

Highland Herald

Volume 34, Number 6

Waco, TX

December 8, 1999

Sca



...like movements and
...like movements and
...like movements and
...like movements and
...like movements and
...like movements and
...like movements and
...like movements and
...like movements and
...like movements and

See story on page 10

Yes, Virginia

There is a Santa Claus

Leah C. Turner
Staff Writer

Santa Claus, the boogie man, a dumb Aggie and a dumb Longhorn are standing at a crossroad with a pot of gold in the middle. So who's gonna get the pot of gold? The dumb Longhorn? The dumb Aggie?

As a variation on the well-known joke, I would like to

suggest that Santa Claus claim the pot of gold. Why? Because the others don't exist of course. America's youth is too educated and quick to believe in something as silly as Santa. But it's those disbelievers who lose out on the pot of gold.

The question at hand, however, is not whether Santa Claus exists, but what Santa Claus really is.

Just as the pot of gold is meant to represent the epitome of a person's dreams, material or not, Kris Kringle captures

that intangible, over the rainbow, dream; the bubble that is so easily burst at a perpetually younger age.

The spirit of Santa makes college students climb onto some fat old man's knee to get a picture with and a candy cane from Santa Claus. Santa is the

See 'Virginia' on page 2

■ See Presidents Message on page 3



The Friday evening presentation of "The Wind in the Willows," was a wild ride indeed. The company of MCC Theatre Department players brought an air of sophistication and excitement, even importance, to the parable of Mr. Toad. (See story on page 8)

College inducts Tartan Scholars

Jennifer Holomek
Staff Writer

Scholar.

The Tartan Scholar Program is a prestigious society that offers those who qualify unique opportunities.

The program offers a full paid scholarship, up to 18 hours, and a book allowance.

The program is designed to give students a broader look at the world.

Gilbert Montemayor, history and government instructor, is the new director for the Tartans and said that the goal is to look for people who stand out and are creative.

Students interested in joining must fill out an application, submit two recommendations from faculty or administrators and prepare a personal portfolio of written or other creative work.

The application asks questions concerning academic interests, career plans, achievements, and personal reasons for seeking to become a Tartan

A selection committee usually decides on 15-20 students via grade point average, standardized test scores, talents and abilities, portfolio and the application.

The Tartan Scholars for the Spring 2000 semester are:

Laurie Elliot, 41, from Hewitt; Jose Zapata, 19, from Waco; Lincoln Coffie, 28, from Elm Mott; Angela Carter, 19, from Waco; Dwipa Patel, 20, from Waco; Deborah Dennis, 32, from China Spring; Vanessa Clendening, 36, from Bruceville-Eddy; Nellie Fitzjarrell, 19 from Waco; Melissa Slaughter, 34, from Waco; Ryan Amundson, 19, from Clifton; Rebecca Young, 42, from Waco; Debbie Mattucci, 41, from Morgan; Tenisha Freeman, 20, from Waco; Lynnae Lowe, 24, from Waco; and Brett Newman, 23, from Waco.

Those interested in Tartan Scholars for the Fall 2000 se-

See "Tartans" on page 2

Mathematics course eases transition

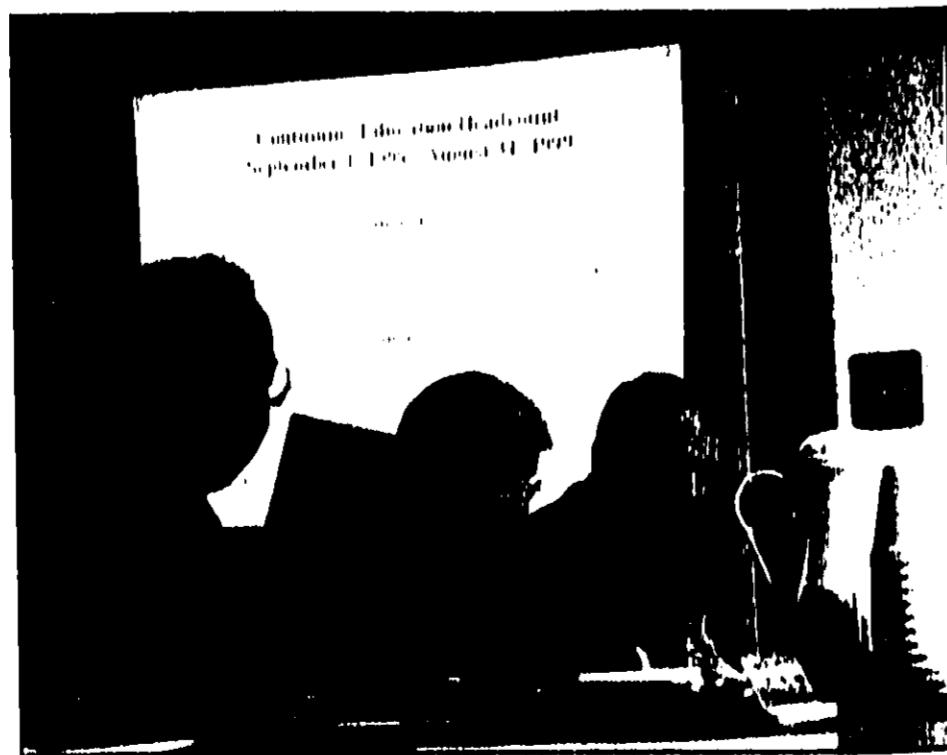
Lindsey Hayworth
Managing Editor

Dr. Jess Collins, mathematics teacher, told the board of trustees that too many students are enrolling in developmental math classes.

He outlined the MCC-WISD Student Success Collaboration aimed at remedying the problem during the Nov. 29 board meeting.

The purpose of the program is to help ease the students' transition from high school mathematics to college level mathematics, enabling greater success in college-level classes. MCC instructional administrators met with WISD high school administrators to implement and outline a plan of action.

Dual credit math courses were described through which students in high schools would be able to take mathematics



Digital image by Marcos Garcia

courses and be accepted for college credit. These classes would also count toward high school credit.

This type of program is designed to benefit students who need flexibility and who wish to get an early start on college credits. Also those taking the

TASP exam would benefit.

Herman Tucker reported on the gradual increasing enrollment. As a whole, including all students taking classes, the enrollment is estimated at more than 12,000 students for the upcoming school year. This is an increase from the years pre-

vious.

Johnette McKown, vice president-business services, received the Woman of Distinction Award from the Girl Scouts' Blue Bonnets.

The award is given to the woman deemed worthy through achievements and successes. The board congratulated her and presented McKown the plaque.

Consent agenda items were discussed and those outcomes are presented in the minutes available on request.

The decision on a new hiree was finalized. William McNeil was announced as the new Workforce Developmental Officer. Cathy Watson's promotion to assistant registrar was officially announced and the two new assistant coaches were introduced by Wendell Hudson, Athletics Director.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 17, at 1 p.m.

Reaching for the stars



Digital image by Marcos Garcia

Freshman starter Cedric Palmer helps fellow 'Landers in their victory over Eastfield, 87-67

Highlights of all 'Landers' games, page 5

Virginia continued from page 1

almighty joy of giving that enraptures us before we become conditioned to expect something in return. Santa brings toys to life and lends magic to fireplaces. He's the mischievous twinkle in a young child's eye when racing to his gifts on Christmas day. Santa makes the sugar plums dance in our heads.

The cynicism and doubtful pessimism of today breeds rotting sugarplums and makes for weak dreams.

We must find a way to preserve these sugarplums: our hopes and dreams.

Often it is children who remind us that life has not lost its luster . . . we have. It's the young girls and boys whose unpolluted view of the world often present the most obvious and simple questions we forget to ask or more truthfully, that we don't think we can answer.

In 1897, a young girl named Virginia O'Hanlon sent a question to the New York Sun that rivaled any asked before in difficulty in answering. The Sun's veteran editor, Francis P. Church, was certainly befuddled when this question was laid on his desk. Upon reading

it, Church realized immediately that he was holding a curious, impressionable little mind in his hands. How to handle the task at hand was possibly the most troubling decision he ever had to deal with during his time on

the paper staff.

There, in her innocent wording, Virginia pleaded for all of humanity.

Should I have faith in anything? or is it all just a bunch of hokey?

Dear Editor—

I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says, "If you see it in The Sun, it's so." Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?

Virginia O'Hanlon

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be

Get help from advisors

Mandolin Shannon
Staff Writer

Still not sure which classes to sign up for in the spring? Stop by the Student Center for a course advising session.

Campus advisors can be a great help in deciding your course of study. Even if you have not chosen a major yet, our campus advisors may be able to point you in the right direction.

John Nobis, a student advisor, said that for undecided majors the advisors "try to get an idea of what direction they want to go." He said they try to find out if students want to transfer or if they are seeking a two-year degree. He said that from there we can get transfer students on a core curriculum program.

Nobis also said that the Student center offers career testing which can help a student decide on a major. Testing services include the Strong Inter-

est Inventory, a 315-question computer test, and the Career Path test which is much shorter.

