

# Highland Herald



RECEIVED AUG 28 2003

Volume 41, Number 2

McLennan Community College, Waco, TX

August 25, 2003

## Accusations fly in games controversy

Jonmichael Swetnam  
News editor

friend who was playing the game, according to police reports.

The object of the game was to stretch a bungee cord attached to the contestant's back harness as he or she ran to dunk a miniature basketball.

The cord was attached to stakes fastened to the back of an inflated lane, according to witnesses at the scene.

Students who saw the incident said one of the stakes came loose and struck Pipkin

in the leg.

The other injury involved a student on the "Gladiator Joust".

Steven Trollinger was competing when he sustained a facial injury, according to police reports.

"Gladiator Joust" contestants stood on cushioned pillars and used padded lengths of plastic pipe to knock each other to the inflated mat below.

MCC police officers said the lance's padding had deteriorated.

Even if the padding was damaged, the helmets issued by the company should have prevented any injuries, said John Scalise of Eccentric Entertainment.

"The helmets have face guards," Scalise said. "Usually if there's any injuries associated with that event, it's due to not wearing the headgear," Scalise said.

"The incident was really beyond our control, since the gentleman was allowed on without a helmet and wouldn't have been injured if he were wearing one," Scalise said.

The event was arranged through MCC's student Activities Department.

Dallas-based Outrageous Adventures was subcontracted to operate the inflatables, but supervising the inflatables was MCC's responsibility, said company spokesperson Keith May.

"We only have so many people, and have to rely on student volunteers to help out," Scalise said.

MCC was supposed to provide student volunteers to operate the various inflatables," May said, adding that Outrageous Adventures provided

the volunteers with operation instructions.

"Our staff went through guidelines and safety procedures with the volunteers. We gave instructions that no one was allowed on (the joust) without a helmet," May said.

Students were given verbal training, but no written guidelines were issued, Director of Student Activities Alicia Vardeman said.

"My guys told me that the people assigned to help at the event weren't there the full time," Scalise said.

"Not only were they not on station the full time, they weren't making people wear the required headgear, and that's a must. There's no ifs, ands, or buts," Scalise said.

Students were stationed at each inflatable and were telling people that they needed to wear helmets, Vardeman said.

Vardeman went on to say that Outrageous Adventures failed to supervise students through the events.

This meant that many students failed to receive proper instructions, Vardeman said.

"I will never have Outrageous Adventures again, but I will continue to contract out

through Eccentric Entertainment," Vardeman said.

No legal actions have been filed against MCC, Vardeman said.



Above, Steven Trollinger after he was hit in the face at the joust. Below, students participate in the activities, some wearing protective headgear.

Digital images by Magen Rigdon and Jorge Trujillo



## Budget cuts spur increased tuition

Ertea Sanchez  
Managing editor

The fall semester begins with increased tuition and a probable tax increase due to education cuts by the 78th Texas Legislature, but MCC President, Dennis Michaelis said the college will try to keep students as insulated from the financial woes as possible.

Tuition rates for this semester and the summer semester saw an increase of \$5 per credit hour due to the cuts, and another tuition hike for the 2004 spring and summer semesters will be considered at the Aug. 26 a board meeting.

"The problem is that we (MCC) had a 25 percent en-

rollment increase during the last base period, which meant that the college should have received an additional \$3.5 million," Michaelis said. "Instead we got about \$300,000. But then they took it away by making us pay in health insurance premiums for our employees and various other things that are costing the college money," Michaelis said.

This funding decrease meant that the board had to decide between limiting enrollment, or raising tuition and taxes.

They decided to increase tuition and taxes, Michaelis said, because MCC is an open enrollment college that is all about educational opportunity.

"I think that the dramatic in-

crease of enrollment at MCC has put a lot of pressure on faculty and staff to do more and more with fewer and fewer resources. Our primary goal is to handle the increased numbers with the resources that are available," Michaelis said.

"I really commend MCC's faculty and staff for stepping forward and taking on additional work loads in order to make educational opportunity available," he said.

MCC continues to make educational opportunity available through new initiatives such as the McGregor Center, University Center, and the Highland Ranch.

Michaelis said it looks as

though the McGregor Center will have very strong enrollment, with more than 400 students already registered.

"What this tells us (the strong enrollment) is that there is a very strong demand in McLennan County and Central Texas for educational opportunity," he said.

He said that the main goal for this coming year is to continue doing a great job in the classroom and to expand, as with the McGregor Center.

