

Highland Herald



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Smoking policy change at a stand-still

Jodi Dobbs White
Staff Writer

A recent attempt to institute changes in MCC's smoking policy is sparking a series of debates between the Student Government Association and the college president.

The Student Government Association members said they will report to MCC President Dr. Michaelis early this month regarding a possible change in the current policy restricting smoking on campus, said SGA president Dale Price.

When the original proposal was presented to Michaelis this semester, Price said Michaelis did not find it acceptable because he disliked the idea of a foot-restriction policy and wanted designated smoking areas, as well as suggestions to where these areas should be located, Price said.

"I'm not so sure I'd say their

proposal was unacceptable as much as I'd say I believe it's just not workable. What I intended to convey was that I thought their proposal to restrict smoking within ten feet of entrances was not workable or practical based on my observation at several of the entrances to various buildings on campus. If someone is smoking within ten feet of the entrance, it requires anyone entering the building to pass by those smoking. It's that kind of situation where I've heard the most complaints - that it's very difficult to escape the cloud of smoke when entering some of the buildings," Michaelis said.

"The thing I had asked the Student Government group to do was make recommendations about where such designated smoking areas should be placed," Michaelis said.

Within the past year that student

government worked on this proposal, Price said, students were polled and research conducted regarding other campuses in the state to find out student government's options.

SGA members said they conducted this poll by asking students in their own classes questions concerning smoking on campus, how that student felt about it, and what they would consider as a solution, Price said.

Price also said that they tried to include all departments.

Dr. Paul Illich, Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Planning who has extensive experience in polling and survey research, told *Highland Herald* that a valid poll includes many different factors but should be more formal and include use of demographics, consistent questions, and should reflect the general population of whom the subject matter would affect.

Michaelis said he is also looking at solutions reached by other colleges and universities, and it appeared to him that the best solution would be to establish specific smoking areas around campus that would be sheltered so that smokers didn't have to stand out in the elements to smoke, but so that it would be away from the entrances to the buildings and people wouldn't have to walk through the smoke.

Price said he feels the student government has handled this matter in an efficient manner.

"In this case, the request from Dr. Michaelis to have designated smoking areas caused us to divide our votes," Price said.

"Every proposal brought to us did not pass the majority status. Not only was this an issue, but then we had a hard time designating the smoking areas," Price said.

Michaelis said he is more concerned about developing a solution that is work-

able and is the result of all the different groups involved and interested rather than in sticking to a timeline; once SGA re-submits the SGA proposal, Michaelis said the approval authority for the policy will rest with the college president and his, not the Board of Trustees', will be the final decision.

A policy change concerning smoking is not a new concept; the current policy concerning smoking had its beginnings in Mar 20, 1989, Johnette McKown, Vice President of Business Services, said.

In 1989, LaVerne Wong, Vice President of Student Services, initiated a policy entitled "No Smoking Except in Designated Areas," McKown said.

Designated areas included the eastern end of the dining area in the Student Center, a designated refreshment area in the Community Services Building, and designated areas in other buildings,

McKown said.

This policy allowed smoking in individual faculty/administrative offices except while students were being assisted in those offices. The only other exceptions were smokers sharing an office with a non-smoker.

Effective June 1, 1990, a new policy prohibited the use of tobacco in all buildings and in all college-owned vehicles, McKown said. The policy also mandated that ashtrays be placed outside all buildings on campus, McKown said.

Banning smoking in faculty offices did not become policy until 1992, McKown said.

In 1997, the source of the policy was changed to the Vice President of Instruction due to the elimination of the Vice President Student Services position, and has not changed since that time, McKown said.



Sculptor Bruce Green puts the finishing touches on MCC's new mascot, the Highlander. The statue will be unveiled on the new MCC building.

The 'Stone Circle' makes literary debut

Students help make magazine success

Jana M. Vaculik
Editor-in-Chief

MCC's literary magazine, "The Stone Circle" had a positive response from the students for their debut issue. "We had nearly 100 entries in all categories," Jim McKeown, English instructor and publisher said. "I have already had a number of students inquire about the deadlines and so forth."

This was the ninth year of Casa de Cafe with it being the second year McKeown has helped organize the event. Plans are ready being made for another issue for next year.

"I also want all students who submitted for the first issue who were not selected, that their entries will be resubmitted for the Spring issue," McKeown said. "Our plan is to have an issue out towards the end of every long semester."

Approximately \$200 was raised for Storybook Christmas, which promotes literacy by providing books for children year round.

Jazz standards were provided by the commercial music department. Beth Ullman, Bill Howard on the piano, and students Felton Bernard and Laura Collins provided the

music.

The Stone Circle with selected entries was passed out to all who attended.

"I loved it! More importantly, I have had nothing but positive feedback from students as well as faculty and staff," McKeown said.

Scholarships worth about \$150 each were awarded to six students for each category. Possibly scholarships will be awarded again for the spring issue.

"I am going to go back to the MCC Foundation and see if they can help us again," McKeown said.

Peg Head, a RAD student, had three poems published in the literary magazine.

"It is a refuge and an outlet for me. A need of expression. When we connect with people, with common feelings, then we're not alone," Head said. Head has written over 200 poems and plans to publish some of them in the future.

The poem, "A Simple Shell," a favorite of Head's, was inspired by her daughter. Head was told she needed to have surgery for her cancer. She was pregnant with her daughter and refused to have treatment until her daughter was born. After her baby was born, Head found out the cancer was gone.

See "Casa de Cafe" on page 3

Community Programs garners national award

Treva Bowdoin
Staff Writer

The Community Programs department at McLennan Community College (MCC) was presented with the 2001 National Exemplary Program Award for Community Services by the National Council for Continuing Education and Training (NCCET) on Oct 29 in Austin, Texas.

NCCET is the national professional organization for Continuing Education administrators in both four-year universities and community colleges. Its membership includes more than 1000 members from all 50 states, as well as from Canada, Germany, Ireland, Japan, and the Philippines.

This marked the first time a Texas school has received the National Exemplary Program designation.

Mary Darden, Coordinator of Community Programs at MCC, said she would never have applied for the award if people hadn't encouraged her to.

"I was shocked," Darden said, "I mean, how could you have a chance to win something so big?"

The President of NCCET, Dr. Dyanne Lyon, presented Darden and Dr. Dennis Michaelis, President of MCC, with the award at the NCCET annual conference. Also present for the award ceremony were Dr. Jay Box, Vice President of Instruction, Dr. Jack Schneider, Dean of Arts and Sciences, and Al Pollard, Dean of Workforce Education.

