance to the college as a whole" according to a press release issued March 30 from the Public Information Office.

"We don't see this as indicative of a lack of support for what we do here at MCC. We recognize that the current climate among taxpayers is apparently not conducive to supporting a bond issue of this size. Of course, all of us involved were surprised by the close vote and disappointed in the results, but the voters have spoken and we respect their wishes," MCC President Dennis Michaelis said.

Neither Michaelis nor the board of trustees announced any immediate action following the bond's defeat, but administrators said they will examine the vote results and determine a course of action in a series of meetings during the coming months.

Early voting results tallied by the McLennan County Elections Office showed strong support for the bond, with roughly 68 percent of voters backing the bond.

The proposition would have raised property taxes 4.7 cents per \$100 valuation for a total MCC tax rate of 17.3 cents per \$100. That would have meant a \$100,000 piece of property would have paid \$47 more per year, or \$173 total over the course of a year.

MCC officials said that households with \$50,000 and \$150,000 in taxable value after the increase would pay a total of between \$7.98 and \$21.12 a month. One of the three buildings proposed was a new 120,00 square-foot science building.

The bonds would have paid for both the building and its contents such as lab equipment.

There are 1,750 students enrolled in science courses this semester. The school could easily double that number, administrators and instructors have said, with increased space.

"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.

"When we open up the science classes in April for classes that start at the end of August, they are full by the end of April or the beginning of May," Dr. Michaelis said.

The current science building would have been remodeled to be used by the Division of Health Sciences. "Their needs are much different than the needs of science. Therefore, the building must be renovated to fit their needs. This renovation would allow

See 'Bond' pg. 3



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Student Life

Friday, April 8, 2005

McLennan Community College

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Paramedics Needed

Kelly Patterson
Photo Editor

MCC's Emergency Medical Services Program, established in the late 1980's, provides students with the skills needed to be a paramedic.

"In the state of Texas we are almost a thousand paramedics short," MCC's EMS Education Coordinator Polli Williams said.

MCC not only offers certification of Paramedicine after one year, but also an Associates Degree in Applied Science after two. Upon completion of these programs, there is a 100 percent hire rate.

The program currently accepts only 24 students each semester.

Prerequisites for the program include Healthcare CPR and BMT Basic Training, which are both available through MCC.

During the two year program, students take courses including Patient Assessment, Cardiology, Anatomy & Physiology and Emergency Pharmacology.

"We produce more students and have the highest pass rate of any college in the state," said Williams. EMS classes are offered only in the evening. If the recent bond election had passed, the program would have been able to offer both day and the night courses and add classroom space.

Applications for the 2005 fall semester will be taken until July 1 and the deadline for the spring semester is October 1. For more information concerning the EMS program at MCC, contact Polli Williams at 299-8591 or pwilliams@mcclennan.edu.

Four percent no democracy

Letter from the editor

Brittney Mortensen
Chief Editor

Out of a population of 126,507 registered voters, only 5,873 - that's a whopping 4.64 % - actually had time to vote.

A four percent turnout is not a democratic way of deciding what will affect 100 percent of the population. If there were a higher turn-out for voting, no matter what the outcome, at least more than four percent of the county would have made the decision, and it would be a strong and clear message.

At McLennan Community College 8,500 people are learning in facilities designed for 3,500. The staff here at MCC is doing its best with the facilities at hand.

Yet MCC's enrollment of more than 8,500 means there are at least 2,670 more students than total number of voters in this county-wide election.

It is infuriating that students are still complaining about the failure of the bond election, yet not even half voted.

Voting was even accessible right here on campus.

Non-voters would seem to be apathetic about future generations. Many students that the *Highland Herald* staff talked to said they did not vote because soon they would be gone, and the bond would not affect them.

Many people paved the way for the students who are currently here, but it seems that too many of today's students just don't care about any education but their own.

A census done by the County Information Project in 2003 shows that McLennan County has a population of 219,807 and is growing. The student population is a large chunk of the county population.

The student population has already doubled within the last five years, according to an online MCC fact sheet. If the school can grow so will the county.

Taxes may be higher, but to pay just a little more for education seemed worth it.

Education pays us.

It effects not just schools, but economics, social statistics and future generations.

Keeping more students here in Waco by providing a more affordable opportunity to receive bachelors' degrees and more program certifications would keep money right here in McLennan County, where the improved educational level would attract jobs and improve salaries.

MCC has had a policy of open enrollment since it began.

MCC cannot be expected to keep that open policy and the same level of education if there is neither enough room for classes nor enough instructors to teach them.

Who knows what will happen when enrollment gets to a point where MCC cannot accept more students.

If MCC closes its doors after a certain number of people have been enrolled, students who can't get in will either stay here in Waco with no more than a high school education, try to get into TSTC or move away.

This could have long term effects on the county.

There would be less educated workers and more people working for fast food and assembly line jobs.

That would simply mean more people living in McLennan County who can't support themselves.

To borrow a phrase from Winston Churchill, we were given a choice between cost cutting and poverty. We have chosen cost-cutting, and we shall get poverty.

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Bond continued from pg. 2

the college to consolidate several Health Sciences Departments into one geographically close area," Watson said.

The University Center would have created a common location and facilities for more students to earn their four-

year degrees from Turlington State and the University of Texas at Arlington through MCC.

"Currently the classes are being taught where we can find space for them," said Kim Patterson, Director of Community Relations and Marketing Commitments from the University of Texas at Arlington and Turlington to introduce day programs are in place, she said. There just isn't

enough space.

The building was scheduled to house University Center classes, some regular instruction and faculty and staff training, according to the Master Facility Plan.

The Emergency Services Training Center was to provide new facilities for the Law Enforcement and Fire Academies, EMT/Paramedic and Criminal Justice departments.

The proposed building would have been 40,000 square feet and would have cost about \$8.7 million to build.

