

Erica Sanchez

Managing editor

had to be made.

in budget cuts

and, for this

semester and

the summer

rates had to be

increased by \$5

per credit hour

due to Averitt's

Averitt

said the deci-

sion had to be

made because

the legislature

was faced with

a \$10 billion

deficit and the

taxes wholesale.

legislature did not want to raise

that it's bad fiscal policy to raise

taxes during a recession. So you

make due with what you have. You

prioritize your funding and make

cuts accordingly and education

a tax increase, most local govern-

mental agencies had to raise prop-

ing came out better than many other

came out far worse than education

did, and Parks and Wildlife are

an intricate part of our quality of

life that we enjoy here in Texas,"

Averitt said that for fast-growing

community colleges like MCC, the

legislature has set aside some extra

available, said Josh Meeks, Averi-

tt's Press Secretary and Legislative

The coordinating board de-

termines the exact amount the

individual schools receive and

when they will receive it, and the

legislature set up percentages to

if you grow 15 percent, then you

qualify. In the second year if you

grow by 30 percent then you get

some amount determined by the

coordinating board," Meeks said.

whether MCC will receive any of

that money, but the way things have

gone in the past, he said, MCC will

the legislature's cuts for the last

base period, and the way the \$9

million fund is set up, it is not likely

any money will be left for the fast

growing schools, Michaells said.

receive money from the \$9 million,

then mursing programs, and the fast-

growing community colleges will

be considered last, Michaelis said.

If some of the \$9 million re-

mains at the end of the year, then the

coordinating board can distribute it

to schools that have grown eight

percent in the first year and 16 per-

Averitt said that the legislature

cent in second year, Meeks said.

New campuses will be the first to

MCC alone lost \$3.5 million in

not receive any of it or very little.

Michaelis said he does not know

"In the first year (fiscal) year,

determine this, Meeks said.

A total of \$9 million a year is

agencies, Averitt said.

Averitt said.

money.

Aide.

erty taxes for McLennan County.

While the legislature avoided

Cuts to community college fund-

"Parks and Wildlife for example,

came out on top," Averitt said.

"We (the legislature) decided

"tough

cision."

tuition

de-

the

Higher education cuts by the

78th Texas Legislature forced

McLennan Community College

to raise property taxes and tuition

and budget cuts, but State Sen.

Kip Averitt, R-McGregor insists

that cutting community college

funding was a tough decision, that

taxes by 18 percent, make \$343,000

MCC had to increase property

Volume 41, Number 3

### Hudson leaves for Alabama Averitt defends higher ed cuts teams, and the 'Lassies' basketball Davis Gonzalez

Staff writer

Wendell Hudson, McLennan Community College's Athletic Director will be returning to his hometown after he accepted the position of Associate Athletics Director for Alumni Relations at the University of Alabama.

Hudson's duties are expected to start Oct. 1, and include an oversight of the men's basketball program.

Hudson has been a member of the MCC Athletics Department since 1986.

He started out as the Highlassies' basketball coach before being moved to the position of Assistant Athletic Director in 1995, and finally Athletic Director in 1998.

In his years at MCC, Hudson played various other roles, including assistant golf coach, intramural director, and interim Highlanders' basketball coach during the 2001-2002 season.

With seventeen years invested in MCC, Hudson isn't one to be easily lured away from the Highlanders' and 'Lassies'.

"I didn't see any reason to take a job someplace else that I didn't really want to go to. It would have to be as special at least as MCC is to me", said Hudson.



Wendell Hudson accepting the 2000 Paul "Bear" Bryant Alumni Athlete Award in Alabama.

The Chicago Bulls drafted Hudson

in the second round to start a brief

professional career that included a pe-

riod with the ABA's Memphis Tams

before returning to Tuscaloosa as an

ing at Alabama, the Tide won three

consecutive SEC titles and once ad-

North Alabama, Rice, Ole Miss, and

Baylor, before landing a position at

In Hudson's five years coach-

Other coaching stints included

assistant men's basketball coach.

vanced to the NCAA Sweet 16.

his senior year.

nation as well as a man of great integrity and intelligence," said MCC President Dennis Michaelis.

Hudson is no stranger to the Crimson Tide.

Born and raised in Birmingham, Alabama, he was offered a basketball scholarship by the University in 1969, making him the first African-American to play for Alabama.

"It was a different time and a different world", Hudson said, "I was the only minority in the athletes dorm".

