

Quo Vadis

28 Years of College News

Volume XXVIII No. 13

Middlesex County College

April 25, 1994

MIDDLESEX COUNTY COLLEGE
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C.C.P.B President Sonya Goodrum speaks at County College Awareness Day



photo courtesy Jon Steele

left to right Andy Benowitz, Mercer; Rafael Diaz, Hudson; and MCC's Sonya Goodrum

by Jon Steele

Sonya Goodrum, MCC College Center Planning Board President, performed Master of ceremony duties for the Council of County Colleges at the Third annual Community College awareness day activities in Trenton this past Thursday in Trenton. Student representatives met in

However, currently they only pay twelve percent. County Colleges are funded by three sources of income, the state government, the county government, and student's tuition.

Ms. Goodrum stated that County College students are the "Largest, most neglected segment of students in higher education." She also said "we need to see real change in the way our state administers higher education pro-

"The state is not funding its fair share"

the State House to demand that Governor Whitman and New Jersey state government fund it's fair share for county colleges oprtstions.

State law obligates government to fund 43% of of the money for County College operations.

See 'C.C.P.B.' page 22



photo courtesy Jon Steele

by Amy Shearer

On April 12, MCC held "Health Careers Day" at the College Center. Nine local hospitals came to recruit future Health Technologies graduates (Medical Laboratory Technology, Radiography and Nursing students).

Of the hospitals represented during the job fair, five are currently associated with MMC's clinical rotation programs; they are South Amboy Memorial Hos-

MCC Health Career Day remedies job search blues

pital (Radiography), UMDNJ University Hospital (Nursing), Rahway Hospital (Radiography and Nursing), plus John F. Kennedy Medical Center and Raritan Bay Medical Center (Radiography, Nursing and Med-

Lab. Tech.).

According to Rahway Hopital's Patient Services Resource Coordinator Nancy Abel, the demand for nurses has decreased. "There is a current demand for Physical Therapists,

Respiratory Therapists and Occupational Therapists," stated Abel.

Recent graduates of MCC are working at John F. Kennedy Medical Center, Rahway Hospital, Raritan Bay Medical Center, South Amboy Memorial Hospital and UMDNJ University Hospital.

All of the hospitals that came to Health Careers Day offered different incentive programs to help their staff continue their

See 'Health Care' page 5

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DWI offenders get shot of education at MCC

"The aim of the program is to provide each offender with education, screening and evaluation,"

by WR Cotton

On the evening of Thursday April 14, a diverse group of men and women met in Cafe C in the MCC Student Center. Each paid \$100 for the opportunity to do so. What reason would cause them to come together? A clue could be gained by the sober expressions on many of the 40 faces.

They are people guilty of driving an auto or boat while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. One of the penalties for this offense is mandatory participation in the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Alcohol Countermeasure Screening and Evaluation Program.



Donna Frandsen BSW (Bachelors of Social Work), CADC, Director of the County of Middlesex Department of Human Resources Intoxicated Driver Resource Center (IDRC), oversees these weekly two day, 12 hour sessions. "The aim of the program is to provide each offender with education, screening and evaluation," stated Frandsen.

The program's curriculum includes lectures on DWI laws and penalties. Guests include speakers from Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD)/Victims, Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)/Narcotics Anonymous (NA), and recovered DWI offenders. Related films are shown, followed by group discussions.

This evening, Corinne Rodriguez of

MADD expressed the consequences of the offenders' actions by relating how a drunken driver had cut short the life of her 32 year old brother Donny DeAngelis. "Donny was so special. He was always there when you needed him. The fact that my children will never have the opportunity to meet their uncle is a shame. All they have is a picture of him sitting in the living room," lamented Rodriguez.

"The fines and fees associated with this crime can total \$8,000 for the first offense, and the loss of driving privileges for 6 months to 1 year," said Frandsen.

Middlesex County IDRC re-

ports that in 1992, nationwide, 15,777 persons were killed in alcohol-related traffic crashes. The victims of these accidents tend to be much younger than those with cancer or heart disease, thus the loss of potential life is 600,000 per year.

Frandsen is currently working with a noted cinematographer, who received (as part of his DWI sentence) a mandate to produce a documentary on drunken drivers' experiences from arrest to conviction.

At the close of the program, as the participants headed outside, instead of these adults, young and old, jumping into their cars and driving away, they either stood and waited to be picked up or entered cars already waiting, sitting on the passenger side.

MP 254

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Quo Vadis

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Athletic field renovations scheduled for 1995

by Dana S. Sartain

Renovations to MCC's athletic fields will begin in the Spring of 1995, and conclude in the Fall of the same year.

\$852,639 of the funding for the \$907,063 renovation was provided by a grant from the NJ Sports and Exhibition Authority. The remaining \$54,424 will come out of MCC's capital budget.

The baseball field, which has not been used for over two years due to soil contamination, will be reconstructed. A new softball field will be added as well. Currently, the MCC softball team uses the field in the adjacent Thomas Edison Park.

According to Don Drost, director of Plant Operations at MCC, one of the focuses of the project plan is to "promote gender equality" by building the softball and baseball fields in an identical fashion.

The bleachers at both fields will accommodate the same number of spectators, and the dugouts will be the same. Each field will have a control box that will house the field controls for the irrigation/drainage systems and the score board, as well as offer

seating for press members.

MCC now has five tennis courts, two of which have fallen to such disrepair that they have been deemed unsafe to play on. The existing plan calls for four new tennis courts, with the possibility of an additional two. Players will be able to turn on special timed lights for night play.

In the past, MCC athletes have complained that during certain times of the day, it would become impossible to see the ball because the sun was in their eyes. Both ball fields and the new tennis courts will be "sun oriented," meaning that they will be situated in such a way that the sun will not interfere with the ball games at all.

The renovated athletic fields are being designed by Kinsey Associates of Hackettstown. They are expected to complete the design after the Army Corp. of Engineers finalizes their remediation plan for the removal of contaminated soil from the baseball field.

Copies of the plan for this renovation are available to the public at MCC's library and at the Edison Township Public Library.



*Check Your Calendar
and Plan to Attend!*

Middlesex County Job Opportunity Fair and Career Exploration Day



Wednesday,
May 11, 1994

8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Physical Education Center

For additional information contact
Department of Community Education



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Academically Speaking

County High School students treated to entirely "Español" day

by WR Cotton

"If you don't use it you lose it," according to the age old adage, and Spanish Immersion Day is organized to see that local high schools use it.

High school students enrolled in the third or fourth year of Spanish throughout the county are invited annually to MCC, to share in a day of activities and competitions conducted completely in "Español". This year, 7 high schools participated.

"This year 28 students participated," said Monroe H.S. Spanish teacher Barbara Meyers. A seven year veteran of the program her students are eager to participate and each year she must turn away students. The students from the previous year pass on how much fun it was and new students want to share in the days activities.

Ms. Brandigan, a teacher from New Brunswick High School, considers the Spanish Im-



photo courtesy W. R. Cotton
New Brunswick High school participants in Spanish Immersion day, from left to right: Tieka Harris, Sandra Royal, Natalie Cotton, Christina Marascio, Aiesha Long

mersion Day a wonderful opportunity for students to interact with students from other schools. She feels it "gives them a positive attitude about their studies and hopefully will encourage them to further pursue the Spanish language."

Brandigan feels Spanish is an important language to learn. "Projections are that by the turn of the century, 1/4 of the population of the United States will be Hispanic, and it will be advantageous for future workers to be bilingual," stated Brandigan.