Currently, MCC has no laboratory or training facilities for its Fire and Law Enforcement Academies and Emergency Medical Technician/Paramedic and Criminal Justice programs. The Emergency Services Training Center would have provided such facilities for these programs and the Emergency Services community.

The proposed bond also included 530 new parking spaces and renovations to existing buildings, including the Student Center. Many of that building's functions were moved to the LTC.

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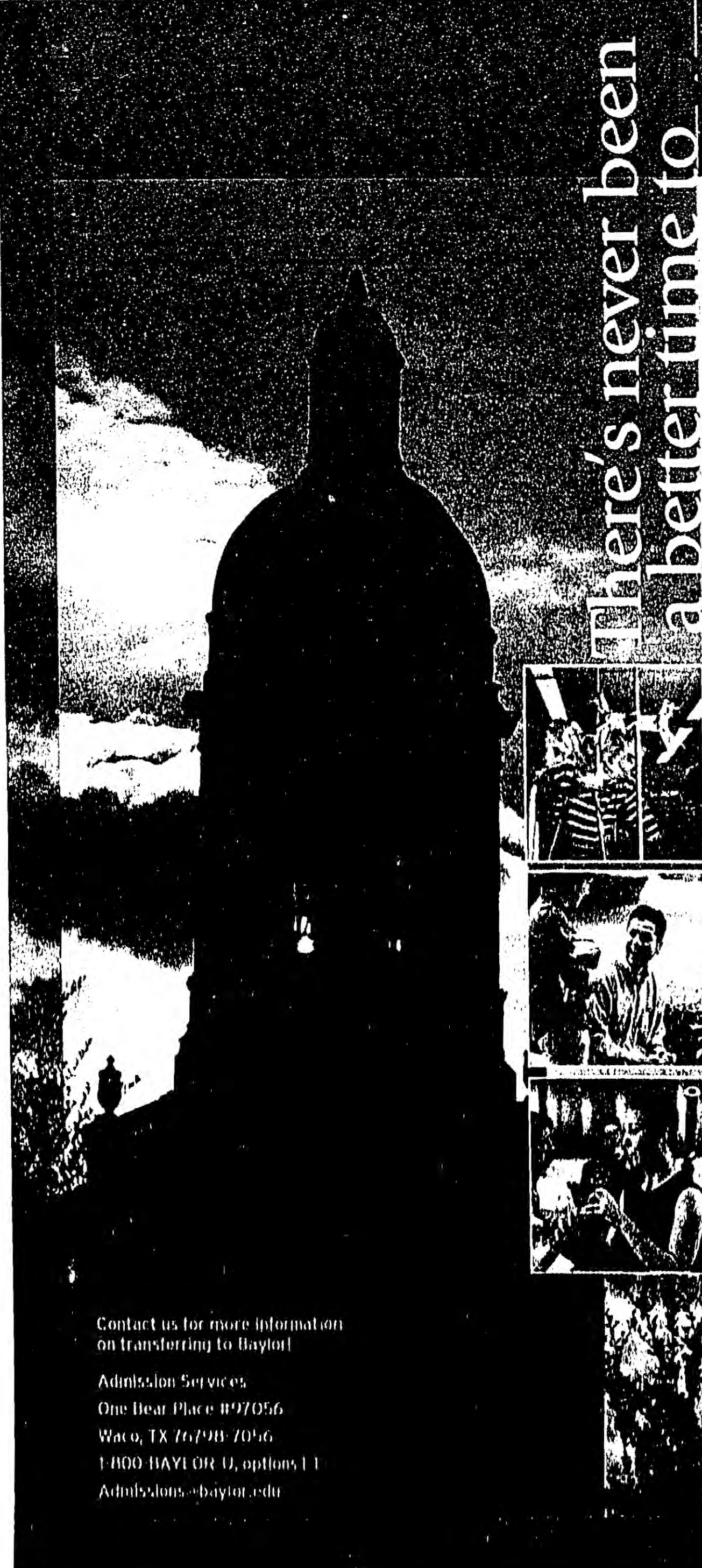
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MCC Student Overcomes Diabetes

Advocates Donor Awareness

Brent Losak
Staff Writer

Troy Watson, a soon-to-be graduate from the MCC Cosmetology Program, has lived with Type 1 diabetes since being diagnosed at age fifteen.

Watson, now thirty-eight, said that, while treating the disease and attending school simultaneously has been "very challenging," he has managed to keep up and do well in his studies.

Type 1 diabetes, formerly known as juvenile diabetes, is less common than Type 2 diabetes. About 5 to 10 percent of people diagnosed with diabetes have the Type 1 form of the condition, according to the American Diabetes Association.

Watson said he has managed to keep up with his class-work.

"Fortunately, I've always been a good studier ... I came into school knowing that these things may happen, that I might have some problems. So I hit the floor running, so to speak."

Watson explained more about the realities of attending school while treating his illness.

"I was on dialysis when I first started school ... I would do dialysis during lunch break—it was about every four to six hours that I'd have to do that."

Within the past year, Watson has undergone two major medical operations, both of them organ transplants.

"I received a kidney back in July (of 2004) from my mother and then I got a pancreas on Jan. 30 this year."

Watson has received treatment from doctors at the Methodist Specialty and Transplant Hospital in San Antonio. After he received the kidney transplant, the doctors suggested a further surgery.

"I was still diabetic, and the doctors said it would be very important for us to find a pancreas also to keep more damage from occurring to this kidney."

The experience has strengthened the bonds of friendship between he and his classmates.

"After the first time that I was hospitalized—they were always calling or coming up to see me—and I told them I feel very, very blessed to be in that class ... I could not ask for



Troy Watson, outside the CSC building.

Digital Image By: Brent Losak

a better class to be in."

In addition to these positive occurrences, there have been more somber moments along the way.