Hudson's years on the Alabama basketball team produced two SEC "Alabama is getting one of the most valuable player honors and recfinest athletic administrators in the ognition as an Athletic All-American 2001 'Landers' and 'Lassies' golf sistant.

team, as well as two members of the 'Landers' basketball team were named Academic All-Americans. Other accolades of Hudson's in-

clude: the 2000 Chick-Fil-A Southeastern Conference, the Basketball Legend Award, the 2000 Paul "Bear" Bryant Alumni Athlete Award, 2001 Frank Fallon Award for contributions to basketball in Central Texas, and in 2001 he was inducted into the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame.

To replace Hudson Michaelis will recommend Stan Mitchell, women's golf coach and instructor as interim athletic director at the Sept. 30 MCC Board of Trustees meeting

The 49-year-old Mitchell, who is also a business teacher at MCC, was the athletic director from 1996-1999 before stepping down to devote more time to his family and teaching. But he will take the role back, at least on an interim basis, pending approval by the board of trustees.

Michaelis is also recommending women's basketball assistant coach Shawn Trochim as assistant AD.

Trochim, 33, is a former Waco High standout who played basketball at MCC and Texas A&M before returning as Hudson's assistant in 1995. She worked the last four years as department recruiter and women's Under Hudson's supervision, the basketball coach Ricky Rhodes' as-

'Parks and Wildlife for example, came out far worse than education did'

> - State Senator Kip Averitt

increased public education funding by a total of \$1.2 billion.

"That increase reflects the top priority that

public education receives in the budgetary process. Unfortunately enough to keep

wasn't up with growth and we had to make some adjustments along the way," Averitt said.

Public education funding was increased, but certain cuts

Senator Kip Averitt were still made by the state, and to makeup for those cuts school districts still lost money and had to make additional cuts to their budget, said Montey Geren, La

Vega ISD Superintendent. A major cut effecting public schools was that last year teachers apply to their supplemental health insurance, but this year the state

were given an additional \$1000 to came and cut that in half, Geren La Vega ISD had a net loss of

about \$350,000 due to trying to restore the cuts made to supplemental health insurance and also because they had to pick up an extra cost from being required to go on to the state insurance program, said Gary Williams, Deputy Superintendent for Support Services at La Vega

Kenneth Greene, Superintendent of Clifton ISD said that Clifton had certain areas of the budget that were reduced, and receiving money from the state was also based on increased enrollment, which Clifton did not have.

"Overall Clifton received about \$500,000 less money this year from the state than last year," Greene

Because of this decrease Greene

said that Clifton ISD had to make adjustments to their budget.

"Putting more money in may not have given more money in an absolute sense, it may have only been to try to help out with the increase in extra students we have to educate. That was required by growth in some cases, so it didn't exactly increase funding so much as it just tried to keep pace with growth," Williams said.

William Shepard, Superintendent of Valley Mills said that some areas were increased, but Valley Mills had to cut program areas like, the Ninth Grade Success Initiative Grant for nt-risk ninth graders.

That grant took about \$75,000 away from the Valley Mills school district this year, Shepard sald,

"There was an increase, but as far as our day to day operations it really did not help us," said Michael Hope, Superintendent of Robinson ISD.

"Right now our students aren't being deprived of anything, but of course they're not getting anything extra that others schools can," Hope Huld.

## Police Report

### Officers investigate unusual cases, emergencies.

Jonnichael Swetnam Staff writer

The usual September grind of tickets, lockouts, and jumpstarts was broken by a series of medical emergencies and other unusual cases.

Campus Police reported injuries and accidents that resulted in 11 calls to the MCC Police from Sept. 3 through Sept. 16.

A medical emergency was reported in the Health and Physical Education building on Sept 16. A female student started bleeding from a spider bite she said she received

off campus, police said. She was returned to class after having a compress applied, police said.

An accident was reported at the Art Center on Sept. 14. A sculpture fell on a volunteer's foot causing a foot injury, police said. A medical emergency was reported in the Liberal arts building Sept. 5. A hypoglycemic woman fainted while in class, police said.

She rested, drank some OJ, and felt better, police said. A student in the Learning Technology Center also complained of

On Sept. 4 a 19 year-old student said he felt faint and had a stiff back. He ate lunch, rested, and said he was okay, police said.

A complaint was filed in lot A on Sept. 15. A student complained that a faculty member was rude to her. The student was parking in a faculty space, police said.

Vandalism was reported at the Bosque river stage Sept. 8. An unidentified person spray-painted obscenities on the stage wall, police said.

A driving dispute was reported off campus on Sept. 3.