New Brunswick High school senior Tieka Harris stated, "the program was very interesting. You realize how much you don't know, and this experience has helped me to see the need to study more to perfect my use of the Spanish language."

"This years participation was down due to scheduling difficulties," noted Meyers.

Perth Amboy Center provides convenience and curriculum

by Areana Szkola

Balancing work and family is hard enough without also trying to fill the role of a student. Sometimes the hardest part of going to College is getting there. We all know the three rules of

prime real estate: location, location and location. These are the same rules for college and that's where the Middlesex County College Perth Amboy Center steps in with a convenient location and a curriculum to serve almost

anyone's needs.

The Perth Amboy Center of Middlesex County College has nearly 20 years of service. In the fiscal year 1974-75, the College received a small grant to offer educational programs to the Perth

Amboy Community. At that time, the College opened an office at the Perth Amboy Community Outreach Center located on State Street in Perth Amboy. In 1978, a project titled, "Proyecto Puente" was instituted. "Puente" is the

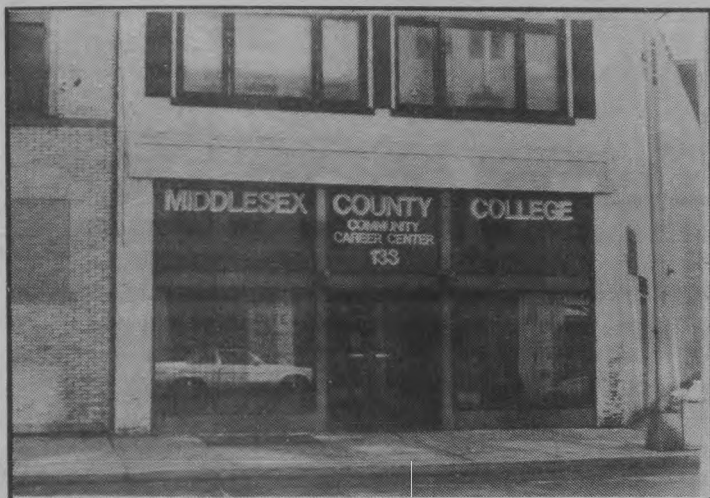


photo courtesy Olga Vasques

Perth Amboy Campus stands ready for local students

Spanish translation for bridge. The idea behind the program was to get the community to envision post secondary education as a bridge to a better future.

There was a great demand for the courses offered. However, transportation and economic factors affected enrollment. To provide the students with an opportunity to access higher education, the College reached an agreement with the Perth Amboy Adult School to lease classrooms and office space. This arrangement allowed the College to offer credit and developmental courses, financial aid counseling and tutoring during evening hours. "Proyecto Puente" developed the vision of a bridge reaching out from Perth Amboy to the main campus in Edison.

Throughout the years, the demand for courses increased and the College Administration decided there was a need to develop a separate identity if they were going to continue expanding their services.

The College decided to find

its own location and, in 1986, the Center was relocated to its current downtown location, in the hub of the business area of Perth Amboy at 133 New Brunswick Ave. The offices and classrooms are located on the second floor. Its exterior store front appearance makes it more friendly and less intimidating to the community. They also have access to an elevator, which is located on the side of the building.

Today, the Center offers a variety of services, including credit and developmental courses, mini-courses, vocational assessment, academic advisement, financial aid counseling and skills training programs.

Although the present facility serves its purpose, it has its limitations. For one, they occupy only a portion of the second floor. They also lack adequate parking, and there are issues of security associated with an inner city environment. The school is actively seeking solutions to these problems and hopes to continue to provide quality services at the Center.

'Health Care' from page 1

education.

According to Newark Beth Israel Medical Center's Recruiter Mary Kay Carter, this was her first visit to MCC. "I noticed that the number of MCC students interested in our hospitals program is higher than other colleges that I have visited," expressed Carter.

The others that attended the job fair were Riverview Medical Center, Runnels Specialized

Hospital, and the Veterans Administration Medical Center.

The Health Careers Day was sponsored by the UMDNJ/MCC Joint Nursing Program, Medical Laboratory Technology and the Counseling and Placement Services.

For more information, contact Alice Picardo or Naomi Karetnick in EH100, or call 906-2546 for an appointment.

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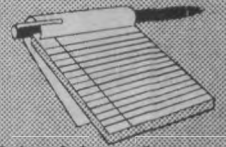
The Houston toad produces alkaloids — pharmaceutical wonders that may prevent heart attacks or act as an anesthetic more powerful than morphine. Yet, due to habitat loss, it is on the very brink of extinction, another member of the Endangered Species List.



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Letters to the Editor



Letters to the Editor must be submitted to the Quo Vadis office, College Center room 316. Letters must be typed, double-spaced, and signed; letters from organizations must be signed by an officer of the organization. Unsigned letters will not be published, though Quo Vadis will withhold names upon request. Quo Vadis reserves the right to edit all letters or to deny publication of letters, signed or unsigned, that constitute an attack on personal integrity.

Professor's claims termed absurd

To the Editor:

The March 14, 1994 issue of Quo Vadis contained an article entitled "P.A.C.E. Challenges Students." Mr. Sam Anderson, Professor of Math for more than 20 years, is quoted; "currently less than 1% of physics or math majors are African-American or Hispanic and that the present education system is designed so that only a few are able to master the track to success."

This absurd claim is an insult to both the people designing and implementing the education system (including the faculty that design and teach the curriculum) and, more importantly, to all minority students (including African-American and Hispanic students). We do not "design" courses so that African-American and Hispanic students fail. Whether a student succeeds or fails depends primarily on that

student's ability, maturity and willingness (desire) to do the work required to succeed. It has little to do with a student's race or ethnicity.

It is time for demagogues and racists such as Sam Anderson to stop promoting their own personal ambitions or agenda at the expense of students. Students need to be told that ultimately they are responsible for their successes or failures. If they suc-

ceed, it should be on their own merit, not because of the education system.

George Popel, Yvonne A. Kemp, Mel Friedman, Simon Aloff, Ronald E. Riemler, Michael A. Miniere, Arnold Cohen, E. Carleton Fisher, Jay L. Sachs, Jacqueline Boyd De Mrzio, Margaret Gorlin, Rich Klein, Georgina Vastola, Robert Frankel

Members of the Mathematics Department Middlesex County College

Artful dodging smacks of "Heepishness and Wimpary"

To the Editor:

The Ad Hoc Task Force on Campus Diversity's Final Report defines "diversity" as anything which concerns everything; provides a policy statement whose implications it cannot explain; assesses the campus climate of diversity by providing sets of figures whose meaning it does not attempt to analyze and recommends procedures which proceed to no defined goals.

Professor Bob Roth's letter in last week's *Quo Vadis* contains more serious effort than the whole of the AHTaFoCaDi's report together. Readers are advised to review it.

Dodging the difficult and dangerous task of definition, Professor Roth offered an explana-

tion of the need for multiculturalism grounded on a series of pious and fluffy clichés. I summarize his basic points:

1. "...we live in a rapidly changing, pluralistic society."
2. "And this implies that we must work to ensure the cultural diversity of America is considered in choosing texts, developing curricula, and refining pedagogy."
3. "...today teachers must continually update our (sic) knowledge if we are to know how to ensure that all of our students see themselves reflected in the curriculum..."
4. "...and that we are helping them to learn a current, global perspective on the real world."
5. "...we must know the

work of Raymond Carver, Sandra Cisneros, Gish Jen, Toni Morrison, Bharati Mukherjee, to name just a few."

