Residence Halls to Be Smoke Free
Beginning Fall 2005 Smoking Will Be Banned in All Facilities

Lisa Sharp
Staff Writer

"Beginning fall 2005, all of our residential facilities will be non-smoking spaces," said Director of Residence Life Regina Sargent.

According to the Montclair State University Resident Handbook distributed by the Office of Residence Life, smoking is not permitted if a student's roommate is a non-smoker and does not consent to smoking within the room. Preferences of a non-smoker take precedence over all other requests.

"I think [the policy is] fair," said junior broadcast major Nicole Teel, a smoking resident of Webster Hall who lives with a non-smoking roommate. "If one roommate smokes and the other doesn't, this policy is an easy way to settle the disagreement between roommates." The ban is not a fire safety issue. It is purely a Residence Life decision, said MSU Fire Safety Compliance Coordinator Robert Ferrara. Out of the 14 state colleges in New Jersey, 12 do not allow smoking in the dorms or any other building on campus. The two that do are Raritan College and The College of New Jersey.

The change has been primarily centered around health issues, but a change in our current policy would certainly promote fire prevention and facilities upkeep, said Sargent. The University of Massachusetts' health report states that smoking leads to significant smoke-relat-ed problems. According to the Montclair State University Resident Handbook distributed by the Office of Residence Life, smoking is not permitted if a student's roommate is a non-smoker and does not consent to smoking within the room. Preferences of a non-smoker take precedence over all other requests. The ban is not a fire safety issue. It is purely a Residence Life decision, said MSU Fire Safety Compliance Coordinator Robert Ferrara. Out of the 14 state colleges in New Jersey, 12 do not allow smoking in the dorms or any other building on campus. The two that do are Raritan College and The College of New Jersey.

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The Police Report:
Theft Tops Weekly Police Report

11/24/04 - Daviexel Sanchez, 20, East Orange, NJ, was charged with under-age consumption after being interviewed by officers on a reported theft. A female MSU resident reported the theft of several pieces of jewelry by her boyfriend. Officers apprehended the suspect while in route to his vehicle that was parked in lot 22.

11/29/04 - A female MSU resident reported the theft of her laptop computer.

11/29/04 - A male MSU resident reported the theft of his jeep in the Partridge Hall.

11/30/04 - A male employee of the NJ Transit Parking Garage reported the theft of money from the tip container on the counter in the coffee shop.

11/30/04 - Unknown individual(s) ripped the soap dispenser off the wall and damaged the towel dispenser in the first floor men’s room in Richardson Hall.

11/30/04 - A female employee reported the theft of five laptop computers from Collage Hall.

12/1/04 - A male MSU resident reported the theft of his backpack and its contents from the hallway outside the weight room in the Panzer Gym.

12/1/04 - A male student reported the theft of money from his wallet from the hallway outside the weight room in the Panzer Gym.

12/1/04 - Pasquale G. Graniere, 20, Fair Lawn, NJ, Eric Dellafave, 18, Hoboken, NJ were charged with under-age consumption of alcohol in Blanton Hall. They are due in court on January 23rd in the Little Falls Municipal Court.

12/2/04 - A male student reported receiving a harassing e-mail by a known female.

12/2/04 - A female MSU resident reported the theft of money from her purse in the hallway outside the weight room in the Panzer Gym.

12/2/04 - Pasquale G. Graniere, 20, Fair Lawn, NJ, Eric Dellafave, 18, Hoboken, NJ were charged with under-age consumption of alcohol in Blanton Hall. They are due in court on January 23rd in the Little Falls Municipal Court.

12/2/04 - A male student reported receiving a harassing e-mail by a known female.

12/2/04 - A female MSU resident reported the theft of money from her purse. An unknown female entered the victim’s unlocked room and took the money, this incident was witnessed by the victim’s roommate who was awakened by the noise.

12/2/04 - A female MSU employee reported the theft of a laptop computer from Partridge Hall.