Property was found in Lot G on Sept 9. A Texas driver's license and an MCC ID were found in lot G, police

Lot I was the scene of a vehicle accident involving an unidentified vehicle



Digital image by Margo Moreno

This 1982 Ford Mustang was involved in a rear-end collision on Sept. 22 at the intersect of Highlander Dr. and 1400 Blk of College Dr. with a 2003 blue Nissan Xterra.

that struck a parked car and left the scene, police said.

A vehicle accident was also reported in Lot H on Sept. 3. An unidentified vehicle struck an illegally parked car and left the scene,

## Student government meeting students' needs

Trinda Martin Staff writer

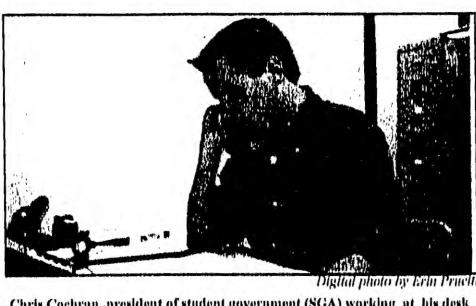
Chris Cochran, president of student government (SGA), said that the student government is here to listen to the students' opinions and act on those issues by bringing them to the attention of the faculty and administration.

"I am willing to meet with any student at anytime, anywhere," Cochran said.

The student government is comprised of anyone on campus who is willing to participate.

The only requirements include maintaining at least a 2.0 GPA, and attending a minimum of 3 meetings before receiving voting privileges.

Students can get involved hy contacting Cochran and by participating in activities and events



Chris Cochran ,president of student government (SGA) working at his desk

Student government Intends to let the student body know that they have student representation, and that SGA cares, he said.

that relate to student life, he said. student involvement is our number one priority," Cochran said.

The student government plans on having more volunteer activities such as, walking for the American Heart "Promoting community and Association on Oct. 11, working

with the National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week Oct. 13-17 and tutoring at local middle schools.

SGA is also having an upcoming dinner for the Board of Trustees, tentatively scheduled for Oct. 28, a pumpkin-carving contest on Oct. 31 and elections for student government positions on Sept. 24 and 25,

A lendership conference is tentatively scheduled for Nov. 7 through Nov. 9 at the UIICL in Houston, Cochran said. Members of the SOA will meet students from other colleges and learn leadership skills, Cochran said.

Cochran said that a suggestion box available to the students is currently in the works.

Students are welcome at SGA meetings every Monday at 1 p.m. in the student netivities center beginning Sopt. 29.

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# DIU OLEME

McLennan Community College

## Club seeks diversity

Erica Sanchez Managing Editor

The Inter-Cultural Association (ICA) at McLennan Community College seeks commonality while celebrating differences, said Kim Roppolo, ICA faculty advisor.

The group is trying to culturally educate people through different events, Roppolo said.

The ICA displayed and gave out information to increase cultural awareness about Diez y Seis de Septiembre (Sept. 16), Mexican Independence Day, which marks the beginning of the Mexican revolution against Spanish rule.

"Most people think that Cinco de Mayo is Mexican Independence Day, but that was just independence from France. They don't realize Mexico had many independence days," Roppolo said.

The library usually contributes to the remembrance of Sept. 16, but since the Library Director, Jane Gamez-Vargas retired and the librarians have been overworked lately, less was done for the holiday, Roppolo said.

But the ICA hopes to have much larger events for Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead), Native American Heritage month in November, African American Heritage month in February, and an undetermined event in the spring, Roppolo said.

For Dia de los Muertos the ICA hopes to feature Aztee dancers, vendors, and homemade candy, traditional done for that day, Roppolo said.

Last spring's Hispanie Heritage Festival, may be repeated Roppolo said, but she wants it to be much larger, just as she hopes to hold the powow in a larger area if there is a repeat of last year's.

She said a lot of people attended the powwow last spring, but the student eenter was packed.

Also she said the group wants to do something the students will have access to, not an event held after school hours.

"I want the student body to get something out of it, not just the elub," Roppolo said.

Roppolo said that these events increase cultural awareness and knowledge, which many people are shut off from.

"Real knowledge will empower you to realize what the history of this nation really is about, to realize what we as a people have gone through, and where we come from and who we really are," Roppolo said.

"People, I think, are more curious about all aspects of who they are, which I think is a good function of the ICA," Roppolo said.

"How do we know where we're going if we don't know who we are." Roppolo said.

Roppolo said that demographics are shifting, and in about 20 years, Waeo's ethnic majority could be Hispanic.

"If we don't do something to change, then we're going to miss the boat in terms of meeting the needs of this community, and that's what a community college is suppose to do," Roppolo said.