Nobis recommended students take the Strong Interest Inventory test if they can schedule the time. He said this test compares your answers with responses from people who are currently in the work force and are happy with their positions. Results will place the student in a category with other like-minded individuals and show possible career choices and college majors.

Nobis said students who are decided about their majors can come by the Student Center and

pick up a degree plan. He said that once the student has decided and has a degree plan, they can ask a favorite instructor to advise on courses. He said this allows students to form mentor relationships with campus instructors.

Course advising will be available through Dec. 17. Advising will resume on January 3, by appointment only. Students should call 299-8614 to set up an appointment. Last chance registration will be on January 12 from 3-5 P.M., January 13 from 10 A.M.-5 P.M. and on Saturday the 13th from 9 A.M. -noon.

Soft Contact Lens Package

\$79 with ad
Reg. \$89

Includes eye exam,
1 pair clear contacts,
follow-up visit

Dr. G. Marten-Ellis O.D.
1501 Hogan 254-867-9450

(take Behrens Circle exit off I-35)

Set your goals high.

We'll help get you there.

Sometimes reaching your Goals seems like an impossible task. In the Air Force you'll get the tools you need to reach any goal you set. We'll get you there by:

- providing education opportunities with tuition assistance
- * establishing leadership skills for a promising future
- preparing you for a career in life

You can earn up to \$9,000 enlistment bonus, if you qualify. So, if you're between the ages of 17-27 -call 1-800-423-USA F for an information packet, or visit the Air Base at www.airforce.com

no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The external light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies. You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if you did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived could tear apart. Only faith, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives and lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay 10 times 10,000 years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

Virginia O'Hanlon Douglas became a school teacher. She died on May 13, 1971, at the age of 81, in a nursing home in Valatie, N.Y. Francis P. Church, a cynical Civil War correspondent known for his abrupt and often bitter disposition, never wrote anything else like his most famous editorial. He died in the 1920s. He had no children.

Tartans

Continued from page 1

mester can contact Gilbert Montemayor at 299-8934.

"This group of students, I believe, is the most diverse culturally and academically that we have had in awhile." Jim McKeown, English instructor, said.

The new Tartans come from places as far as Kenya and Florida and are interested in things ranging from automobile design to photography.

One student was even a female bodybuilder.

Jim McKeown is very pleased with the new group of Tartan Scholars and said that this group will probably be the strongest group academically that they have ever had.

WCT presents Xmas pageant

The Waco Children's Theatre, Inc. will be presenting the play The Best Christmas Pageant Ever.

Performances will be on December 10 and 11 at 7:30 p.m., and on December 11 and 12 at 2 p.m. Tickets will be \$5 at the door.

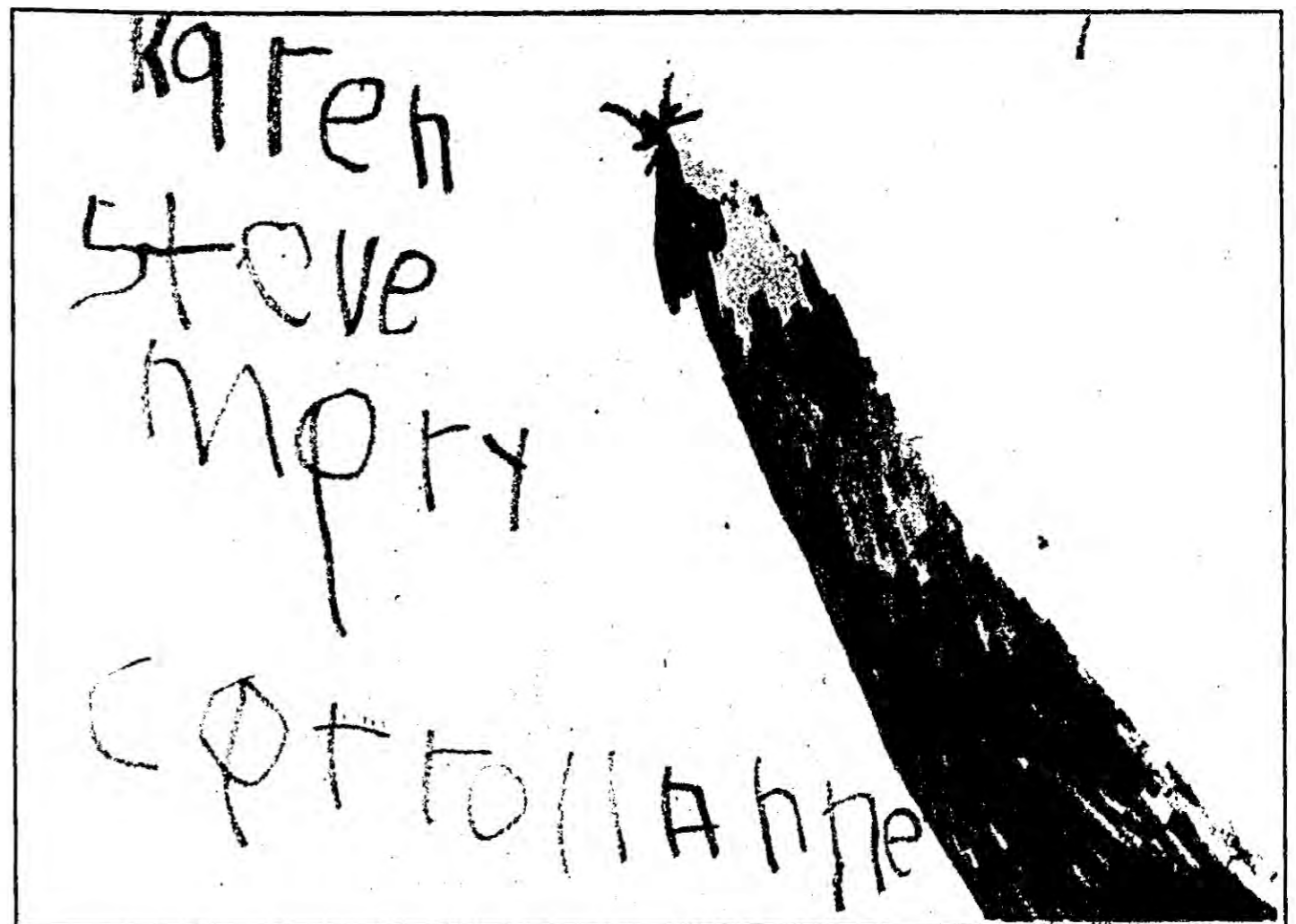
The staff of the **Highland Herald**
wishes you a meaningful Holiday Season!

instant recall.