6. "...we must be aware of our own cultural conditioning."

The essence of a cliché is not falsity or triteness, but its power to secure unthinking assent. All but one of these apparently unobjectionable statements can be disputed and ought to be debated. It is possible to argue that our nation's culture grows more uniform, not more diverse. There is no obstacle to anyone "considering" cultural diversity; but the multicultic project involves much more than "considering." Dodging artfully around the serious issues smacks of Heepishness and wimpary. En-

suring that "all of our students see themselves reflected in the curriculum" is a hopelessly grandiose goal unless we undertake to do what Professor Roth denies is his purpose—sort them out into a small selection of "neat little boxes with cultural labels on them."

Scott Russell Sanders—the closest approximation to Aristotle ever born in Osceola, Iowa—is quoted to the effect that our backgrounds shape who we are. Well, yes. Who we are really does shape who we are. This is not exactly a flash bulletin from the cutting edge, is it? I have been under the impression for the last thirty years that a primary purpose of liberal arts education was

Continued next page

to induce an examination of our assumptions, an awareness the civilization which furnishes our skulls.

Teaching a "...current, global perspective on the real world" is best of all. I am by no means convinced that Professor Roth himself could recognize a Global Perspective if he woke up with one beside him in bed. I am completely convinced than it is a hell of a sweat to coax most of our students out of a perspective enclosed by suburban New Jersey circa 1984-1994. Let's get real before we get global.

Reestablishing contact with reality of American education is not going to be easy. We can start by noting that Professor Roth flagrantly contradicts his own dismissal of "misinformed Professor di Pasquale" by endorsing Prof. Diane Ravitch's pluralist argument. Ravitch and the Poet have similar objections to "particularist multiculturalism." It is disingenuous to affect to side with her while tut-tutting his colleague.

Here are some further steps for reestablishing contact with the real world.

1. Consider for a space the spectacle of a state-of-the-art, one hundred percent American provincial twitting a born-and-bred Sicilian who writes well-regarded poetry in English for insufficient appreciation of diversity. When your grin reaches both earlobes, go to step two.

2. Try to detect some kind of political tendency operating under the 'umble, apolitical guise of "the normal work of teachers." Think long and hard. If you can discover nothing, go no further. Call the Tooth Fairy at the American Publisher's Clearing House number (800-GUL-LIBL) for some exciting news.

3. Read Raymond Carver for evidence of a broad cultural perspective. If you can find something, read no further. Commit

yourself to the nearest booby bin.

4. Study Paula Rothenberg, Patricia Bizzell, Luce Irigaray,

Marta Moreno Vega's & Cheryll Y. Greene's, *Voices from the Battlefield*, Frederic Jameson, Gloria Anzaldúa, Klaus Theweleit, Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye*; Lawrence Yep's *Dragon Wings*—to name a few multiculturalists—for evidence of a tolerant view of white males. If you can find it, drop everything and call Dr. Kevorkian for an

early appointment. You are already so far out of it you might as well go to the end of the line.

5. Better hold off making reservations on the next space shuttle flight to Global Perspective until we have determined the extent of our students' knowledge of Western Civilization—or of the United States in our times. In the words of leftist philosopher Richard Rorty, "you can't radically reconstruct a *tabula rasa*."

6. Let us establish that the

students' knowledge of Steinbeck, Faulkner, Hemingway and J. Gordon Coogler is on a secure basis before we turn them loose on Bhutanese Cookbooks, the *Memoirs of Genghiz Khan*, the *Kama Sutra* and VCR manuals in Anglo-Taiwanese.

7. Let's, by all means, hear from Professor Roth's students. Concrete examples of multiculturalism in the classroom are notably lacking from this discussion.

Sincerely,
J. N. Frary

JOE PESCI
BRENDAN FRASER
MOIRA KELLY
PATRICK DEMPSEY
JOSH HAMILTON

If you want a degree go to Harvard.
If you want an education go to Simon Wilder.

WITH HONORS

WARNER BROS. PRESENTS
A SPRING BREEK PRODUCTION AN ALEX KESHISHIAN FILM JOE PESCI BRENDAN FRASER
MOIRA KELLY PATRICK DEMPSEY JOSH HAMILTON "WITH HONORS" COSTUME DESIGNER GORE VIDAL
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS PATRICK LEONARD PRODUCED BY ABE MILRAD AND G. MAC BROWN WRITTEN BY JON PETERS AND PETER GUBER
DIRECTED BY WILLIAM MASTROSCIONE BASED UPON THE PLAY BY PAULA WEINSTEIN AND AMY ROBINSON
CASTING BY ALEX KESHISHIAN

PG-13 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED
Some Material May Be Inappropriate for Children Under 13

Starts Friday, April 29th

A commanding officer's standing orders you may want to live by as you navigate the sea called life

To the Editor:

In these changing times of our lives, we try to find some way to run order to exist, to prevail, & to succeed. As another school year comes to close, we will say farewell, for now, to some of our family at Middlesex County College. Some are graduating after years of sweat, persistence, and gallons of coffee. Others will transfer to four year colleges. To all of those getting underway, I hope you will find inner peace in yourself and outer prosperity.

I offer you some suggestions that may help you on your journey while sailing on the high seas of life. I call them the commanding officers standing orders. We each are our own commanding officer in our lives. Held directly responsible for the health and well being of our crew.

The following can apply to our diet, our head and our family. 1. Better to tend to the sails rather than blaming the gales of wind for our situation. 2. Mind your helm! Don't be so preoccupied with what others are doing. I can assure you, the sea of life has checks and balances. 3. Remember! Your ship is small, but the sea is big. Try to find out your limitations without exceeding

them. 4. Keep an even keel. Live by your weekly income, and not what you want. 5. Always keep a healthy sea chest. A good goal to achieve is take half of what you make in gross income, and make it a goal in one year to have that amount in reserve. (Just in case your career is torpedoed so you are not left out on the street.) 6. Most ships will serve several purposes during their lifetime. The Queen Mary used to travel the North Atlantic, but her rooms are now part of a luxury hotel in Long Beach California. Don't be surprised if your late night hobby, or weekend passion, becomes a means of making an enjoyable living. 7. Be a lightship in dark times, don't be a darkened warship. Help others, if you can, along the way towards their next goal port. 8. Don't become a museum piece. Keep the information diet going, all through life. Take courses, seminars, read, and read, read, read. Do brain teasers like crosswords, math or Word Jumble. 9. It is OK to help a ship in distress until it starts pulling you down. Take care of your self. Sometimes the best help is no help at all. 10. A harbor is a safe place for ships,



photo courtesy Dermott "Redd Storm" Daly

Finally everyone gets to see the infamous "Redd Storm"

but that is not what ships are built for. Take chances. Stand out! In today's business world, they do not want to know how you think it should be done. Just tell them when it is done. Stay out of comfort trap. 11. Watch the stars, the horizon, and the charts, but remember your next port. Keep track of where you are at in achieving your next goal. A Captain knows what his next port will be even though is can't be seen for 99% of the journey. 12. Don't become fixed one position while looking through the telescope. A definition of a compound problem is a problem that exists but someone in some group

didn't see it as a problem Denial is not a river in Egypt!! 13. Keep a trim and smart looking ship. You are your own ambassador of the country within you. 14. Don't drag the anchor around! Holding resentment, anger and allowing fear to hold you back is like dragging around your anchor.