"From what I know it was from a seventeen-year-old male that I got the pancreas, and I can only imagine what they went through losing their son. So it made it kind of difficult on me, but I'm more spiritual now—more than I was, and I just feel like this was meant to happen, and it happened for a reason—and as I try to find out that reason I'm going to try to do more so that somebody else can be helped hopefully."

After the pancreatic transplant, Watson is no longer classified as diabetic and no longer experiences symptoms of diabetes. He expressed his relief by saying that this means "No more shots. No more testing myself five times a day. No more having to deal with highs and lows in blood sugar."

Watson has taken his experience as an opportunity to inform others of the importance of organ donation, as he explains: "I feel now more than ever that I want to do something to kind of help get

the word out, because there are so many people out there that need organs, and there are so few people that really think about donating. All it takes is to sign your donor card, the back of your driver's license, and to let your family know. You have to let your family know, because if you don't, your wishes won't go answered once you pass away."

One way Watson believes will help get the word out is through the dissemination of blue bracelets which bear the insignia "Life. Pass it on." They are available for one dollar each through the Methodist Specialty and Transplant Help Line at 1-800-333-7333.

Fiesta! Fiesta!

Marla Villagomez
Assist. Photo Editor

The Third Annual Hispanic Heritage Festival took place at MCC's Bosque River Stage April 3 from 1 to 6 p.m.

Patrons were entertained by folklorico dancers and a variety of musicians, including local recording artist Nini Campa.

Festival admission was free.

"This is an excellent example of the power of Hispanics in our community, and the impact we have in it," said SGA's Ariana Hernandez, who organized the event.

Baylor Folklorico, Folklorico Dancers, Las Estrellas de Waco and Mariachi Azteca provided entertainment for festival attendees, while Ocelot and DJ ZAAZ of local radio station La Mejor 104.1 PM featured a concert by Campa at 5:00 p.m.

Local visual artists displayed their work in an exhibition.

Food vendors at the festival included local seafood restaurant El Siete Maris and local Mexican cuisine restaurant El Potosino.

The festival offered more than just food and entertainment.

"I want people to know that Waco is serious about education and it's community, and that MCC is trying to open doors for Hispanic students," Hernandez said.

The Henry Claydon Hispanic Scholarship Fund sponsored a fundraising booth for its future recipients.

MCC and Baylor provided counselors for students.

Hernandez would like to send a message to everyone at MCC Hispanic or not, 'Si se puede. Which means it can be done.'

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One and Done for 'Landers

By: Michael Neglia
Sports Writer

The MCC Highlanders' basketball season ended on a Region V tournament sour note with a disappointing 91-70 defeat at the hands of the Midland Chaparrals in the first round.

For the 'Landers, who finished the season with a 23-8 record, it was a complete disaster in Lubbock. They could not get one break to fall their way missing five wide-open three-point shots and even a layup.

"The key was (that) we didn't make shots, I mean, they made shots and we didn't," Highlander coach Kevin Gill said. "That's the bottom line, you've got to make shots in order to win ball games."

The Highlanders, who never led in the game, fell behind early 6-0 from two three-

point shots by Chaparral's guard J.D. Lewis, who led Midland with 23 points, including five of seven on three-point shots.

After going on a 7-3 run to pull within four points at 24-20 with just over 12 minutes to go in the first half, the 'Landers started falling apart, as the Chaparrals went on a 10-1 run, en route to a 47-31 halftime lead.

The Chaparrals started the second half with a 9-3 burst, but the Highlanders responded with their last gasp midway through the second half, going on a 15-4 run to make the score 68-56 with eight minutes remaining in the game.

Midland then responded with nine unanswered points to make the deficit over 20 points, and the 'Landers were unable to get any closer than within 15 points the rest of the game.

The 'Landers only shot 30 percent for the whole game, and a meager 19 percent on three-point shots, making only 5 of 26, while the Chaparrals shot 56 percent, including 11 of 18 behind the arc.

Kenny Wilson, usually one of the Highlanders' best outside shooters, shot only 1-7 from the field including 1-5 from behind the arc, recording only 3 points in his last game with the 'Landers. It was also the last game in a Highlander uniform for Wesley Pendley, Albert Vazquez, Chris Ross and Jejuan Plair.

What may be even more disappointing was that the Highlanders defeated the Chaperells 93-81 earlier in the year at another neutral site.

Jejuan Plair and Marvin Gentry led the 'Landers with 19 and 17 points, respectively.

When asked about his plans during the off-season, Highlander coach Kevin Gill said, "We're just going to have individuals work out and just continue stuff and continue doing what we've done. We've just got to get better on the offensive end and the defensive end, and do what we've always done, just work hard."



Willie Fannon tries to post up against Midland during the Highlanders' first-round loss in the regional playoffs.

Digital Image By: Blake Abbe

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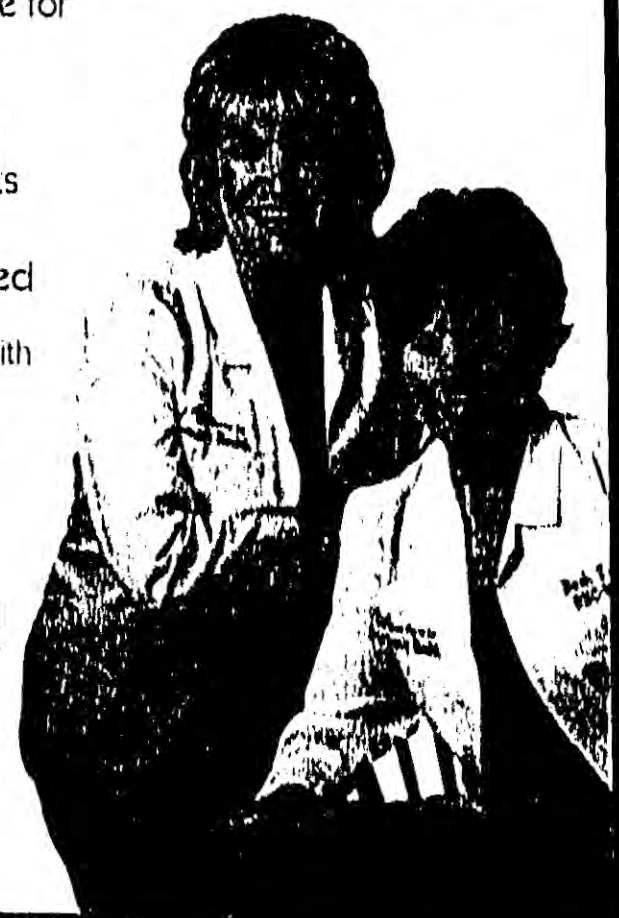
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Lassies' Fall One Step Short At Regionals