The center offers about 30 courses, throughout the morning, day, and evening.

The University Center gives students an opportunity to complete a four-year degree on the MCC campus.

Michaelis said that the Highland Ranch also allows MCC to offer other opportunities to more students through the Veterinarian Technology program.

He said MCC continues to grow, even though obstacles, resulting from the budget cuts, stand in the way.

"We haven't been able to add faculty and staff that really are needed and that would normally occur as enrollment increases," he said.

He also said that the cuts have forced the school to spend a little bit less on technology.

"I think as far as the students are concerned, the effects of the cuts will be pretty transparent," Michaelis said.

## "MS Blasts" McLennan

Magen Rigdon  
Staff Writer

"MS Blast" blew into McLennan Community College's computer network during the last week of Summer II, shutting down machines and catching off guard those less diligent about updating their virus protection.

The "worm" took advantage of known glitches in Microsoft XP and 2000, said Mike Senright, Director of Network Services.

At MCC, wherever Windows updates were not done, the intruder program created a "bigger hole" in the glitch.

That allowed the virus more room to affect the machines. Senright said.

"Computers would just shut down," he said. Network services personnel were kept busy during the last two weeks run-

See "Blast" on page 2

# Student Life

## McLennan Community College Map

AC Administration Classroom	CSC Community Services Center	PH Powell House
ACW Art Center Waco	CU Central Utility	PHP Physical Plant & Campus Police
AS Applied Science	FA Faculty Office Building	SB Science Building
BF Baseball Field	H Highland Gym	SHF Softball Field
Bpac Ball Performing Arts Center	HC Health Careers	SC Student Center
BRS Bosque River Stage (formerly Amphitheater & Manna)	HPE Health & Physical Education	SS Student Services
	HPS Highlander Plaza & Stage	VS Visitor Staff Parking
	IF Intramural Fields	
	LA Liberal Arts	
	LH Lecture Hall	
	LTC Learning Technology Center/Library	
	MHG McLennan House & Gardens	

Emergency Call Boxes

**McLennan Community College**  
1400 College Drive  
Waco, Texas 76708

## Vet tech expands

The Veterinary Technology facilities at the Highland Ranch continue to expand since the program began in the fall of 2002.

With the opening of laboratories in the Veterinary Technology building, the progression of the courses has been rearranged, Ron Epps said.

"Basically what we've done is just reversed the way the courses run. We moved Introductory of Veterinary Technology up to the first semester of the first year and moved some of the courses back," Epps said.

Currently under construction next to the Veterinary Technology building are two classrooms that each seat 40 students, an anatomy lab, a library, and a computer room.

"This year 37 applicants applied to the program and 24 were accepted", Epps said.

He said enrollment is down a little.

Sixteen students are in the first year class compared to 25 in the second year class.

Epps said that next year his goal is to recruit more students by going to high schools and doing more public relations in the media, as he did when the program first started.

The program offers hands-on experience, such as assisting surgery, which students will do this semester.

Epps will be doing the actual surgery, while his students assist him, monitor the animals under anesthesia, and learn how to close a surgical wound.

"It's a very intensive program. There's a lot of information to learn, you not only have to learn about dogs and cats, but also horses, cattle, and goats. In our lab animal medicine course we learn about birds, rodents, and snakes," Epps said.

He said that on the ranch continuing education courses are held.

Some of the courses offered cover training and riding horses, pond management, and fly fishing.

Agricultural types of programs could be held at the Ranch in the future, Epps said, so that a degree in range management or other types of degrees can be offered.

## Library Hours

Saturday - Sunday, August 16 - 17 CLOSED  
 Monday, August 18 8:00 am - 5:00 pm  
 Tuesday, August 19 8:00 am - 2:00 pm  
 Wednesday - Friday, August 20 - 22 8:00 am - 5:00 pm  
 Saturday - Sunday, August 23 - 24 CLOSED  
 Monday - Thursday, August 25 - 28 7:30 am - 10:00 pm  
 Friday, August 29 7:30 am - 5:00 pm

**LABOR DAY HOLIDAY**  
 Saturday - Monday, August 30 - September 1 -- CLOSED

**REGULAR FALL HOURS**  
 Monday - Thursday 7:30 am - 10:00 pm  
 Friday 7:30 am - 5:00 pm  
 Saturday 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
 Sunday 3:00 pm - 9:00 pm

**THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY**  
 Tuesday, November 25 7:30 am - 5:00 pm  
 Wednesday - Sunday, November 26 - 30 CLOSED