Raise your anchor, spread all your sails, shift to underway colors. Get underway on the high seas of life.

Remember it's not just about living a life, but an adventure!!!!

Dermott J. (Redd Storm) Daly HVAC Student Grad '96

Response to "apparent separatist attitudes"

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to the April 11, 1994 article by Jon Steele on the newly formed campus organization, Campus Advance.

I applaud Anthony Gardella on his willingness to respond to the apparently separatist attitudes

so prevalent not only on this campus, but indeed throughout our society. As a practicing Christian, I am also pleased that he would use the teachings of the Holy Bible and the life of Jesus as examples of what we could be.

My problem with Mr. Gardella's proposal is that he

appears to be caught in the very same situation which he seeks to change. What, for instance, will he do with our non-christian sisters and brothers? How can we achieve any kind of human harmony when one group decides all the rules and does not recognize the opinions and belief systems of

others?

Finally, race is only one factor in the separation of the peoples of our society. Religion is another, and there are many others. Until we begin to approach these problems in a holistic manner, I believe that we are only "spitting into the wind."

Charles Alsbrook

"The emperor has no clothes"

To the Editor:

Bob Roth's letter, which, for reasons only known to him, he has already distributed to all the members of the English Department, is cruel and self-obsessed. It is

cowardly and mean-spirited when he writes that some faculty members asked why I had attacked him in my letter. The letter in no way attacks him and I didn't call him a wimp. His self-obsession

allows him that leap of faith. People who hide in the girdele of multiculturalism, whether they are Italian or whatever, are wimps because they shirk personal responsibility. He is hiding be-

hind the anonymity of groups. My letter was NOT about him. It answered a question he asked.

Emanuel DiPasquale,
English Professor

P.S. I am sorry, but THE EMPEROR HAS NO CLOTHES

EDITORIAL

Courtesy at MCC a lacking area

Isn't it time that the students of MCC learn to have respect for education, and for the students and faculty who are truly dedicated to their own purposes for being here?

No-smoking rules have forced nicotine addicts outdoors, but what good is that when it is impossible to walk in or out of a building without having to pass through a massive cloud of secondhand smoke? Is it asking too much for the smokers to spread out a little, and maybe stand fur-

ther away from the building, so that nonsmoking students do not have to reek of tobacco when they arrive at their classes?

Speaking of classes, it is becoming increasingly difficult to concentrate lately. Loud voices echo throughout the halls, and now that the days are growing warmer, no one appreciates having to sit in a crowded classroom with the door shut. (You know, we need to close them so that our class discussions do not interfere with your hallway discussions.)

The College Center is a scary place. During the day, it is like one big, noisy hallway. People behave like animals. They throw their trash on the floor, scream obscenities at one another, and make it a place that most people would rather not go to unless they absolutely HAVE to.

Winter is over, and the car windows are down. Why do some people think that everyone wants to listen to THEIR music? Isn't searching for a parking space horrible enough, even WITHOUT

having to hear ten tinted-out Mustangs blasting ten different songs?

Is this the image we want for our school? Are some of the students at MCC lending credibility to the hackneyed notions of "The Thirteenth Grade" and "Mickey Mouse College?"

In closing, some of you are making the whole "learning experience" rather unpleasant. Please, have some respect for those of us who are trying to get an education.

ENTERTAINMENT

"Backbeat" a Beatles blast from the past

by Nelson S. Bruce

Inspired by the chance discovery of early Beatles photos taken by model Astrid Kirchherr, (circa 1958-1961 in Hamburg Germany) young British film

maker and Backbeat writer Iain Softley has created a moving love story set against the backdrop of what we now to be an historic time in Rock & Roll.

The movie premiered this

past weekend to overwhelming audiences who knew the words to the sound-track.

Setting the stage for the movie that follows, fifteen year old guitarist Paul McCartney suc-

cessfully auditioned for a group, The Quarrymen,

which featured a young John Lennon. In the next few months two more recruits were added, lead guitarist George Harrison and Lennon's art school friend Stu Sutcliffe. Briefly known as Johnny and the Moondogs the group rechristened themselves The Silver Beatles and toured Scotland in early 1969 as a warm up band. Pete Best joined the band which henceforth became the Beatles and a phenomena never seen before or since happened.

This movie differs from the many documen-

taries made surrounding the Beatles by delving into the formative years in five young men's lives. The promos describe it best. "5 Guys, 4 Legends, 3 Lovers, 2 Friends, 1 Band." Beautiful blond photographer Astrid Kirchherr (Cheryl Lee) is taken to a seedy club to see this new sensation. She catches sight of Stu Sutcliffe (Stephen Dorff) and a love story is born.

Questions surrounding her part in the early Beatles had gone unanswered in the years that have passed but surprisingly, when approached, she provided writer Softley with much information. He was writing a movie about Stu and this was what, reportedly, inspired her to help. "I wanted to write about Stu's loves and friendship with Lennon," Softley said.

"First of all I saw Astrid's self-portrait and then some photographs she had taken of Stuart," he recalled. "There seemed to be some kind of sophistication, poise, charisma and intensity and a very focused style about these photographs and these people that made it absolutely clear to me that here were people with a very interesting story that we hadn't heard before," he concluded. "I was always wary that the Beatles story might swamp the love story, but I was always absolutely clear that what made it interesting was the focus on the relationship between Stuart and Astrid and then on

This movie differs from the many documen-

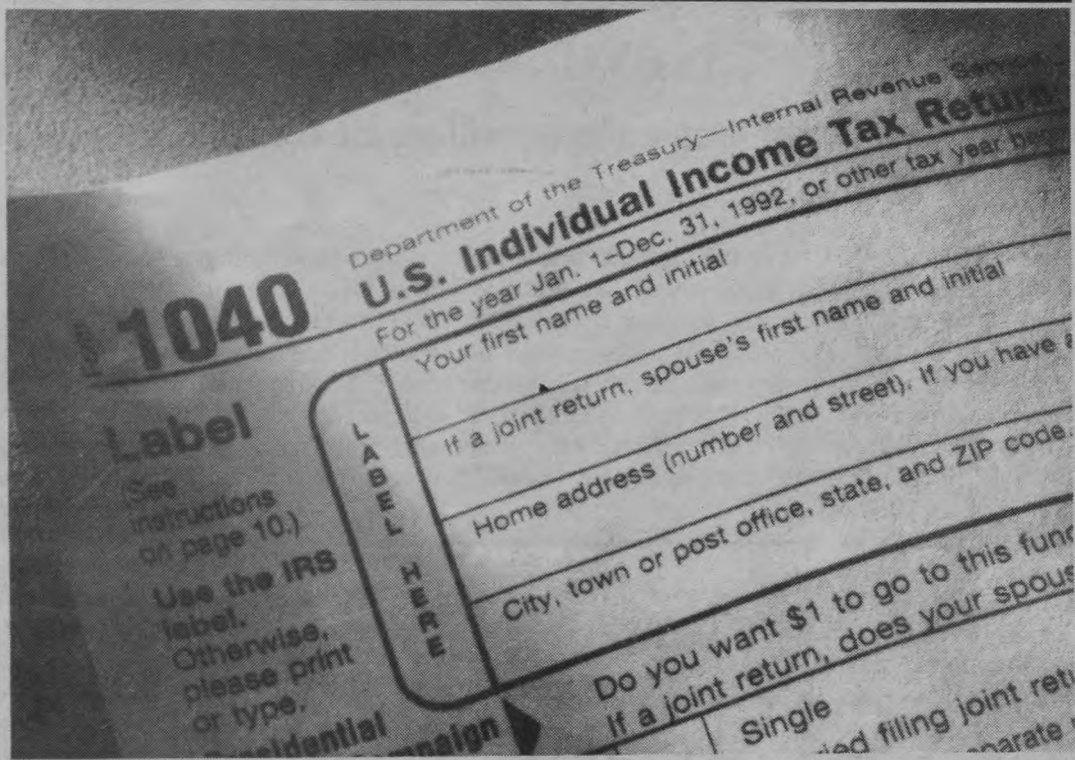
See 'Blast' page 18



photo courtesy Gramercy Pictures

Left to right: George Harrison (Chris O'Neill), Stuart Sutcliffe (Stephen Dorff) and John Lennon (Ian Hart) are bandmates in "BACKBEAT"

