



Quo Vadis MIDDLESEX County College

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Library
Happy Holidays!

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www.quovadisnewspaper.com

Magazine Launch Party Draws a Crowd

By Jenna Uveges
Staff Writer

On November 28, 2007, the staff and adviser of the Middlesex County College newspaper, the Quo Vadis, held a magazine launch party to celebrate the success of their newly released magazine.

The party was held in Cafeteria C in the College Center and was complete with food, a DJ and prizes. There was a great turn out as many people came out to support the Quo Vadis team.

The newspaper adviser, Melissa Edwards said she was very pleased with the outcome of the first Quo Vadis party. She said, "I think getting a DJ and having food really drew a crowd." She also said that her hope, along with the rest of the staff, was that "people would pick up a magazine and read it."

Editor Christine Chow said that she feels the party was a success, "I think it was a great idea to promote the magazine at a party like this because it catches people's eyes and makes them aware of it because of the entertainment." However, she said that she had one concern.

"I think that a lot of people showed up for the wrong reasons; they showed up, danced and ate food opposed to actually picking up a magazine."

Kim Lopazanski, another writer for Quo Vadis had nothing but praise and excitement when it came to the party. When asked if she believed that people showed an interest in the magazine she said, "I think so-people definitely took it and I saw people leave with one or more copies. I saw a lot of people reading."

The staff worked all semester at putting together the magazine. Submissions were open for not only the staff of the newspaper, but anyone who was interested. This is actually about the third year that the magazine has been in existence. "One semester it became clear that journalism students liked having a creative writing outlet," Edwards said. "From there it was determined that we should create another publication that did not focus on news." And from that the magazine was born.

The entertainment and different activities that the staff provided outside students certainly got their attention. The best feedback that they could get, however, would be students becoming more involved with their school's newspaper. "I think it makes writers realize that they have options. It makes people understand there is a magazine industry and a newspaper industry, and they can pursue either as a journalist," Edwards said.

One thing that Edwards and the staff can all agree on is that they had fun and they believe that their guests did too. "Some people may have walked by and thought 'no one is reading a magazine', but we really did not intend to have a party where people were sitting at tables reading," Edwards said.

Everyone worked hard in putting the party together, but they also had fun while doing so. Edwards speaks highly of her staff and their accomplishments, "Quo Vadis is a dynamic, interesting and fun organization that works hard and plays hard!"



Photo By Christine Chow



Photo By Christine Chow



At the Magazine Launch Party, the Blue Colt Radio held a raffle to pay for a student's spring session tuition or textbooks. Also, the Pollo Tropical had a table set up where students and faculty spun a wheel for free promotions, such as coupons, discounts, and free hot sauce.

MCC's Gets has its own Rockefeller Tree



On Monday, December 3, 2007, at 11:30 a.m., Pat Daly and the CCPB held a Christmas tree lighting ceremony in the College Center. Refreshments were served and a band was playing on the stage.

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Middlesex County College Offers New Certificate in Event Planning Management

EDISON - Middlesex County College is offering a new program this spring in Event Planning Management. Students are now being accepted into the program, which prepares them for employment in a growing field.

"Event planning has emerged as a very exciting and significant sector of commerce," said Nancy Bailey, chair of the College's Department of Business Administration and Management. "It is a great opportunity for people who can plan and produce smoothly run events within a budget. These positions are in small companies, large corporations, visitors and convention bureaus, and pro-

fessional associations."

Graduates may also start their own business in this exciting field, giving them many opportunities to use both their creative and business skills. Students will be able to develop their own vision to create events, encompassing the development of an events budget, manage vendor contracts, be able to understand risk management in events, as well as to have the communication skills necessary to present themselves and market their events.

The certificate in Event Planning Management can be completed in one year. For more information, contact Ms. Bailey at 732-906-2594.

MCC Switches to Paperless Grade Posting

By Douglas Herko
Staff Writer

Beginning this semester, MCC students will no longer find mid-term and end of the semester grade reports in their mailboxes.

Now, students will have to rely on their computers - specifically Campus Cruiser - to access their grades.

A Campus Announcement posted on October 9 says, "A grade report for the midterm and the end of the semester will no longer be mailed to students' homes beginning fall 2007. Students may request a paper copy to be

mailed."

A student may request a paper copy be mailed to their home either online via Campus Cruiser or by ordering an official transcript at the Registrar's Office, according to the announcement.

In addition, students may download the Transcript Request Form through Campus Cruiser. They can mail that to the Registrar's Office to be processed.

This change, listed as a "high" priority on Campus Cruiser, applies to everybody who attends MCC - especially those who have relied on the post office to send them their grade reports each semester.

QUO VADIS

Middlesex County College Campus and Community Calendar

- December 13, 2007**
Last day of Fall 2007 classes
- December 13, 2007**
Men's Basketball vs Union County College – 6p.m.
(Home game)
- December 14, 2007**
Last Day to submit a completed Student Aid Report for
FA07 for those not returning SP08
- December 14-18, 2007**
Special Testing Days for Finals
- December 18, 2007**
Women's Basketball vs Raritan Valley Community College – 5p.m.
(Home game)
- December 18, 2007**
Men's Basketball vs Raritan Valley Community College –
7 p.m. (Home game)
- December 19, 2007**
Winter Recess Begins
- December 21, 2007**
Final grades available on Web Advisor for students view
- December 22-25, 2007**
Christmas Holiday College Closed
- January 3, 2008**
Spring 2008 tuition due
- January 12, 2007**
Women's Basketball vs USMAPS - noon (Home game)
- January 22, 2008**
Spring 2008 term begins

Please submit calendar events and activities to
quovadis_newspaper@hotmail.com.

Dear Students:
Quo Vadis has enjoyed serving you for yet another semester!

We intend to hit the ground running for Spring 2008!

*In the last semester we have had many exciting new developments:
a online paper located at www.quovadisnewspaper.com and new and
improved Blue Colt Vibe magazine.*

*For next semester we have yet another exciting change! We are
planning to go back to a weekly publishing schedule.*

*For the last 4 years we have been in a building and reorganizing
phase and now we are ready to resume publishing weekly.*

*Pick-up your Quo Vadis every Wed. in stands all over campus start-
ing Jan. 23, 2008!*

*If you want to be part of the staff, please see our available
positions. Students can join the Quo Vadis club, or take ENG 205,
ENG 206, ENG 241, or ENG 261 to work with Quo Vadis!*

Staff Positions Available:

Feature Writers: Reviews and Columns

Editorial Writers: Get a group of opinionated friends to-
gether,

decide on and write about a current issue, and submit your
editorial to Quo Vadis.

Cartoonists: We need 4 frame comic strips.

Political Cartoonists: Are you an aware, clever artist?
Submit an one frame cartoon.

Photographers: We need great photo art!

If you are interested in a staff position, please e-mail
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information.

Pollo Tropical Opens in Woodbridge

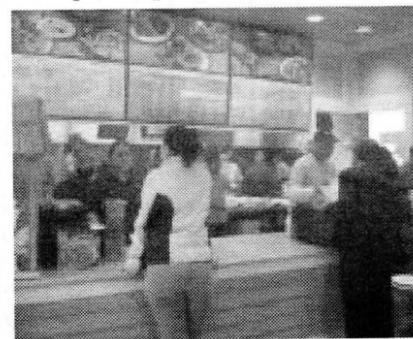
By **Melissa Varela**
Staff Writer

Middlesex County now has an even closer Pollo Tropical located in Woodbridge, 77 US Route 1, near Menlo Park Mall. Pollo Tropical is your basic Latin and Caribbean cuisine with low prices no one can beat. Their menu consists of white rice, yellow rice, beans,

pork, ropa vieja (shredded beef), steak and shrimp skewers, ribs, island grill wraps, salad and soup, children meals, and dessert. They are about 10 minutes away from Middlesex County College, they have a drive-thru, and they even have catering services. For a limited time, Pollo Tropical will be giving MCC students a 10 percent when using the MCC ID. For more info visit, www.pollotropical.com



Photos By Melissa Varela



Police Blotter

Christine Chow
Staff Writer

Student Feels Uncomfortable

On November 8, 2007, at 11:36 a.m. in the L'Hommedieu Hall, a student reported that another student was making her feel uncomfortable. The other student was staring at her and making unwanted contact with her. The police investigated the situation and found out that the other student thought she was someone he knew. The student was told to keep his distance from her though.

Hitting Another Car While Parking

On November 14, 2007, at 4:20 p.m. in Parking Lot #8, Vehicle #2 was attempting to park next to Vehicle #1, only to have struck Vehicle #1 by accident. There was minor damage to both cars.

Injury at the College Center

At the College Center on November 17, 2007, around 8:30 p.m., a student struck his shoulder on stage, causing him to have a possible broken collarbone. Edison First Aid came to assist him, but he refused further medical treatment.

Not Looking Both Ways

At 1:30 p.m. on November 21, 2007, the driver of Vehicle #2 was making a left turn onto College Drive East when she hit Vehicle #1 because she failed to look both ways before turning.

Staff Member Injured

On November 27, 2007, at 6:30 a.m., a staff member tripped and fell in the Edison Hall and injured her knee and shoulder area. Edison First Aid arrived at the scene and transported the staff member to a local hospital.

Bomb Threat at Perth Amboy Center

On November 28, 2007, at 5:25 p.m. in the Perth Amboy Center, an anonymous caller made a bomb threat. The center was evacuated and the center was thoroughly searched, but no bomb was found. The building was reopened around 8:45 p.m.

Editorial Board: This is a Team B production

Staff

- Philip Mathew - Sports Writer
- Jenna Uveges - Sports Writer, General Writer
- Ralph Manzanares - Layout, Writer, pick-up
- Brian Beavers - Layout, Writer
- Peter Calciano - Layout, Writer
- Melissa Varela - Promotions, Distribution, Advertising, Writing
- Nabila Dellil - Photographer, Promotions and Advertising
- Maria Chaples - Copy Editor
- Jason Parsons - Writer, Staff
- Paul Lazaro - Copy Editor

Team A Editors

- Christine Chow
- Kim Lopazanski

Team B Editors

- Adam Garabedian
- Rosemary Petriello
- Melissa Varela

Faculty Advisor

- Melissa Edwards
- MEdwards@middlesexcc.edu
- quovadis_newspaper@hotmail.com

Contributions by MCC Information and Marketing Department

*Special Thanks to Christine Chow, Melissa Varela, and Kim Lopazanski for putting in extra time on this issue.