*69

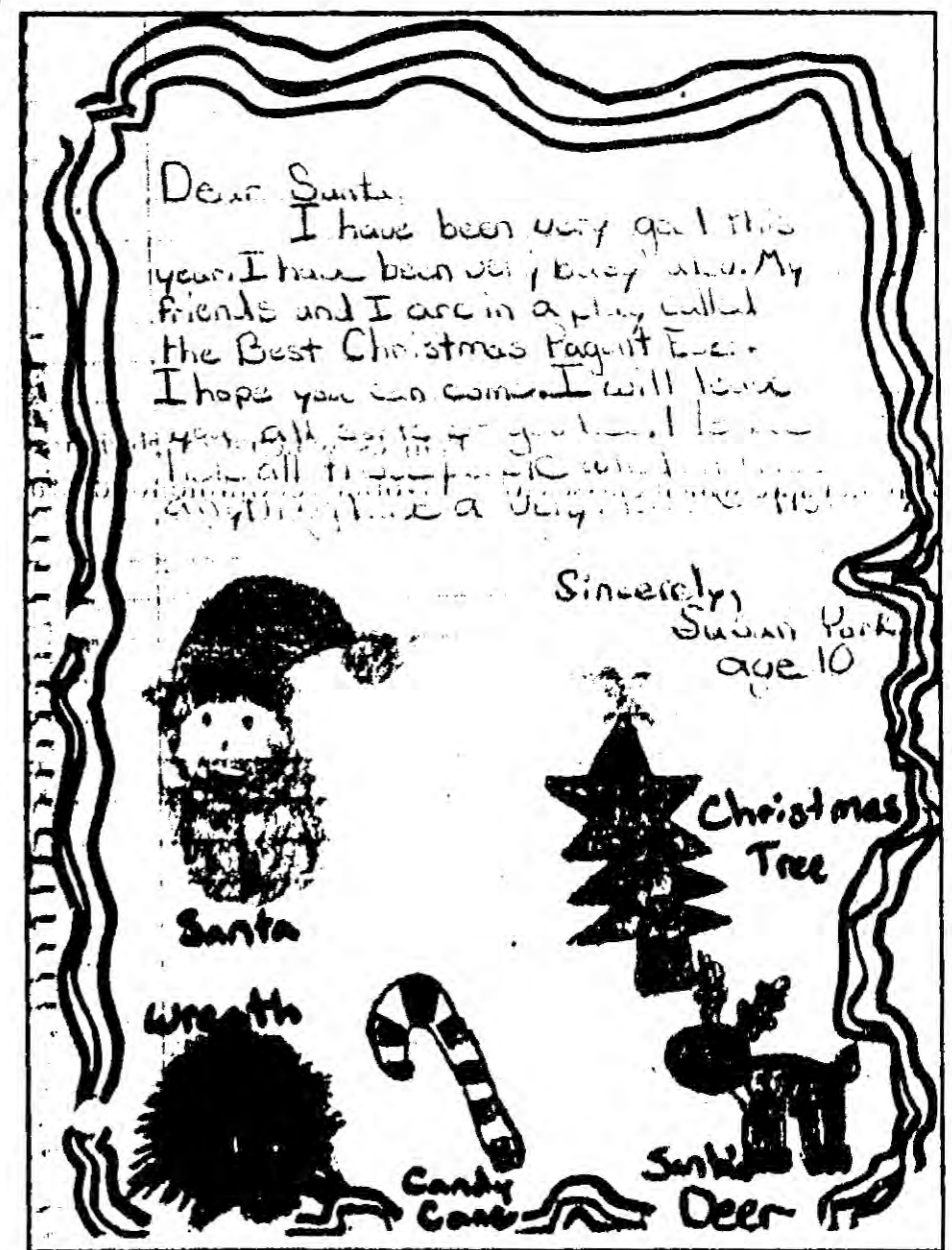
GTE

Children of MCC



Dear Santa,
Please bring me some new clothes for my bitty baby. I also would like some diapers for her. Please, can you bring me her diaper bag, too?
I love you,
Carroll Anne Briggs
(Age 4)
This is my tree picture I made for you!

Dear Santa, I would like for you to listen to my mom on what I want for Christmas. Please get it for me! And also will you buy extra toys, clothes and food for people who don't have those things. Please, I think they're different. Love, Mary Kathryn Briggs
Age 9



SADDLE

Distinctive Style In

BROOK

Apartment Living

Waco's New Landmark Apartment Home Community.
A Place You'll Be Proud To Call Home

NOW LEASING!

Luxury 1, 2 and 3 Bedroom Units

- Located in Hewitt Area
- Corporate Apartments Available
- Gated Community
- Garages Available
- Fitness Center

- Video Surveillance
- Computer Workstations
- Vaulted Ceilings
- Basketball & Volleyball Courts

- Garden Tubs
- Olympic Size Pool
- Tanning Beds
- Hot Tub
- Club Room

* NO DEPOSIT FOR STUDENTS *

Open Monday thru Saturday 10:00 am to 6:00 pm
Sunday 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm

9000 Chapel Road • Waco, Texas
Call 254•420•2567 or Fax 254•420•2737

SPRING CLAY AT MCC

This spring, MCC will offer pottery courses for both beginning and advanced students. The beginning student will have an opportunity to learn techniques including working with coils, slabs and numerous other hand-building processes with a great deal of time spent mastering the potter's wheel. Advanced students will be encouraged to develop their own course plans. There are even sections for Non-Art majors.

Classes will be offered at the following times:

ARTS 1375 Clay for Non-Art Majors	
section 01	1:00-2:50 p.m., T/Th
section 02	9:10-11:00 p.m., T/Th
section 50	8:00-7:50 p.m., MAV
ARTS 2348 Ceramics I	
section 01	9:10 a.m.-Noon, MAV
section 02	1:00-3:50 p.m., T/Th
section 50	6:00-8:50 p.m., MAV
ARTS 2347 Ceramics II	
section 01	9:10 a.m.-Noon, MAV
section 02	1:00-3:50 p.m., T/Th
section 50	6:00-7:50 p.m., MAV
ARTS 2377 Problems in Clay	
section 01	9:10-11:00 a.m., MAV
section 02	1:00-2:50 p.m., T/Th
section 50	6:00-7:50 p.m., MAV
BEGINNING POTTERY Continuing Education	
C'M 5073 01	9:10-11:00 a.m., MAV
C'M 5073 02	1:00-2:50 p.m., T/Th
C'M 5073 03	6:00-7:50 p.m., MAV

Early registration is strongly advised as enrollment is limited and classes will fill quickly. For more information, contact Tracy South at 200-8701 or 800-1300, or email at southt@camp.ncl.

Come learn about art, get your hands dirty and have fun all at the same time.

From the President...

A Miracle For A Gift

Having the advance knowledge that the Highland Herald is reprinting the famous editorial, "Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus," I decided to read it for perhaps the thousandth time as a possible source of inspiration for my column. I hope it worked.

I love the reply to Virginia O'Hanlon's question about Santa Claus because, to me, it captures the essence of why we live; why we love our friends and families, not just the "Spirit of Christmas." The Christmas season is specific to Christians in the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ and it is, indeed, a joyous time. But it is also a time of year that, no matter what one's beliefs happen to be, we tend to take an inventory of our lives and give thanks for all the ways we are blessed.

I must admit that I feel blessed beyond understanding. I have a wonderful family, many treasured friends, and probably the best job in the entire world—being President of MCC. But, I cannot pass by the spirit of this holiday season, particularly in the shadow of Virginia O'Hanlon, to share my thoughts with you about one of the most special gifts a person can receive. It is the gift of being a grandparent. The downside of being a grandparent is that you have to be advanced in years to qualify. But, once you see that beautiful child, you know it is worth the price. My wife and I were fortunate to have two wonderful sons. We loved and cherished every minute while they were growing up. Very happily, we are now able to know them as adults with wonderful spouses.

But the love one experiences for a grandchild is different. One's priorities in life are certainly different at 56 than at 30 as is one's patience and tolerance. I remember being much more concerned when our sons cried in church than I was when our granddaughter cried under the very same circumstances. That's the advantage of the perspective given by age—realizing that crying is what babies do sometimes. From the very first time I held her in my arms, she was all of a few hours old, I was hers. I knew then that whatever she needed from her granddad was simply hers for the asking.

I have often heard people say they can't wait until their kids or grandkids get to be whatever age they think is the best—as far as I'm concerned, the best age my granddaughter has been is the age she is on that very day. She was wonderful as a newborn, she was wonderful as she learned to crawl and walk, and she was wonderful as a "terrible two." There hasn't been a bad age nor a time when her very existence hasn't been a miracle. If you've ever felt the tiny, chubby fingers of an infant close around your finger, how could you not recognize the miracle you hold in your arms? How could you not be completely devoted to such a perfect child? As our granddaughter has now reached the age of seven and can read as well as most graduate students and is more beautiful than any of the models in Elle, is there any reason to believe that the miraculous nature of her birth and growth will not continue to captivate her grandparents? Indeed, each age, each day is the best and will be the best tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow.

On a practical level, I realize that every grandparent and parent feels the same way. So, I really do know that others may not see my granddaughter as the most brilliant and the most beautiful—but they see those qualities in their own grandchildren. Children are the miracles in our lives; the blessings we are privileged to hold and love each and every day. They are the real gift of any season.

I wish you the most blessed holiday season of all, and I look forward to greeting you back here at MCC for the year 2000.

The Highland Herald Staff

Letters Policy

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

All letters become property of the *Highland Herald*, and it's staff reserves the right to edit them for content, taste, grammar and spelling.

Leah C. Turner
City Editor

Lindsey Hayworth
Managing Editor

Marcos Garcia
News Editor

Reporters:
Mandolin Shannon
Jaime Jones
Jennifer Holomek
Julian Ramon
Andrea Tabor
Dylan Newhouse

Right on...

Moving forward while looking back

Jaime N. Jones
Staff Writer

Well, we are putting an end to another semester here at "Good Ol' MCC."

After the midterms, students will flee the campus in a chaotic fashion.

What can we say? We don't exactly hate it here but for the most part, we'd rather be somewhere else.

We just know that we will never make it without an education.

Now, many of us will be moving on. I know I will. I will be transferring to the University of Texas in Austin.

I think attending MCC has been a great asset to my future. I had no idea what I wanted to

do when I came here but now, I have direction.

I went from an undecided major (taking journalism classes for the heck of it) to being editor of the *Highland Herald*.

My time at MCC has been groovy, and I walk away from here knowing that my presence made a difference. That is a great feeling!

Over the last two semesters here, I have developed a plan and goals. This is something I could never picture myself doing.

I have everything I need to make it in the real world, thanks to the school, administrators and faculty.

I am looking forward to moving and starting a new college. It is exciting!

Many of you will remain here and I urge you to get everything you can out of attending the college. It will be for your benefit.

This school has been good to me. I think that when (or if) I prosper in life, I will say I owe it all to MCC.

So, to those of you who will remain, be nice to the journalism students of the future. I wish you all good-bye. It's been real!

To those of you who are leaving, I wish good luck. Stay strong!

To the administrators, faculty and staff, thank you again. This school and all of its personnel will never know the difference it/they made in my life.