**HOURS FOR DECEMBER**  
 Monday - Thursday, December 1 - 4 7:30 am - 10:00 pm  
 Friday, December 5 7:30 am - 5:00 pm  
 Saturday, December 6 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
 Sunday, December 7 3:00 pm - 10:00 pm  
 Monday - Wednesday, December 8 - 10 7:30 am - 10:00 pm  
 Thursday, December 11 (last day of finals) 7:30 am - 9:00 pm  
 Friday, December 12 -- 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 pm

## New MAC Express machine allows students to bank on MCC ID cards instead of cash

Erica Sanchez  
Managing Editor

The Mac Express, a machine resembling an ATM, is a new addition to the Learning Technology Center, intended to make using student ID card finance more convenient, said Gary Willis, Coordinator of Auxiliary Services.

The machine can be used to add money to the student Mac card, and checks the card balance, Willis said.

It has been in operation since March 2003.

Before, the source for those services was a person behind a desk in the LTC.

Now students can insert their Mac card into the Mac Express and, with a few simple on-screen instructions and button presses, they can check their card balances and receive printed receipts, or insert bills to add money to their cards, Willis said.

This new technology allows a minimum of \$1 to be placed on the card, rather than the previous requirement of a \$5 minimum, he said.

There is no limit to the amount of

money the machine will take, but it will not accept change or give it back, he said.

To solve the change problem, a currency changer could be put next to the Mac Express in the future, but that depends on the school's budget, Willis said.

It will not accept credit cards or checks.

Those transactions can be done in the business office for a credit card or at the desk beside the machine for checks, Willis said.

The machine can be accessed any time that the LTC is open.

The machine allows the public to print and copy in the campus library, and Willis said that is helpful, since MCC is a community college.

The general public can purchase a casual card from the machine for a dollar and use it in the library, food court, or vending machines, he said.

The casual card also comes in handy for students who leave their Mac cards at home.



Sabrina Gilbert and Audra Hall use MAC Express in LTC to check balance on their MCC ID card. Also allow to convert cash on a debit account on student id.

## Bosque River Stage now offers MCC students free tickets for local concerts during fall 2003

Brandi McCarty  
Staff writer

Students strapped for cash but with a taste for live music are in luck this semester.

The Bosque River Stage is offering students with an MCC ID card one free ticket to the \$5 concerts.

The free ticket offer kicked off August 22 with Elephants Gerald.

Elephants Gerald is a ten piece

local band that plays a mix of funk, rock, jazz, and blues.

Upcoming shows also include an August 28th back-to-school concert featuring local bands Willis Brownstone and Riverside.

The show starts at 8pm, as does the September 6th concert with cover band, Sloppy Joe.

Rock-n-roll oldies group The Morticians will take the stage October 18, and the MCC Jazz Ensemble will

open for jazz band Third Coast, on October 23.

Both concerts also begin at 8pm.

The student discount does not apply to the September 14 show featuring legendary cowboy singer Michael Martin Murphy.

Tickets are \$25 for reserved seating and \$15 for the lawn/picnic area.

For ticket information call (254) 235-6881, Monday through Friday from 1 until 5pm.

**'Blast' from page 1**

ning Window security patches to fix the glitch, he said.

MCC came out in good shape compared to other locations, whose systems were completely wiped out, he said.

Europe was hit harder than the United States, Searight said.

Compared to "Nimda", the computer scourge last year, this one was nearly harmless.

"Nimda" contaminated servers all over campus in 2001, and some stopped running before the virus was detected.

Thirty staff members spent the better half of a weekend cleaning each desktop, and repairs continued into the following week.

"The old one was destructive, it would delete files and corrupt files," said Searight.

MCC was prepared for this attack to the system, said Karen Conline, Senior Director of Internal Audit and Technology.

"It was isolated very quickly and was fixed the next day," she said.

The worm did not affect registration, said Herman Tucker, Director of Records and Registration.

MS Blast got the blame when the campus network became overloaded by volume of students trying to register at once.