Happy Holidays! Have a Safe Vacation!

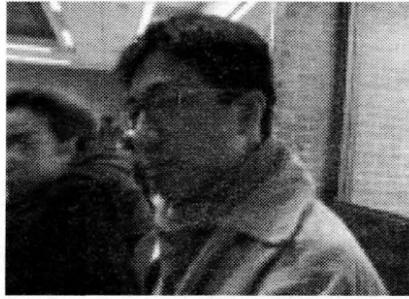
QUO VADIS

Person on the Street: What Do You Think About the New Winner's Circle?

By Christine Chow
Staff Writer

Major: Biology

EJ Pantaleon: I like how it was reconstructed to look nicer and it looks more professional and looks cleaner than it used to, however, I don't think the prices are fair for the quality of the food. The food quality doesn't match the price.



EJ Pantaleon

Major: Modern Language

Ricardo Ortiz: Well, this is my first year and I never saw the old one before so I don't know how it was before. I enjoy the Winner's Circle. They have a lot of variety of stuff. The price is a little expensive. Some things, the prices are a little too high and some of them are decent.



Ricardo Ortiz



Mohan Aaron Bayona

Major: Undecided

Mohan Aaron Bayona: It's amazing because they have interesting meals every day even though it might require some work. The pasta is great. Everything is affordable. Of course, with everything new, they need revisions. They need some tweaking. Plus the appearance is cleaner and presentable. Everything is neat. The staff is really friendly.
Major: Liberal Arts: Modern La



Regina Luntungan

Major: Education

Regina Luntungan: I think it's all right. It's not that bad, there's some good food there like the desserts, like tapioca pudding. And the Snapple. Other than that, it's not so good. It depends. The new hot buffet doesn't look pleasing at all. I tried one before and it tasted kind of awful. The prices are all right.



Beatrice Marcelino

Major: Biology

Beatrice Marcelino: It's pretty convenient. There's a lot of variety. Asian food, pasta, stuff like that. A lot can be kind of expensive. It's pretty different compared to my high school cafeteria. They have more here and I've never seen sushi or stuff like that in cafeteria. It's kind of new to me.



The Winner's Circle

Professor Charles V. DiDomenico Has a Passion for Poetry

By Corina Lombardi-Adamousky
Staff Writer

It is getting harder and harder these days to find teachers, professors, and educators in general that are still passionate about their job after so many years of employment. Charles V. DiDomenico is one of the few who still immensely enjoys what he does. Professor DiDomenico helped open Middlesex County College in 1966 and has been employed at MCC, teaching English, ever since.

This upcoming spring semester DiDomenico will be teaching English 228: Modern British & American Poetry, which is usually only offered once a year, said DiDomenico.

"I've taught many poetry classes in the past, but I've come to think of this course as one that I have a special focus on. It is full of highly rich material, and it's just a great time," said DiDomenico.

MCC offers many choices for second year electives and a lot of students do not realize how many options they

have. Some classes get buried and lose visibility in the masses, and so I wanted to try and draw some attention to this terrific course, said DiDomenico. The enrollment in literature courses has never been very high, most of our students are English majors, said DiDomenico.

"The low enrollment isn't because they aren't great courses. It's that there are a lot of other choices and because I think students misunderstand something. They think of college literature courses being like they were in high school and a lot of students don't have the best memory of these courses from high school. They think the instructors will be rigid and force an answer on them like, not all, but some teaches did back in high school. It isn't like that though," said DiDomenico.

Some students have actually said teaches fulfill the "evil myth" of saying "here's what the poem means. You will take my point of view and that's it." Students do not learn that way and it takes the enjoyment out of the poetry and the class for them, said DiDomenico. English 228 is not taught like that.

"The whole point of poetry is to debate ideas. In college the classes are much more free flowing. You won't find a lot of rigidity. I teach my class in seminar fashion. I don't actually lecture because I manage to get everything I need to say out in the discussions we have on the different poetry offered in the class," said DiDomenico.

The class covers poets such as Yeats, Eliot, Frost, Williams, Graves, Roethke, and many more. There is no prior knowledge of poetry necessary for this course, said DiDomenico. It consists of reading and dissecting poems through discussions in person as well as about two to three short papers where the students can explore a piece of work and emphasize their own interpretation of the poetry they are reading, said DiDomenico.

DiDomenico said the great thing about taking college English courses beyond the freshman level is that they are like "money in the bank" because when you go to transfer to a four year school it looks better than most other electives.

"Imagine that you took basket

electives, which I respect in all honesty, they are good for rounding out and expanding ones field of view, but they are not the intellectual courses that one needs for advanced studies," said DiDomenico.

The amount of English courses a student has tells the college they are transferring to something about them. They are without a doubt better thinkers and writers, because those are the skills that these courses develop. The class will not only help develop writing and thinking, but vocabulary and speaking as well, said DiDomenico.

"Aside from the fact that this course looks good to other schools it is just interesting. We discuss every aspect of life. Nothing is bared from discussion, we are very blunt and cover everything. By the end of the course I guarantee students will take away a love and renewed appreciation of poetry because of the skills and confidence they acquired in this class," said DiDomenico.

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Pagan Society MCC Advertisement Attention All Professors!

We are a club that explores ancient history and mythology. We are seeking an open-minded individual willing to supervise a club of 5-20 individuals, participating in heavy discussion with an emphasis on community service and outreach. Must be able to attend meetings on Monday's in College Center 314 from approximately 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

All interested candidates, please contact PSMMCC President Regina Luntungan at Reggiealways@aol.com

Items For Sale

"A Survey of Mathematics with Applications", by Angel, Abbott & Runde - 7th Edition, Instructor's Edition, 2005. Very gently used for 1 summer class, \$50. Kathy (848/391-2539)

I'm selling SOC121 & CSC105 if anyone is interested, please contact Shirley @ 732-235-5053 or 732-821-9430 or scstar93@msn.com. SOC121 - \$50 CSC105 (package) - \$70.00

ENG 121 + 122 - *Everyday Writer* by Lundsford, Bought at bookstore 2007 & NEVER used. \$15. Kathy @ cell # 848/391-2539.

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Services Needed

Looking for Mother's Helper 12 hours a week - Monday - Thursday. Contact blkberre@yahoo.com if you are interested.

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Super Mario Galaxy for the Wii

By Doug Herko
Staff Writer

Video Game Review



One of, if not the most anticipated game ever for the Nintendo Wii, has finally been released – Super Mario Galaxy. Like all classic Mario games, once again, the famous Nintendo icon must embark on a quest to save Princess Peach. So what exactly makes this Mario game stand out from all of the other Mario games, including the widely popular Super Mario 64? I think the question really is what doesn't make this Mario installment stand out.

This time, space is filled with collectable stars, mushrooms, coins, and many different planets for Mario to explore. Different doors will open up and pose different challenges and battles which Mario must beat to find his princess and save her. Mario free-flying through space really makes you appreciate the Wii, as the graphics shine on this game more than any other I've played (since the Wii really isn't known for having great graphics). You really get the feeling that you're 3-D in space.

The game is not too difficult; however it is not too basic either. Anybody can play it regardless of how old you are. One of the reasons why this game is so popular and has been so well

received with gamers and critics is because despite the new ways of playing the game (the Wii remote), the controls roughly stay basic and the game is just a classic Mario game. In addition, the views and scenes are breathtaking, as well as the soundtrack, which includes great music to play along to.

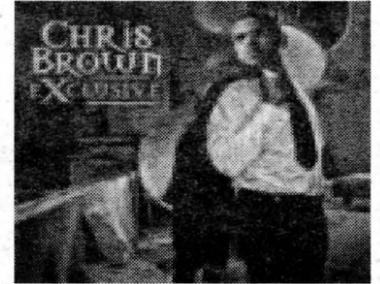
The multi-player mode (called the "co-star" mode) is a crucial feature that sets this game apart from all its prequels. In this feature, one person can control Mario while another can use another Wii remote to control collecting star pieces and even freezing enemies when Mario is in danger. It's a great way for two people to play the game without having to play against each other.

In conclusion, Super Mario Galaxy is a classic Mario game that is crucial for anybody who owns a Wii system, whether you've played past Mario games or not. It has the same standard storyline as every Mario game, but the game play and Wii remote changes Mario like he's never been changed before. This game is for sure to become a staple in video game history and without a doubt a must-have for Wii players.

Chris Brown Comes Out with New Album

By Jillian Kulick
Staff Writer

Music Review



Chris Brown unveiled his sophomore album, "Exclusive," on Nov. 6, and it undoubtedly has the potential to turn out as many, if not more, hits as his 2005 self-titled debut, which cranked out five singles.

For me, a good CD is all about the way it sounds when it's spewing from the speakers of your car's stereo system. "Exclusive" has the balance of tracks to keep the energy flowing when you need something to pump you up, and the slower songs for when you're in the mood to just relax and drive.

"Wall to Wall" and "Kiss Kiss," (which features T-Pain) were the first two singles off of the album, respectively, and their high energy and catchy lyrics definitely makes worthy of all the air time that they receive on the radio and at the clubs.

The third single, "With You" is the first ballad on the album, and a standout track. The sweet, heartfelt lyrics make it seem as if Brown is speaking directly to each and every girl listening.

"Damage," which opens and closes with the same funky, synthesized vocals that T-Pain is well known for, and "Take You Down," are two other ex-

tremely likeable slow jams on the album, and showcase a more mature set of lyrics than the others.

In addition to T-Pain, Brown collaborated with will.i.am, Big Boi, Lil' Wayne, The Game, and Kanye West for several different tracks on the album.

"Picture Perfect," featuring will.i.am, has an infectious beat that gets under your skin and you can't help but move. This song was my immediate favorite when I first heard the album, and it is already starting to be played on some radio stations.

A welcome change of pace comes in the final song of the album. Brown polishes "Exclusive" off with Kanye West on "Down," and although you might mistake it for a track off Guitar Hero in the beginning, it is by far one of the best songs on the album. The unique sound puts it on a whole different level than the other songs on the album. It's well worth waiting until the end for.