During the conference, Darden gave a presentation on Outrageous Community Programs.

Darden's bagpipe instructor opened her speech by playing the bagpipes, and attracted a lot of at-

tention, she said.

"There were about 300 people there, and about 70 came to my talk; there were 7 other things they could have gone to," Darden said, "I was surprised, because Community Service doesn't bring in as much revenue as other programs like Workforce."

Darden has been invited to speak again at next year's conference in Richmond, Virginia, and says she feels very honored to speak 2 years in a row.

"Last April I was asked to speak at a state conference, which I saw as a big honor, but this just blows me away," Darden said.

The Community Programs department has won several awards in recent years, including both the 2000 and 2001 Texas State Marketing Award for four-color brochure, from Texas Administrators for Continuing Education (TACE).



Christmas on a budget

Jodi Dobbs White
Staff Writer

Students operating on a tight budget might find welcome bargains when Christmas shopping this year by looking off the beaten path.

Typically, part of the whole Christmas-season experience includes the yearly shopping madness, but how much of this traditional rat race is necessary?

As a "starving" student and parent on a restricted budget, I stay within its skimpy limits by perusing the sales papers that come in the mail or that are inserted in the Waco Tribune Herald on Sunday, as well as by checking out the local dollar stores.

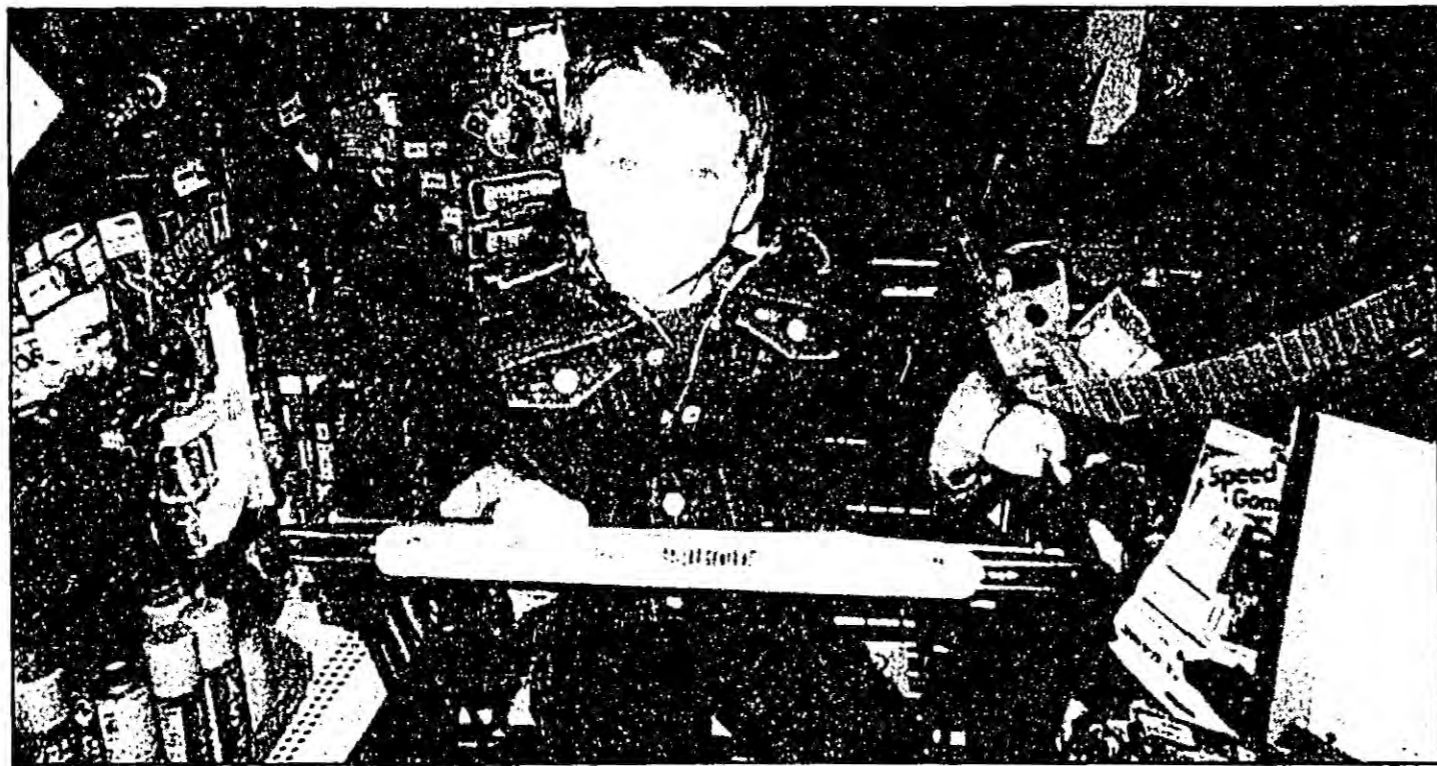
I do most of my shopping well before Christmas because I am just not aggressive or big enough to deal with Christmastime shopping abuse.

But even as I seek to avoid the Christmas crowds, I still end up needing last minute presents.

So far this season, I find the largest selection of books and toys at The Dollar Tree, a cavernous new dollar store in Waco located on Wooded Acres Dr., where everything in the store costs a dollar.

However, I suggest shopping at The Dollar Tree during the week, while most people are at work, in order to avoid a stampede of insolent shoppers, who are for the most part determined to go to whatever lengths necessary to get a bargain.

I was shopping at The Dollar



Students are unable to spend a lot of money on Christmas might find bargains by looking off the beaten path.

Tree this weekend when one woman intentionally shoved her basket into my ribs to move me away from a particular toy display; then her three daughters, who each had their own basket, proceeded to run over my feet.

Getting run over with shopping carts is just one of the reasons I strive to complete the majority of my shopping early.

There are alternatives for me and other timid Christmas shoppers: other dollar stores usually have at least a small selection of children's books and toys from which to choose at a buck or two apiece.

I usually shop at The Dollar General in Lorena and The Dollar Store in Hewitt, mainly because they are near my home and not too overcrowded.

I also frequent MacFrugals, a thrift store that offers a variety of children's toys, books, games and clothing at prices I consider reasonable; I have walked into class late at least once this semester because I could not pull myself away from their bargains.

The lowest-priced board games I can locate this year are at Target. A recent Target advertisement offered a selection of traditionally popular children's games, including Chutes and Ladders, Candy Land, and Hi Ho Cherry-O, at under \$5 apiece.