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MCC thespian Kevin Chalmers graces the stage

"I hope that some other people of color will see me and say if he can do it, I can do it."

by Jon Steele

Kevin Chalmers sits back in a chair downstairs in the MCC library, he leans forward again, smiles at the interviewer's question, covers his face for a moment, rubs his hands on his lap and says with quiet enthusiasm: "See, You saw me play Carlyle (in the MCC production of Streamers and you could relate to it. Maybe you were thinking 'I'm white and this guy is black, but we're going through the same thing. When it really comes down to it we are all really the same. We all have the same feelings, the same emotions, the same pains, we need to know that people go through the same things. Theatre can enlighten people about each other."

Kevin Chalmers has been at Middlesex County College for three years, and has acted in twelve theater productions. Recently he was in *The Wiz*, *The Fantasticks*, *Tartuffe*, *Streamers*, and he will be performing in *The Good Doctor* on April 29 through May first. He wants to be an actor, or a playwright, and has always been interested in theatre.

As a kid he was shy, kept to himself, and felt that he was strange. "I never liked school. I have a learning disability, I thought people thought I was stupid. I was afraid. I was afraid of rejection. He wanted to fit in socially, and he wanted to express himself. He felt that acting was a way of doing both.

For Kevin Chalmers acting is personally fulfilling but he also sees it as a way to break down racial and cultural boundaries.

He said: "People get too involved in cultural walls and the way people express themselves. People have different ways of expression, people talk differently, if it looks different then they can't understand it. What they don't understand they fear.

He speaks with great sensitivity and sincerity. He is slender and self effacing, soft spoken and endlessly expressive with his hands. His voice is soft and lilting, yet his words are direct and analytical, if not a little idealistic; he is a precious rarity among

to act since he was a kid. He used to make up stories about a family, imitate all the voice parts, and record plays onto a tape recorder, and play them for his family. "That was my first source of encouragement, they really liked those tapes, they would say make another one, they're so good!"

Denzel Washington is his Hero. He had third row seats at the Broadway play *Checkmates* in which Washington acted. "That was it, that was when I knew what I wanted to do."

Kevin Chalmers usually plays the villain. He says that he is good at playing the villain. "I play the outsider, who always wants to get in, but stays on the outside." In both *Streamers* and *Tartuffe*, he played an invader, one who wanted to be a part of a family in one play and longed for the friendship of a group of four army trainees in the first.

"I don't want to offend anybody, I don't know if you want to write this, but being black often you are an outsider. Especially in an all white theatre production. I mean when there is a play about a family (*Tartuffe* for example.) it would not be natural for me to be the father or the brother. I do not feel that because I am black I don't get any parts. I wish more black people would try out for plays, and not just black people, other races should be represented."

"I hope that some other people of color will see me and say if he can do it, I can do it. All different cultures need to be represented in the theatre. So we can enlighten people and not be closed



photo courtesy David N. Erdreich

Maybe you were thinking I'm white and this guy is black, but we're going through the same thing. When it really comes down to it we are all really the same.

Fear leads to anger and racism. Theatre can get people to understand each other."

humans, like a praying mantis is in the animal kingdom.

Mr. Chalmers has wanted

off to any particular race." What is admirable about Mr. Chalmers is that he sees his acting in terms that are both very personal and worldly; he stressed again and again that acting and theatre can be a vehicle for human communication and understanding.

He is philosophical about the power of theatre. "Humans are naturally caught up in their own situations. They can not see the bigger picture. When you're in the audience watching a play, when you see something real, you say 'that's me, I went through that. Playwrights often right about their own lives and experiences, because people can relate to it. You can see yourself in a different light."

"Theater shows that we are all really the same, that is why it is an amazing vehicle. It's nonsense that people are different. It's bull. We are all just living and trying to become better human beings."

Streamers was Mr. Chalmers favorite play in terms of his own acting. In it he was frightening. He was such a mixture of someone who desperately wanted to be loved and excepted, and a man who was simultaneously murderously violent. He was at once so expressive and desperate that he seemed out of control, but his presence on stage was so commanding, the other actors seemed to wither from the heat that he gave off.

Kevin Chalmers wants to improve his acting, he plans to go to acting school after he leaves MCC. I love doing plays here, but I want to move on, it gets tired after a while, MCC is like a little fishbowl. He would like to take part in an all African American production, something he has never done before.

His parents and family

have always supported him in his acting, he dearly misses his father who died two years ago. "He was my cheerleader, he believed in me when I didn't even believe in myself. He was a musician, he understood what it was like to be an artist." Kevin had been getting small parts, although he had never previously quit, he was getting discouraged. "My father told me that I would go on and get bigger and better parts. The next day he died unexpectedly of a heart attack. It was a shock to us all, I still have not gotten over it."

It was right after his father died that he started getting better parts. Kevin says that his mother is extremely supportive and all of his relatives try to come and see his plays, and that his family is very strong base for him, and he still feels that his father would be proud of him today, and that he continues to be an inspiration, even in death.

"Acting is like a drug, you just want to do another play, and another and another. But you have to keep your head. There are more important things than acting. Acting has helped me be more self confident. When I go up on stage I become somebody else, but I'm really me. I want to be as out going in every day life as I am on stage."

Hopefully, five, ten, fifteen years from now Mr. Chalmers career will have blossomed and Quo Vadis can do another story on him.

"You Know" he intimated, "I'm thinking about getting into playwrighting. I want to do that as much or more than acting. That way you become immortal. Then, after you die, some college kids may get together and say 'hey let's do a Kevin Chalmers play.' I would like that."

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ANTON'S VIEW



Thumbelina a dazzling sight but disappoints

by Anton Massopust

The feature presentation of "Hans Christian Andersen's Thumbelina" is visually beautiful, with dazzling animation and fascinating computer graphics.

Unfortunately, the plot is very disappointing. Based slimly on the original tale by Hans Christian Andersen, Thumbelina, played by Jodi Bensen, is flat. She is not interesting. All she wants to do is go home and get married to the prince.



photo courtesy Warner Bros'

The feature presentation of "Hans Christian Andersen's Thumbelina" is visually beautiful, with dazzling animation and fascinating computer graphics.

The music by Barry Manilow is surprisingly excellent. The song "Let Me Be Your Wings" is beautiful and memorable, and the scene where they sing this song is breathtaking.

There are a few cute and amusingly funny scenes with Charo, the "cootchie-cootchie girl," as Mrs. Toad, but in general the plot is too slow and the characters are a bit one-dimensional.