Also, to the OPTIONS stu-

dents and staff, tutoring in the program was great and you should all know that I learned as much from you as you did from me. Stay straight!

Last but not least, I want to tell the journalism students (future editors) how great they are. We couldn't have done it without you. Really!

I will miss you all the most. You guys have been great and we've had good times together. I'll never forget you all. Goodbye Julian (Razor Ramon), Leah (Veronica), Marcos (Carlos), Lindsey (Tulip), Andrea (Abercrombie and Fitch) and Jennifer (the girl with no other name). Keep your heads up! Farewell!

Green Scene...

Life on campus gets 'wild' and foxy

Mandolin Shannon
Staff Writer

Our campus offers a unique opportunity to watch and enjoy wildlife.

Of course, everyone on campus knows we have hundreds of squirrels displaying enjoyable antics as they go about their daily activities.

Recently, as I was walking to the library a squirrel bounded just over my head from the brick wall and into the large oak tree beside the library.

Anywhere on campus is suitable for watching these energetic creatures prepare for winter by stocking up on acorns.

In addition to squirrels, other less conspicuous animals frequent our campus. The amphitheater and marina are some of the hottest wildlife watching spots on campus.

Over the past several months, I have seen numerous species of birds and mammals near the marina and surrounding trails.

Great horned owls, red-tailed hawks, kingfishers, several species of woodpeckers and screech owls are fairly common near the marina.

Red fox are common, but not frequently seen in the area. These shy creatures usually stay close to rivers and heavily wooded areas.

Foxes can most often be seen from dusk to dawn. They hunt mice, rats and large insects such as grasshoppers and crickets.

Healthy fox populations are a boon to local farmers because they eat pests that can destroy a crop in a matter of days.

Last week I was lucky enough to watch a family of three foxes hunt bugs under a security light in a deserted parking lot less than a mile from campus.

Foxes are graceful and delicate. Watching their dainty features as they hunted reminded me of watching ballet dancers perform a carefully choreographed musical.

Wildlife and bird-watching are quickly becoming a favorite American past time.

According to Texas Parks and Wildlife reports more money is now being spent on these activities than is being spent on hunting and fishing activities.

Join in on the fun by enjoying a quiet afternoon at the marina or on the main campus watching local wildlife.

College tuition and costs on the rise

Jennifer Holomek
Staff Writer

The cost of tuition is on the rise and that doesn't include text books.

The Commerce Department's Digest of Educa-

tion Statistics indicate that by 2000 it will cost an average of \$50,000 for a degree from a public college and \$104,000 from a private college.

So where does that money come from?

There are many different op-

tions students can take.

There are student loans that everyone is very willing to give out.

Then students can pay them back for the rest of their lives, if they are lucky, maybe before they die.

Ok, maybe not that long, but hey it seems like it, right.

Then there are grants and scholarships that most people qualify for, but that will only go so far.

When tuition at a private university costs a couple thousand dollars, a \$400 scholarship will not go very far.

So here we are again, taking out a loan.

Of course, if some of us are lucky enough, mom and dad can pay for our educations and we don't have to pay them back.

As a fourth semester MCC student I have had to get an education the hard way.

My pocket.

Financial aid could not help because my parents make too much, and as for scholarships... I always seemed to be a day too late for the deadline.

As for loans, I am trying to put those off as long as possible.

Lucky for me and others in the same position, we are able to use MCC's installment plan to pay out our tuition.

Then we have our books for class that cost the average of a

right arm and left leg. Sometimes just a leg.

For example, a used Philosophy book is \$48 and at the end of the semester you expect to get your money back? Yeah right.

We have all heard that familiar, "sorry, we have changed

books and are no longer using that one."

So you are granted one used, out of date, \$48.00 Philosophy book that you will never open again.

So why is our tuition on the rise and our books so expensive?

Tuition costs are more at private schools because state funding is not available.

With technology changing every day and the cost of upkeep of the school, it is only normal that the cost rises.

As for public schools they are state-funded, but the schools have to have money for upkeep.

As for books, printing prices and updated material will keep prices on the rise, and psychology texts are not exactly million sellers.

Anyway you look at it, college isn't cheap. Regardless of where your education comes from, whether it's from a public, private, or junior college, your education is priceless.

Tradition:

At what cost?

Julian L. Ramon
Staff Writer

As we all know by now, twelve people lost their lives this past month due to a "tradition." The tragedy of the A&M bonfire was not only felt all around Texas, but nationwide.

Hats off to the rival UT, who not only put aside their "A&M hex rally," but held a gathering in memory of the victims. Incidentally, one of the victims was the son of a UT professor.

It was a day that will stay with Texas A&M forever. Aside from the fatalities, many others were injured and hospitalized.

I understand that tradition is a big part of college life, especially in universities, but from now on, some extreme measures should be taken to see to it that this bonfire is built carefully and properly.

If it is definitely necessary to light a fire to build confi-

dence in the students, students should not be allowed to partake in the construction of it. It's obvious that the university as a whole supports this tradition, so why not let people who know what they're doing have total control?

Since 1909, when the tradition began, this is not the first time accidents have occurred. In 1981, a student was killed by a tractor during construction. In 1994, the bonfire collapsed, fortunately bringing no casualties.

At what point do these people decide that it's time to start doing this thing professionally, and let the students stay out until the actual lighting begins?

Students can whine all they want about their pride in tradition, but when a life is lost, changes need to be made somewhere.

It's "tradition" that cost twelve lives.

Hoopsters end non-conference schedule

Lindsey Hayworth
Sports Editor

With the semester's end comes the end of MCC basketball for 1999.

The first game of the new year for the 'Landers will be against Navarro College at 7:30 p.m. January 4. For the Lassies, the State Tournament begins January 3-4, at home.

Kilgore Classic

The HighLanders played over two days in the annual Kilgore Classic tournament.

Panola

With a record of 4-4 the 'Landers needed to rally for a win. On November 12th they got their win 85-79. Cedric Palmer led the 'Landers by scoring 22 points. Jason Russell backed him up with 18 points, Kendall Garland with 13 points,

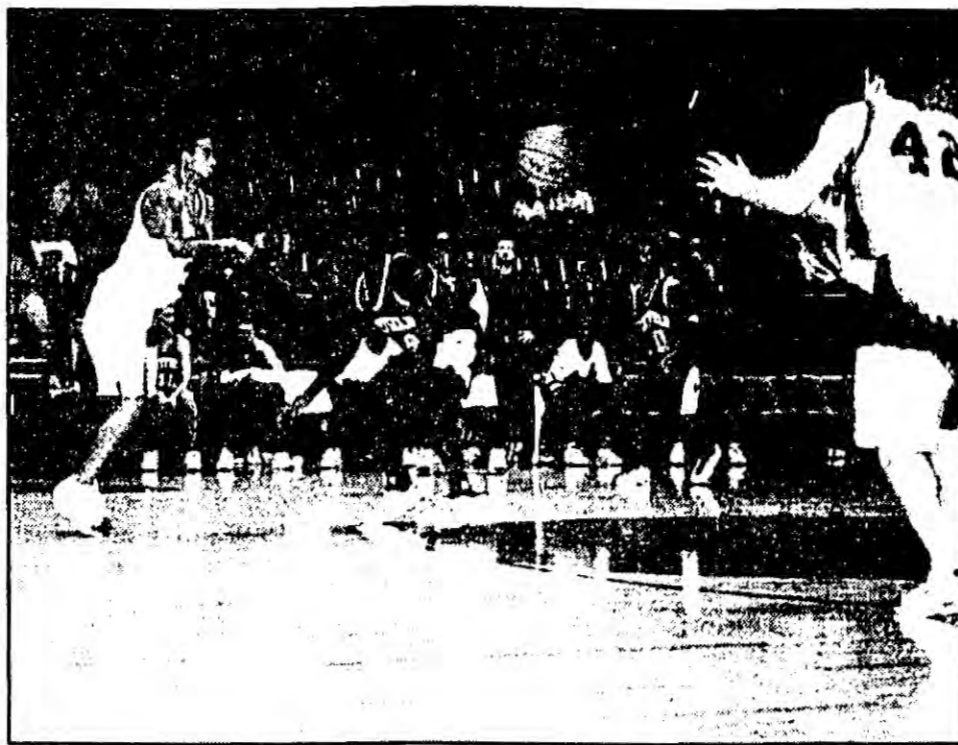
and Steve Helm scored 12 points. Kevin Mitchell had 8 assists.

Kilgore

November 13 the HighLanders faced Kilgore and narrowly lost against Navarro College at 7:30 heartbreaker. The outstanding players were Steve Helm with 17 points, Jason Lawrence with 13 points, and Jason Russell with 8 points. Kevin Mitchell had 6 steals in the game leading to Kilgore's total of 22 turnovers.