Although I like most of the album, I have a few gripes with it. "I Wanna

see *Chris Brown* page 14

The Top 5 Holiday Movies

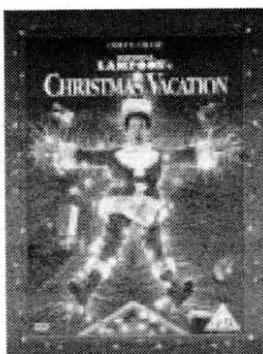
By Adam Garabedia
Staff Writer

It is the most wonderful time of the year.... The holiday season is upon us and everyone knows what that means. No, I'm not talking about the (not so much) joy of shopping for others and waiting in ridiculously long lines to pay for something as a gift that a loved one will just wind up returning anyway. I am not talking about the blistering cold weather and the annoying chore of having to shovel driveways and walkways every time it snows.

I am talking about Christmas movies. So the next time you decide to call out "sick" from work or skip school just because you don't feel like going outside in the freezing cold, here are some of the top movie ideas that you can watch while you're sitting back and laughing at the thoughts of everyone else who actually has to step outdoors on your "day off."

1. Christmas Vacation

Christmas Vacation was originally released in 1989, and stars former Saturday Night Live cast member Chevy Chase. If you have not seen this movie yet, go buy it immediately. The comedy is about a family in Chicago, the Griswolds, who encounter a seemingly endless cycle of things that go wrong while trying to prepare for Christmas. And with Clark Griswold (Chevy Chase) just one wrong thing away from losing it, he finds out that his Christmas bonus is nothing like he thought it would be...



see *Movies* page 14

Prudential Center Concessions Overpriced

By Jillian Kulick
Staff Writer

Review

On October 28, I was super-excited to be attending the Bon Jovi concert at the newly erected Prudential Center in Newark. My stomach was rumbling when I got there and I was eager to check out all the different stations they had set up for food. The inside was immaculate—well-lit, sparkling white walls featuring an enormous sports-themed mural, and the concession stands seemed endless.

There was so much to choose from, but after looking at the prices, that selection became very limited—I found the prices of the food to be absolutely outrageous, and turns out, the food offerings were completely inconsistent.

It cost my mother and I \$19 for a grilled chicken sandwich (\$6) that had more bun than the bone-dry chicken breast stuck between it, a bottle of water (\$4), and chicken fingers and fries cost \$9. My aunt and I both purchased the chicken fingers, which were placed in one of those typical little red-and-

white checkered baskets with about a mouthful of fries on one side and chicken fingers on the other. I had four chicken fingers in my basket, while my aunt had only three. On our way to investigate the upstairs, we grabbed some nachos and cheese for \$5.50 to satisfy our hunger.

When we got to the upper level, we strolled past the same set-up, but I was astounded to see that the same chicken fingers I had purchased downstairs were listed as \$8 at this station, and when I glanced at the food sitting under the heat lamps, those baskets were overflowing with fries and the chicken fingers were arranged nicely on top.

A friend was charged \$5.50 for a plain Nathan's hot dog cost at the hot dog stand, yet when we went to the other station it was going for \$4.

A slice of pizza was \$5, and a panini was about \$8, which seemed to be the most reasonably priced item in the whole place.

We made it very clear that we were dissatisfied with the prices of the food. After seeing our faces upon first

see *Prudential* page 14

QUO VADIS

What Christmas Is All About

By Jenna Uveges
Staff Writer

Column

Whatever happened to the good ol' days? The days where men respectfully courted women and opposed to hooking up with them. Back when sex was cherished as a matrimonial gift, not something to flaunt. The time where less was more; where class was what defined Grace Kelly and Lucille Ball was the quintessence of funny (and still is, in my opinion!) This era was simple, yet elegant. They valued the important things in life- especially around the holidays. Family was the top priority as opposed to shopping for the perfect present. Using the words Jesus or Christmas didn't offend people, and regardless of who celebrated what, you certainly didn't see the strife that you see today.

We've completely evolved past class and pushed straight into ignorant. Think about it- the most wonderful time of the year has now become a political argument. Christmas trees are in jeopardy because they "might offend somebody". Everything needs to be called "holiday" in order to be accepted. People who, for the most part, don't celebrate holidays at all are out to ruin Christmas for those who see meaning behind it. An event that has been cherished and celebrated for centuries is suddenly ceasing fire. It's like Christians are walking on egg shells to celebrate the birth of their Savior.

Now, I'm not saying that this holds true for everyone who celebrates, or claims they celebrate Christmas. For the most part, it is only the few ignorant individuals that cause havoc for the rest of us- the individuals who want to take God out of the Pledge of Allegiance and call Christmas trees Holiday Trees. These individuals also put Jewish holidays on the spot too, not because they have a legitimate argument, but because

they want to. But....why have we even allowed this to become an issue? Why, after all these years, after we have successfully co-existed and accepted people's differences as a nation is Christmas being scrutinized? Perhaps a little visit from the ghost of Christmas's past would help save the Christmas's of the future.

It also seems the more we advance, we lose sight of what is really important. Instead of giving gifts from the heart, we give gifts with the heartiest price. This time of year used to bring forth cheerfulness to people's spirits and now it seems it is being overcome with greed. Everyone knows shopping after Black Friday brings out the crazy in people, and everyone needs to be more cautious. It's almost as if Scrooge cleverly bah humbugged his way into everyone's attitudes. This is now a season that in spite of originally being filled with joy, happiness and peace, is now plagued with shoppers literally fighting over gifts, an increased occurrence of theft, and filled with those who want to ruin the season. I can't help but wonder...do we need to go backwards in order to go forward?

Back in the day Christians celebrated Christmas, not just to give presents, but appreciated the meaning behind it. They took real time to spend with family and looked at Christmas as a special event; one that signified Jesus. This era produced beloved classics like 'It's A Wonderful Life', and church wasn't a one or two times a year event. Controversies about different holidays didn't exist, and good morals were, for the most part, upheld by all peoples. The grace and innocence that was so flawlessly demonstrated is something we desperately need now. If happier attitudes would result, and dare I say it, peace on earth, then how bad could going back to basics be?

Again, I'm not saying that this applies to everyone, as everyone is different. *see Christmas on page 14*

Person on the Street:

What is Your Favorite Christmas Movie?

By Jenna Uveges
Staff Writer

Melissa Varela, 20, Perth Amboy.
Major: Journalism
"A Christmas Story because it is the all time Christmas movie!"



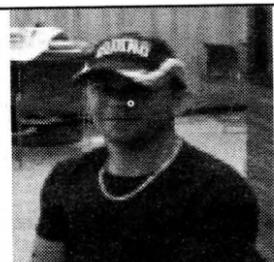
Melissa Varela



Christine Chow

Christine Chow, Milltown
Age: N/A
Major: Journalism
"A Charlie Brown Christmas because it's Charlie Brown and the Peanuts! I love every Charlie Brown movie, they're just so good!"

Paul Lazaro, Parlin, 24
Major: Journalism
"A Muppet Family Christmas because I always used to watch it with my family as a kid."



Paul Lazaro



Christina Schuetz

Christina Schuetz, South Plainfield, 18
Major: Sports medicine
"A Christmas Story because it's a family event."



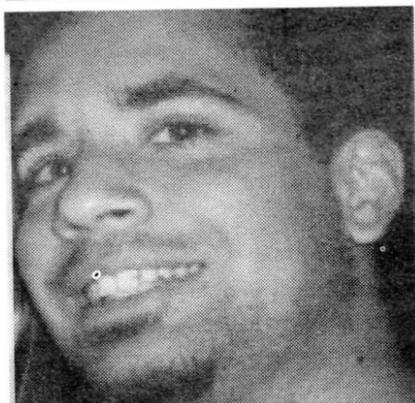
Nur Abulhasan, Highland Park, 20
Major: Creative Writing
"Gremlins, because it used to scare me!"



Nur Abulhasan

Person on the Street: What Do You Plan on Doing to Celebrate the Holidays?

By Samantha Evans
Staff Writer



Antonio Gigante

Name: Antonio Gigante
City: South Plainfield, New Jersey
Occupation: Comcast Cable Technician

"For the upcoming holidays, I plan to do a number of things. Foremost I enjoy spending time with loved ones and friends. This festive time of year just would not be the same without the ones I love. I also plan to do a bit a vacationing in the month of December. In that time I hope to spend a few days in Atlantic City, as well as travel to a few outdoor tourist locations. In my opinion, the holidays just wouldn't be the same without some rest and relaxation."



Monica Bukowski

Name: Monica Bukowski
City: Colonia, New Jersey
Major: Nursing - Student

"I am buying myself stuff for my car. Buying friends and family some gifts. Buying a new outfit, hanging out with my family, exchanging presents and eating dinner. I am going to my grandmas' house with my cousins, aunts, and uncles."

Name: Anna Yvette
City: Westbury, New York
Occupation: Singer/Songwriter

"For this Thanksgiving, I'll be cooking up a storm! I have the pleasure of enjoying the company of my friends and family!"



Anna Yvette

Name: Courtney Cerreta
City: Edison, New Jersey
Major: Liberal Arts

"Every Christmas Eve my family and I go to my aunts' house. We eat seven different types of fish such as lobster, crab, and three different types of shrimp, squid, and eel. A few hours later we have dessert and sing Christmas Carols. Then we go to midnight mass together. After mass we open presents. Then on Christmas my parents and I open our presents early in the morning and then I help my mother cook and set up the table and my grandmother and uncle come over."



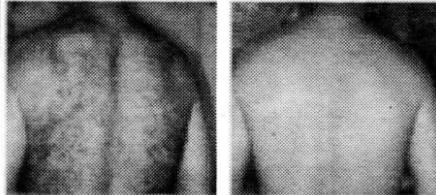
Courtney Cerreta

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Where is Christmas?

By Paul Lazaro
Staff Writer

Where is Christmas? With the holiday season fast approaching, I have to ask that question. It seems like a funny one to ask. Christmas is a holiday. It doesn't go anywhere. It is a fixed day on the calendar that will arrive unfailingly each year. It's inevitable, unless time ceases to flow. If that happens, we have got a whole lot more to worry about than where Christmas has gone.

Back to my question: where is Christmas? Christmas is a Christian holiday that celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ. According to the Bible, the first Christmas was on the night of Jesus' birth, when singing angels appeared to shepherds in their fields and three kings of Orient delivered gifts to him. The anniversary of this event is celebrated each year with the giving of gifts from one person to another. In recent times, we have seen the association of St. Nicholas, or Santa Claus, with the holiday. He is depicted as a gift-giver to good children all over the world. Regardless of your faith, the Christmas season is one of kindness and giving.