Popular movies from the Veggie Tales series were advertised at \$8.99 plus tax at the Family Christian Bookstore this weekend; the local Family Christian Bookstore might be a worthwhile Christmas shopping stop if you

are buying for kids who enjoy Christian videos, games and books.

For those recluses out there who run screaming from the idea of shopping close to Christmas, consider e-bay as a fairly painless alternative.

Items on E-bay tend to be at least slightly cheaper than the same items found in stores, but I suggest that e-bay users stay well informed on the going rates for products to protect themselves from getting a bad deal.

If you are a shopper who tends to run with the pack, please remember that there are passive people out there who are not a threat in the relentless holiday bargain quest.

Wary shoppers are easy to spot: they normally appear frightened and will for the most part move agreeably out your way.

Holiday season spending rises

Justin Loosier
Staff Writer

Several Waco retailers said they expect an increase in holiday sales despite the economic recession after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States.

The Highland Herald spoke with store representatives at Sears, Roebuck & Co., JcPenney, and Target about the effects of the attacks on their business and expectations of sales in the coming weeks leading up to Christmas.

Each of the retailers interviewed said they are expecting increasing sales throughout the holiday season.

Gary Self, Sears Store General Manager, said sales at the Waco store actually increased in September. Despite the slower economy, Self added that he believes con-

sumers will look for values and make a buying decision based on their needs.

Self said that after-Thanksgiving sales were phenomenal for Sears last year. This year the sales were down somewhat, but rebounded on Saturday.

He said the drop could have been due to the warmer weather that allowed people to do other things, compared to last year when colder weather brought people in and put them in the holiday buying spirit.

"Our marketing plan for December will enable the customer to get greater values, creating a buyer's market," Self said. "We expect the week after Christmas to be strong also."

As for Sears' part in the relief efforts, Self said the corporation made a major contribution by giving customers and associates the opportunity to donate to the Ameri-

can Red Cross. Together, Sears stores across the nation donated close to \$1 million in donations.

Self said that recent job cutbacks were not a result of the terrorist attacks on the economy; the changes had already been put into effect before Sept. 11.

"The corporation said that 40 percent of the jobs would be cut. That plan was in effect and we knew about it before Sept. 11," he said.

"We are making these changes to make the store simpler and easier to shop in and to provide a clear definition of what people's jobs are. It was a restructure to redefine what a Sears store is. It didn't effect Waco like it did stores in the bigger cities," Self added.

Barger Tygart, General Store Manager of Jc Penney at Richland Mall, said sales in his store are up 18 percent for the month and that a drop is not expected. He added that business slowed somewhat during the two weeks following the Sept. 11 attacks.

"The company as a whole is not down in apparel, but we do have some big losses in big ticket areas such as computers, computer games, and software," Tygart said.

Tygart said he is looking for consumer morale to be higher than normal this holiday season since so many Americans desperately want to take their minds off the war in Afghanistan and delight in the celebration of something positive with family and friends -- something such as Christmas.

He said that increased consumer morale could mean increased profit in the long run.

"As far as holiday shopping is concerned, I think that any good news or anything good that comes along, people will grab because they're tired of bad news; Christmas always perks everybody up," Tygart said.

Tygart said he expects sales to be outstanding in departments

where basic necessities are sold, such as apparel; however, he looks for the business in other departments -- automotive, jewelry, lawn & garden, and computers -- to remain low.

Jc Penney has also made contributions to the relief effort by selling patriotic apparel such as sweaters and t-shirts with American flags. Like Sears, the company has also accepted Red Cross donations from customers and associates.

Joann Blair, Team Relations Leader at Target, said that she has not seen a decrease in sales. She said the Waco store made an estimated \$75,000 more in after-Thanksgiving sales this year.

"We felt like we were very prepared for the business this year," she said, adding that the company did a lot of pre-planning by making sure that the sales floor was well stocked. "If you have the merchandise out there people are going to buy it," she said.

Blair said one thing she has noticed throughout her 13 years as an employee at Target is that the weather affects consumer behavior.

Blair said she believes part of the reason consumers come out to shop on colder weekends is because many of them do not work on Saturday or Sunday and the cold weather puts them in the holiday shopping spirit.

As far as job cuts were concerned, Blair said that instead of losing associates, she has gained close to 70 new hires since Oct. 1.

"Daily, I'm still continuing to get job applications," she said. "It's just to the point now where we don't need any more people to help us for the holiday season."

Blair said that Target is also proudly supporting the American Red Cross relief efforts by posting information throughout the store on "how individuals could contribute and where they could call or where they could send their money."

Blair said she expects this to be a positive selling year for Target, despite the economic recession.

Global group seeks members

Michelle Williams
Staff Writer

Students from around the world have come together to create an International Club at MCC, but are in need of funds to support the group.

"The International Club is open to MCC students, and there are no formal memberships and no club fees," Gail Blanpied, Sr. Lab Instructor-Academic Success Services, said.

"It has been inactive for about a year, and we have made it active again beginning this semester. Michelle Pruett is the head sponsor, and I am a co-sponsor. Also, faculty member James Cornish has offered to help us. He teaches English, including English as a second language," Gail added.

So far this semester, the club has had four meetings and two weekend social gatherings to get to know each other.

"We've had an attendance varying from eight to twenty, with about nine countries represented, including China, Uzbekistan, Russia, Columbia, Mexico, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Nigeria, and Nicaragua," she said.

At the last club meeting on Nov. 19, topics such as club logos and International Student Directories were discussed. The main goal of the meeting was to come up with objectives and to be more involved in student life. The club said it wants to create a constitution for student activities.

"Objectives have been discussed but not formalized yet. Some of the objectives that have been discussed are: increasing cultural awareness

within MCC and the local community, presenting international students' concerns to the administration, mentoring incoming international students and helping them adjust to their new surroundings, participating in community service, and having social get-togethers," Gail said.

The club is discussing other objectives, which will eventually be posted to a link on the MCC webpage. The club said it hopes to have its own logo. Some upcoming events they'll be discussing at the next meeting include the campus food drive and an International Christmas party.

"I am excited about the club. We have some wonderful officers and members, and the club has great potential to benefit, not only international students, but also MCC and the community with greater awareness of the richness of other cultures," Gail said.

The club started in October, so future plans and goals haven't been finalized. The club's officers say they want to gather more input from students before deciding anything.

Membership is open to any student who wants to participate.

Current club officers include Phinias Pforidzo-President, from Zimbabwe; Elvira (Ella) Khamidova-Vice President, from Uzbekistan; Karina Molina-Secretary, from Nicaragua; and Marie Castanon-Treasurer, from Mexico.