Gilbert Gottfried's character, Berkeley Beetle, is interesting enough, but he does the same

thing as he did in "Alladin," which lacks.

The music by Barry Manilow is surprisingly excellent. The song "Let Me Be Your Wings" is beautiful and memorable, and the scene where they sing this song is breathtaking. But Don Bluth, animated films director, seems to borrow a lot of

ideas from several other cartoons, such as "Beauty and the Beast," "The Little Mermaid," "Superman," and "Alladin."

Several songs could have been trimmed to make it shorter, and I'm sure that the little ones sitting through this will either be delighted or uninterested, so perhaps it would be wiser to wait for the videotape. Grade = C.

"All College Night"

A hearty party that lasted all night

by **Bill Hatton**

On Friday, April 15, Student Activities once again held "All College Night," a party that lasted from 9pm to 5am.

For only five dollars, students could spend the night in the College Center and have fun with their fellow students.

There were many activities for students to partake in. They could receive a massage by

a professional Masseuse, see a comedy act by comedian "Master Lee," make their own FunFlicks rock videos, or participate in a Spades Tournament.

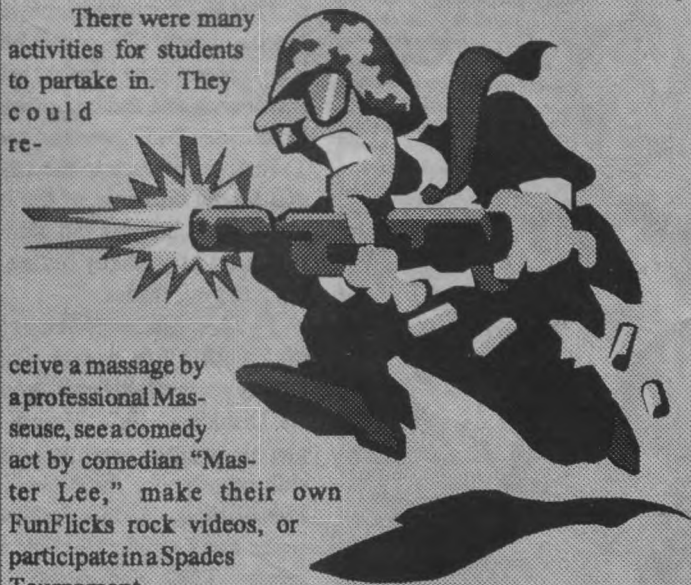
Cafe C was set up with a stage and strobe lights. It also housed a live D.J. who played "Club" music for dance enthusiasts.

On the third floor, Phi Theta Kappa held a "Jeopardy" Debate, in which participants were given a time limit to best

answer a question. Prizes were given to the winners.

Manish Patel, Treasurer of WMCC Radio and a participant in the Debate, stated that "the Debate was one of the best events of the evening and a lot of fun."

Gabe Gonzalez, a library



employee, commented that "the Trivial Pursuit Tournament and the WMCC Radio Spades Tournament were the most worthwhile events of the evening."

All in all, this year's "All College Night" was once again a big hit, according to those who attended.

Middlesex County College
Performing Arts Department
presents



"The Good Doctor"

By Neil Simon

April 28, 29 and 30, 1994 at 8 p.m.
May 1, 1994 at 2 p.m.
Studio Theatre
(Limited Seating)

General Admission \$6 Students/Senior Citizens \$5

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"The Good Doctor"

to make house call at MCC

The MCC Performing Arts Department will present Neil Simon's *The Good Doctor* at 8 p.m. on April 28, 29, and 30 and at 2 p.m. on May 1 in the College's Studio Theater.

The plot revolves around a famous writer who shares some secrets concerning his inspiration for a group of short stories. During his explanations, the stories come humorously to life on the stage.

The cast includes Michael Battle of New Brunswick; Nichole Atwood of Edison; Christopher Gambino of Cranberry; Joyce Isaza of Milltown; Lauren Peck

of Sayreville; Ron Ruemmler and Sharon Coyle of Fords; Peggy Renner of Avenel; Duff Regan of South Amboy; David Frank of Morgan; Tim Mack of Dunellen; Patricia White of Highland Park; Bryan Kleinman of Kendall Park; and, Kevin Chalmers of East Orange and Michael V. Nimetz of Metuchen. Lynn Winik of Metuchen is the director.

Tickets are \$6 for the general public and \$5 for senior citizens. Seating is limited and early reservations are suggested. For reservations or more information, call (908) 906-2589 or (908) 548-6000 ext. 3341.



Book Review

by Carol Acs



“A Drinking Life” A Memoir by Pete Hamill

I have always admired Hamill's forthright, “no holds barred” journalism style, but “A Drinking Life” is Hamill's best work to date. Hamill reveals both his story and his world in that wise and reflective way that only comes with the passage of time.

Hamill, son of Irish immigrants was born and raised in

“A Drinking Life” is Hamill's best work to date.

Brooklyn during the Depression and World War II. He slowly learned that drinking was a rite of passage to manhood. Following in his father's footsteps, Hamill began to appreciate the dark, gloomy camaraderie of places such as Gallagher's bar and the escape from weathering life by its occupants.

To Hamill, drinking appeared to be as essential to life as breathing. All occasions, either somber or joyous were saluted with a drink. When friends gathered, as romances began, when jobs were lost or life was tough; these moments were to be celebrated or mourned with a drink. John Barleycorn sealed a pact between friends and associates.

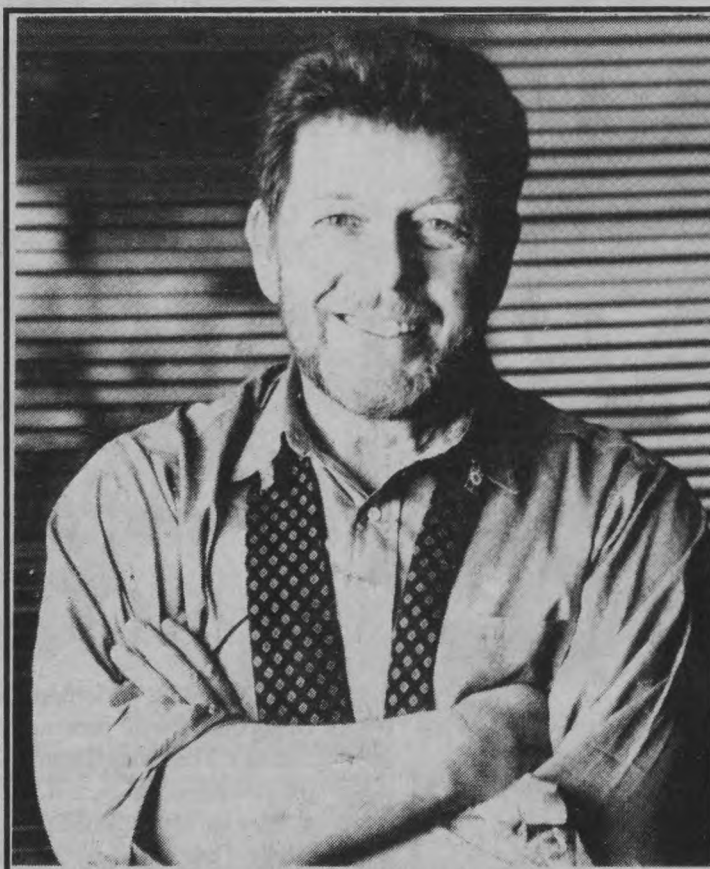


photo courtesy Pete Hamill

The author, Pete Hamill, in a much deserved relaxed mood

It was just the way it was. Drinking was part of belonging in the navy, the newspaper world, or the family. Eventually, the very thing that Hamill had counted on as his ally in life turned against him. His clarity and judgement as a journalist began to erode.