I have fond and cherished memories of my Christmases as a child. When I was younger, I wanted to get my favorite toys and I behaved well all year long so Santa Claus would leave them under the Christmas tree. Sometime around the age of seven or eight, I discovered there was no Santa Claus; my parents were doing the gift giving. It

didn't really matter to me as long as they got me everything on my wish list.

As I've grown older and matured (hopefully), the real meaning behind Christmas has become much more apparent to me. It's not all about the gifts anymore. Sure, I still send my Christmas list (it must be double-spaced and a Microsoft Word attachment) to Santa (a.k.a. Mom) each year as required. But it doesn't really matter anymore if that wish list is fulfilled or not. Yeah, I'm going to behave and I'll be happy and very grateful if I get everything, but I've discovered that there's more to it than just that.

Christmas means so much more to me now. It's a time when people are almost unfailingly kind to one another. Countless community service projects are undertaken, doing everything from clothing and feeding the homeless to delivering toys to underprivileged children worldwide. We walk around with a hop in our step and a smile on our face. At family gatherings, we feel warm, loved and peaceful. The time we spend with family and friends becomes invaluable.

Despite all this goodness going around, I've also seen things which I'm coming to despise. All the best things about Christmas are being superseded by commercial greed, bitterness, and separation. It's all about the material things now. We're bombarded by billions of dollars worth of propaganda and incessant advertising to buy, buy, and

see *Christmas* page 14

Christmas in Other Countries

By Doug Herko
Staff Writer

For those who celebrate Christmas in the United States, the traditional way to celebrate it is by putting up a tree, decorating it, giving and receiving gifts, and for children, waiting for Santa Claus. While there are different ways for people to spend the Holidays depending on what religion they belong to, people may not be aware of the various different ways other countries celebrate the same holiday - Christmas. Not everybody believes in the same Christmas traditions and customs, and looking into some other countries' customs was interesting.

In Mexico, Christmas is a time for partying. Typically, the last two weeks in December are taken off to do solely that. They party and spend time with their loved ones, much like we do on our Holiday breaks - however, they also have a tradition called a *posada*. A *posada* is a procession leading up to a Church in which people dress up as Mary on a Donkey and Joseph, looking for an inn to stay at. Children singing in a choir join them and when they arrive at the church, the children take part in a piñata party.

In Australia, people steer away from white wonderlands with snowmen and snowflakes. The season is completely different. During Christmas time in Australia, there are high temperatures and sunny weather. People get together on beaches to celebrate Christmas and they may hold barbecues, the opposite of what we do here in America.

Presents are exchanged earlier in France, on the sixth of December -

called St. Nicholas Day. On Christmas Eve, children put their shoes in front of their fireplaces in hopes that their father of Christmas (named Pere Noel) will put presents in them. In France, Pere Noel is accompanied by Pere Fouettard, who will spank children if they misbehave. After midnight mass, people take part in a dinner called a *Le Reveillon*. Different restaurants stay open all throughout the night serving things such as oysters, wine, sausages, ham, salads, and fruits.

Finally, in Greece, St. Nick is described as a man who is soaked and wet with sea water from fighting waves to reach sinking ships. Instead of saying "Merry Christmas", people in Greece say "Eftihismena Christouge". Instead of little elves that work for Santa like we have, in Greece, evil spirits called "Kallikantza" follow people during the 12 days of Christmas - between Christmas and Epiphany. After fasting for forty days, people look forward to Christmas and the feast they get to eat. Loaves of bread called *Christopsomo* are laid out on the table.

As you see, there are many different customs and traditions that are carried out in other countries to celebrate Christmas - and these are just four of the many countries in the world that celebrate the Holiday. So as we prepare to decorate our trees, buy presents, and eat on Christmas Eve and/or Christmas Day at dinner, one of the most interesting things to remember about the holiday is that while many countries are similar in their Christmas traditions, others are completely different.

Christmas Puzzle

By Melissa Varela
Staff Writer

O Y E N M I H C I H R H W S P P Y
L Z X O G M P U Z K U N T V L M B
K U J I E L F V G H T A E R W E J
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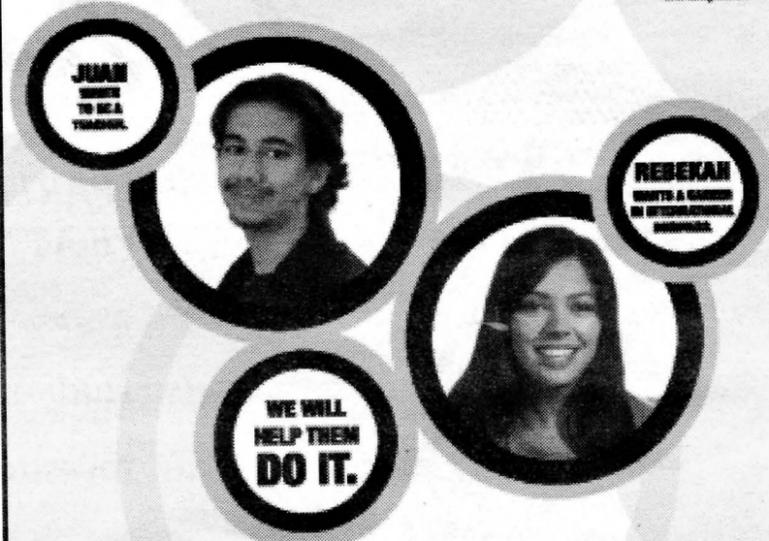
ANGEL
BALL
BELL
CANDYCANE
CHIMNEY
CHRISTMAS
ELF

FROSTY
GIFT
GINGERBREAD
NORTHPOLE
NUTCRACKER
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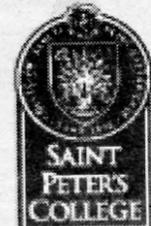
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Balancing School and Work

By Jason Parsons
Staff Writer

Column

Attending college is intended to better your education in order to obtain a job that provides you with opportunities to advance your lifestyle. The lessons learned in school are valuable both inside and outside of the classroom. Today, many students find themselves in a hardship with little or no income. More students today have part-time or full-time jobs to supplement the cost of their education.

It can be considered a catch 22 when you look at it. A person goes to school to make money and it costs money to go to school. The cost of college is increasing and many young students fear taking out loans and paying back debt. By paying for school while going to school, the students are placing themselves in the hard position of balancing school, homework, studying, work and a family life.

A sudden change in your work schedule, a mandatory training class or unplanned overtime shift, could result in missing an important lecture or exam. While some professors offer some leniency, others can be very rigid regarding these matters. Bosses rarely accept

school as an excuse for missed time at work.

Working and going to school at the same time definitely requires a great deal of time management and planning. To maximize your potential as both an employee and a student, you must be able to effectively and efficiently manage your time. While our jobs may not offer the flexibility needed to accommodate our overwhelming schedules, schools offer a wide variety of classes in a number of different time slots. Winter and summer session, weekend, evening and on-line classes offer the student-worker the opportunity to work around the structured work schedule and take classes in a less traditional, more contemporary forum.

Some tips for managing time include putting your homework assignments, test dates, and project due-dates on paper as soon as your teacher gives them to you. If you keep your weekly planner with you, all of this information will be in one place rather than scribbled on random pieces of paper or in notebook margins. Set a regular block of time each afternoon or evening to do all of your homework and studying. Make sure

see *Working* on page 14

Communication Breakdown

By Marianne McGarrity
Staff Writer

Column

I watch the students walking around campus, sometimes alone and sometimes in pairs and groups. I see them sitting in lobbies and outside classrooms. One thing they seem to have in common is that they're almost always communicating with someone. What I find so interesting about this is that the communication is usually with their cell phones. Instead of talking to the flesh and blood human being(s) they're with, many are either text messaging or speaking on their cells. I find this an interesting and disturbing trend. It seems that our "mano a' mano" conversations are becoming fewer and farther between. I believe that most of the students communicate via email or instant messaging when they're not using their cells. Of course it isn't just the students at MCC, it's much of the world at large. It's almost an inverse mathematical relationship... as technology increases, genuine communication decreases.

I don't believe for a minute that text messaging, phone talk or email is the same as genuine person to person conversation. Most of us have had issues with email communications where we (or the person we were emailing) have been misunderstood

and ended up having a problem with someone. This is an obvious example of what is lacking about technotalk. When you can't hear the inflection of someone's voice, look into their eyes or see their facial expression, an enormous amount of meaning is lost. Communication is far more than words, it's the human connection delivering the words.

It isn't surprising to me that most of what I hear people saying on their cells is "whassup?" or "guess where I am?" What else can you say? I'm fearful that real communication is going to be lost.

10 years ago I remember feeling sorry for many of the students I taught. They all had every electronic device known to man in their rooms. They had computers, sound systems, TVs with cd players, video games and phones. What they also had was plenty of time alone in their rooms with these things because there was little time for talking to other family members. Between working parents, structured activities like sports and school work, precious little time was left over at home for just hanging out together. I think this is tragic, and I feel it's

see *Communication* page 14

A Global Warning for Earth

By Janna Alijewicz
Staff Writer

Column

The world is now showing signs of climate changes. Global warming is affecting the whole planet. There have been heat waves, periods of unusually warm weather, ocean warming, rising sea levels, coastal flooding and glaciers melting.

The Arctic and Antarctic are warming and natural disasters are getting worse. Diseases are spreading, spring is arriving earlier, plant and animal ranges are shifting, populations are

changing and coral reefs are bleaching. Downpours, heavy snowfalls, flooding, droughts and fires are types of natural disasters that are most likely to worsen and become more widespread.

Our planet is changing; we are releasing methane and greenhouse gases into the air which is causing temperatures to rise drastically. Scientists believe that if we don't do something soon there are going to be entire nations that are flooded, resulting in many refugees and people starving. This is going to trigger world wars, fighting over the last of the resources left on our planet. Scientists predict that the earth could undergo a

see *Global* on page 14

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 2. Letters, articles, and photographs that are submitted become the property of Quo Vadis.
 3. All letters and articles must be sent to quovadis_newspaper@hotmail.com. Submissions must include a complete name, signature, and telephone number.
 4. We encourage articles from students not associated with Quo Vadis.
 5. The editorial board reserves the right to reject or edit any material on basis of length, taste, suitability or clarity.
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Submit letters via e-mail to e-mail to quovadis_newspaper@hotmail.com.