**WANT WINGS?**

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## Highland Herald

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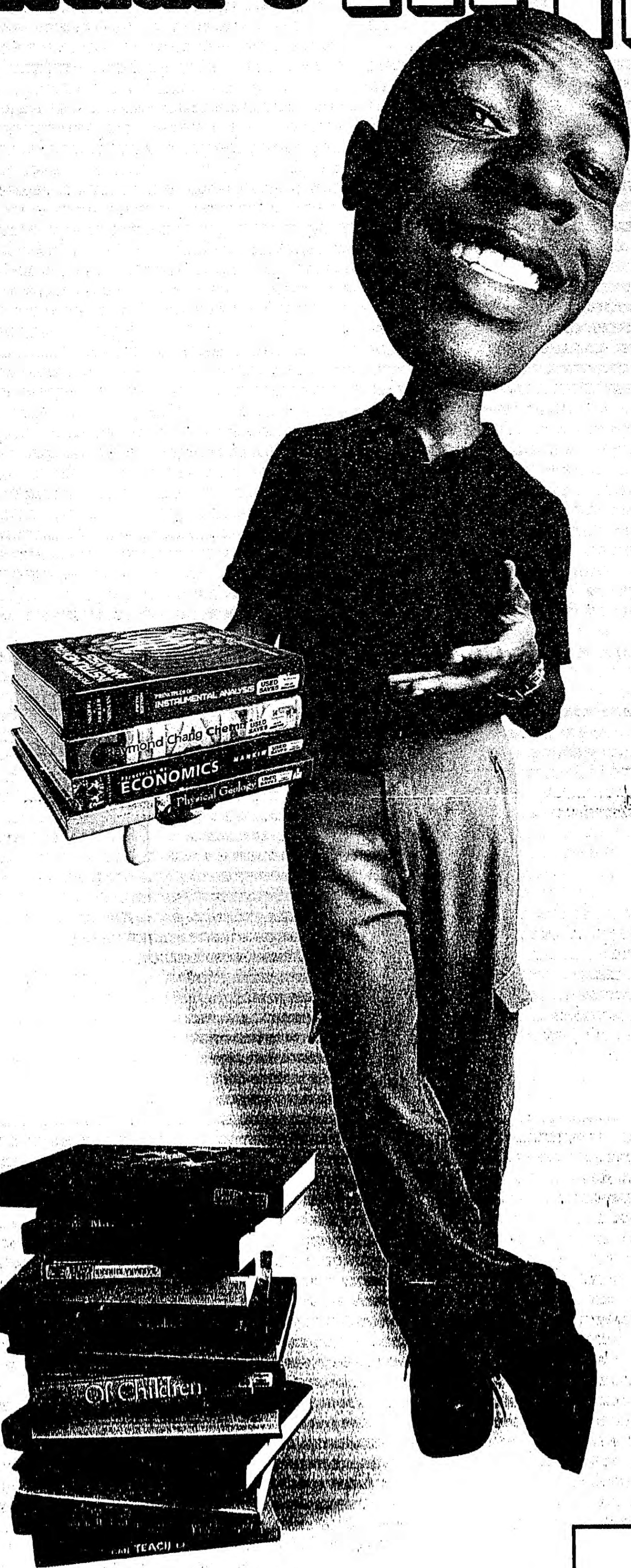
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The *Highland Herald* welcomes letters from the students, faculty, and staff of McLennan Community College. Please keep letters brief. All letters become property of the *Highland Herald*, and it's staff reserves the right to edit letters for content, taste, grammar, and spelling.

Please e-mail letters and comments to: [highland\\_herald@mccstudents.mcc.cc.tx.us](mailto:highland_herald@mccstudents.mcc.cc.tx.us) or drop them off in room B42 of the Community Services Building.

Phone number: 299-8524

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## The internal combustion education

**Jorge Trujillo**  
Guest writer

First I would like to welcome all freshmen to what will undoubtedly be a great year if you make it past the first two weeks of school. I am one of a hand full of students who have no other ambition in life but to be a student here. And believe it or not my years of experience here have some benefit other than being on first name basis with pretty much everybody here including the shuttle driver "Hi Joe."

I have decided to give the new people a heads up on a problem that if you do not prepare for will cause extreme stress, head aches and even road rage. The problem: finding a parking space.

Most people notice that McLennan Community College has sufficient parking for a 3A high school but has the attendance of major university. And I know what you're thinking right now your smarter than the 5000 students before you and you will have no problem finding a space.