Blake Abbe
Sports Writer

'Lassies turned off the lights for this year's season. That light went out with a heartbreaking defeat in the National Junior College Athletic Association Region V Championship 87-74 to second-ranked South Plains College. The 'Lassies' loss was like watching a re-run of the A-Team; a total nightmare to live through and view, as they came up short again in the championship game for the second consecutive year. "This is two years in a row that we get to the championship game and haven't crossed the threshold," head coach Ricky Rhodes said. "We have to go out and recruit and get bigger and stronger. The kids that we have coming back need to work on their weaknesses so we can get back here again."

The 'Lassies sure needed size, because the Lady Plainsmen had five six-footers in the lineup, but size was not the deciding factor. The 'Lassies only had seven assists, and the Lady Plainsmen spread out its offense making it so easy to find the open man for the easy bucket.

Most of the time South Plains had a 'Lassie in its face contending a shot, and they would have to throw up a prayer falling back with no time left on the shot clock. This did not matter however, because the Lady Plainsmen made everything that touched their hands shooting an incredible 62 percent from the field and 70 percent from beyond the arc.

"You've got to give them (South Plains) credit; they made every shot," coach Rhodes said. "The shot clock would be running down and they would make one (bucket). They're good."

Even when the 'Lassies were down 24 with 12 minutes to go in the game, they still maintained a level of intensity as if the game was tied.



Digital Image By: Michael Neglia
Red-shirted freshman Kim Robinson attempts to slice the lane during a victory over Clarendon.

"We just never give up," said Kim Robinson, Red-shirted freshman guard that led all scorers with 26 points. "I mean we're not going to quit regardless of the score. We have heart."

The heart of this team came from the sophomores this season and trickled down to the freshmen who must carry the load next season.

"They (freshmen) need to keep working hard," said sophomore captain Margaret Wimbish. "We need someone to step up on the team and be a leader. With me and Val (Valerie Suarez) leaving we need a captain. I think Brandi Crouch or Kim Robinson, if she comes back, will probably take that spot."

Crouch is looking forward to next season and the possibility of being able to finally break through to the national tournament.

"It's going to be awesome because the sophomores showed us freshmen this year how awesome it is to be in this position (regional championship)," she said. "I think that now that we got this far two years in a row that maybe next year we can get to the next level to the national tournament."

This is the last season for Wimbish at MCC, and she had some departing words for her teammates.

"It's a great group of girls," she said. "I love all of my teammates, and I wouldn't trade them in for nothing."

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Open Season In Temple, Lassies Go Hunting

Blake Abbe
Staff Writer

Instead of hunting rabbits, the MCC Highlassies hunted Leopards March 30 in Temple, as they split a two-game series.

The first game was a tough game and a pitchers' duel in a 2-0 loss.

"They have some good pitching," head coach Manuel Ordonez. "That was the difference in the first game."

In the second game of the doubleheader, the 'Lassies took an early 3-0 lead in the first inning and cruised to a 9-2 win.

"We jumped on them 3-0 in the first inning, and now they have to play catch-up," Ordonez said. "They are not used to playing that role, and it was kind of difficult for them to recover and they didn't know what was happening."

The Lady Leopards are not used to losing either. They came into the game with a conference record of 11-1, but that did not intimidate the 'Lassies, who are now 6-4 in the first round of conference play.

"I think we are going to be tougher to beat going into the second round of conference," sophomore pitcher Rayla Robinson said.

Robinson pitched a complete game and set the tone of the game by retiring the first three batters she faced.

"It was important to me because it was in my hometown," Robinson said. "To get in a win in my hometown was kind of nice, and my defense was behind me all the way."

Like a puzzle, the Highlassies have notched together the pieces and now know what to expect when playing conference foes.

"The games that we didn't win we just didn't have good games, but we would figure them out by the second game," said Ashley McElroy, sophomore co-captain catcher. "We have got the teams figured out for the rest of the season."

Rebounding at Home

By: Blake Abbe
Sports Writer

The moon was full in Waco March 23 when the Grayson College softball team came to town, but instead of the Lady Coyotes transforming, the Highlassies changed into a team who had trouble pitching and playing defense.

The 'Lassies split the two games at the MCC Softball Field losing the first 12-0 and rebounded in the later game 7-5.

Although the Highlassies won the second game, the defense committed four errors and in the first game they misplayed four more for a total of eight on the day.

"We have to pitch and play defense," head softball coach Manuel Ordonez said. "Championship teams can play defense and pitch, and that is the direction we want

Spotlight Player of the Month

Eric Geoffrion
Sports Writer

Emily Herl was named the North Texas Junior College Athletic Conference Player of the Week for performance during the week of March the 14th, and also received our spotlight player of the month.

Emily pitched a no-hitter against Cisco, while striking out six. She also swung the bat well, batting 3-6 with a triple and an RBI. Herl has a record of 3-2 with an earned run average of 2.07 and five saves.

"It is a great honor, but credit the entire defense I couldn't have done it without them," said Herl.

Herl is a freshman hailing from Hays, Kansas where she received first team all-state in 2002 and 2003 amongst other awards.

Would you rather hit a homerun or strikeout a batter?

"That's a good question. I would rather strikeout a batter, it is just a certain feeling you get when you strikeout someone."