12/2/04 - A female MSU employee reported the theft of keys from the 11th floor closet room in Bohm Hall.

12/9/04 - A total of five vehicles had damage done to their mirrors while parked in lot 28. The case is under investigation.

Anyone who has information regarding these incidents is urged to call the police station from any campus phone at 748-5577. All calls are strictly confidential.

Local News

COMPILED BY LAUREN LAMPE

MAPLEWOOD - Despite pressure from residents and outside interest groups, the South Orange/Maplewood Board of Education stood by its policy banning Christmas cards from being played at instrumental holiday concerts this year.

Although the policy has been in place for more than a decade, it was under fire this year when the board said the ban also extends to musical renditions of Christmas carols or other songs referring to religious holidays or symbols.

NUTLEY - In response to recent unsolved cases of parental misconduct at youth events, the department is requiring every parent who enrolls a child in a town-sponsored sports program to sign an athletic code of conduct that prohibits everything from backing to fighting.

Coaches, officials and volunteers all must sign the agreement to participate. If parents refuse, their child can’t play. Spectators will also be banned from smoking or using tobacco.

NEWARK - Newark police closed nine video arcades and arrested as many people for selling alcohol illegally during an operation designed to make sure businesses are properly licensed.

Operation Coin Depot was shut down for a little under four days following resident complaints.

The department’s license investigators and the Safe City Task Force inspected 43 locations, issued 17 summons, and confiscated $3,300 and nine video arcade games.

National News

COMPILED BY LAUREN LAMPE

LOS ANGELES, CA - Three people, including a resident and inside interest groups, the South Orange/Maplewood Board of Education stood by its policy banning Christmas cards from being played at instrumental holiday concerts this year.

Ten people were in the van, which overturned at about 9:35 a.m. Eastern time. One person had apparently managed to crawl up the mountainside to flag down help.

NEW ORLEANS - An 8-year-old girl was swept away by a flood, and eight more people were killed in a fire at their high-rise apartment building. The blaze was reported in a high-rise apartment building.

CHICAGO - LaSalle Bank officials are thankful that no one was killed in a fire at their high-rise apartment building. The blaze was reported in a high-rise apartment building.

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA - A young woman accused of trying to disfigure her teenage daughter by pouring boiling oil on her was ordered to stand trial on charges of assault and aggravated mayhem. Amber S. Jackson, 20, faces life in prison if convicted.

The 15-year-old alleged victim testified that 15 minutes before the attack her sister said, "You got a pretty face, but beauty doesn't last forever."

International News

COMPILED BY LAUREN LAMPE

CAMP BUEHRING, KUWAIT - After delivering a pep talk to energize troops preparing to head for Iraq, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld got a little "talking to himself" from his disgruntled soldiers.

In his prepared remarks, Rumsfeld urged the troops to support the war if they want to. Officers apprehended the suspect while in route to his vehicle that was parked in lot 22. The case is under investigation.

Anyone who has information regarding these incidents is urged to call the police station from any campus phone at 748-5577. All calls are strictly confidential.

KABUL, AFGHANISTAN - New Afghan President Hamid Karzai is preparing to meet tribal leaders in a bid to step up the fight against the country's drug trade.

Afghan and US officials have only recently begun to heed U.N. warnings that the skyrocketing cultivation of opium poppies is producing drug mafias that could soon take an unshakable grip on the country.

Hundreds of elders are expected to meet the president to canvas an anti-drug policy, which is being sponsored by the US.

BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND - British Prime Minister Tony Blair said Wednesday the outlawed paramilitary Irish Republican Army would not accept the joint British-Irish proposal that they decommission their weapons. The proposal has met with mixed response from the IRA.
When introducing the bill to be voted on at last month's meeting, SGA President Jacob Sargent said, "We were telling the program 'We've Got Issues,' and I asked that the format of the program be altered so that it would be seen as more educational and positive in nature." "RHA tried to have a forum where students could voice resident concerns and we were shut down," Johnson said. "We brought up those concerns, God forbid, Residence Life would have to work on them."