Blinn

On November 16, the HighLanders traveled to Brenham to battle the Pirates to an 81-93 loss. Cedric Palmer led the men in scoring with 21 points. Steve Helm turned in 15 points and 6 assists; Randy Johnson had 10 points; Kevin Mitchell, 6 assists, Kendall Garland and Steve



Digital image by Matt Shampers
Freshman JB McGee passes the ball to fellow 'Lander Dax Kuykendall during the game against Eastfield.

Helm both picked up 5 rebounds.

Odessa

With the 'Landers now struggling with a losing record 3-4 they pulled back into the 500-plus column with a 68-61 win.

Stand outs for this game include: Steve Helm with 10 points, Cedric Palmer and Jason Lawrence both with 8 points. Jason Russell came away with 5 rebounds and Christyan Rios had 5 assists.

Jason Russell went down with an injured knee in the first half and was unable to finish the rest of the game.

"With Russell being out we only have one starter returning from last year (Garland). Russell

is such a leader on the defensive end and he is the leading rebounder. His injury will cause him to be out for the rest of the semester," Steve Shields, basketball coach, said.

Eastfield

On November 23, with Russell was still out because of a recurring knee injury, the 'Landers needed someone to step forward and fill his shoes. Not one, but two players did just that. Justin Boeker and Cedric Palmer both ended the game with 8 rebounds, Palmer scored 17 points, helping the 'Landers to 87-67 rout. Other outstanding players were Kendall Garland with 15 points, Jason Lawrence, Steve Helm, and Christyan Rios all with 10 points. Garland also had 9 assists, and Helm also had 5.

Collins Classic North Lake

On November 26 the 'Landers lost 60-69. Kevin

Mitchell led the 'Landers with 11 points, Christyan Rios scored 9 points and had 5 rebounds, and Cedric Palmer also came away with 5 rebounds.

Bossier Parish

November 28th the 'Landers were down 27-10 in the first half and fired back to a 19-point pounding.

"This is the best 30 minute stretch we've had all season," Shields said.

The leading men for the game were Cedric Palmer with 15 points and 6 rebounds, Kendall Garland with 14 points, and 5 assists.

Jason Lawrence turned in 12 points, and 5 rebounds; Christyan Rios had 10 points, and 7 rebounds; Kevin Mitchell, 9 points, and Steve Helm, 5 assists.

"We have had very good practices, we are building on a win right now and our momentum is going upward.

"I expect good effort and enthusiasm. I emphasize effort

See 'Basketball' on page 6

THE MILLENIUM FILM AND DISCUSSION SERIES

FREE MOVIE

THE GODS
MUST BE
CRAZY



WEDNESDAY, DEC. 8
2:30 P.M. LECTURE HALL

For more information contact Jennifer Black at 299-8918 or Karen Norwood at 299-8261 or Dave Burgett at 299-8254.

Bring it on...

Rude tribute to 'the Greatest'

Lindsey Hayworth
Sports Editor

The largest gathering of athlete's since Walter Peyton's funeral became a night of controversy and opinionated brawling. Showcasing Sports Illustrated's Award Night was Greg Gumble who passionately spoke of sports and gave thanks to all of the players throughout the years.

Such infamous figures as Joe Montana, Jim Brown, and Muhammed Ali graced every-one with their presence.

Awards were given to the out-standing players in the four major sports fields; basketball, football, baseball, and hockey.

As a whole, individual sports such as boxing, swimming and golf were grouped into one category.

Jack Nicklaus won in this category. As he got up to give his speech the murmurs and whispers began. At first it was a slow rhythm pulsating through the

crowd, but as Nicklaus began speaking the chanting grew louder and louder with each word.

"Ali... Ali... Ali..."

Nicklaus went on with out a hitch, but you can't help but feel sorry for one of the world's greatest golfers. After all, he did win more Major Championships than anyone else. He still holds two major records in golf and if this is not enough for the public, then what do they expect of their athletes.? Apparently people thought that Nicklaus didn't prove himself worthy enough to receive this award.

Granted Muhammed Ali is perhaps the greatest boxer that ever lived, but his accomplishments as an athlete do not outweigh those of Nicklaus.

What gives people the right to judge one sport differently than another? We are all unique individuals, and each of us has our own special qualities. You can't fault Nicklaus

for being a golfer rather than a boxer.

Ali won for Man of the Century, but there is an argument in that. Surely you could see how Jim Thorpe, Jackie Robinson, Billie Jean King, Michael Jordan, Wayne Gretsky, or even Martina Navratilova could fit the mold. No one showed Ali disrespect when he got up to say a few words.

My point is that everyone will get his or her own chance to shine. We should give every person the common courtesy that he or she deserves. It was down right rude and immature for the audience to chant aloud another person's name during an acceptance speech. Even though your views may differ, remember that every sport brings diverse athletes, but they are all great athletes who overcome many obstacles throughout their careers. Shouldn't it be our job to praise them and not to shun them.

Good Weekly Income

Processing mail for national company! Free supplies, postage! No selling! Bonuses! Start immediately! Genuine opportunity!

Please rush Long Self Addressed Stamped Envelope to:
GMCO, P.O. Box 22-0740,
Hollywood, Florida 33022

• EXTRA LARGE
BEDS WITH
HOT NEW
BULBS



502 LAKE AIR
WACO

• ONLY 8 MIN.
FROM CAMPUS

UNLIMITED TANNING ALL SEMESTER \$70.⁰⁰

OR

- ONE FREE TANNING SESSION ON FIRST VISIT
- BUY ONE MONTH, GET SECOND MONTH FOR 1/2 PRICE
- 15% STUDENT DISCOUNT ON

Golf teams nationally ranked

Lindsey Hayworth
Sports Editor

The 'Landers and 'Lassies both ended their seasons with top ten placements.

Golf has been an up and coming sport during the past years. The Lassies once again proved that they are fit to grace the green with a second place finish in the nation.

The Landers have perfected their game and can now be proud to swing through the fairways. They improved on last seasons record and are now ranked eighth in the nation.

Nationals are not until May, but the results will come out in April.

Golf Coach Stan Mitchell said that both teams are more than likely going to be

invited to play in the national tournament. He even expects that some of his golfers will be on the National All American Team.

In the beginning of the season the Landers were not fairing very well. Their first showing in Paris, TX, resulted in a last place tie.

"We went from being in a tie for last place to ranking in the top ten," said Mitchell.

The Landers shot better in back to back tournaments then they ever had. Par in the Seminole Tournament was 288. The men shot 295 in the morning and 280 in the evening round. On Nov. 15, the men played at Lake Waco and shot 5 under par.

"This is a great group of people to be around, the girls are right where I expected them to be, and the men have

improved greatly" Mitchell said.

The Lassies have four outstanding players that were picked as the top golfers in the NJCAA.

Casey Williams was chosen as an All-American for the first team. Susan Helmersson and Rebekah Martin were chosen for the All-American second team, and Katherine Cavanaugh

was chosen for the All-American third team.

These girls were picked out of all colleges and are four of the top fifteen players in the nation.

"It is very neat that both teams were able to finish in the top ten. I am very proud of the girls. I expect that both teams will have a good showing in the National Tournament" Mitchell said.

Baseball players 'rattle' roundball opponents

Jennifer Holomek
Staff Writer

If you have been to a Highlander game lately then you have noticed the very outspoken, spirited fans in the stands.

I am talking about a group of baseball players who have

taken their support of the basketball team to a whole new level.

They scream, chant, get very rowdy, and I have even noticed some homemade t-shirts.

Their support of the basketball team has been noticed and is greatly appreciated.

"... the baseball players presence energizes me to a higher level because they bring so much energy and support to the games."

—Justin Boeker

Some of the baseball players commented that their goal is to both distract the other team and

support the Highlanders.

Patrick Beale said that every basketball player he has spoken with said that they love their support.

It not only gets the Highland-

ers pumped up, but also intimidates the opposing team.