If you didn't play softball what sport would you play and why?

"I would play basketball, it is a good team sport."



Emily Herl

Courtesy of www.mclennan.edu

Digital Image By: Eric Geoffrion

Freshman Anna Herl winding up for the pitch.





'Landers Hit Their Stride

By Michael Neglia
Sports Writer

The MCC Highlander baseball team is finding its groove after a tough pre-conference start just in time for the approaching stretch run.

The 'Landers (21-16), (11-7) started just 9-8 before conference play, ending its tough schedule with a split with Number 1 San Jacinto, winning one game 6-2 and losing the other 7-5.

From there, the Highlanders started conference play with a thrilling 4-3 victory over Vernon. Trailing 3-2 in the bottom of the seventh inning, Infielder Tim Jackson hit a game winning 2 RBI single. In the next game, the 'Landers' bats ripped the Chaparrals pitching en route to a 13-3 victory.

On the road against Vernon three days later, the Highlanders lost the first game by a 14-3 decision. What followed was one of the strangest things seen in baseball. The Highlanders won a slugfest by the score of 28-22, wherein each team recorded sixteen home runs.

"It's a small ball park to begin with up there, second of all the wind was blowing out about 40 miles an hour, so when you pop a guy up, there were chances of it getting out of the ball park. It was an amazing thing to watch, but it was very frustrating at the same time" said Highlander coach Pete Mejia. "It wasn't just the wind, it wasn't just the conditions, it was a combination of some of those guys from Vernon doing a good job and some of our pitchers not doing a good job. For the most part, I thought the pitchers did OK as a whole and the conditions just beat us up a little bit, but we beat them up a little bit too."

The 'Landers then played four games against Hill College in three days.

The Rebels won the first game in Hillsboro, 9-2, but the Highlanders responded with a 14-7 victory, belting 24 hits in the process.

Back in Waco, the Highlanders won both games by a score of 4-3, scoring in extra innings the first game, and holding onto an early lead in the second game.

Tied in first place with fourth-ranked Grayson with a 6-2 conference record, it was fitting that the 'Landers next four games were against the Vikings.

The Highlanders were able to fight through adversity in the first game, as they blew a 3-1 lead in the top of the seventh inning as the Vikings tied the game. However, the 'Landers fought back and won the game after catcher Matt Sodolak hit a three-run walk-off home run, and suddenly, the Highlanders had a taste of first place.

The 'Landers were in striking distance throughout the second game until the Vikings scored 6 runs throughout the seventh, eighth, and ninth innings. The Highlanders, however, responded with five-run ninth inning, but couldn't get the final run, losing 9-8 and ending the day still tied in first place with Grayson.

"I'm really proud of their efforts. I am really proud of the fact that they have captured the winning spirit and have captured the little bitty things that are going to help them become successful," said Highlander coach Pete Mejia after the games. "That wouldn't of happened in the past... there's no doubt in my mind."

In Sherman two days later, the Vikings swept the 'Landers by scores of 2-0 and 7-3.

Despite the losses, Highlander coach Pete Mejia was encouraged by his team's efforts.

"I have not seen this club compete like they have competed. I have not seen this club refuse to back down like they refuse to back down. It was a really, really gutsy performance. I think a year ago we would of got beat the first game 8-0, we got beat 2-0, and in the second game we would have gotten beat 11-1, instead we got beat 7-3."

The 'Landers victory over Grayson was their first in 13 games and was the first time they hadn't been ten-run-ruled in three years.

On March 30, the Ranger Rangers came to town for two games with results being mixed, as the Rangers won the first game 6-4 in extra innings, but the 'Landers responded with a 9-2 thrashing due to a seven-run second inning.

"I could sit there telling them we didn't do this, we didn't do that but they know what we didn't do" said Highlander coach Pete Mejia. "They (Highlanders) came back and bounced on them in the second game because of them (Ranger) not anything I said."

The following Saturday, the Highlanders split a two-game set with the Rangers.

The 'Landers then went to Houston for another matchup against San Jacinto, and walked away winning one and losing one.

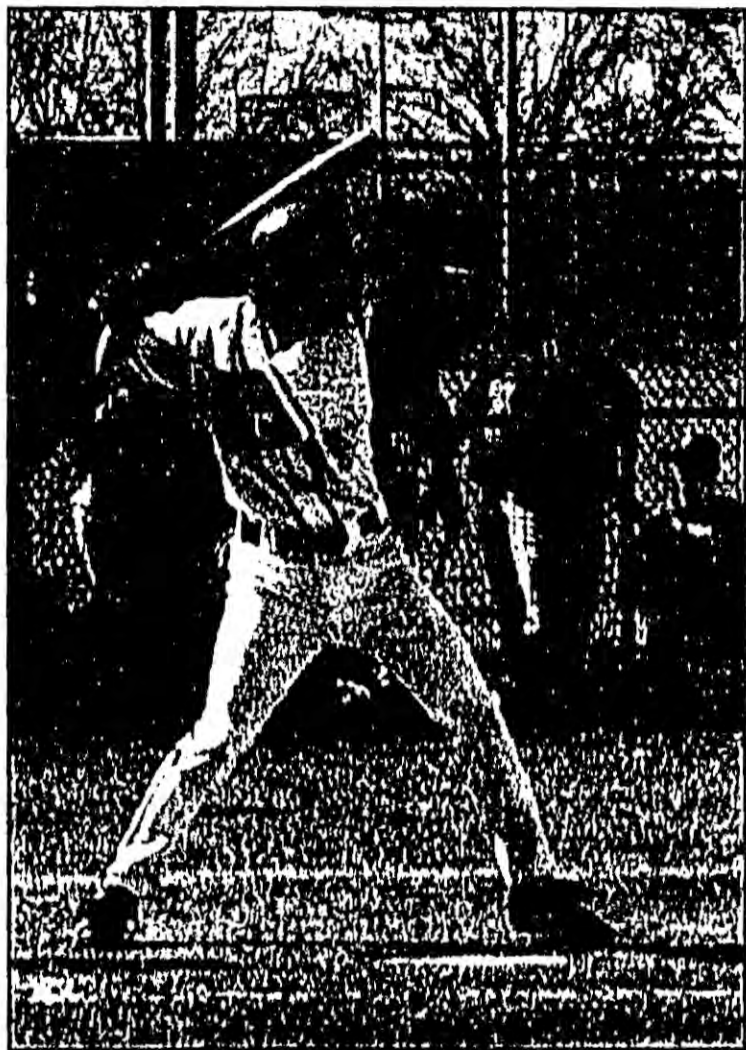
The Highlanders captured their first conference sweep on the road on April 6, defeating Cliseo by the scores of 3-0 and 14-2.