Another conflict between RHA and Residence Life was a forum intended to serve the student staff of Residence Life, said Johnson. "It is inappropriate for RHA to get involved in issues of employment," Sargent said. "If a Residential Assistant has a particular concern about his or her supervisor and do not feel comfortable addressing it with that individual, they have the opportunity to meet with Carlyle Lawrence, assistant director of Residence Life," Sargent said.

Johnson said to Sargent that the residence and student staff members did not trust RHA. As an organization within the SGA, RHA will have the experience to learn on their own, free from the dominance of any administrative office, Sargent said. "As a part of the SGA, RHA will be free from what I call a dictatorship," said Johnson.

RHA President Pierre Johnson (right) explains the purpose of the RHA to the SGA legislators yesterday to pass a bill to adopt the RHA as an organization under the SGA.
students from all economic backgrounds," said Cole.

According to Thomas J. Hayes, vice president for University Advancement, the campaign will raise funds for expansions that are not covered by state support which includes scholarships.

Of the $80 million that the campaign is hoping to raise, $10 million will be used for undergraduate scholarships, graduate teaching assistantships and student development, said the MSU press release.

"Scholarships to support the recruitment of diverse and talented students, and fellowships for our graduate programs are among the best investments that can be made for the future," said Hayes.

"I think the scholarships will increase the number of students who will enroll at MSU," said senior English major Marias Beagin. "A lot of students struggle to pay tuition and if the school is offering to give (scholarships), it will help further a student's education."

The campaign will also be used to fund projects and departments such as facilities and the library, Haynes said.

According to the press release $18 million will be used to fund ongoing projects, such as the new academic building and The Children's Center, both currently underway, and the new recreation center, still in its planning stage.

In addition, the campaign looks to raise $10 million for faculty chairs, professorships and lecturerships, $10 million for academic programs and $2 million for library and information technology, said the press release.

"I'm happy that a large portion of the funds are going towards academically geared aspects of the University," said senior English education major Eliza Cording. "It would be great to have more class availability. There are so many interesting courses listed in the catalog, yet many of them are rarely offered. If that means hiring more professors then I think the University should do that," she said.

The campaign will also be used to find

ed damages, from extra cleaning to fines. These damages harm property and cost the school money, the University Health Council reports.

According to MSU Director of Judicial Affairs Byran McCrae, other state universities usually provide students in violation of the smoking policy with a warning, or place a violator on probation.

"At some institutions, a second violation will result in housing-termination. We will Sargent said.

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SMOKING

CONTINUED FROM P 1

McCrae said.

"I think the loss of housing is an extreme consequence," said sophomore physical education major Sophia Capparelli, a smoking resident of Webster Hall. "Dose Residence Life realize how many people would lose their housing?"

Resident Assistants will be instructed to enforce the new non-smoking policy just as they are expected to enforce all others, Sargent said.

"Technically, the Resident Assistant would have to enforce (the policy)," said Teel. "But if a resident wants to smoke, it doesn't matter if there is a rule or not, they're going to smoke."

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### Thurs. - 12/9
- **6pm** Nutcracker Trip - Off Campus
- **7pm** Sex Ed workshop - SC 417
- **7pm** Hafla Arabic Party - SC Ballrooms A/B
- **7pm** Open Mic - SC Ratt
- **8pm** "The Twilight of the Golds"
- Players Drama - Fox Theatre

### Fri. - 12/10
- **7pm** End of the Semester Dinner
  - Kopps Lounge
- **8pm** "The Twilight of the Golds"
  - Players Drama - Fox Theatre
- **9pm** Red Hawk Night - Student Center

### Sat. - 12/11
- **2pm** "The Twilight of the Golds"
  - Players Drama - Fox Theatre
- **7pm** Christmas Party - SC Dining Room
- **8pm** "The Twilight of the Golds"
  - Players Drama - Fox Theatre

### Mon. - 11/15
- **8pm** "The Twilight of the Golds"
  - Players Drama - Fox Theatre

For more information about these events, or any other events, please contact Student Activities at ext. 7818
Sponsored by the SGA
Losing The Anxiety Over Your Exams

Dr. Rob Gilbert
Department of HPERLS


You turn in your exam totally frustrated. You know you're going to get a bad grade. As soon as you leave the room, all the answers you forgot come right back to you.