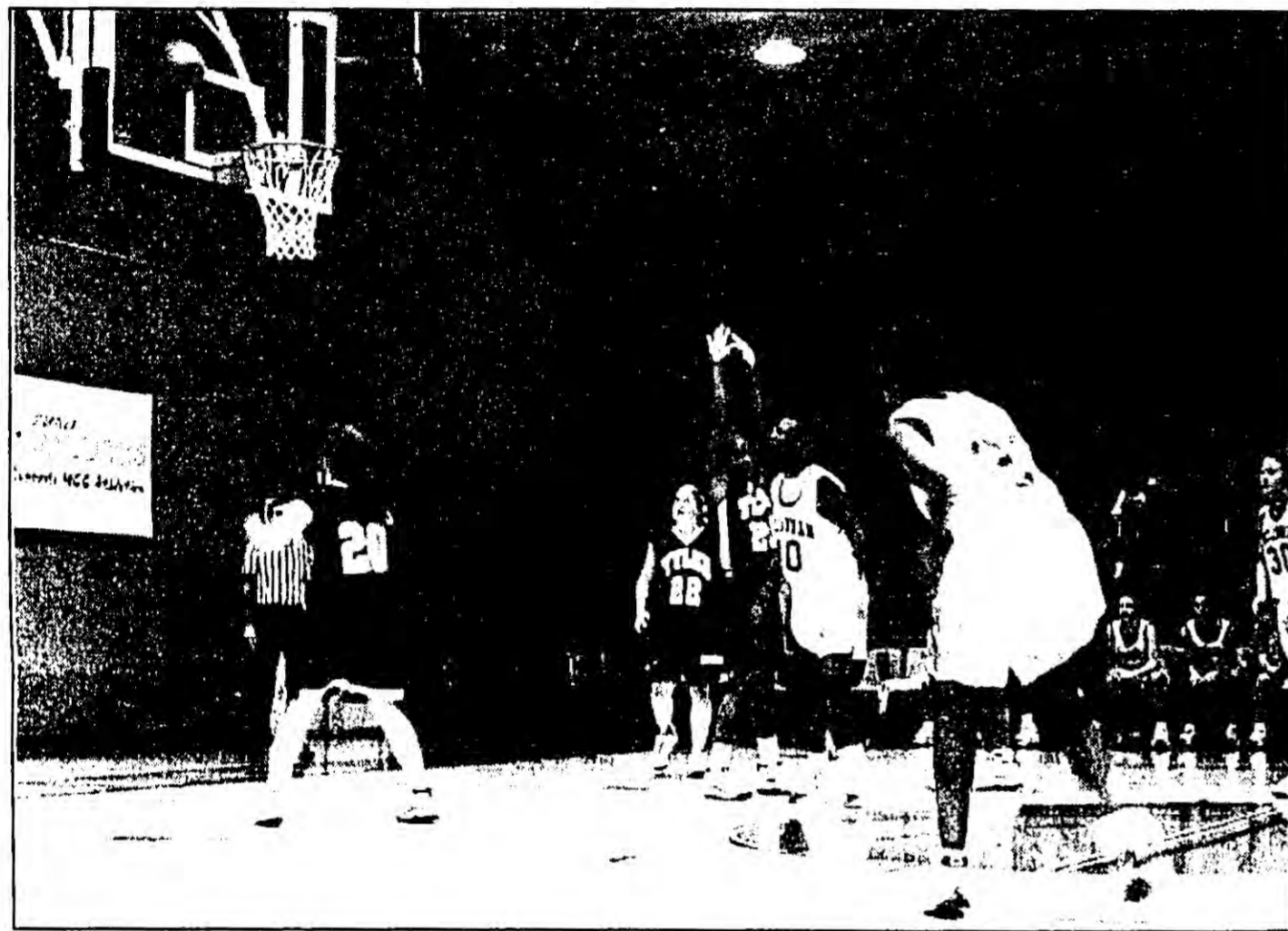
Dax Kuykendall, sophomore from Midlothian, Texas said, "they definitely help us a lot. They have a great effect on the other teams play. Sometimes I feel sorry for the other team."

Marcus Simmons, freshman from Hubbard, Texas said he likes their support because they get the other team rattled out

of their game. Their support livens up the game.

These are just two comments from the players about the effect of the baseball players support, but I am sure the whole team is in agreement.

Justin Boeker, sophomore from Houston, Texas said, "the baseball players presence energizes me to a higher level because they bring so much energy and support to the games."



Basketball continued from page 5

and I also expect the same from myself and Josh (asst. coach)," Shields said.

The Highlassies are having a tough season, but "they give great effort every game," Ricky Rhodes, head basketball coach, said.

"Each game has been an improvement for us, but we are fighting against adversity. We haven't been able to give a consistent effort for 40 minutes. Our momentum only seems to last for about 30 minutes," Rhodes said.

Saturday night, December 4, the Lassies lost 68-50 bringing their over all record to 3-9.

"In a stretch of 8 minutes we only scored 5 points. somebody needs to step and start making baskets," Rhodes said.

The Lassies first conference game is on Thursday night against Temple.

"We are still okay. I am still confident in my girls. The key to our problem is the turn over ratios. Over all we have more turnovers than assists. We average 20 a game," Rhodes said.

The averages for the non-conference games are as follows: 38% from the field, 29% from 3-point range, and 68% from the free throw line.

The outstanding players have consistently been; Julie Wiese averaging 12.7 points per game and 5.5 rebounds, Vershonda Williams averaging 10.2 points per game and 5.8 rebounds; Charise Billingsley averaging 9.5 points per gam; and Tammy white averaging 8.6 points per game.

**WELCOME MCC STUDENTS
FROM
EDUCATORS
CREDIT UNION
SERVING MEMBER SINCE 1938**

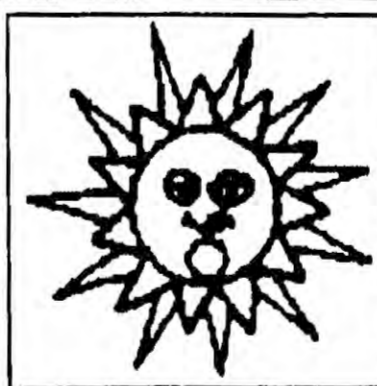
Educators Credit Union would like to offer you a checking account for only \$3 a month. Sign up before October and receive your first box of checks FREE. We also, offering Texas Guaranteed Student Loans. See us first for your loan needs. Visit our Waco Office at 501 W. State Hwy. 6, next to Target or call us at 776-7900 for more information.

**WE'RE LOOKIN'
FOR A FEW
GOOD MATES.**

**Awesome Aussie themed restaurant seeks energized individuals for big fun and full-time or part time employment. Servers, hostesses and cooks apply - Monday - Thursday
4500 Franklin 772-5449**



**STEAKHOUSE
NO RULES. JUST RIGHT**



FABL

SPECTABS

SSS

**\$25.00 MTH. UNLIMITED
ASK ABOUT YEAR ROUND
SPECIALS
10% DISCOUNT WITH
STUDENT I.D**

BODY STYLING CENTER

**1716 Franklin
759-TALK (8255)**

•BODY SCULPTING

**VISIT OUR DIET CENTER
AND
BOUTIQUE**

•KICK BOXING

•STEP AEROBICS

Animal acting

Dylan Newhouse
Staff Writer

The Friday evening presentation of "The Wind in the Willows," was a wild ride indeed. The company of MCC Theatre Department players brought an air of sophistication and excitement, even importance, to the parable of Mr. Toad.

The show was a musical adaptation of Kenneth Grahame's novel, with music by John Rutter, and David Grant providing the lyrics. The familiar story follows a well-to-do toad, the Lord of Toad Hall, from prosperity to jail and back again. His clever escape from jail and subsequent return to his merry-making friends were accompanied by some of the show's best, kid-friendly music.

The actors wore 18th century period costumes, not overtly alluding to their characters' animal natures. This was an inspired move; one that kept the adult audience tuned in without tuning out the many tots in the crowd. Mathew McBride set a surreal tone with his effective



Digital image by Marcos Garcia

light display.

In any musical, the actors make or break the show. In this instance, the show was made. The player's ability to commit to their performances in what is essentially written to be children's fare was excellent. Roza Tulyaganova, a native of Russia, didn't have to develop a different accent for her portrayal of the Russian Mink, the narrator. She displayed great skill, none-the-less. Jessica Epps lent her absolutely beau-

tiful voice to a mole, while Greg Ragalado brought his resonant bass voice to the Badger.

The definite stand-out was the lead. Marcus Howze's Mr. Toad, skilled, husky baritone delivery brought the clever, sympathetic character to life. Before the performance I asked Howze what he thought was the key to understanding "The Wind in the Willows."

"From what I have experienced the key to the musical is to like Mr. Toad," he said.

Owens wears many hats

Julian L. Ramon
Staff Writer

For many instructors, going to class every day is a simple routine, but for a few, getting to work on time is a job in itself.

Steve "Butch" Owens is one of those few. Owens teaches public speaking at McLennan Community College, but that's only the beginning.

Owens also teaches at Mountain View College in Dallas, Trinity Valley College in Terrell, and Navarro College in Waxahachie, which is no cakewalk, considering he lives in Desoto, near Dallas.

He has also taught classes at UNT, TCC, and CCCC.

Owens received his masters

of science in communication studies from UNT, a B.S. in pro development at Amber University, and trained in Biblical studies at the Center for Christian Education.

After MCC instructor Diana Garrett recommended MCC to him, Butch Owens arrived and has been here for 5 years.

Owens also teaches interpersonal communication, business and professional communication, and intro to speech communication.

His unique style of teaching communication comes from being what he calls a "people watcher."



"I've always been fascinated by how people interact with one another," Owens said.

In his public speaking course at MCC, Owens teaches students

the do's and don'ts of giving speeches through interaction. Those who have taken Owens' courses find they cannot leave without knowing something about all of their fellow students in the classroom.

Owens' instruction sheds a different light on learning the fundamentals.

"In general, teaching is remembering what it's like not to know. It's putting yourself in

the student's place and seeing and hearing the information for the first time," he said.

"Teaching communication specifically means making students aware of what they already know and what they've been doing their whole lives," he said.