The United States: A Nation Desperate For News?

By Doug Herko
Staff Writer

Column

About two nights ago I was up ridiculously late – technically, it was the very early morning – and I couldn't sleep. I was watching television, lying in bed, and the news was on. I'm going to be honest – usually, I don't really watch the news.

I think it's depressing and I think that it only focuses on the negative stuff that goes on in our world, such as the latest shoot-out in New York or the latest Iraqi war casualties. But, since nothing else was on, I watched it... and I remembered another one of the reasons why I don't like watching it. They've be-

come desperate for news to actually c o v e r .

Apparently, there is such a lack of news in the world, that Britney Spears adopting two Chinese babies is something that needs to be covered on ABC World News Now. Not only is that headline completely ridiculous and laughable, but is that *really* "world news"? Aren't there media blogs and entertainment news shows where that stuff would fit p e r f e c t l y ?

Some people may have gotten a laugh out of that stupid headline, and I would have too, had that been the only time I saw something like that.

Making fun of Paris Hilton is always fun because she is Paris Hilton. Earlier this year, her arrest and stint in jail took up so much news time on major networks that I thought it could compare to the amount of coverage Hurricane

Katrina got. It's not that I didn't want to hear anything about her going to jail – and I'll admit that all the jokes about her on the late night shows were funny – but did it really need to be on CNN? Hilton's first post-jail interview on Larry King Live replaced Michael Moore's interview, which was originally supposed to take place on the same night. If Paris needed to be interviewed, great... but I think that interview should have been on a show such as Entertainment Tonight or Access Hollywood. Not a show like Larry King, where often, people who matter *outside* of the tabloid and celebrity world of Hollywood are important.

Anna Nicole's death, which I think was a bit more important than Britney Spears' adoption rumors and Paris Hilton's jail diaries, was one of the biggest entertainment stories of this past year. It was tragic and with her baby

drama, a bit bizarre. But did it have to be shoved down our throats on FOX News and CNN constantly? Is there not a war to cover? Nobody can convince me that there aren't some soldiers actually doing good in Iraq. I've heard plenty of stories of things taking place in Iraq besides fighting and roadside bombs. Why can't we see some of that on the news instead of this crap?

In a world in which the realm of entertainment is a guilty pleasure (even for me), it's fine to indulge and read or watch about celebrity train wrecks who get themselves into one trouble after another... where it's appropriate. That stuff needs to stick to entertainment blogs, shows, and tabloids. *Real* news – *serious* news – is the news that should be on ABC World News early in the m o r n i n g .

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QUO VADIS

Bad Semester? Don't Give Up

By Amber Antonucci
Staff Writer

Column

For students who did well this past semester most are probably feeling good about what is going to happen next. What's going to happen next can be anything, whether you are continuing at Middlesex County College, graduating from here with a degree, or graduating and transferring. You have a sense of self-worth; you accomplished what you set out to. You are proud of yourself and accomplishments. Seeing your friends and family around the holidays will be smooth, and you can tell them about your success, and your next steps.

There is a different feeling for people who slacked off the semester, just coasted by instead of working to their full potential, or flat out failed. I know because I have been one of those people. When November and December comes, it makes you wake up. You start to think about the grades you are going to receive,

the grades that you have earned, and what your loved ones will think when they find out. You see people who did well, excited and signing up for next half's classes while you are fading. You might not know what to do. You might, and probably will contemplate whether college is for you. You know you have not done well so far, so maybe you should just quit. You might not feel that way but you may be so shamed of how you handled this opportunity and be afraid that if you came back for another semester you would just end up doing the same thing again.

Making the same mistakes in college is a huge thing to consider. College is nothing at all like being in high school. You or someone you love is paying, or taking out loans for your education. This may be the reason for you to make the decision to not return for another semester. You do not want to waste anymore of someone's money if you are not going to use college to your full advantage and just fool around. During your brainstorming you might feel like things are

hopeless and give up college. So many students get to the point where they feel like failure has taken over and there is nothing left to do.

I am writing this to tell you that is NOT true. If you MUST take some time off to find yourself again, and/or decide what your next step is, by all means take a break. But I would only recommend this to people who are sure that at this point in time there is no way in their heart, mind and body they can continue to persuade an education at this time. My advice to people on the edge, tilting back and forth between school and no school, is definitely school. We have all heard people say that after taking a year or two off it is harder to go back. I, personally, have not experienced that, but I have had some friends who have, and I can see that it is the truth. My next piece of advice is something that I am going to pass down to you that someone brilliant passed down to me. Always make the harder decision. I was told that in just about any situation, you should you always make the harder choice. This was backed up by

a person informing me, "The harder decision is usually the harder choice. This choice is going to push you." A choice that will result in knowledge and experience, which will prepare you to deal with even more difficult decisions later on in life.

My last pointer is to remind people that there are ALWAYS options. When people feel confused and pessimistic, a lot of people see no way out of the situation. Do not close the doors of opportunity, education, and success on yourself. There are always people to talk to. If not your friends or family members, counselors at school. When you feel the problem is you have no money to continue schooling, look up information on scholarships and financial aid. There is plenty of information about those aids on the internet, magazines, and even right here at Middlesex County College.

Now remember, college is beneficial. The easy decision is never worth your time, and there are options for every unique situation. Keep your head up. It is up to you. See you soon!

Tips on How to Beat the Flu This Winter Season

By Rosemary Petriello
Staff Writer

As winter arrives, cold and flu season also arrives. No one likes to be stuck in bed with a cold or the flu, but *many are not aware of the measures* that can be taken to avoid becoming a victim. One of the first and most important ways to stay clear of those pesky germs is to wash your hands. Hand washing should not be underrated. Germs are everywhere all of the time, but especially during the winter months when we spend more time indoors. To reduce the spread of germs, hand wash-

ing and also surface cleaning are very important in killing germs. Using antibacterial hand soap regularly and always washing before you eat can drastically reduce your risk of catching a cold, or worse – the flu. Also, cleaning with a disinfectant in common household areas can help significantly. According to Dr. Richard Rosenfeld, professor and chairman of otolaryngology at Long Island College Hospital in Brooklyn, NY, "you need very few [germ] particles to trigger an infection." Changing towels that may be shared with others often can help as well.

The myth of dressing warm to

avoid catching a cold is a very old one, but is in fact a myth. The only way to catch a cold is to come into contact with its germs. This doesn't mean you should go outside without a coat when it's cold, but it should mean that you rely more on good hygiene instead.

While the controversy exists over whether vitamins help prevent colds, I am a firm believer in taking extra Vitamin C, a multi-vitamin, and Echinacea to keep my immune system strong through the winter months when germs are more prevalent than during the rest of the year. Vitamin C has long been

believed to prevent colds, but it will not cure a cold that you have already caught. For this reason, it is best to increase your dosage of vitamins through the winter months, and also to eat a well-balanced diet. Healthy eating can also contribute to a stronger immune system, which in turn prevents colds.

If you are unfortunate enough to catch a cold, and in the event that it persists for more than ten days, it is best to visit a doctor because this can be an indication of a possible infection. So, remember this winter, keep your hands clean and your chances of catching a cold (or worse) will be greatly reduced.

It's Almost Time to Vote, But is Anyone Interested?

By Javasia Wiggins
Staff Writer

It's about that time when the fate of the community and state lies in the hands of the people. But even with that notion, has the focus on the election been a high priority in young adults? According to Voting Statistics, approximately 4.86 million New Jersey

residents are registered to vote this coming November. But here in Middlesex County young adults are feeling like this year's election isn't worth their time.

When interviewing some young adults in the community, the responses were different, but their answers were all the same.

"It's my constitutional right not to vote!" said 25-year-old Jon Marx from

Spotswood.

Twenty-three year-old Jerrick Sanders from Old Bridge said, "I'm probably not going to vote this year I'm not taking any interest to any of the candidates."

Twenty five-year-old Will Vargas complained about the current issues the candidates are concerned about.

"The issues that the candidates are talking about don't affect me enough to

take an interest. I don't waste my time listening to them so what's the point in voting?"

Even though news about the election has been all over the TV and radio, it hasn't gained the interest of many young adults in Middlesex County. There are 4.86 million registered voters in New Jersey, but how many will vote this election?

College Students May Unknowingly Suffer Financially

By Amber Antonucci
Staff Writer

Full-time and part-time college students may have a very rough time financially. When you are entering, and are in college, it is about the time where you feel the need to claim financial independence. If you are lucky a friend or family is helping you pay for school. If not, you may be helped by having scholarships, or special school loans that you do not have to pay until after you graduate. Whether or not you are paying for your own school, other expenses add up on top of your school tuition.

Since college takes up most of the student's time and attention, most students are only available to work part-time. If you work part-time, you get part-time pay. Now let's look into all the

things a typical college student needs to pay for. After you get the money for tuition the next step (and payment) you need to handle is buying books. The required books for a semester could estimate to around \$500.00. So let's assume that for part-time students books are about 300.00 dollars. So on top of tuition, and books another college expense for some is housing. College housing, whether on-campus, or an apartment near the school is very costly (rent).

Now that all of the school expenses have been considered, we can think about living expenses. Another necessary bill for most college students is car insurance. Car insurance for people in the beginning college age bracket is the highest, and even more in New Jersey. Car Insurance for some students can

be as high as 2,000 for a year or in some cases even six months. After school expenses and car insurance most students encounter other bills they must pay, for example their cell phone bills or credit card bills. A college student's cell phone bill probably is about \$100.00 a month. A credit card bill, even though is a self inflicted bill, is still a necessity to keep up with the monthly payments so you do not tarnish your credit and name.

After the school expenses, bills, and possibly rent costs a college students still needs to live and indulge. This may possibly be the last step into helping a college student stay broke while going to school. The part of that would be the indulging. When people indulge they usually do not realize how long they spend doing it, or how much money you

spend on it. Everything adds up, it is those \$5.00 Starbucks frappuccinos that you happen to buy twice a week. After that it is the fast food, or cafeteria food you buy in between classes on Monday and Wednesday. Add \$30.00 a week to filling up your gas tank, or even more with the constant gas price increase.