There are many bright spots on this Highlander baseball team that are making this year a success.

Sophomore Infielder Tim Jackson is hitting .367 for the year, with 35 RBI, 13 2B and 6 HR, providing clutch hitting for the Highlanders, and sophomore pitcher Lance Luotge is 6-3 for the year with a 4.13 ERA.

There are freshman also achieving success such as outfielder Lance Nobile, who is batting .400 for the year with 7 2B and 14 RBI, and pitcher Chris Martin is 2-2 with a 3.83 ERA, while recording 40 strikeouts in 42 1/3 innings pitched.

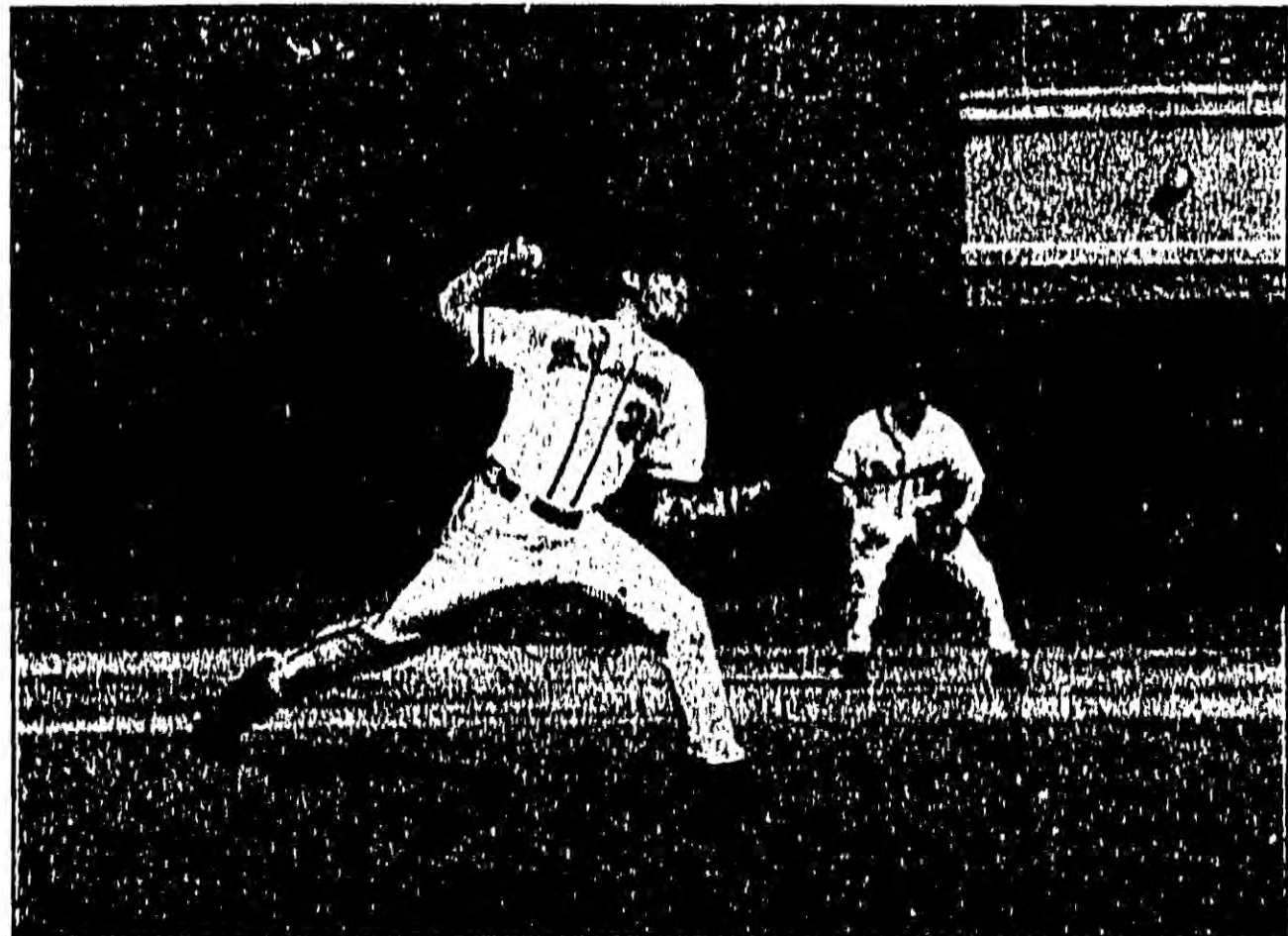
Watch out opponents, the Highlanders are back, and they are here to stay.



Digital Images by: Eric Geoffron.

Top: Freshman Ryan Lormand batting against Grayson.

Bottom: Sophomore Keith Crabill fires a fast one over the plate.





Player and Coach of the Year

Eric Geoffrion
Sports Writer

Averaging 17.2 points per game and 6.9 rebounds per game, Margaret Wimbish earned the North Texas Junior College Athletic Conference Player of the Year Award and helped lead the team to a conference championship.

"I'm very happy with the honor," said Wimbish.