In all, Owens commutes almost 1,000 miles a week to teach, including his three trips to MCC from Dallas.

He has taught six years and said it's the best job he's ever had.

"I love getting up and going to work, and when I don't, the students almost always make me glad that I'm there."

"Teaching reminds me on a consistent basis that people are good," he said.

Kiosk nets hi-tech convenience

Mandolin Shannon
Staff Writer

Imagine being able to check your semester grades, register for classes, print your schedule and print unofficial transcripts from computers on campus or from your own home.

Mike Searight, Director of Network Services, said that is what upgrades to the campus Kiosk system will bring for students in the near future.

Searight said everyone is familiar with Kiosk systems they just might not be aware of it. Traditionally Kiosk systems are the touch screen computers you see at restaurants and music stores. Kiosk is basically an information retrieval system.

Searight said that changes in the campus Kiosk system will "allow students to get their grades, transcripts, bills and schedules." He said he expects the Kiosk Web Advisor to be fully operational in the spring.

Assistant Registrar, Kathy Watson said grades for the cur-

rent semester should be available through the Kiosk system from the MCC home page in late December. She said links are not currently available. However, students who have home computers should be able to access their grades through the home page following prompts. Watson noted that AOL is not compatible with the Kiosk Web Advisor at this time but, software upgrades should make the two compatible in the near future.

Computers will be available throughout the campus for students to access the Kiosk Web Advisor in the spring. Terminals for Kiosk will be located in the Student Services Build-

ing, Student Center and the campus Library.

Watson said these changes should ease the work load in the Student Records department. Allowing students access to their schedules, grades and unofficial transcripts will decrease the need to access those same things through the Student Records department. Watson also said that eventually the college will no longer mail end of semester grades because the

Kiosk system will replace this need.

Privacy through the Kiosk Web Advisor will be a factor which students must take an active roll in. Individual student accounts will be accessed with your Social Security Number and your six digit date of birth. It will be the students responsibility to safeguard this information from others by fully disengaging the Kiosk system before leaving a computer terminal.

H&R BLOCK

Now Hiring
753-7389

1 Large 1 Topping Pizza for only 6.99!

Make some extra dough for the holidays.
Bellmead Domino's Pizza
Now Hiring Drivers
Call 799-3030

Delivering a Million Smiles a Day.

Campus Calendar

Sat., Dec. 11

Women's Basketball, 6 p.m., Highlands Gym
MCC vs Collin County College

Adults \$3; Non-MCC students \$2; MCC faculty, staff and students free with an MCC ID.

Call the Athletic Department at 299-TEAM.

Men's Basketball, 8 p.m., Highlands Gym

MCC vs Collin County Community College. Adults \$3; Non-MCC students \$2; MCC faculty, staff and students free with an MCC ID. Call the Athletic Department at 299-TEAM.

Sun., Dec. 12

Waco Community Band Concert, 7:30 p.m., Ball Performing Arts Center, Free

Call the Music Department at 299-8283.

Mon., Dec. 20

Winter Holidays, through Jan 2, 2000. MCC closed for Christmas holidays. Call 299-8MCC.

Winter Minimester Classes Begin. Classes include computer information systems, government, health and physical education, psychology, religion and sociology.

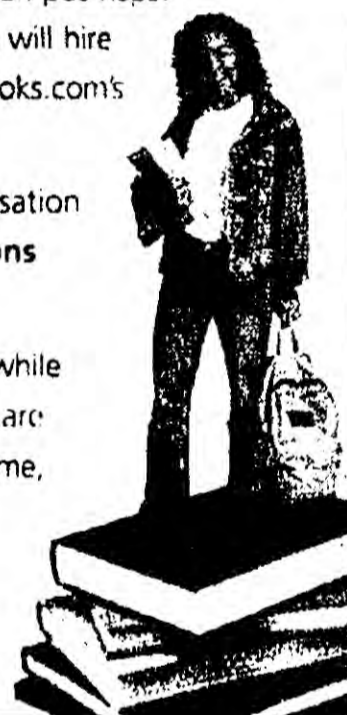
Work for a Hot Internet Start-Up

Are you a born leader? Do you want to work for a hot Internet start-up?

VarsityBooks.com is looking for student leaders from colleges nationwide to become Lead Campus Reps. As a paid member of our team, you will hire and direct a staff to carry out VarsityBooks.com's marketing efforts on your campus.

Wondering what the pay is? Compensation includes an hourly wage, stock options and a performance bonus.

This job is a great way to earn money while gaining valuable experience. If you are interested, send an e-mail with your name, school and contact information to repinquiries@varsitybooks.com



varsitybooks.com
Your Online College Bookstore



FOR THE HOLIDAYS AND BEYOND!

Apply at West today and earn some extra cash to cover all those holiday bills. As a Marketing Representative, you will represent some of the leading companies in the nation. You will be provided thorough training in product knowledge, sales and marketing techniques and computer skills to assist you in marketing products and services or conducting surveys to the customer base of our clients.

Marketing Representatives

Enjoy these benefits:
Paid training • Business casual dress on Fridays and weekends • Flexible full and part time positions (day and evening shifts) • Great benefits package (including health and dental insurance, 401(k) plan, paid vacation and personal days, and tuition reimbursement) • Employee referral bonus • Promotion from within

\$9.00*

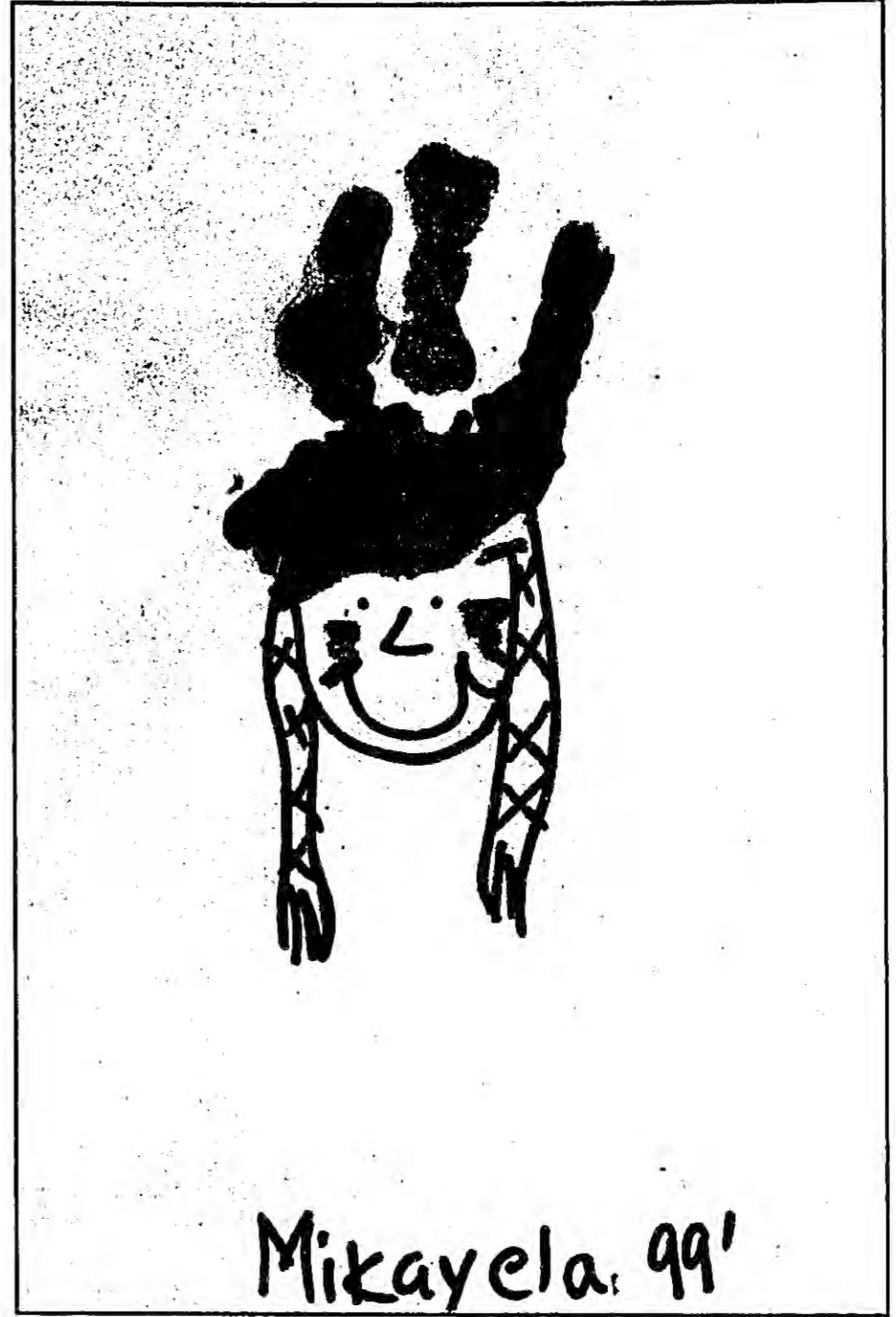
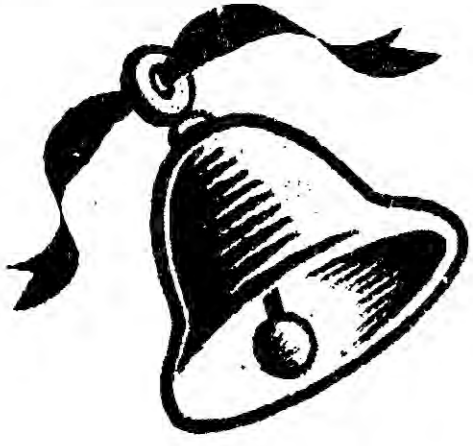
Per hour guaranteed