The following are the five most commonly attempted solutions to the parking problem on campus and their

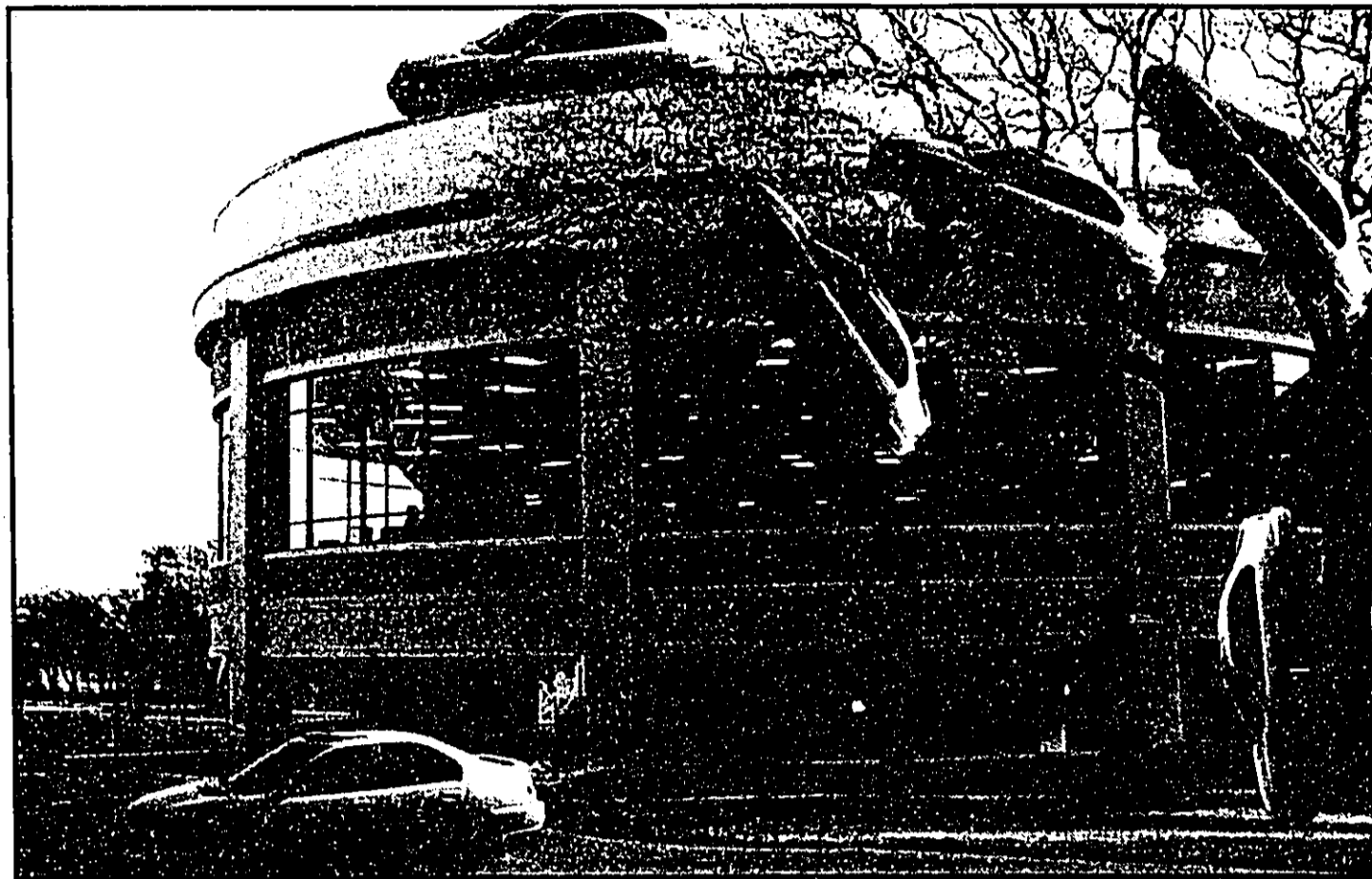


Photo illustration by Erica Sanchez

outcome, some I recommend and some are here to save you the pain of thinking you are the first to have this idea.

I like to call number five *the early bird special*. I know this is going to blow your mind away but this was something I discovered when I for-

got to adjust my clock at daylight savings. I made it to campus 30 minutes late as usual or so I thought, I was actually 30 minutes early and oddly there was hardly any trouble finding a space and I made it to class with time to look over my work and even have a snack. With a zero citation fac-

tor, I have to say this is a pretty smart way to go. But let's be honest who want to be 30 minutes early.

The second is commonly known as *the student stalker*. Well this method is fairly simple to achieve but a little creepy. The citation factor is pretty low as long as the following

ends in the parking lot. It's pretty much what it sounds like, while you are circling the parking lot you notice someone walking to their car so you move in behind them and slow to a crawl. You proceed to follow the person to their car, watch them get in and take their space as soon as they leave. While you are doing this you feel a little weird but a parking space is a parking space.