You may not realize how much the "little things" add up. After that we must consider the money people spend on their vices. Vices are things like cigarettes, alcohol, gambling, eating out, or shopping obsessions, etc. These are the expenses that take up a lot of student's money without them really noticing because they do not drop all the money at

see College page 11

Women's Basketball Team Playing Well

By Paul Lazaro
Staff Writer

The Middlesex County College women's basketball team beat Atlantic Cape Community College 72 - 67 in their season opener on Tuesday November 20. It was also the Lady Colts' home opening game.

Middlesex was able to hold on to a five-point lead for the final minute of play to seal the victory. It was a close game all the way, with the lead changing nine times, five in the first half.

The Lady Colts struggled to find a defensive foothold early in the first half and it showed. The Lady Buccaneers scored eight unanswered points early on and led 36 - 34 at halftime.

It seemed like things would continue the same way as the second half began. Middlesex had several opportunities to score at the start of the

half yet had difficulty finishing plays. However, Atlantic Cape could not capitalize on these chances and the Lady Colts soon turned things around.

"We changed to a zone press [defense] at halftime and went man-to-man to throw them off," said head coach Michel Powell. The Lady Colts began to make defensive plays and showed a lot of energy on offense. Even with those efforts, they were still down by seven points with four and a half minutes to go. But they weren't done yet.

Behind freshman Gina Drost's clutch scoring, the Lady Colts rallied and tied the game with only two minutes left. Playing stiff defense, they found themselves up by five with one minute remaining. Showing good ball control and discipline, the Lady Colts gave the Lady Buccaneers no openings and held on for the win.

Winter Track Starts Season

Philip Mathew
Staff Writer



The MCC Winter Track season is about to begin and people are still welcome to join the team.

Head coach Bob Terelle is always looking for more people. "If you have any interest (in track), come and join the team especially if you have experience.

We even accept newcomers. I want people who are competitive, are focused on excelling, loyal to the pro-

gram and willing to improve," Terelle said

To join, you should go to the PE Center and fill out a green locator form or interest card and leave it with the secretaries in the main office.

Interested people can also see Coach Terelle in person around 3pm on weekdays at his office in the PE Center. According to Terelle, a passed physical is a must before even considering joining.

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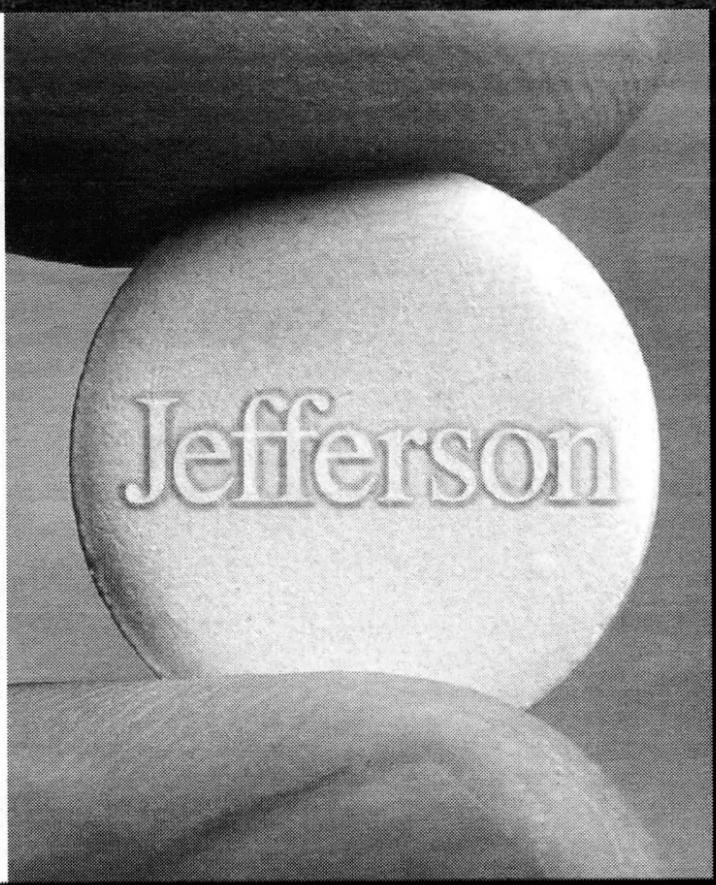
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College *con't* from page 10

one time for these costs. A student can easily spend their extra money; let's say \$60.00 a week on their vice.

With four weeks in a month that adds up to \$240.00 dollars a month. Add \$240.00 and the gas expense alone to a student spending over \$300.00 dollars a month that they do not even blink while spending.

I personally know that most of my college friends live paycheck to paycheck. That does not really leave any money for extras, something like a new shirt, and especially no room unexpected expenses, like car problems.

Students who attend a county college, like Middlesex County College, have a cheaper tuition than a university. Another perk of going to Middlesex County

College is that most students can live at home with their parents or guardian and pay little or no rent. With this advantage students should set a goal and save an allotted amount of money per week or month.

I agree some costs are necessary, but let's knock out the extras we waste our money on. College is a time to think about our future. We can make it easier on ourselves by realizing our spending habits, deciding what can be cut, and designing a budget. Let's eliminate the idea of the starving, struggling student. If you are willing, you can do anything.

QUO VADIS

The History Professor from the Planet Muu

By Sam Lipman-Stern
Staff Writer

"I come from the planet Muu, that's M-u-u!" The professor says, getting mostly awkward laughs in response, with a few genuine ones mixed in. He's made this joke several times during the semester, but I still find it entertaining. In fact, I find all of his routine entertaining; from his spontaneous reenactments of historical figures - like Martin Luther's horrible panic attacks, to his comments on CIA declassified reports, being 50 and living with his parents or how he feels Bowinkle Moose will probably be the best candidate in the 2008 presidential elections.

At the beginning of the semester, it seemed that people didn't know how to take history professor James Biedzynski with his long lectures, random jokes and at times strange comments. "I have a pet crocodile at home," he once said while lecturing on ancient Egypt, "He is 6-feet-long and ways 500 pounds." Everyone was silent except for a few chuckles from yours truly. "Well, I do!" He added with a wide grin on his face. As the semester went on, students began to warm up to him. After a few weeks of class even comments like, "I gave up on women a long time ago. I kept getting my heart broken. Now I just buy and collect stuffed animals instead,"

would be greeted with smiles and laughter from the whole class. "Well my stuffed animals love me!" He added with a grin.

I think even the biggest haters were turned into fans by the middle of

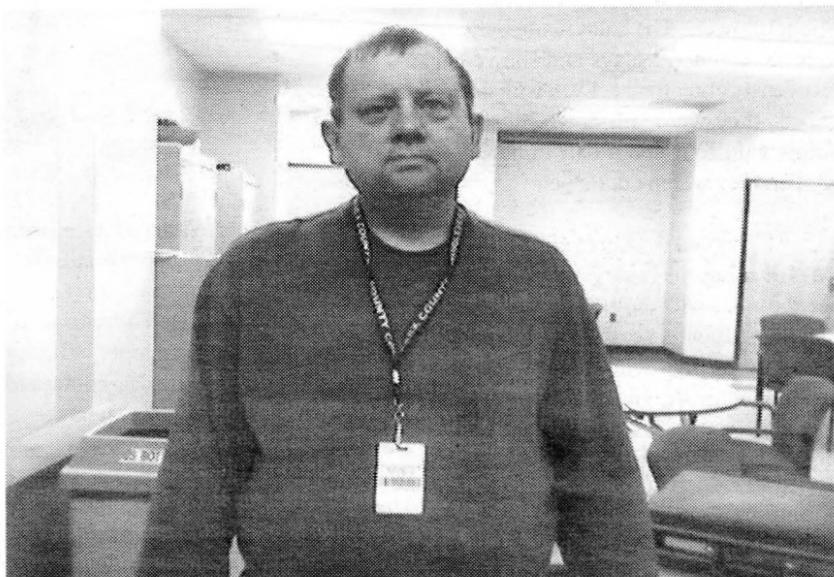
area he will be lecturing on. As Biedzynski lectures, he begins to paint a detailed picture of history and allows the student to imagine the scenes as if reading an interesting novel. The impressive thing about these lectures is that he never

teraining historical reenactments and a dash of random comments and you have James Biedzynski's Western Civilization class.

Professor Biedzynski teaches at Middlesex County College part-time along with Monmouth County. "My interest of history began when I was a young child in catholic school and we were not allowed to have outside books. I loved to read and would constantly ask my teacher for books. Finally she gave me history books to shut me up," said the professor.

He then cleared up his frequent comments about being an alien, saying, "No, I am not really from another planet. It is just a joke," pausing, he then added, "Why? Did you see my name in some de-classified CIA document on that website I told you about?" All this said with a completely straight face. He's got his routine down as if it were an art form.

When professor Biedzynski isn't teaching, he likes to read, collect coins and stamps. "I am really not that interesting," he assures me several times when interviewing him. Whether he thinks he is interesting or not, one thing is for sure, he has students interested in History, which was something foreign to me before this semester. To all my fellow students out there - learn history from one teacher and one teacher only - the man, the myth, the legend - Biedzynski!



Professor Biedzynski

Photo By Sam Lipman-Stern

the semester. This is because of Biedzynski's excellent and unique style of teaching. He works hard to make every lecture interesting and approaches teaching in a way that he says he learned from his history professor in college. Before each topic he draws a map of the

uses notes; a feat that only someone who has read thousands of history books, like he tells the class he does, could do. During the lectures, Professor Biedzynski turns to the class and asks students their opinions and makes topics interesting by relating history with current events. Throw in his ongoing comedy act, en-

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Movies con't from pg 5

2. A Christmas Story

"I want an Official Red Rider Carbine-Action Two-Hundred-Shot Range Model Air Rifle!" This great story takes place in 1940, when a young boy named Ralphie only wants a Red Rider BB gun for Christmas. After being told by his parents, teacher and even Santa Claus that he'll only shoot his eye out, Ralphie keeps his hopes set high and continues to campaign for his parents to buy him his BB gun. All Ralphie wants when he looks under the tree on Christmas morning is to find his Red Rider BB gun nestled safely under the tree.