What happened? In sports, it's called choking. In theater, it's called stage fright. In school, it's called test anxiety. I want to make sure this never happens to you.

When you study, you're filling your mental filing cabinet with information and ideas. When you take exams and you're too nervous, you lock the file cabinet and can't get to its contents. In other words, the answers to the questions are locked up in your head.

Why would you do this to yourself? Here's an explanation...

Every time you take a quiz, test, or final exam, it's important. After all, you're being graded and your grades matter, so it's important that you do well.

What causes this excessive nervousness? There's nothing wrong with taking your exams seriously. The problems start when you make them special - when you start saying things to yourself like, 'The rest of my life depends on how I perform on this test.' Thoughts like that create excess nervousness and make your mental filing cabinet.

After former president Clinton had a successful quadruple bypass operation, his team of surgeons was interviewed. One of the doctors said that they treated Clinton just like any other patient.

In other words, Clinton's operation was important but not special. Top surgeons - just like top athletes, top actors, and top students - know that as soon as you start treating something as 'special,' your performance will suffer dramatically. Students make their exams special by telling themselves things such as, 'This is it.' 'It's now or never.' 'It's do or die.' 'There's no tomorrow.' These are 14 killer words. Never use them. They only add stress and will make your performance on the exams worse.

Melissa Sapio graduated from Montclair State University in 2000 with a perfect 4.0 grade point average. When asked what she thought about at the beginning of each exam, she said, 'I wasn't evaluating how I was going to do. I was just focusing on the first question.' Great advice! Melissa focused on the process and not the product. You need to do the same thing: Focus on answering the questions. Don't focus on trying to figure out your grade. Suppose you're an actor. How well will you perform on opening night if all you can think about is how the critics will rate your performance?

Question: What's the one most important question on any exam? Answer: The one you're answering right now.

Do you need a little more motivation? Call Dr. Gilbert's Success Hotline at (973) 743-4900. Recorded messages are available at all times and new messages every day at 7:00 a.m.

Who Should TEACH?

Seeking to change careers and teach? Trying to get teacher certification? Want to teach Math, Science, or Special Education? Committed to working in an urban school setting?

The New Jersey Consortium for Urban Education (NJUCE) is a partnership between Montclair State, Kean, New Jersey City, and William Paterson Universities and the Newark, Paterson, and Jersey City School Districts.

This alternate route program provides you with:

- Tuition-free graduate credits
- Eight week summer preparation program
- $2,000 Summer stipend for student teaching
- Intensive year long mentoring
- Guaranteed employment upon successful completion of the program

Applicants must have:

- BA or BS in Math for Math certification; BA or BS in Natural or Physical Science or Engineering for certification in the areas of Biology, Chemistry or Physics; or a BA in Liberal Arts for certification in Special Education. (MS, JD, PhD and other advanced degrees may apply)
- A 3.0 grade point average
- Passing PRAXIS II score

For more information, please visit our website: www.montclair.edu/njuce; to apply visit: http://chapin.montclair.edu/njuce.html; or call 973-655-7264.

Douglas McIntyre Staff Writer

Celebrity Comics Bring Down the SC

Comedians from Comedy Central Perform Live During College Humor Tour

At 8:30 p.m., Dresher took the stage, introducing the first comedian, Kyle Grooms, who would emcee the remainder of the night. Introducing the first comedian, Kyle Grooms, who would emcee the remainder of the night.