*Includes a \$2.00 per hour attendance incentive when required hours are met (flexible through 12/19/99)

Apply Now! Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
7524 Bosque Blvd. • Waco • 772-9200



Children of MCC



Dear Santa
 I want a new bike, I want
 a new game for
 my nintendo I want a new
 black pack I want a new
 book I want you for the toys
 love Jen 12

Jenicho Vasquez
 Age 7

Dear Santa,
 I will leave some cookies
 and I will leave your reindeer
 some carrots. I want nintendo
 for Christmas. I want some
 pokemon stuff. I want a toy soldier.
 I want a toy soldier. I want a toy
 soldier. Thank you for the toys
 love Jordan Vasquez 5 years old.

Jordan Vasquez
 Age 5



Tired of working for someone else?

Start your own business with your own schedule and control your own income. Sell from your home or at school. Be an Avon representative. Call (888) 561-2866

Need Some Cash?

Need a job?

New Cart at Richland Mall needs responsible energetic sales person.

Fax resumé to 512-263-1964

Emerson Animal Hospital

Part-time kennel help needed for after school, weekends, and holidays. Must be able to lift 60+ Experience preferred, but not required. Must be diligent and dependable. Please place applications at 419 Lake Air Drive. PLEASE, NO PHONE CALLS!!

Cheating remains constant

Lindsey Hayworth
Managing Editor

Cheating has been a major problem within school systems since the beginning of time.

Student cheating has been the subject of much research, but most studies have focused on a single campus and yield little insight into general patterns of students cheating. In addition there is a shortage of data that help us understand how student cheating has changed over time.

The main concern throughout all research is how an institution can create an atmosphere

where academic dishonesty is socially unacceptable.

Linda Austin, English teacher, described a scenario where a former student tried to turn in a previously bought research paper over the internet.

"The child left the price tag on the paper" she said.

Assuming that the price tag was not left on the assignment, would most teachers even realize that the paper was bought.

A study by Donald L. McCabe, associate professor of organization management at Rutgers, shows that 82% of students surveyed say that they have at one time or another,

cheated on a test or final paper.

Many students have different views of cheating. For example, 25% agree that copying materials by another student is not seen as serious cheating, while plagiarism and turning in the work done by someone else is seen as serious cheating by 80%.

There are many forms of cheating, such as crib sheets or using the memory from a calculator. More creative ways have been used even in our own classrooms.

The University of Maryland at College Park has now implemented an honor code. Stu-

dents sign a contract before admission into the school agreeing to uphold academic honesty. They must look out for cheaters and also not cheat themselves. By being an informant, they keep themselves from getting in trouble.

The disincentives for faculty enforcement is powerful. First, for accusers the burden of proof is often obsolete. Documented plagiarism is infrequent. Most of the time getting proof is only done through exhaustive research.

Second, teachers can give an F for terrible work, but not for alleged cheating.

Reasons that students have given for cheating are as follows:

"If I help others, they will help me."

"Everyone else is doing it. I see others cheating."

"There are lots of opportunities to cheat."

"There is little or no punishment if I do get caught."

Cheating is handled in many different ways, and so far no institution has been able to rid of it.

In many cases students found guilty of academic dishonesty are either suspended or expelled.

Some advisors around the state are even moving for a fine or jail time. They say that cheating is the academic equivalent of urban crime.

Gangs of students routinely steal, bootleg, and sell test answers.

Essays, like guns, can be purchased over the internet or the counter without proof of purpose or waiting periods.

Such commercial enterprises, academics agree, encourage cheating throughout the nation. Parents are now able to put a block on certain web sites, concerned parents can now include these cheating sites.

Finals strike fear in student hearts

Leah C. Turner
Staff Writer

Your throat is dry, your pulse races, your palms grow sweaty, your stomach knots, your nails dig into your skin....

What strikes such fear into the hearts of college students everywhere?

Duh-duh-duh-duh. Finals. "Finals are comprehensive measuring devices for the mastery of skills, not torture devices," said Lisa Lindloff, math instructor.

Maybe so, but most of us need a little calming for our final anxieties.

Here's your tried and true, 100% foolproof, final survival guide. Test-taking tips from the masters along with a few study dos and don'ts and even a couple of disaster stories to reassure you that you're not the only one.

So kick off your shoes and prepare to become much closer to your algebra text.

Pointer number one from the Academic Success Center:

Prepare in Advance:

- Keep up day to day
 - Master main concepts
 - Plan a reward for yourself
- Come Prepared:**
- Eat a healthy meal
 - Be on time
 - Bring pens, pencils, paper, etc.

Waiting for the Test:

- Focus on relaxing
- Talk to classmates about anything except the test
- Read a magazine or newspaper
- Understand the points per section, time limits, ask questions for clarification before you start
- Review directions thoroughly

Be Aggressive and Realistic:

- Approach the test with confidence
 - Give yourself positive feedback
 - Pace yourself
- Stay Active:**
- Start on the easiest part first
 - Go on when you draw a blank

• For essay questions, jot down what you know in the margins or on scratch paper to get your mind working

Relax:

- If you get tense, pause, put the pen down

Think about your reward

Pay Attention to the Test:

- Don't worry about others who finish up early
- Don't waste time worrying about your grade
- Pay attention to what you can do NOW

When It's All Said and Done:

- Give yourself some time to relax
- Reward yourself for having taken the test
- Evaluate your test preparation process and make changes where needed

With that in mind, we'll move on to some dos and don'ts.

Don't take Vivarin and cram an entire semester of info into one night.

"The worst thing in the world students can do is cram at the last minute," said Dean Schneider. "Don't do what college freshman think is the cool thing to do and have an all-nighter before a final, you come to class groggy and with an ineffective attention span."

Do keep your tests and review periodically so you won't forget what you've learned.

"The key to success is to stay on top of work throughout the semester," said Schneider. "Take notes in class, read and underline in the text, take notes in the margin, and review old tests."

Do make a practice study sheet.

"As students mature academically, they should (compile) a set of study problems to help them focus and practice," said Lindloff.

Now a few horror anecdotes to comfort you in the way that Jerry Springer makes you realize your life really isn't all that bad.

Lisa Lindloff, whom you may recognize as an allegedly tough teacher, showed up two hours late for her own three-hour calculus final.

"I had strep and overslept," said Lindloff.

When she finally arrived at her final, she realized she'd forgotten her calculator.

"Luckily, I had an understanding teacher."

So whether you're facing a theatre or physics final, proper preparation can calm your frazzled nerves.

CASH FOR TEXTBOOKS NOW!

**This sticker guarantees
you 50% cash back!**



**Win FREE textbooks for
next term! Go to efollett.com
for details.**

**McLENNAN
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BOOKSTORE**
Student Center • Ph: 299-8685

an **efollett.com** partner
NEW & USED COLLEGE TEXTBOOKS



Scapin: Comedy in color



Catlike movements and mischievous grins earned Scapin's cast of flamboyant characters, giggles of nothing less than childish glee from their enthralled audience. The play's premiere wrapped the audience into Moliere's world of scheming cohorts and twisted plot line. Galavantiing pranksters cajoled the unwitting onlookers with crazy antics. Phony magic tricks meant to amuse rather than amaze engaged enthusiastic audiences before and between acts. Scapin told the story of two families' intertwining fate and the crafty servant who created chaos in the midst of the mess. In this uproariously romantic comedy, both sons fall for the seemingly wrong girl and enlist Scapin's (the crafty servant) help in attaining money to win their maidens. Scapin concocts several plots to weasel the necessary money from the boys own fathers using fear conjured from their own paranoid delusions. His methods are soon found out, but not before Scapin manages to extract a little revenge of his own. Scapin's manipulations eventually land him in hot water, but ultimately assist in the unraveling of both families' plights. This delightfully cunning play concludes in an energetic, frenzied whirlwind, as everyone celebrates the play's unexpected, but appreciated turn of events. It's whimsical twists kept the audience on their toes and the cast's madhouse capers drew delirious laughter. Certainly this was an upbeat, feel-good play for anyone who has forgotten that life's travesties often work themselves out.

**Digital images by
Marcos Garcia**

Story by Leah C. Turner