Wimbish, a 6'1" sophomore forward, went to high school at Corpus Christi Miller. In those years she accomplished: 1st Team All-Metro, All South Texas, All District, 2nd Team All-State, 2nd Team All Region, Lead District in 3 pointers made and averaged 20 points, 9 rebounds and 5 assists.

Wimbish is a triple threat in that she can hit the three, dribble penetrate and post-up. One aspect of her game that she would like to improve is her rebounding.

"She just has a lot of natural ability. Early in the year I think she could have easily had 30 points per game. But, she would lose focus around the basketball, and that gets better with maturity. She has come a long way in the two years she has been here," said Rhodes.

In the past two years, Margaret has become very close to her teammates and the coaches.

"I would like to say that that I love my team and I am going to miss everybody."

Although undecided on what college she wants to transfer to, Wimbish said she would like to leave Texas.

"I'm going to miss it here, I wish it was a four-year college. I'm going to miss my teammates, my coach yelling at me, everything.

Ricky Rhodes coached his Highlassies' to a 24-4 record, a conference championship and was one win away from a National Tournament Bid earning him the Coach of the Year award in the North Texas Junior College Athletic

Conference.

"It means a lot to my peers, the other coaches. I think a lot about our philosophy, our program, about how we do things."

In addition to the Coach of the Year award, the Highlassies' had three players named all-conference: Margaret Wimbish, Brandi Crouch and Kim Robinson. Crouch and Robinson are freshmen and should be returning next year.

Rhodes is currently recruiting to rebuild his team for next year.

"All we have accomplished this year helps us recruit in certain ways, but mostly it is our style and philosophy. We put academics first and basketball second, and when you can do those two things and you are winning it takes care of a lot of things."

The Lassies' were 12th in the nation in points per game with 78 and 36th in the nation in defense allowing only 64.66 points per game.

As far as practice goes, Rhodes goes by the "truth hurts" saying.

"We're about telling them (the players) the truth. If you aren't doing it right, we're going to jump on you. Sometimes these kids don't want you to get them so they are going to try their best to work extra hard to do it the right way. It's ok to make a mistake, if you make a mistake make it at full speed. We're going to get on them no matter what, win, lose or you're having a bad game, we're going to get on you. So we can get the best out of you to make us a better team."

As far as coaching goes, Rhodes stresses the little things like staying down and playing defense for thirty seconds, defending the low post and shooting the open shot as apposed to the contested jumper.

"We stress these little things that some coaches don't stress because it is not a part of their main philosophy."



Digital Image By: Pablo Sanchez

MCC Women's Basketball Coach Ricky Rhodes.

Lady linksters looking to improve rough start

Blake Abbe
Sports Writer

The Biblical story "David vs Goliath" was true for the MCC Lady Linksters, as they played at Baylor University during the Easter Break.

There they went up against a throng of Division I schools and finished last.

"We have got to be consistent in our game," Golf Coach Stan Mitchell said.

With nationals almost a month away, consistency in scores is a concern. On some days you can get the team who did well at Corpus Christi, and on others the last place performance at Port Arthur can rear its ugly head again.

"We played good at Corpus Christi," Mitchell said. "We still need to work on shooting the good scores all the time."

The consistency that Mitchell wants to work on is in the short game. This is also known as "from 100 yards in."

"The successful golfer has the ability to turn three strokes into two from 60 yards out," he said.

Edinburgh, Scotland native Stephanie Crolla traveled

short game from Mitchell.

"Preach, that man always preaches about the short game," Crolla said. "We always work on putting and chipping."

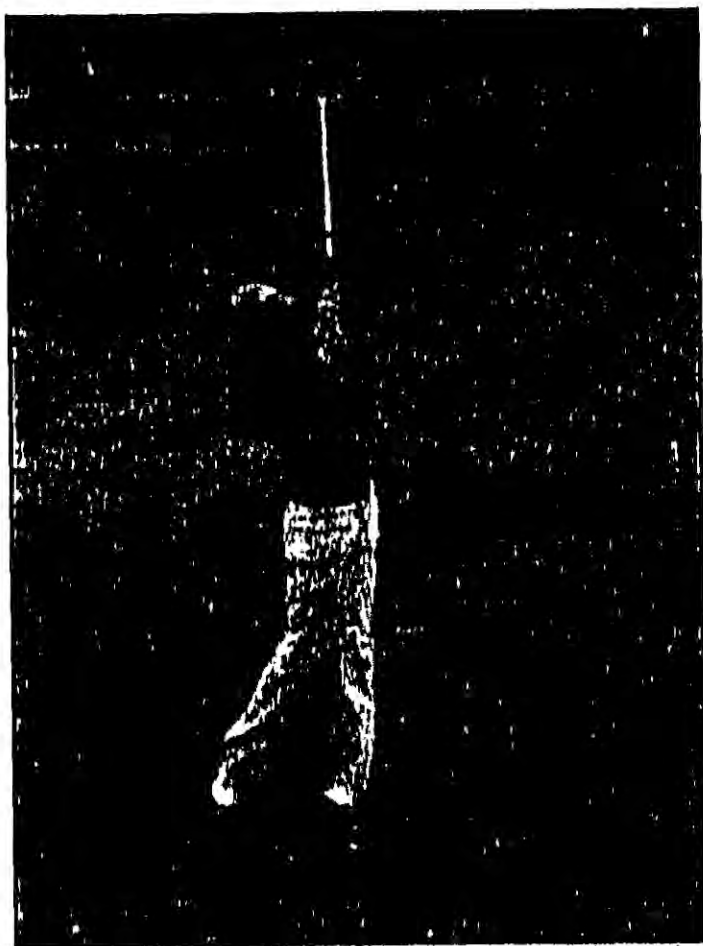
One golfer blames her putting on the equipment. "I seem to have a problem with my putting and it doesn't want to go away," sophomore Megan Hall said. "If I could learn to putt maybe I could shoot some good scores. It's the putter; it's a piece of junk."