Students who would like to know more about the International Club and its upcoming meetings are asked to contact Gail Blanpied or any of the club's officers.

UTA offering MCC students a degree

Alyson Moulton
Staff Writer

MCC and the University of Texas at Arlington will be cooperating to provide convenient degree options to students seeking to continue on to four-year universities.

"One of the the missions of McLennan Community College (MCC) is continuing education for adults in the county, and affordable and convenient education was not available" Randy Schormann, Associate Dean of Instructional Innovation, said.

Statistics indicate that McLennan County has a higher rate of associate degrees than any other county in the state, and the lowest rate of Bachelors degrees, which indicates that students are generally earning MCC associates degrees and then leaving.

"Letters were sent to four-year schools, saying the University Center concept is a viable concept, especially within the Houston area," Schormann said.

Montgomery County Community Center is a cooperative effort between two and four year campuses. Community Colleges provide the first two years of college-transferable degree programs. Then a four year school provides the junior/senior level courses. MCC has offered Bachelors degrees in Science and Nursing for about 15 years. The next program to participate would be the University of Texas Medical Branch from Galveston, which would provide courses for MCC Medical Laboratory Technologies students, Schormann said.

Also under consideration is the Bachelors of Social Work (BSW) program. MCC is currently negotiating with Tarleton and SWT at San Marcos in an effort to provide degree opportunities.

"The idea is to provide four year courses to the high density population. You obviously cannot do this for three students. MCC has seen an increased interest in the Criminal Justice and Education Programs. This is why UTA set up an information fair at MCC," Schormann said.

Dr. Patsy White is the UTA Part-time Counselor at MCC. She serves as a contact for students who are interested in getting a Bachelors degree at UTA after completing courses at MCC. Students may earn Bachelors degrees in Business, Early Childhood Education, and Criminal Justice.

There are no plans to expand the program as of now, White said. "Right now we are just trying to get things going and make sure they're successful" said White. Students who did not go to the fair and who are interested can get a hold of Dr. White at 299-8513 or go by her office in room A36B of the CSC building. Her office hours are 8 am to 5 pm Mondays and Fridays, and 4 pm to 6 pm Tuesdays and Thursdays.

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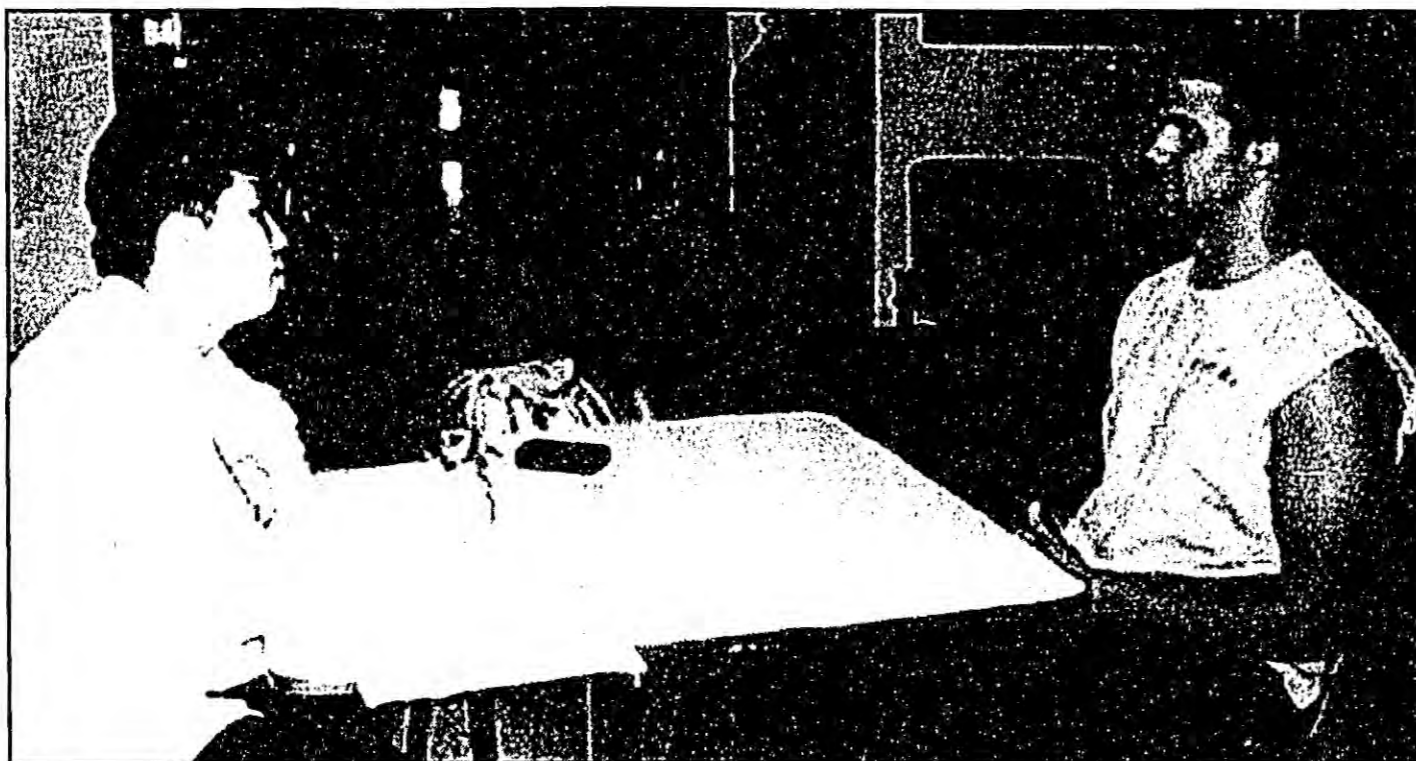
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The risk of defending home

Sung W. Hwang
Staff Writer



Highland Herald interviews Ben Drews about military service. Digital Image by Jorge Trujillo

Many troops all over the world are heading to Afghanistan to protect freedom. Recently, the *Highland Herald* interviewed Ben Drews, a U.S. military volunteer attending MCC.

Highland Herald (HH): How long are you supposed to serve?

Ben Drews (BD): I am supposed to serve for six years in the reserves, and then an extra two years. In the extra two years they can call me up if they need me. However, I intend to go to Texas A&M and join the Corps of Cadets. I'll become an officer and will serve in a military career. Hopefully, as a Ranger in Special Forces, when I become a captain I can apply for the Green Berets.