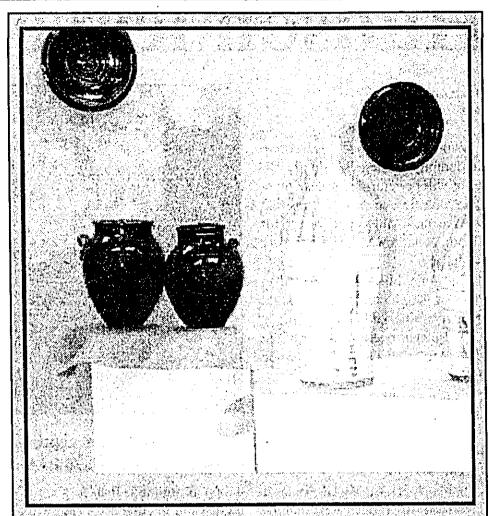
The ICA began as the campus' Native American organization, but Roppolo realized there wasn't a Hispanic Association, and that's when it became ICA.

"I said, 'Hispanies are 75 percent genetically Indian. What are we not doing working together," Roppolo said.

"If students want things to happen in terms of cultural diversity in classes and events, students will make it happen," Roppolo said.

Roppolo will also be teaching a Mexican-American Literature evening class in the spring.

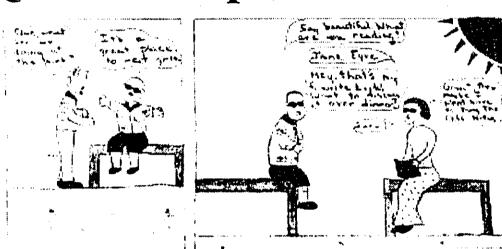
She said she wants more people from the community to attend, so she chose an evening class and with a student's writing sample, she can waive the English 1301 and 1302 prerequisite.



Digital image by Lee Kuhl

The "Simply Pots" exhibit by David Dotter has been in the F building of the CSC since Sept. 2, and it will end Sept. 30. The works are being offered for sale, the price list is available at the exhibit.

Que and Kip





### Elections see lack of candidates

Kelli Pope Staff writer

The Student Government Association is scheduling officer elections Sept 24 and 25 in the LTC.

However, none of the positions are contested.

The SGA has been working on getting more students to campaign, Anna Marie Miller, SGA personal relations representative, said.

"We're having a hard time finding people willing to work for the school," Miller said.

"It may be a community college thing," Miller said.

Several positions remain open for campaigning, including secretary, parliamentarian, and historian.

Holly Green is running for secretary while Jeffery Humphrey is running for parliamentarian, and Edward Moreno is running for historian.

Holly Green was secretary last year

Those running for office have been encouraged to go all out when it comes to their campaigns, Cochran

SGA allows five freshman and five sophomore representatives.

Stephanie Veselka, Anna Rusu,

Brittany Schutz, and Richie Ryan are—she said.

running for freshman representative positions.

Sophomores Jeffery Humphrey, Chris Pate, Kimberly Kelly, and Laura Hodger are running for representative.

President Chris Cochran, Vice President Gary Grooms, and Miller won their positions in last year's elec-

Although the elections are not contested, Miller said they will be held regardless.

"Hearing a student give a speech would be a first," Miller said.

"We don't usually give speeches,"

**Opinion** 

## Sept.16 now cries for reflection

Margo Moreno Editor in chief

Blood, sweat and tears traded for independence from Spain is what Diez y Seis de Septiembre commemorates.

We celebrate it with food, beer and lights.

The Sixteenth is a day people should read aloud "El Grito de Dolores" (The Cry for Freedom) of Fr. Miguel Hidalgo, but instead we hire bands and make Mexican food,

Sixteenth of is important to our culture as Texans, not just as descendents of Mexicans.

But just as every commemorative holiday we turn it into a party.

Yes, freedom is something to celebrate but do we really know what they fought for?

Most people get this day confused with Cinco de Mayo, That war was fought 50 years later, without official help from Texas.

Cinco de Mayo commemorates freedom from France, and when that war was fought Texas was independent of Mexico and really had little to do with that war.

When Mexico declared its independence from Spain, Texas was a Spanish-Mexican territory, and both Texans and Tejanos fought at Salado Creek, Galveston and Medina.

El Grito should be read before celebrating so we can remember what we are celebrating. We eelebrate this day to

recognize that our forebears believed in freedom; that they put their life on the line for us. If these men had not fought for

what they believed in, who knows where we would be today? It's also a day to remember our

culture and our roots as Texans not just as Mexicans. So, yes it is okay to hire the

mariachi band and sing 'Viva Mexico' but remember that cry that lead to freedom. The Fourth of July is another day

we eat, drink and have a firework show.