His integrity, vitality and abilities had slipped away long ago and it was not until nearly all hope was lost that Hamill abandoned “A Drinking Life”.

Hamill's work is not a sob story of his “fall from grace”, but rather an inspiring and witty por-

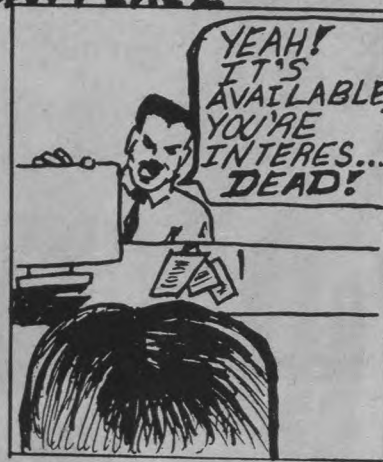
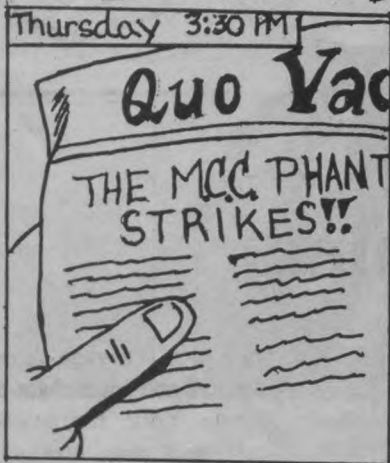
trayal of his voyage through a historical and triumphant period of New York, the newspaper world as it once was, and the evolution of his journalism career. Pete Hamill style brings you right back to the smell and heat of the city streets, the crack of a stick ball bat and the joy in experiencing the luxury of a comic book. You can see the newspaper ink on your hands and those huge block headlines shouting war and peace. Take yourself back to the smoky and sacred darkness of the Irish pub and the burning but glorious sensation of whiskey hitting the back of your throat.

This book spans forty years of Hamill's life and is written twenty years after Hamill gave up “A Drinking Life”. Hamill began his writing career as a night-side reporter for the New York Post in 1960. He is the author of seven novels which include best sellers “Flesh and Blood” and “Loving Women, and two collections of stories. Hamill has been a columnist for many years, writing for The New York Post during which he was hired as Editor-in-Chief and fired during a transition in ownership of the paper.

A super read for “journalism wanna be's” as well as Irish Catholic New Yorkers and anyone who appreciates the art of the writing craft.

THE M.C.G. Phantom

BY: DAN PEREZ



TO BE CONTINUED
NEXT ISSUE...
"THE PHANTOM IS REVEALED"

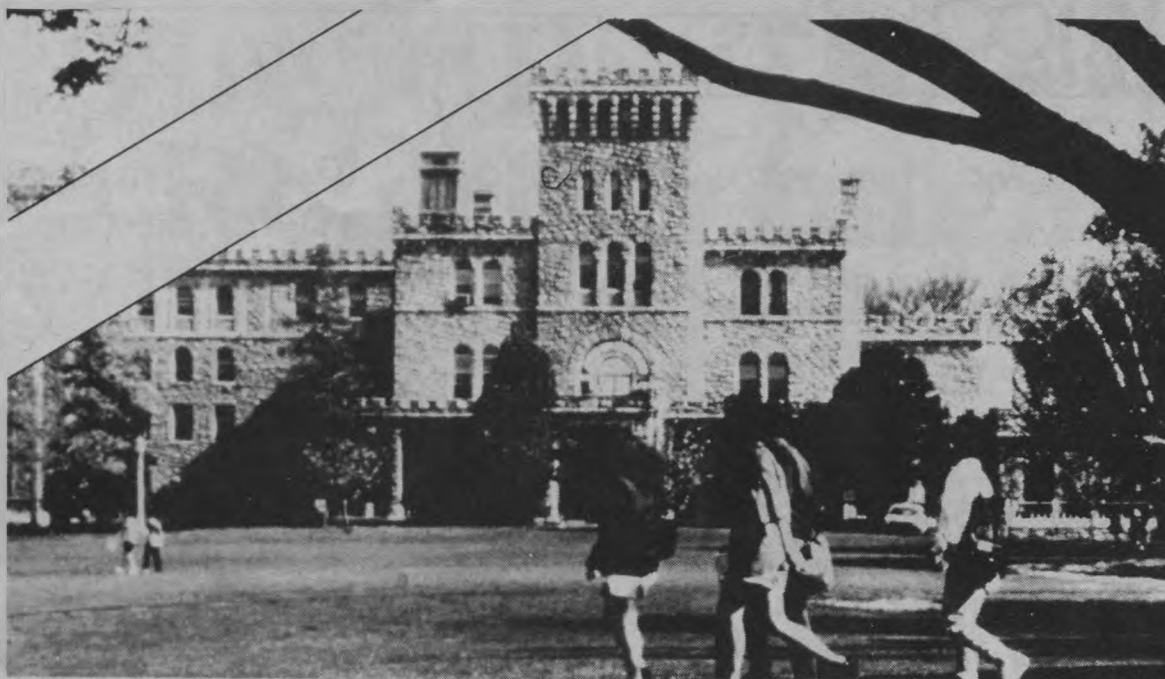
WMOO RADIO

MARIA and Yuki - Trouble in Paradise?



for those 3, maybe feat people following the storyline... Yeah, she's a smooth talker.

eva '94



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WMOO RADIO

MARIA and YUKI - Pt. II

Ya know, we've been together for two years now. Have you been giving more thought to coming out at school?



Yeah. I dunno. Letting everyone know you're gay is a BIG step..



I mean, what does it really have to do with who I am? I'm a good student, friend, and deejay. I just also happen to be gay!



Uh, hello? I "happen" to be gay, too; I also "happen" to be your girlfriend. Am I a part of who you are? And when you need a date to your school dance?

Then what?



I..uh... well, I guess I never thought of who I love as a political issue. Or anyone else's business.



You're basically right... I do get really jealous when guys hit on you, though.

Really? Well, that's a different story. Why didn't you say so?

Yuki spills the beans??
TUNE IN NEXT WEEK!

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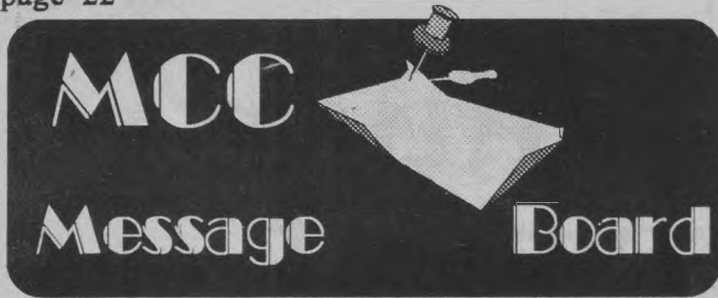
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ENG 234: INTRODUCTION TO SHAKESPEARE

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Prerequisite: ENG 122 or permission of the department chairperson

Instructor: Jane Lasky

'Blast' continued from page 10

on their relationship with John.