3. Jingle All The Way

Arnold Schwarzenegger, Phil Hartman and Sinbad?! How could this possibly be a bad movie? With Howard Langston (Ah-nuld) working his tail off at work during the holidays, he completely forgets all about gift and is forced to search the coveted Turbo Man doll searching high and low, he encounters a postal worker is on the same mission for his next-door neighbor (Phil his wife away from him. for his action flicks, but this goofy side of the Terminator that most are not used to seeing. It's Turbo Time!



4. Home Alone

Macaulay Culkin plays an 8-year-old boy named Kevin McAllister who is mistakenly left at home alone (get it?) for Christmas while his parents go away on vacation to France. Another movie that takes place in Chicago, Kevin finds that he enjoys life just fine without any adults running his life until he encounters Marv (Daniel Stern) and Harry (Joe Pesci) - The Wet Bandits. The two bad guys plan to rob the McAllister home when they find out young Kevin has no adults around to stop them. But when Kevin finds out, he decides to protect his house and he sets up a large array of traps for Marv and Harry to encounter as they try to rob him. This is a dark comedy, but a hilarious one at that. If you have not seen Home Alone 1 or 2 (Lost In New York), you should definitely watch them both. I can watch both of those movies whenever they are on during the holidays.



5. Elf

Will Ferrell stars as an oversized elf who works in the North Pole and finds out that he's actually human and was given up for adoption by his father, Walter (James Caan). The movie consists of Buddy the Elf (Will Ferrell) traveling from the North Pole to New York City trying to win over his father, who turns out to be a grumpy old man with no Christmas spirit. This is a rare family comedy from Will Ferrell, who still delivers a hilarious performance just as he has in other movies, such as Old School. The only difference is that it is safe to watch this one with kids and the rest of your family.



Chris Brown con't from pg 5

Be," sounds all too familiar upon first listen. It sounds like a complete rip-off of Usher's "You Got it Bad," with the wind rustling sound effects in the background. Plus, it contains what might be the cheesiest line I've ever heard in a song: "Put me on your screensaver / All over your MySpace and / Make me one of your top favorites / That's where I wanna be."

"Gimme Whatcha Got" features Lil' Wayne, and without him, the song would be nothing. After Lil' Wayne's verse in the beginning of the song, you can skip directly to the next track. All you'll miss is basically three minutes of Brown reiterating, "Girl you're hot like fire, gimme whatcha got..." It gets tired after a while.

Although Brown was just sixteen when he hit the scene two years ago, this album shows that he has evolved since then and if you're looking for an album you can blast in the car or just chill out and listen to, "Exclusive" will be well worth your

Communication con't from page 9

contributing to what I perceive as a growing lack of human connection. I think we're all becoming more and more isolated even though the world is getting "smaller" by the day. This just can't be good for our species socially. There is already a word in Japanese used to describe a growing group of young single men who never leave their homes. They're called hikikomori. They have given up hope of finding wives (there's a shortage of females in several Asian countries,) have failed to get the jobs they want and simply stay in their parents homes 24 hours a day being depressed, playing video games and using computers. There have been several reported deaths of these men due to starvation after their parents have died. Is this what we're to become? Are we destined to live our lives trapped in our own homes, telecommuting our jobs and ordering everything we need to sustain physical life over the internet, and never having the opportunity to look someone in the eyes? I truly hope not. We deserve so much more than that.

Prudential con't from pg 5

ight of the prices, the workers displayed their sympathy and expressed their knowledge that it was indeed, ridiculous, but of course there was nothing they could do about it.

My suggestion if you're going to the Rock before a concert or sporting event: eat before you go or find a local joint and save yourself a ton of money!!

Global con't from page 9

mass extinction by year 2100 or even earlier if we don't do something about this soon. It is possible that our planet could suffer from another Ice Age. Earth is showing us the early warning signs now. We don't want to end up in a deadly cycle of escalating global warming.

Even though the news is bleak, we are starting to make some changes. Scientists are working on generating a different way to consume energy. Al Gore is also helping raise awareness about global warming, and recently has met with President Bush to discuss our global climate change.

What are you going to do to help? Here are 10 ways you can help save our planet.

- You can change five lights. To use less energy, replace your most frequently used lights or bulbs with ones that have earned the Energy Star.
- Change your air filters and have them checked annually. Use a programmable thermostat.
- Get rid of old, energy efficient appliances and replace with new ones.
- Reduce garbage and recycle.
- Leave appliances unplugged when not in use.
- Turn off appliances, such as the television, stereo, computer, and lights, when they are not in use.
- Leave your car at home two days a week. Try to walk, bike, take a train, or carpool.
- Buy products that have earned the Energy Star. There are now over 40 different kinds of products that carry the Energy Star (the government symbol for energy deficiency).
- When purchasing a new vehicle, consider buying a car that gets more miles to the gallon than your current vehicle.
- Keep your car tuned up, tires properly inflated, and take your roof rack off your car when you are not using it.

All of these simple things could help save the earth, and help save you money. If you want to become more educated about this issue, watch this show on the History channel, called A Global Warning. Go to www.historychannel.com to see when it will be on television.

Christmas con't from page 8

celebrate Christmas, why are those who do not celebrate holidays being allowed to take some of the joy out of something that has been celebrated since before the birth of our nation? Christmas has played a significant role in our country's history. It may be a coincidence, but let us not forget that George Washington and his soldiers courageously crossed the Delaware and attacked the British on Christmas Eve, 1776, leaving victorious in one of the most important battles of the Revolutionary War.

Christmas is truly a remarkable holiday. No other time of the year offers all the fabulous things that Christmas does. Regardless of how crazy people can be, obnoxious shopping can become, and as frustrating as some of the things you read in the paper are, at the end of the day it's still the most wonderful time of the year. Look at the beauty of simplicity that people put on the back burner- the Christmas songs playing in the stores, the beautiful decorations and the vibrant colors.

For those who do celebrate Christmas- as long as we still have our Lord to thank, our family to spend it with, and a little snow on Christmas Eve, no bad shopping trip or grouchy soul can take away what is in our hearts. Take a moment to step back and realize that it isn't just about receiving presents and is really about giving. After all, all of us have received many priceless gifts in life, and I'm not talking about presents you can find in a store. Perhaps the greatest and most appropriate acronym, especially for the Christmas season is JOY: Jesus, Others, Yourself.

Working con't from page 9

everyone in the family knows about this time, so that they can give you the space and quiet you need to concentrate.

Another great idea for students who work and take classes is to take advantage of the many resources colleges offer to help us manage our time. It can help us be more efficient and successful students. Working and taking classes at the same time can be quite stressful and challenging, but choosing the right type of class that fits into your schedule could be a tremendous boost to your overall time management regiment.

While some have taken advantage of all of the different sessions college has to offer, others have gotten the most productivity and flexibility out of the on-line class. The schoolwork can be done at just about any time of the day or night. When having a very demanding work schedule, on-line classes have allowed many to continue being very successful students, allowing you to get assignments done on your work breaks, on the weekends, and in the luxury of your home in your pajamas! There is no traffic, no searching for parking, and no gasoline!

Although online courses help with some of the time-constraints related to attending college while you are working, not all courses are available online. Some just are not practical to take on line. Many of the classes needed in a particular course of study are not available at times or on days that coincide with your work schedule.

While the responsibilities associated with working and going to school can at times seem overwhelming, the result is worth the effort. Aside from the financial, career and advancement opportunities, the satisfaction of achieving that advancement under difficult circumstances will prove to be a greater reward in itself.

JANUARY 2008 CANDIDATES

Disclaimer: This list was handed in on December 3, 2007. Some names may be missing due to late registration, missing grades, and etc.

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Rosa Acha
Stephanie Acosta
Miguel Agbunag
Dominic Agnese
Sean Alberta
Bogdan Aldea
Manuel Aleman
Ali Altunmese
Jennifer Alzate
Christopher Apadula
Timothy Arnold
Akil Augustin
Erick Bailon
Anthony Balick
Seema Bangar
Felicia Bannerman
Sean Bansi
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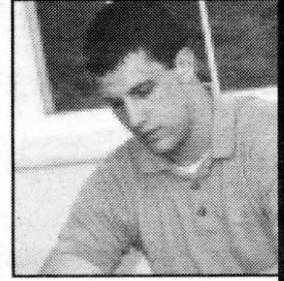
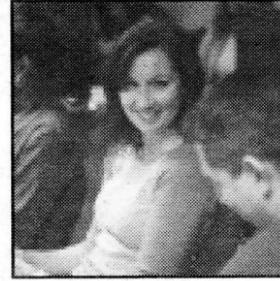
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Scott Shanley
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Maple Roast Turkey and Gravy

Ingredients:

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 1/3 cup real maple syrup
 2 tablespoons chopped fresh thyme
 2 teaspoons dried marjoram
 2 1/2 teaspoons grated lemon zest
 3/4 cup butter
 14 pounds whole turkey, neck and giblets reserved
 2 cups chopped onion
 1 cup chopped celery
 1 cup coarsely chopped carrots
 2 cups chicken stock
 3 cups chicken stock
 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
 1 teaspoon chopped fresh thyme
 1 bay leaf

Directions:

1. Boil apple cider and maple syrup in a heavy saucepan over medium-high heat until reduced to 1/2 cup (about 20 minutes). Remove from heat and mix in 1/2 of the thyme and marjoram and all of the lemon zest. Add the butter or margarine and whisk until melted. Add salt and ground pepper to taste. Cover and refrigerate until cold (syrup can be made up to 2 days ahead).