HH: What made you decide to serve in the military?

BD: At first, I always thought about Special Forces, and always had a desire to be in the military. I never gave it a thought after high school. I wasn't sure of what I wanted to be in life and where I was headed. My grandfather talked to me about joining the National Guard because of the benefits. He was in the military for 20 years and he had been in the Korean War. We talked about it a lot and I decided that it was what I wanted to do with the rest of my life. My grandfather influenced me a lot and helped guide me towards what I think was one of the best decisions of my life.

HH: What were your family and friends' responses?

BD: My dad had a bad reaction at first because he feared I wouldn't seek a college degree. The reason I chose the reserves is because I can fulfill my promise to my father to graduate from college. I owe him that for all the stuff he has done for me. My grandfather was very excited

and happy to finally see somebody else joining the military. My friends were kind of fifty-fifty. Some said, "Why are you doing that?" but my really close friends were happy with what I am doing. I felt pretty good and I got good support from them. As far as my family goes, they are pretty well behind me, although my father still needs some convincing.

HH: You might be killed in a combat. Have you thought about that?

BD: There are lots of risks you take when defending your country. I don't want to say I am afraid of dying, because of the love I have for my country, my friends, and my family. If defending them means giving my life so that they can continue to live in America and enjoy the great life that I have lived here, I think that there is no better way to live and show one's love then to give up all you have to defend those you love. I think we have a great country in general. If I can die for something I love that much, I will do it and am willing to make that sacrifice.

HH: What would you like to say

to Americans who are considering military service?

BD: I would say it's a great career opportunity. It's definitely a new adventure and it's a good way to learn responsibility. You can get your college fees pretty much paid for. In my opinion, it's a good way to pay for college. My father paid everything for me and I figure it's time to pay him back. Another advantage is the leadership skills you gain in the military; they can help you throughout your life. My grandfather never had anything less than a supervisor's job in the places that he worked. He was in the military for 20 years. He didn't have a college degree, but I can just look at his accomplishments and be impressed with what the Army did for him.

Besides that, when you get out of the military, you have retirement benefits. You get half of what we got paid in the Army a month. You get full medical and dental benefits and a great retirement and when your social security is dying so quickly, that's not a bad deal. And plus free flying and access to discounted stores

From the Fourth Floor New features in schedules offered to students

These are exciting times to be a part of MCC. Our new Learning Technology Center is nearing completion and, I promise you, you're going to love it. On the instructional front, the College continues to expand the schedule to increase the availability of classes. You may have noticed all the new features that



Jack W. Schneider, PhD

have been added to what once was a pretty traditional—and predictable—schedule. Perhaps you have already enrolled in one of the many Internet offerings (thirty-five for the spring of 2002); or you may have found one of the new Flextrack classes—weekends, minimesters, eight-week classes—accommodating to your busy schedule. New courses that we call "hybrid," which will combine both Internet and classroom instruction, will be available for the first time in the spring. You may have also heard the news surrounding the reduced-tuition classes that will be offered in the afternoons this spring. No, it's not the same old college schedule anymore. The schedule has undergone a great deal of change in the last few years in the College's ongoing effort to ensure that classes are offered at times and in formats that provide you maximum flexibility.

Another significant addition to the College's continuing efforts to serve current and future students of the Central Texas region is the University Center, which began operations last year. Now that the University Center is a reality, it is possible for students to complete an associate degree here at MCC and then enter a program leading to a bachelor's degree right here on our campus. Last year the College formed a partnership with the University of Texas at Arlington to begin offering courses that will lead to a Bachelor of Business Admin-

istration in Management and a Bachelor of Arts in Criminology and Criminal Justice. These two programs were the first to be offered as part of the University Center. The model, however, had been established sometime ago when the College reached agreements with the University of Texas at Arlington to bring a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and with the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston to bring a Bachelor of Science in Clinical Laboratory Science to our community.

Many of you may aspire to be teachers. The State of Texas wants you and needs you, for the schools of education around the state cannot keep up with the demand for teachers. Now, thanks to the University Center, effective this fall, you can remain in Waco and earn a teaching degree in Early Childhood Through Grade Four from UT Arlington. And in recognition of the growing need for teachers, representatives of MCC are in negotiations with Southwest Texas State University and Tarleton State University to bring additional teaching degrees to the campus. The future also holds the promise that additional bachelor's degree programs (a Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences, for example) will find a home at the University Center at McLennan. These programs are affordable and designed to conform to your work schedule and family needs.

As you can see, there has never been a time in the history of our college when the opportunities to enrich your personal and professional life have been greater. As we approach the second year of the new millennium, the faculty and staff of MCC remain committed to helping you secure a promising future in these times of unique challenge and unparalleled opportunity.

Several members welcomed

Jodi Dobbs White
Staff Writer

Course to include trip

2002 Business management course will travel to New York

Jodi Dobbs White
Staff Writer

The Business Management/Marketing department at MCC is offering a class for Spring 2002 that will include a trip to New York City.

According to Kae Hinehine, MCC Marketing instructor, this is a biennial spring trip and is open to everyone as part of a credit course or a continuing education class.

This business course may be used for an elective credit on most business degree plans, Hinehine said.

The Spring 2002 trip will begin on Saturday, May 18 and last until Thursday, May 23, bringing the trip's duration to six days and five nights, Hinehine said. Students will be expected to attend five on-campus orientations, as well as planning and review sessions.

"The purpose of the trip to New York is to provide a hands-on experience for business students to experience the world of work in what is considered the center of the global market place," Hinehine said.

The trip will focus on business and finance in New York City, and will involve tours of Wall Street, the New York Stock Exchange, the National Association of Security Dealers Automated Quotations, the Federal Reserve Bank, the Direct Marketing Association, publishers, advertisers and major retailers including Macy's, Saks Fifth Avenue, Bloomingdale's and FAO Schwartz, Hinehine said.

According to Hinehine, the trip will also include a tour of the Statue of Liberty and the Empire State Building.

"We stay in a hotel next to Times Square, so we have access to all the main attractions. The city is awake 24 hours; the city never sleeps and neither do we," Hinehine said.

When asked what changes might

be expected this trip due to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the twin towers, Hinehine said she is sure the security will be tighter in the areas they visit.

Also, one of the highlights of the tour in the past was a tour of the twin towers and the observation deck, Hinehine said.

"In May 2001, we had dinner on the on floor 107 of building number one of the World Trade Center. Obviously, this won't be possible for the Spring 2002 trip," Hinehine said.

Hinehine said she is planning a trip to New York City over the Christmas holiday to see what other changes can be anticipated for the Spring 2002 trip.