Why? Should we not read aloud the Declaration of Independence?

Most people in this country confuse that with our Bill of Rights, which came later with something ealled the Constitution.

On the Fourth, we make it a weeklong celebration of eating and drinking, but what about remembering our struggle for freedom.

The American way of commemorating events is to party until vou can't anymore, but shouldn't we remember why we can do that, especially on anniversaries of days when people gave their lives for our right to have food, beer and lights.

The views expressed in this column are those of Margo Moreno, Editorof the Highland Herald, They do not necessarily represent the views of MCC, its faculty, staff or students.

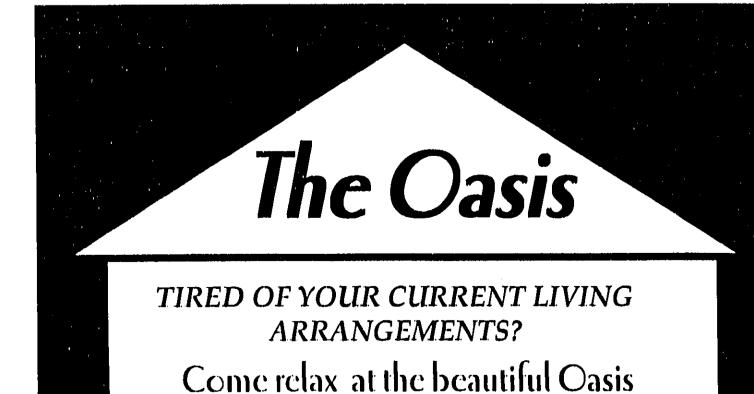


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nity College.

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

Please e-mail letters and comments to:

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students.melennan.edu Or dropthem off at the CSC Room B42

Phone (254) 299-8524

Fax (254) 299-8747

\* anonymous letters will not be printed

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## Beware of the Giant killers

**Aaron Smith** Sports Editor

I won't take credit for predicting upsets by Mid-American Conference schools, but I honestly am not surprised by the results of this weekend's upset of Marshall-Kansas State, Northern Illinois-Alabama and Pittsburgh-Toledo. Everyone was so focused on the so-called "big games", but the story of the weekend wasn't Oregon beating Michigan or Tennessee winning at Florida. It was the MAC once again proving they belong with the big boys.

At what point we have to the talk about how scholarship reductions hurt the bug guys and create some parity, and finally admit that teams in the MAC - or WAC, Mountain West and Conference USA - are capable of being better than the BCS schools.

There is a big talent pool in the Midwest - plenty of big ole' farm boys and all that talent that Michigan and Ohio State don't snatch up tend to go to you're Marshall's and Toledo's of the world.

The MAC is catching up in the trenches, evidenced by Marshall's Offensive line, which averages well

I have nothing against the folks at the GMAC Bowl, but it's not the same as playing on New Years Day.

over 300 pounds per man and Northern Illinois team that just manhandles Alabama in the trenches.

It's time these teams are taken seriously and earn rankings in the polls. It is also time for the MAC and the other mid-majors to get a true shot at the BCS bowl games. What makes of the BCS, when a team from the Big Ten with three loses gets a BCS birth over and undefeated mid major like Northern Illinois, Marshall, or Toledo get shut out of the BCS completely.

I have nothing against the folks at the GMAC Bowl, but it's not the same as playing on New Years Day.

To sum it all up I believe that in all likely hood your Miami's and Oklahoma's of the world would probably beat your Toledo's and Marshall's of the world but we should at least give the little guys a chance to compete with the giants of the college football

## Highland Herald Picks

The Highland Herald sports staff has the picks for the maior college and NFL games of the week

Season Totals



(4-6)

Dallas

Houston.

Green Bay

San Diego

New England

San Francisco

Kansas City

Buffalo

Tennessee

Indianapolis

(5-5)





(3-7)

Dallas

Houston

Green Bay

Aaron Smith



Ny Jets

Houston

Green Bay

New England

San Francisco

Pittsburgh

Indianapolis

Washington

Kansas City

Oakland

Buffalo

NFL Picks

Dallas @ Ny Jets Jacksonville @ Houston Green Bay @ Chicago San Diego @ Oakland New England @ Washington Kansas City @ Baltimore Philadelphia @ Buffalo San Fran @ Minnesota Tennessee @ Pittsburgh Indianapolis @ New Orleans

College Picks

Stanford @ (18) Washington (13) Texas @ Tulane Alabama @ (14) Arkansas

(21) Washington St. @ (15) Oregon Oregon (19) Pittsburgh @ Texas A&M

(3) USC @ California (25) Florida @ Kentucky (23) Missouri @ Kansas Texas Tech @ Mississippi

(7) LSU @ Mississippi St.