Playing at Baylor had a positive effect in that it is similar to the course the girls will play at nationals.

"That golf course is very similar to the one we are going to play at nationals, so it was a good experience to be there," Hall said. "To play with the kind of competition we played with makes us try that much harder."

Nationals are held at Daytona, Florida from May 16-19, and one golfer has a positive outlook and a possible Cinderella scenario.

"I think we are going to give Daytona a run for their money," Sophomore Chelsea Boathe said. "They (Daytona) always set the course up to where they are going to win, but I think we are going to test them this year."



Digital Images By: Pablo Sanchez

Stephanie Crolla works on her chipping.

cover 6,000 miles to play here, and she has heard about the

Faculty Art Show

Kimberly Yezak
Staff Writer

The MCC Visual Art Faculty shared its talent in media ranging from photographs to sculpture in a public exhibition in the CSC F Gallery from Feb. 21 to March 11.

Patrons were greeted by Joe Kagle's acrylic geometric form paintings "Rainbow Crystal" and "Rainbow Crystal with X and O" that brightened the entrance.

"My answer to the hammer", a Glen Downing sculpture, could not be missed as the colorful arrangement of Duct Tape, faux flowers and ribbons melted from the wall to the floor.

Mike Maguire, a ceramics instructor in his fourth year at MCC, said that his piece, "Vessel," gives a sense of his current projects.

The annual MCC faculty art shows are "a reflection of what the instructor is doing outside of teaching," Maguire said.

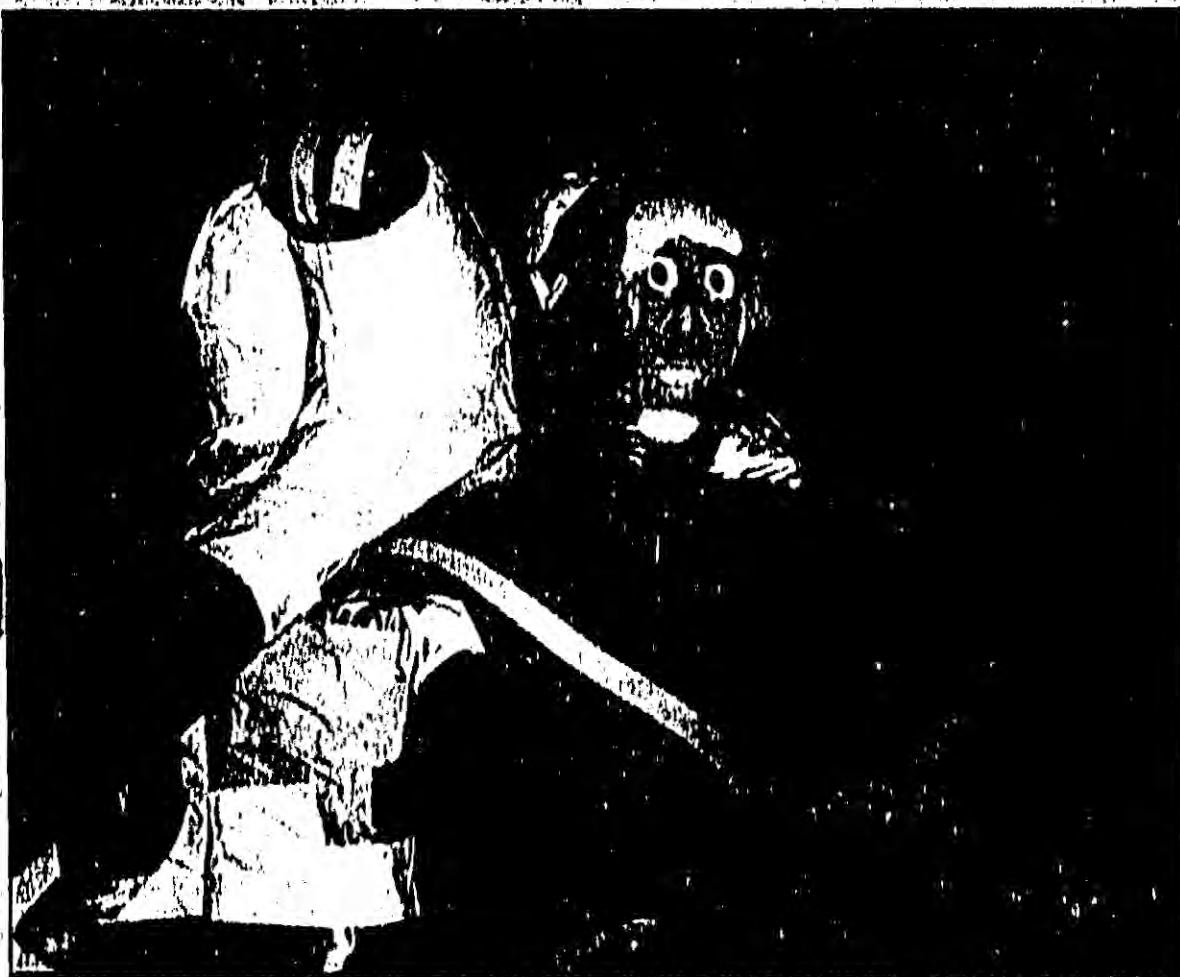
Other instructors that participated included Jake Allee, John Chatmas, Barney Fitzpatrick, Jody King and Wendy Wozniak.

The show also gives a chance for students to see their teachers "practice what they preach," MCC Art Department Coordinator Andrew Murad said.

"We are fortunate to have both artist and teacher here at MCC," said Murad, "and it (the show) is a good opportunity for people to see those styles in action."

"The show also gives a chance for students to see their teachers 'practice what they preach.'"

- Andrew Murad



Top: *The Eye of God* by Wendy Wozniak

Bottom left and right: *My answer to the hammer* by Glenn Downing

Digital Images By Johnathan Swain