Brigitte Owens, an MCC sophomore and real estate major, is helping inform students about the New York City trip.

"We want to focus on the positive business aspects of the trip and not on the negativity currently associated with New York City," Owens said.

Hinehine said she worried that going on with plans for the Spring 2002 trip after the Sept. 11 attacks might seem insensitive, but after hearing New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani say, "New York City will never be the same; it will be better," she decided the trip could be marketed as "The New and Improved New York City Tour."

For McLennan county credit students or continuing education credit students, the cost of this course is \$1226, which includes tuition, fees, five nights lodging in a two-person room, all scheduled tours, round-trip airfare, transportation from Waco to DFW airport, a Broadway play and a tour of the city including a tour of the Statue of Liberty, Hinehine said.

Ten people are needed for the class to earn money for the class/trip, Hinehine said.

For more information, contact Instructor Kae Hinehine at 299-8665 or e-mail kkh@mcc.cc.tx.us.

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Sigma Kappa Delta welcomed eight new members to their numbers on November 12 in a formal ceremony at the Lecture Hall.

According to English instructor Carol Lowe, the requirements for Sigma Kappa Delta acceptance include having had at least one college-level English course with a grade of B or higher, completed at least 12 hours of college credit and in the top 30 percent at MCC which is equivalent of a 3.1 GPA.

The new members welcomed were: Tiffany Franks, Elizabeth Loggins, Ariel Luella Lumbard, Melanie McCalmont, Kenneth Dale Price, Robert Vick, Jodie Wachsmann and Beverly K. Williams.

A business meeting followed the induction and members announced upcoming events and new member recruiting.

Sigma Kappa Delta members signed up to help with Casa de Café, a celebration of the arts which will be in the Student Center on Nov. 28. Members were also encouraged to present literary readings at the event.

Newly inducted Sigma Kappa Delta member, Melanie McCalmont, is credited with naming MCC's new literary magazine, "The Stone Circle," announced that there was a great student response for the magazine's first edition.

Sigma Kappa Delta President, Tori Ridgello-Wood, said Sigma Kappa Delta is behind the Student Government on the November campus food drive and urged members to contribute food and items like diapers and toothbrushes.

The first literary magazine for MCC, McLennan County Community College.

And the winners are:

Colleen McIntyre - short fiction
Ayesha Salaam - poetry
Ryan Thompson - poetry
Thomas Bernard - painting
Stephen Blocker - drawing
Melanie McCalmont - photography
Lappy Mardis - graphic art
Tina Hagner - art (other media)

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Sports

MCC b-ball finally back home

Aaron Smith
Sports Editor

Midland

The Midland Chapparals used an 18-2 run to open the second half and an 18-9 spurt to close the game beating the MCC Highlassies 80-64 November 29 in Midland.

Midland led the Highlassies, 41-29, at the half and promptly pushed the lead out to 59-31. The Highlassies didn't quit however cutting the deficit all the way down to seven at 62-55 with 8:53 left in the game, before the Chapparals stopped the run and closed out the game.

Kashae Townsend and TaNesiah Lamb led the Highlassies with 11 points each, and Tiffany Perkins and Lindy Heller added 10 each.

Odessa

Former Waco High standout Charise Billingsley scored 27 points, dished out seven assists and picked up seven steals as the Highlassies held off Odessa, 95-88, in the Odessa College Classic November 30.

"Charise had a great game," coach Ricky Rhodes said. "She could do

no wrong tonight."

Despite Billingsley heroics, the Highlassies (6-4) had to fight off a late surge by a gritty Lady Wrangler team. MCC led by as many as 20 in the second half before Odessa closed to within three minutes left. But the Highlassies ended on a 6-1 spurt, and pulled out the victory scoring a season high 95 points.

Ex-Groesbeck star Tiffany Perkins

Classic December 1.

The Highlassies shot just 24.3 percent from the field in scoring a season low 58 points one night after scoring their season high of 95 points against Odessa.

"I think there was probably some fatigue," Rhodes said. "When you don't have your legs, you're going to struggle offensively. But the thing we always talk about is the regional tour-

MCC, which drops to 6-5 on the year and will return for the first time since November 3 when they host Ranger in the conference opener December 5 at 6:00 p.m.

Men's Results Eastfield

Normally giving up 100 points is not a good defensive effort, but MCC coach Wendell Hudson was proud of his team in their 100-97 loss against Eastfield College Nov 29 in Mesquite.

"I know that sounds crazy, but we really played great defense," Hudson said. "We really got after it on the defensive end of the floor and got a lot of loose balls. They just made a lot of tough shots."

Mike Jones led the way with 24 points and Bogdon Konontsuk added 22 for the Highlanders, who were playing their fifth straight game on the road. The Highlanders also had to go point guard by committee with Forest Bryant sidelined by an injury and Ray Wilson going out two minutes into the game.

"We were already short handed at the point with Forest's injury and the Ray went down to," Hudson said. "But we still were right in the game which tells me a lot about the character of this team."

"I was pleased with our effort tonight even though we lost we played hard," Hudson said. "And I think that will help us further down the road in conference when the real season starts."

The Highlanders open up the conference season Wednesday hosting Ranger at 8:00 p.m. in the Highlands.



chipped in 22 points for MCC, 18 of which came in the first half. TaNesiah Lamb and Kashae Townsend added 10 points apiece.

South Plains

The wear and tear finally caught up to the Highlassies. Playing in its third game in three days, MCC fell to unbeaten and third-ranked South Plains, 7-58, in the Odessa College

ournament. At the tournament, you're going to have to play every day if you want to win."

Three of the Highlassies talented freshmen Lindy Heller, Kashae Townsend, and Tamisha McGinty combined to shoot 2-29 from the floor. However, freshman guard Bobette McCloud, a former La Vega standout, buried five of six shots, including four three pointers, for a team-high 14 points.

Charise Billingsley added 11 for

MCC ranked #1

Highlassies rated as the best team in the land

Aaron Smith
Sports Editor

The MCC Highlassies are ranked number one ahead of second ranked Daytona Beach and third ranked Tyler Junior College in the latest NJCAA Women's Golf Poll that came out November 20.

The Highlassies also earned individual honors as four members of the Highlassies earned Preseason All-Americans. Sophomores Ashlie Simmons and Stephanie Smith earned first team honors and freshman Heather MacRae and Laura Walker earned second team honors for the Highlassies.

"I'm very proud of our girls and their accomplishments," coach Stan Mitchell said. "I think it shows how strong we are from top to bottom this season."