Stanford Texas Arkansas Texas A&M USC

Florida Misoouri Texas Tech Missisippi St.. Ny. Jets Houston Green Bay San Diego Washington Kansas City Philadelphia Minnesota Pittsburgh

New Orleans

Washington Texas Arkansas Oregon Pittsburgh California Florida

LSU

Kansas Texas Tech Oakland Washington Kansas City Buffalo Minnesota Pittsburgh **New Orleans** 

Washington Texas Arkansas Oregon Pittsburgh USC Florida

Missouri

LSU

Mississippi

Texas Arkansas Oregon Pittsburgh California Florida Missouri

Mississippi LSU

Getting ready to putt is MCC sophomore Kyle Roberts. The Highlanders finished third at the fourth Annual Coca-Cola/ Melennan Community College Invitational held

## Highlanders tee off season

Tonya Farmer Staff writer

The 2003 Toyota Collegiate Preview, the Highlander golf team's first tournament placed them in third during their first two rounds and seventh on the second day in their third round

The tournament was held in Dodge City, Kansas, on the same course that nationals will be held on.

With wind conditions at about 35 to 40 miles an hour, it made it quite a challenge to keep a ball on the fairway, " Rick Butler,

Andreas Kali was very consistent on his all-around game, said Butler During the first and second round he shot a (75).

He finished with a (71) on the last round and ended with an average of (221), which tied him in fourth place in the Individual All-Tournament Tenm.

Ryan Knoll scored (75) in his first round, (76) in the second, and (78) in the third.

He finished with an average of (232).

first round, (76) in the second, and as they finished third behind national must Collegiate Amateur Invatational (78) in the third.

Einishing off with an average of

(234).

"He (freshman, Lance Avants) did a good job and showed a lot of character" Butler said. Avants scored (85) in his first round, (72) in the second, and (78) in the third, which resulted in an average of (235).

Paul Cormack who scored a (76) in the first round, (78) in the second and (81) in the third.

He finished with an average of (235).

"The first tournament where nationals will be held, I was pretty much satisfied with where we stood. I thought this is where we would be early on." Butler said.

"The team will not be working on just one thing, but rather on every aspect of the game," Butler said.

Being present and making a showing at a prestigious tournament like this one will show that they are competitive on a national level, Butler said.

Bear Ridge Tourney

The MCC men's golf team fell just short of winning their only home tournament of the fall "The fourth Annual Matt Cordell scored (80) in his M.C.C.\Cocn-Cola Fatt Invitational"

The two day tournament was hosted at Bear Ridge on Sept. 22 and 23.

Odessa won the tournament shooting a two day total of (566) and which was just ahead of Tyler, who shot a score (576) for the tournament.

Although Odessa has won the first two tournaments of the season, MCC has also progressed threw out the first two tournaments.

Leading the Highlanders Andreas Kali placed in second individually, scoring (71-76) with an overall total of (1.38).

Rounding out the rest of the Highlanders scores was Paul Cormack with scores of (72-75) an average of (147), Ryan Knoll with scores of (76-72) an average of (148), Kyle Roberts with scores of (76-74) an average of (150).

The medallist for the Highlanders, Lance Avants scored (76,76) an average of (152),

Paul Robinson scored (76,78) an average of (154), Ryan Pierce scored (86-88) an average of (174)

The Highlanders will next be in nction October 4 and 5 at the 17th Anpowers Odessa and Tyler junior col- of Andrews in Andrews, Texas.

.

## Tiebreaker tourney ahead?

**Aaron Smith** Sports Editor

They've made 23 coin flips. They've issued a five page release detailing what happens if the season ends suNday and the Marlins and Phillies tie, or the Cubs and Astros tie, or the Red Sox and Mariners tie.

So you can't say Major League Baseball isn't ready for many different kinds of scenarios next week if 162 games aren't enough to settle who makes the playoffs.

But some of the scenarios just don't add up.

What happens, for instance, if the Cubs, Astros, Marlins, and Phillies have the same record? You don't want to know.

Three days worth of tie breaker games. That's what happens. Here is how it would go, according to Rob Manfred of the Commissioners office:

Day One:

The Cubs play the Astros in Chicago to decide the NL Central.

Winner advances. Loser enters the wild-card tiebreaker playoff.

Day two:

Two of the three remaining teams

Who plays where depends on the outcome of the marlins Phillies series. (Again, don't ask.) But assuming current records against each other dont change as of press time, the three teams left are the Phillies. Marlins and Cubs.