Coming in right in the middle is *the teacher sneaker*. I have very little to say about this method the only reason it made it to the third place is because it is so commonly attempted. This method has the highest citation factor of the entire list. I mean come on people like the offices aren't going to notice the white mustang with text books in the back parked among the sea of Honda Civics. Taking a faculty spot has such little flare it's almost boring.

Now we are leaving common sense behind. The last two top the charts for their daring and bluntness.

At number two we have what I refer to as *the grass pass*. This method is mostly utilized by people with Trucks and SUVs, but my esteemed confrere and I have pulled it off with a 2000 Camero. It's also the most uncreative technique of our list and has the highest rate

of citation. As we the driving daredevils arrive on campus we notice that we'll have to park in the nosebleed section but then there it is a small oasis of hope. We notice no one was smart enough to park on the grass. So proudly we maneuver our vehicle over the curb onto the grass and proudly strut to class. Its not too bright but it works in a pinch.

Last but not least my personal favorite is *the buddy bail*. This technique only works if you have the gullible sidekick which I have been on some occasions. There is no citation factor for this method but the danger level is what makes this a bad idea. As you and your buddy are pulling into school you see a spot open up and know not to waste this heavenly gift which clearly meant for you, so the sidekick bails from the car while it's still moving and if he is still able to move, he sprints over to the spot and proceeds to lay down until his friend makes his way over to him. This way is fairly effective but the gullible sidekick is most likely going to get hurt but what's a little pain compared to a prime parking spot.

So once again welcome freshman hope you appreciate the fact that you're at the only three-year community college in Texas, two years of studying one year of parking. Bye Joe.

## Dancing domination during summer

*MCC Dance Company swept the National Dance Alliance Collegiate Camp*

**Margo Moreno**  
Editor in Chief

The MCC Dance Company swept the National Dance Alliance Collegiate Dance Camp this Summer.

The team won three trophies in the NDA's Division II with first place trophies in Team Dance, Style Dance and one for "Best All Around Team".

They also received a bid to attend the NDA Collegiate National's for Spring 2004.

Two current students Sophomore Lt. T.J. Maple and Freshman Sarah Drolet were selected for "All American's" honors.

"This team already has a special chemistry. Everyone is willing to work as hard as it takes to become the best that they can be. That, in itself, is the biggest battle for most teams and the most sought after characteristic. They are not working to get second, first is



Photo provided by Sandy Hinton

their goal and dream!" Sandy Hinton, Dance Company Director said.

Former students Bekah Jones, who is now the captain of Texas Tech Pom Squad, and Amanda Lindsay, the 2002-03 MCC captain also received the "All American" Award.

Jones and Lindsey are both at Tech, Merideth Cogbill is at North Texas, Julia Salinas at UT San Antonio, Deleah Caro is a Dallas Maverick Dancer, Sarah Salinas and Stephanie Starkey are both with NFL Houston Texans Dance Team.

The MCC Dance Company members for 2003-04 are: Freshmen Rachelle Alderson, Andrea Billingsly, Kati Black, Laurie Bowden, Samatha Cicirello, Sarah Drolet, McKenzie Gillian, Shiree King, Megan Mayo, Mallory McQuary and Courtney Restivo. Sophomores: Sherry Blair, Haley Hinton, T.J. Maple, Sonia Riley, and Emily Smith.

Have you ever picked up one of our newspapers and thought, "I can do better than this?"

Let's see!

Join Comm 2311

proudly announces its  
NEW ticket policy  
for MCC Faculty, Staff, and Students!

Beginning with our fall 2003 concerts, all MCC administrators, faculty, and staff will receive two FREE general admission tickets (valued at \$5 each) to every local concert and one FREE ticket to the Michael Martin-Murphey concert on Sunday, Sept. 14 (valued at \$25). MCC students can receive one FREE general admission ticket (valued at \$5) to every local concert.

To reserve your tickets, please call the MCC box office at 299 8200 from 1-5 p.m. weekdays beginning Monday, Aug. 18.

You must present your MCC ID to pick up your free tickets.

Check out our lineup:

Thursday, August 21  
College Back-to-School concert featuring rockin' Willis Brownstone and Riverside

Saturday, Sept. 13  
Rock and Funk with local favorite Sloppy Joe

Sunday, Sept. 14  
Legendary Singing Cowboy Michael Martin Murphey

Monday, Oct. 13  
Waco favorite The Morticians

Thursday, Oct. 23  
An evening of jazz with Third Coast and the MCC Jazz Ensemble