Many of the Highlassies feel that their tough fall schedule that pitted them primarily against Division I competition will help them on their possible road to a national championship.

"I think when we get to nationals it won't even be that big of a deal for us," Simmons said. "Because we have already played the best teams in the country and know we can compete."

During the fall season the only

junior college opponent the Highlassies faced thus far was number 3 Tyler Junior College, which finished behind MCC in their only meeting this season.

"We know Tyler and Daytona Beach our probably going to be our toughest competition," Smith said. "But I feel the depth on this team will push us ahead of those two teams because we are so deep from top to bottom."

The two freshmen Walker and MacRae both from Scotland would of been shoe-in first team selections except for the fact the freshman can't be on the first team.

"It's rewarding to come in as a freshman and be successful," MacRae said. "However what may even be more rewarding is our teams success and being ranked number one."

The Highlassies toughest competition Daytona Beach also have a couple of players who hail from Scotland on their team and have competed against the Highlassies freshmen tandem on many occasions.

"We've played against those players on many different occasions and know what they are capable of beating us if we don't shoot well," Walker said. "But I have confidence in my teammates that we will get the job done."

"Major" mistakes

Lacy Witt
Sports Editor

Question of the week: What was Mack Brown thinking???

Or was he thinking at all when he started Chris Simms over Major Applewhite? Maybe that's the real question. But, assuming that his mind was actually functioning last weekend, let's go through a few possible scenarios:

Scenario #1:

He didn't actually WANT the national championship. I mean, really, who wants to go to the Rose Bowl when you can go to the Holiday Bowl? Who wants a big parade and a chance at the national title? All the glory and prestige...who needs it? Give me mediocrity any day. Not a very probable cause for his actions, but still a possibility.

Scenario #2:

He wanted to give Simms a chance to prove himself in a high-pressure situation. Oh, but wait, hasn't he been attempting to do that all year? I think I recall that Chris Simms had already proven himself to be a middle-of-the-road quarterback prior to the Big 12 championship game...but maybe he'll do better when it's all on the line. Nope, he never failed to bring the fans exactly what we expected of him...four interceptions in the first half. Way to go tiger! You really showed us!

Scenario #3:

He plays golf with Phil Simms and didn't want to let his buddy down by benching his little pride and joy. And why would you bench the son of one of the greatest NFL quarterbacks of all time? Oh, never mind, he wasn't great...he was mediocre...just like...it's all coming together now! But if mediocrity runs in the family then why would you start the son of a mediocre NFL star...OH, IT MUST BE THE GOLF THING!!!

I wish my dad played golf.

NTJCAA MENS GOLF RANKINGS

1. Midland College
2. Scottsdale Community College
3. New Mexico Junior College
4. Odessa College
5. San Jacinto College-North
6. Wallace State Community College
7. Brevard Community College
8. Utah Valley State College
9. Faulkner State Community College
10. Dixie State College of Utah
11. Dodge City Community College
12. McLennan Community College
13. Lon Morris College
14. Navarro College
15. Johnson County Community College

Other schools receiving votes:
New Mexico Military Institute

Ingredients for national title

Aaron Smith
Sports Editor

Going into the 2001-2002 college basketball season, the clear favorite to repeat as national champions are the Duke Blue Devils, but who else is going to make a serious run at the national title and what is it going to take?

One of the most important positions in college basketball, the point guard, will play a pivotal role in just who wins the title.

Some of the big names to watch out for this season are Jason Williams (Duke), Chris Duhon (Duke), Frank Williams (Ill-

nois), Dan Dickau (Gonzaga), Jameer Nelson (Saint Joseph's), John Linehan (Providence), Troy Bell (Boston College), Brett Nelson (Florida), Dajuan Wagner (Memphis), Cedric Bozeman (UCLA), Lynn Greer (Temple), Marcus Taylor (Michigan State), Steve Blake (Maryland), Jason Gardner (Arizona)... the list goes on and on. Each the headliner on his respective team.

Another key factor for a national championship is experience

There are plenty of guys who stick around four or even five years. The kids who can anchor a program like Illinois' Cory Bradford, Iowa's Luke Recker and Maryland's Lonny Baxter or Juan Dixon. Players who can lead

a team to the national title.

Another thing that is crucial during March is coaching.

When you have a guy on the sidelines that's been there before, you tend to do better come postseason.

Coaches like Mike Krzyzewski (Duke), Gary Williams (Maryland), Bobby Knight (Texas Tech), Lane Olsen (Arizona), and Eddie Sutton (Oklahoma State) seem to be important come March and sometimes April.

Chances are you will not need all of the above to win this year's national championship, but rest to sure this year's champ will have one of these qualities.

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Entertainment

The Camino Real



Harlan Short
Entertainment Editor

On a bright Spanish day, Don Quixote (Joshua Graves) and his trusty servant Sancho Panza (Tyler Darby) stop on the Camino Real.

After Sancho leaves him, Quixote falls asleep, taking the audience into "a world where the human heart is part of the bargain."

Quixote's dream brings together two men. Though living very different lives, they share the same goal: getting out of the Camino Real.

The first is Jacques Casanova (Aaron Weisinger), a "romancer" who finds himself stuck in a world where he is constantly being hassled by Gutman (J.T. Bundick) for the money owed for his stay at the Siete Mares, the upscale hotel. Also, he is being pressured by his female companion, Marguerite Gautier (Raina Krause), to find a way to leave. She leaves him eventually because she believes he is afraid to leave. After that, Gutman throws Jacques out of the Siete Mares.

The second is Kilroy (Timothy Riley), an ex-boxing champ, who from the moment he steps onto the Camino Real, becomes a victim.

First he gets hassled by the guards (Anson Veach, Cory Merritt) and then his wallet is stolen. After that he is fully degraded when he is forced to dress like a clown, a patsy, and walk the streets.

At the fiesta, after Jacques gets him to take off the costume, he is chosen to be "the hero" by Esmeralda (Mandy Nguyen), with whom he falls in love. The Gypsy (Rachel Stott) then tells him that he is at the top of the Street Cleaners' (Joey Caswell, Harlan Short) list, which means he is next to die. While Kilroy walks the street waiting for the cleaners to come take him away, he runs into Marguerite and talks to her about the wife he left behind, but is then interrupted by the street cleaners.

He dies but is quickly revived by La Madrecita (Jenn Korte). After

Digital Images by
Jorge Trujillo



trying once more to get Esmeralda to go with him Kilroy, is asked by the awakened Quixote if he wants to go on a journey. He agrees.