The Marlins would get to choose if they want to play one road game or two home games to determine their fate. If it's the Phillies, Marlins and Astros, the Astros would get that choice.

At any rate, two of those three would play -- somewhere.

Day three:

The winner of the first wild-card game would play at home against the third team.

Day four:

Gentlemen, start your division race

If the Dodgers somehow are also tied after Sunday, then you really

don't want to know what happens, because MLB's current plan for a five-way tie is: pray it doesn't

Yep, thats five straight games in five days, in different cities every

If anything this madness has brought something that baseball has been missing for a while a real actual penant race.

Wild Card Standings American League

93-64 Boston 90-68 Seattle National League

Florida 87-70 Phili 85-72 Houston 84-73 83-73

L.A. **Division Races** 

National League Chicago 85-72 Houston 84-73

**WE CATER** 

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# Entertainment

McLennan Community College

## 'Idiots' to perform Waco farewell

Magen Rigdon

Entertainment Editor

The Flaming Idiots, a popular Central Texas juggling comedy troupe, will present its final Waco performance at the Hippodrome on September 26th at 8 p.m.

General admission-only tickets are now on sale at the Hippodrome Box Office, 724 Austin Ave., 725-9797.

The Idiots are disbanding to pursue their individual careers.

Members are approaching their late 30s and their brand of physical comedy requires conditioning almost as demanding as professional athletes, Jon O'Connor, Idiot troupe member said.

The Flaming Idiots is a comedy troupe that was bred locally about North America. 20 years ago.

Jon O'Connor, Rob Williams and Kevin Hunt make up the comedy trio.

The Idiots met at Scarborough Fair outside of Waxahachie when they were just actors "walking around as scenery," O'Connor said.

They put a show together and toured Renaissance Festivals during that upcoming summer.

The troupe reasoned that it would give them the chance to see part of the country and to act, their main interest.

"We thought it was a good way to kill a summer," O'Connor said.

The troupe turned out to be a big hit that summer.

The next summer they were offered more work, until, after four years, The Flaming Idiots troupe membership was a full time job.

They never thought when they began that they'd being doing it for nearly 20 years, he said, but after their initial success, they never thought about anything else.

The Idiots have traveled all over

The troupe worked in New York, New Jersey, the New England area in general, Canada and 38 of the 50

They worked in Waco frequently, they said, including performances at Baylor and the Hippodrome.

Their first television exposure was



The Flaming Idiots performing their famous juggling act. Their Sept. 26 Hippodrome performance will be their career finale in Waco.

'It's frustrating. It's like we are this secret little treasure hidden in the theater world.'

in Waco at the Waterworks restaurant and bar, now the Pump Station, in a comedy competition.

The prize was a trip to Los Angeles to audition for a show called Comic Strip live.

They won, and have gone to make many more TV appearances on Sunday Comics, The Tonight Show with Jay Leno, The Today Show, Donnie and Marie Show, and many local TV shows.

"It's a battle to...communicate what the show is. It's frustrating. It's like we are this secret little treasure hidden in the theater world." O'Connor said.

Their comedy group is geared for all generations, he said.

The troupe isn't in favor of taking volunteers and using them as "the stooge," making them feel ridiculous

Hippodrome hits Ninety

on stage.

The Idiots like to take their volunteers on stage and make them

"They leave going, 'Wow, this is really cool," O'Connor said.

Kids usually from the ages 5 to 10 go home wanting to be a Flaming ldiot, he said.

They see the troupe having fun with each other and they want to do it too, O'Connor said.

"It's harder," he said. "Certainly it's easy to make fun of people. Opposed to making fun with people." O'Connor said.

The Flaming Idiots always have a brief but heartfelt message at the end of their show expressing that "it's a lot harder to bring joy into this world than sorrow. Thank you for allowing us to do our job today and bring a little laughter to all of you."

## Singing Cowboy Murphey Visits Bosque River Stage

Brandi McCarty Entertainment Editor

Legendary cowboy singer, Michael Martin Murphey, performed at MCC's Bosque River Stage September 14th to a crowd of about 300.

He began the show with just his guitar and sang two songs he'd recently written.

One by one, band mates joined in for a performance of his 1976 hit song, "Carolina in the Pines".

Instrumentation included drums. bass, a keyboardist who also played hammered dulcimer, a fiddle player who doubled on mandolin, and Murphey's son on guitar.

During the first set Murphey performed his country and crossover hits, including "What's Forever For" (1972) and "Long Line of Love"(1987).

After the intermission, he played cowboy standards and trail songs, taking this opportunity to give



Michael Martin Murphey performs at the BRS.

background on the tunes, and teach moral lessons about trust and honor.