Casting proposed a tough challenge according to production personal. "We felt there should be a physical likeness, but we were looking for very young, but intelligent actors who could become the character... who would adopt the personae of John, Paul, George and Pete Best, the drummer who preceded Ringo Starr.

The famous Beatle haircut was partly due to Kirchher. She said that she gave Stu the French influenced cut and George followed suit shortly after. They had originally sported Elvis style cuts but this new one was a wow!!!

"He (Sutcliffe) was way ahead of his time and an outstanding person. It's silly to say now that he would have been a well-known artist or an actor or a

writer. But, for me, he was something very, very special, like John was special and George and Paul are special," Kirchher stated.

The mid-fifties bore Chuck Berry, Little Richard, Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, and Ray Charles. Each succumbed to different career stoppages and opened the door for the British invasion. Any search for rock's Golden age focuses on youth and this movie does so in a refreshing manner. Love affairs, youth in search of success and a group of young men molding themselves into the band that turned the world on its ear succeeds.

This movie is a definite plus as a first effort for Gramercy, a new movie company. An enjoyable, invigorating must see.

'C.C.P.B.' continued from page 1

grams." She illustrated the importance of Community Colleges with her own experiences.. When a reporter stated that county schools could only be attended by residents she countered saying "That's not true. I am not from Middlesex county and I go to school there."

Many people who go to County Colleges are "non-traditional" students. Many of these students did not graduate from high school and go directly to College. They work part time, or full time, or have to support families while attending school. Others have returned after breaks in their education.

The Tuition Aid Grant (TAG) and the Educational Opportunity Fund (EOF) were created for "people that otherwise could not afford a college education." said Rapheal Diaz a representative from Raritan Valley College. These grants however, are only offered to full time students. According to other speakers it is the part time student who often needs financial aid also and should not be denied because of "need" factors, Rapheal Diaz elaborated.

There are currently 140,000 County College students statewide in its 19 institutions. and 2/3 are part time. Many are emigrants, 'minorities' or people from disadvantaged backgrounds, so it is: "especially unfair that these part time students can not receive money from these grants," according to Ms. Goodrum.

One student speaker illus-

trated illustrated the funding problem with a graph. County schools comprised over half the college population but only receive twelve percent of total funding from the state budget.

There were five representatives from different county schools around New Jersey, and twenty to thirty students and faculty members who came to the meeting. Two major radio stations, two TV station, and reporters from two Newspapers also attended. Students spoke on topics which included reconstructing higher education; the budget; TAG and EOF, the financial aid programs granted by the state. The student representatives do not want the proposed 3.5% tuition increase cap, proposed by Governor Whitman.

"If this "cap", as it is referred to, is enforced, services and classes may have to be cut for County college students," said Ms. Goodrum.

"The students would rather have each County college choose it 's rate of increase, instead of a mandatory tuition cap. If the state government paid it's fair share then the grave injustice that is presently being done to county colleges in New Jersey would be a non-issue." according to Jeremy Baird, Mercer County College representative.

"Being a non-traditional student myself, I am thankful that the county schools can cater to the needs of non-traditional students. Certain schools will not accept you with a G.E.D. But the doors are wide open at county schools for students with G.E.D.s. It is very important that there are schools that can help people who have families, who work full time, an are making it on thier own, as many of us do." said Sonya Goodrum.

Presidential Scholars Program announced for 1994

Qualifications include: full time or matriculated status; GPA of 3.25 at end of Spring '94; have earned at least 24 but not more than 42; and have community service background as a volunteer.

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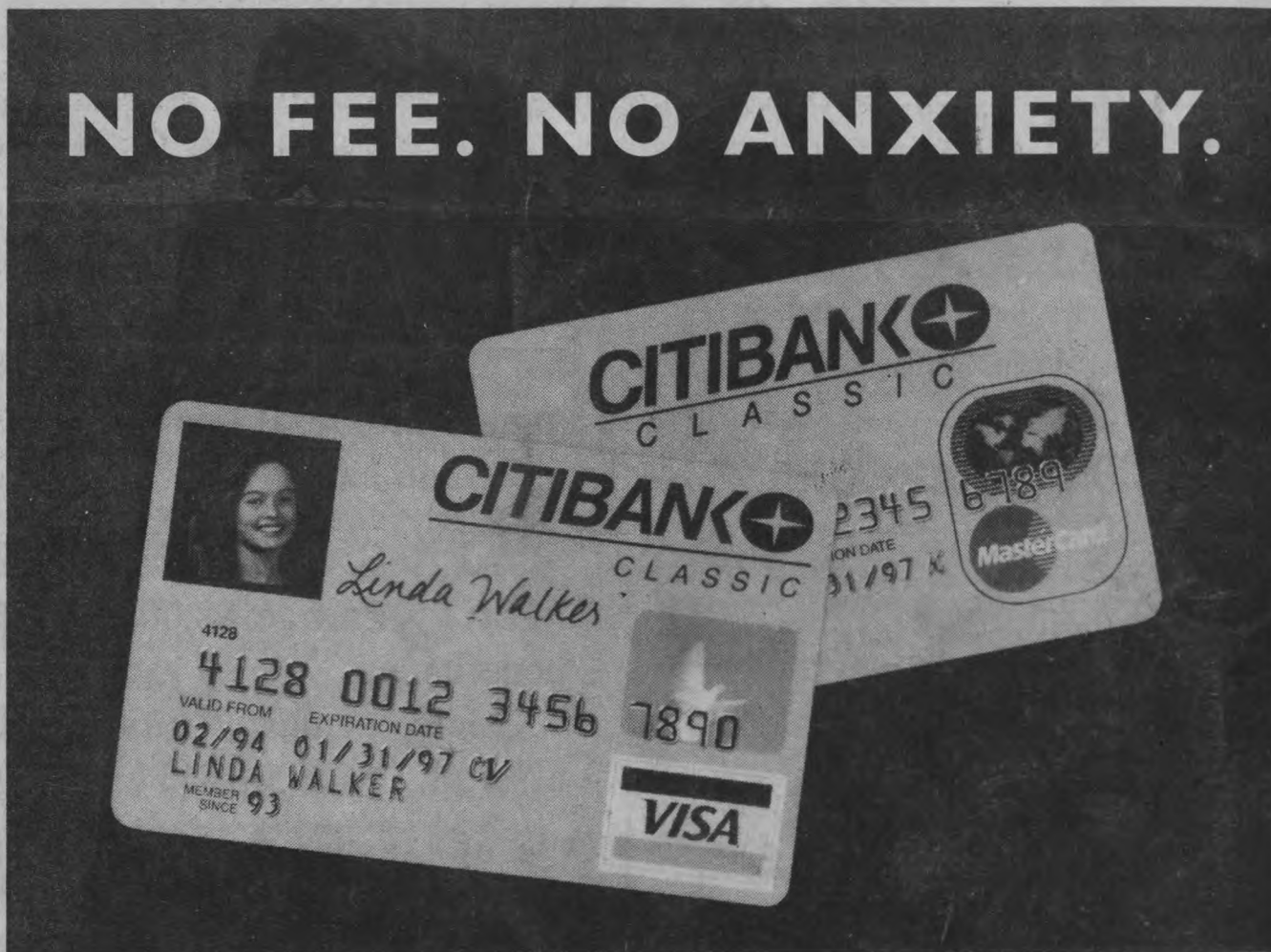
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