Before they leave, however, they witness the reunion of Jacques and Marguerite at the Siete Mares, when she agrees to pay his tabs.

In the end Don Quixote and Kilroy walk off into the sunset with no doubt in the search of adventures.

Tennessee Williams' "Camino Real" contains two main themes.

The first theme is that of hope, represented in Kilroy and Quixote, and how they come from a rough situation but end up on top with the promise of better days to come.

The second theme is enjoying what we have right in front of us. This theme is represented in Jacques and Marguerite. Throughout the play both seem eager to get out of the Camino Real, but end the play realizing that they have everything they want and need in each other.

The MCC production carried many interesting features.

Colors were used to represent moods throughout the play. Intense

reds were used for the street cleaner scenes to add to the creepy atmosphere. At the changing of the scenes, or "blocks," a cool blue color represented the stillness of the stage.

Another interesting thing about the show is that the follow spots were placed on the stage making them part of this world.

The set had a very industrial feel achieved by its pipe construction. Also the spacing in the walls caused shadows to move throughout the set.

Set interest was generated in the way the stage pit was lowered so that the street people could crawl in and out of it.

Costumes for Camino Real were a mixture of 40's style suits and dresses, and Spanish American clothes. The Spanish costumes displayed vivid colors with of room for movement.

The makeup for the show was varied between both ends of the spectrum but seldom fell between. The characters either had on a lot of extreme makeup, or wore subtle corrective makeup. It served the purpose of showing the gaps between different classes of people in the show.

It also illustrated their personalities, and how they are supposed to be viewed by the audience.

Dance also played a major role, especially in the first act. Backed by Spanish music, the dances added a lot of energy to the show and helped give it a Spanish-American feel.

The fiesta dance scene set the mood for what was coming up and was a great ending to the first act.

MCC's production of Tennessee Williams' "Camino Real" was colorful, both in character and visuals. It also contained both movement and energy.

Scenery and lighting design was by Tim Poertner, makeup design was by Kim Moravec and costume design was by Kathleen Cochran.

It was performed on the dates of Nov. 29-Dec. 1 at the Ball Performing Arts Center.

Camino Real was under the direction of Jerry MacLaughlin.

Final exam in the form of a recital

Harlan Short
Entertainment Editor

The MCC electric guitar ensembles recitals were on Nov. 26 and Nov. 27 in the Fine Arts building.

The guitar ensemble's Monday performance featured Adam Beuton, Nettie Davis, Jake Edinger, Brian Hull, Scott Johnson, Josh Roberts, and Richard Kiraly on guitar, Kenny Gradel on drums, Aaron Hollingsworth on bass, and Toma Willhelm on vocals.

The set contained two instrumentals, "Tequila" and "Red Clay", three vocal accompanied songs, "Our Love is here to Stay", "Cry Me a River", and "Something to Talk About", and a Blues Jam. The show also had a special performance of "Garden in the Rain" and "All Right, OK I'm in Love With You" by Ken Frazier, Rex Willhelm, and Loma Willhelm.

The Tuesday Nov. 27 guitar

ensemble performers were of Bill (Pepsi) Cook, Willis Aymont, Carrall Duke, Don Halverson, and Bob Arnold on guitar, Skip Workman on bass, and George Jezek on drums.

The ensembles played three instrumentals: "My Funny Valentine", "Cute", and "Watch What Happens". "Route 66" was performed with vocals by Willis Aymont and Bob Arnold.

Special performances featured Carrol Duke with "My Adobe Hacienda", Willis Aymont with "I Was Just Walking Out" and "The Door", Bob Arnold with "Winter Wonderland", Don Halverson, Carrie Morre, Amy Morre, and Nancy Gladen with "Do Run Run" and "He Kissed Me", and Dan Halverson with "Amazing Grace on Violin".

The guitar ensembles serve as a final for Mr. Frazier's electric guitar ensemble classes and are held at the end of each semester.

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MCC Student Recitals

Music majors get the chance to show their abilities.

Harlan Short
Entertainment Editor

The McLennan Community College Department of Music's a Student Recital was Nov. 15, 2001 at 6 p.m. in the Ball Performing Arts Center.

Consisting of an array of musical pieces and instruments, the performances featured piano, vocals, trombones, and trumpets.

Performers at the Nov. 15 recital were as follows: Jason Nering played "Andante" and "Allegro Moderato" from "Sonatina" by Alexander von Krelster on trumpet and was accompanied by Larry McCord on piano. David Jones played "Adagio" from "Concerto for Cello and Orchestra" by Alexander von Krelster on the tenor trombone and was accompanied by Dr. Ruth Pitts on piano. Jerry Berger played "Andante" and "Allegro" from "Suite" by Don Haddad on bass

trombone and was accompanied by Gail Wade on piano, Ryan Thompson, a tenor, sang "By Mendipside" by Eric Coates and was accompanied by Howard Thompson on piano. Steven McDonald, a baritone, sang "Deh Vieni Alla Finestra" from "Don Giovanni" and was accompanied by Dr. Andrew Hudson on piano. Lolita Pierre, a mezzo-soprano, sang "Father of Heaven" from "Judas Maccabaeus" by G.F. Handel and was accompanied by Dr. Andrew Hudson on piano. Jason Dunlap, a tenor, sang "Vainement, Ma Bien-Aimee" from "Le Roi d'Ys" by Edouard Lalo and was accompanied by Dr. Andrew Hudson, and Joe Norman performed "Intermezzo in A Major, Op. 118, No. 2" on piano as a solo piece.

Another Student Recital was held on Nov. 29, 2001 at 6 pm in the Fine Arts building.

The clarinet, the piano, and the flute were played at the recital.

The students that performed at the recital were: Amy Conley, who played "Sonata Op. 20, No. 1: Allegro appassionato, Andante un poco Adagio, Allegretto grazioso, and Vivace" by Johannes Brahms on the clarinet with piano accompaniment by Dr. Andrew Hudson, Stephanie Gunn played "Solace" by Scott Joplin on Piano, Melanie Patterson played "Sonata No. 2: Adagio, Andante, Adagio, and Presto" by G.F. Handel on the flute with piano accompaniment by Gail Wade, Megan Hildreth played "Concerto in G major: Allegro, Adagio, and Allegro vivace" by Joh. Joachim Quantz on the flute with piano accompaniment by Larry McCord, and Catherine Priest played "Sonata II: Allegro moderato, Siciliano, and Allegro" by J.S. Bach on the flute with piano accompaniment by Dr. Andrew Hudson.

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