Throughout the evening the crowd begged for "Wildfire" (1975), one of the most-played songs in radio history. Murphey saved It till the end of the evening and was rewarded with

a standing ovation.

Murphey is the best selling singer of cowboy songs in the world today, and considered the founder of the still popular Austin music scene.

'It's good to see such a professional quality show in Waco," said Dick Gimble, Bosque River Stage Artistic Director,

### Anniversary season features classic Broadway favorites Mark Cappalbo

Staff writer

Broadway's oldest and most popular musical entertainments are making their way to Waco's Hippodrome Theatre in celebration of its 90th Anniversary season.

This year's line-up kicks off with "The Sound of Music" on Oct. 13 at 7:30 p.m.

It is the story of a postulate sent to be a governess for a retired naval captain and his seven children.

Packed with such memorable songs as "Do-re-me" and "Climb Every Mountain," this musical is a perennial hit with audience members of all ages.

"The Vienna Boys Choir" will perform on Nov. 11.

Founded by Imperial Decree in 1498, the choir sang exclusively for the Viennese court until its first tour Feb. 5. in 1932,

The choir performs a variety of. secular and religious music

"Titanic, the Musical" will dock at the theatre on Jan. 31 and relive the tragedy of 1912.

Forget the billion-dollar blockbuster starring Leonardo

DiCaprio, this musical follows famous figures in history as well as multiple love stories.

The Hippodrome is a well-known Waco locale.

"Kiss Me Kate" premieres on

It's a battle of the sexes that follows the backstage antics of two feuding romantic couples during a production of "Taming of The Shrew."

This show is not suggested for children.

The anniversary season closes

with "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change" on April 12.

The show features four actors who discover the ins and outs of relationships, and what it takes to maintain them.

For more information on ticket prices and packages call the theatre

The Hippodrome theatre has been a Waco entertainment monument since 1914 when it was built in the heart of downtown as a vaudeville

### Doom blasts onto Xbox, PC scene

John Plppln Staff Writer

Id Software's ever-controversial *Doom* series is blasting its way onto the Xbox and PC in 2004 with its third installment.

Doom 3 will feature all of the classic weapons and monsters along with new additions.

The prospect of online play is confirmed for the PC, but details on an Xbox multiplayer mode are unavailable.

Much of the original game's development team, including lead designer John Carmack, are back on the job, which comes as a welcome surprise to old-school Doom veterans.

One notable addition to the team is Nine Inch Nail's Trent Reznor, who is in charge of the game's music, and is also known for the music on Id's Quake.

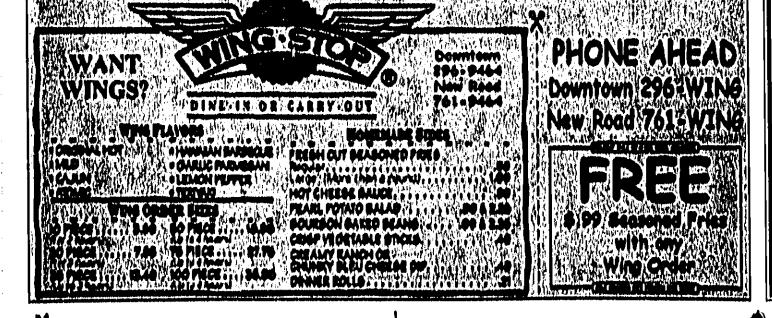
Id Software is running the game on their brand new engine, built from the ground up to boast smooth run times, luscious graphies, and photo-realistic physics.

While Activision's publication department is handling the PC version's release, the Xbox release has been handed over to European-based developer Vicarious Visions.

No official word has been given on a possible Electronic Software Rating Board (ESRB) rating, but it should be obvious that gamers can expect a Mature rating, thanks to Doom's notoriously splatter-happy gaming.

Though Activision claims a PC release date of March 13, 2003, Id says that the game will be released "when it's done."

There are currently no official details on the Xbox port's release date, but we can probably expect it by May.



## Metamorphoses

Presented by MCC Theatre Ball Performing Arts Center

October 2, 3, 4 @ 7:30pm

Sunday October 5 @ 2:30 pm

Written by Mary Zimmerman Based on the Myths of Ovid

What the critics say...

Adam Feldman in his Broadway.com Review: "Metamorphoses never feels like a make-up course. It is fairy-tale theatre for grown-ups: light, witty, and magical in tone, frequently ravishing in design, and blissfully entertaining.

> Box Office 299-8200 Mon. - Fri. 1-5 p.m. seating limited