2. Preheat oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C). Place oven rack in the lowest third of oven.

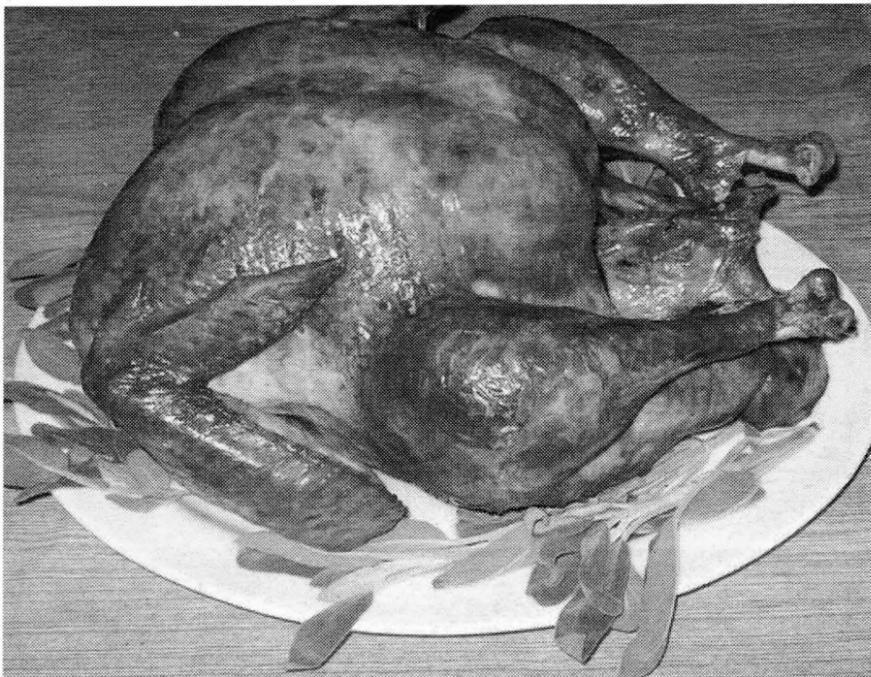
3. Wash and dry the turkey. Place turkey in a large roasting pan. Slide hand under skin of the breast to loosen breast skin. Rub 1/2 cup of the maple butter mix under the skin of the breast. If planning to stuff turkey do so now. Rub 1/4 cup of the maple butter mixture over the outside of the turkey. With kitchen string, tie legs of turkey together loosely.

4. Arrange the chopped onion, chopped celery and chopped carrot around the turkey in the roasting pan. If desired the neck and giblets may be added to the vegetables. Sprinkle the remaining thyme and marjoram over the vegetables and pour the chicken stock into the pan.

5. Roast turkey at 375 degrees F (190 degrees C) for 30 minutes. Reduce oven temperature to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C), and cover turkey loosely with foil (shiny side towards turkey). Continue to roast until very tender, basting occasionally with pan juices. About 3 to 4 hours unstuffed, 4 to 5 hours stuffed. Pierce the leg joint with a fork, if the juices run clear or faintly pink then the turkey is done. Transfer turkey to a platter and cover with foil. Reserve pan mixture for gravy.

6. To Make Gravy: Strain pan juices into a measuring cup. Spoon the fat from juices. Add enough chicken stock to make 3 cups. Transfer liquid to a heavy saucepan and bring to a boil.

7. Mix 3 tablespoons of the reserved maple butter mixture with the flour in a small bowl to form a paste. Whisk paste into broth mixture. Add the chopped fresh thyme and bay leaf. Boil until reduced and thickened slightly, whisking occasionally. Add apple brandy if desired and season with salt and ground pepper to taste.



Apple Harvest Pound Cake with Caramel Glaze

Ingredients:

2 cups white sugar
 1 1/2 cups vegetable oil
 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
 3 eggs
 3 cups all-purpose flour
 1 teaspoon baking soda
 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
 1 teaspoon salt
 2 medium Granny Smith apples - peeled, cored and chopped
 1 cup chopped walnuts
 1/2 cup butter or margarine
 2 teaspoons milk
 1/2 cup brown sugar

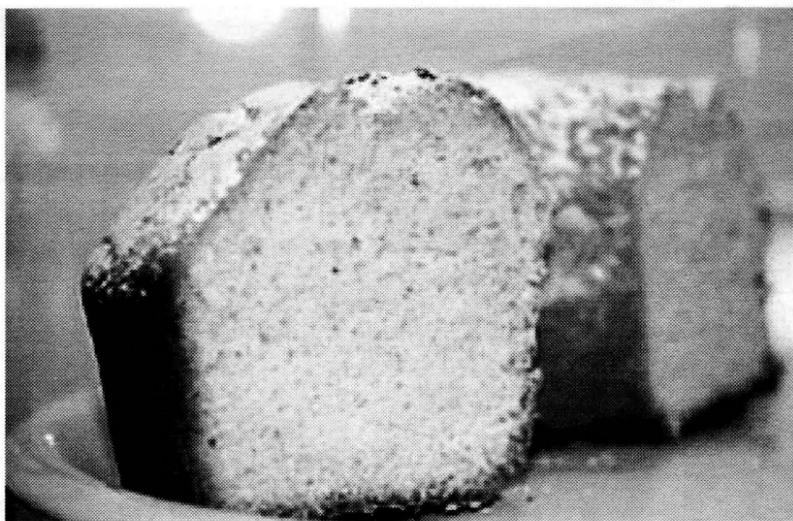
Directions:

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Grease a 9-inch Bundt pan.

2. In a large bowl, beat the sugar, oil, vanilla and eggs with an electric mixer until light and fluffy. 3. Combine the flour, baking soda, cinnamon and salt; stir into the batter just until blended. Fold in the apples and walnuts using a spoon. Pour into the prepared pan.

4. Bake for 1 hour and 20 minutes in the preheated oven, until a toothpick inserted into the crown or the cake comes out clean. Allow to cool for about 20 minutes then invert on to a wire rack.

5. Make the glaze by heating the butter, milk and brown sugar in a small saucepan over medium heat. Bring to a boil, stirring to dissolve the sugar, and then remove from the heat. Drizzle over the warm cake. I like to place a sheet of aluminum foil under the cooling rack to catch the drips for easy clean up.



Professor Elliot Ramer Say MCC is the Dream Career

By Ralph Manzanares
Staff Writer

Born in Brooklyn, New York, and raised in Queens, Professor Elliot Ramer, who teaches Spanish and Linguistics, describes his career at MCC as a dream that everybody would like to have.

"I look back and sometimes it just doesn't seem real," Ramer says while in his spacious office that's decorated with books on the walls. Ramer explains how the only way he can explain his contentment with his work is that he just loves teaching his classes. "When I'm teaching my classes, I become the person I should have been."

His said his childhood consisted of playing a lot of stickball, touch football, and handball.

"In New York there are a lot of walls. I was a good handball player actually," says Ramer as he goes into detail about Chinese handball, a form of handball that involved fancy throws and strategic maneuvering and is almost unknown to the locals.

"I always loved to read," he adds as if the walls couldn't talk, "that was the thing I loved best to do."

"The one book that changed my life the most was *Hawaii*, by James A. Michener ... For people who have not read the books of James A. Michener, those are books that changed my life," That book, Ramer said, introduced him to a broad sweep of history and to how varied the world is with all the different kinds of people that live in the world. "I always had this interest in the world outside, the world beyond; I think that's where it all began."

If you are in Ramer's class you will notice that he brings his own box of chalk to class. He will only write examples on the board to better illustrate what is being lectured. Then, after each example has been written, he will

squeeze out some hand sanitizer and rid his hands of powdery filth. Obviously, Professor Ramer likes to keep things clean, like his views on modern entertainment.

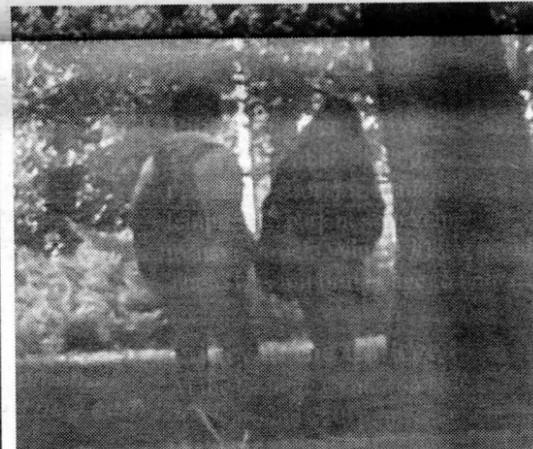
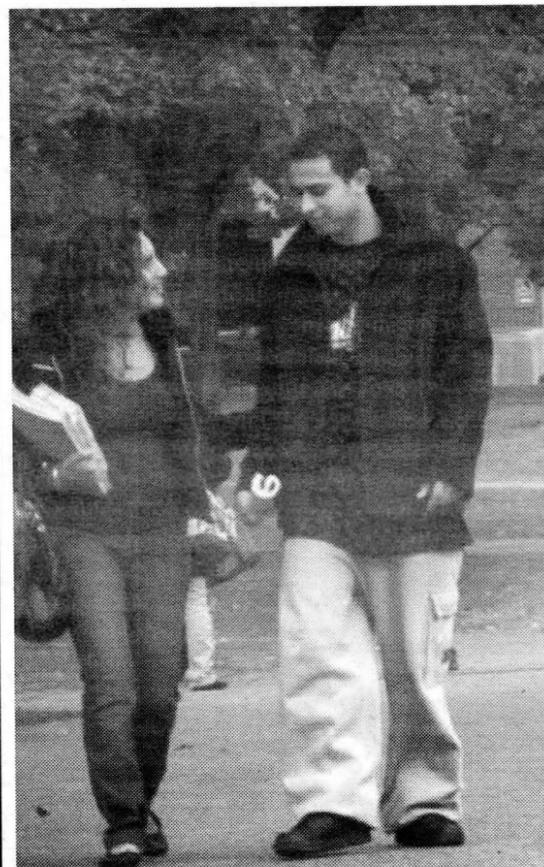
"Firmly grounded" are the words Ramer chose to describe himself. He says entertainment today shouldn't be a lot of indiscriminate noise and should be for people who know how to think and are willing to do so. Ramer is definitely a thinker. What he remembers most in college is studying at least four hours a day in a library. His goal in college was to become good at French and eventually Latin American studies, which he most certainly did, but his ultimate goal was to study as much as he could and learn a lot about the world. Ramer makes his accomplishments noticeable during his lectures.

As a former student, I can say that Professor Ramer's method of teaching it truly unique. He hands out a textbook's worth of charts that are really able to teach people the Spanish language, if they apply themselves. The charts vividly explain how Spanish cannot be learned by translating word for word from English and vice versa. The charts are enough to put together and publish to obtain a small fortune and easily teach anyone with strong language skills the Spanish language. His tests are also very intriguing. They are take home tests that ask for translation of difficult sentences using proper Spanish dialect.

Ramer offers this advice to all college students: study hard and learn as much as you can about everything, and do not worry about the future. As long as students are mature and determined, they should meet their goals. Also, do not watch Oprah!

Fall Photos at MCC

Photos By Nabila Dellil



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