Next to take the stage was Christian Finnegan, from VH1's Best Week Ever and like Grooms has appeared on The Chappelle Show. He is notably from The Mad Real World as Chud, the white roommate. He is "aware that he looks slightly like Bill from Back To The Future." He shouted the word 'McFly' to prove his point.

He asked the audience if MSU was a party school and received minimal response. Nominated include referring to dorks as "Eight by eight prison cells" and North Jersey as "New York Line."

This 31-year-old New York native has also been seen on Premium Blend. He mentioned the chemical in turkey that makes you sleep, but relied on the audience for its name, tryptophan. His membership to the gym is "not so much a gym membership as I pay $85 a fat tax." One of his first comments, however, was, "I'm going to be honest. I am hoping to sleep with one of you after the show."

Ted Alexandro followed him. Alexandro, 34, has been seen on the Late Show With David Letterman, Late Night With Conan O'Brien and for a half-hour on Comedy Central Presents. He started off slowly, scanning the audience and commenting on their actions. He enjoyed commenting on the conditions of the microphone and the stage. He even picked up a pair of piers and a piece of rope from the stage.

He quipped, "What's it cost to go here? I'm gonna enroll."

He was formerly an elementary school music teacher and enjoyed joking about his previous students. He used a joke common to many of his shows about his Thanksgiving dinner. In the joke, his mother would get it from Boston Market, so he used that as a source of humor. "Look, I've been eating here a long time. I don't need this kind of attitude."

His material has been seen on Comedy Central's Newer Shows: "Showtime... Shorts... Showtime..." and he appeared as an inmate on one episode of Oz.

Finishing out the night was Todd Barry, also seen on Late Show With David Letterman, Late Night With Conan O'Brien, and the voice of Romulus on Aqua Teen Hunger Force. He used the presence of a photographer and reporter from The Montclarion to poke fun at the newspaper. He liked that you can read the books in Barnes and Noble.

Comedian Ted Alexandre was one of four professional comedians who performed at the College Humor Tour's event last Thursday to poke fun at the newspaper. He liked that you can read the books in Barnes and Noble.
Shyness Can Hinder Personal Happiness
Last Chances with The Girl of Your Dreams, Or Your Best Friend’s Heart

Dear G.M.,

There’s a girl in my class that I’ve recently realized that I’m in love with. I've been really interested in her all semester, but I’ve never had the guts to say anything. Now that the end of the semester is here, I’m running out of time. How do you think I should go about this situation?

— LL.

Well, if you’re going to act, you better do so now. The clock is ticking, and while you may have the opportunity to run into this girl on campus next semester, the chances of striking up a conversation with her aren’t great. However, you can’t be blamed for not initiating anything before now.

If you asked her out to dinner or just to hang out, and she rejected you, it could have made for a very uncomfortable semester. Even if the first few dates went well, there was always the potential that something could have gone wrong, and who wants to be forced to sit in a classroom with someone for the next 16 weeks? But now there are no more excuses! You are now able to join the legions of best friends of which one or both have fallen in love with the other. Your scenario is not uncommon, and frankly, it’s completely understandable.

When you’re highly emotionally connected to someone, the lines of friendship and sexuality have the explosive potential to become blurred. When you think about it, the most productive relationships are nothing more than best friends with a whole lot of lust thrown into the mix. Your advice may seem risky, but I really believe in putting yourself out there. Tell your best friend how you’re feeling. He’s not in a serious relationship. Chances are she wouldn’t have as much respect for you if she were in your position.

If you sit back and wait, he may very well become attached to this girl and end up seriously dating her. The worst part is that you’re going to have to hold by and pretend that you’re happy for him as his best friend. He’ll come to you for all sorts of relationship advice and you’re probably not going to give him the best kind because you want him. So, just get it out in the open. Tell him exactly how you feel.

This guy is your best friend. It may be an uncomfortable moment if he doesn’t feel the same, but I doubt he’s going to turn his back on you because of it. No one would hurt their best friend intentionally if it could be helped. I imagine he’s going to be gentle.

Best-case scenario: He feels the same and doesn’t have the guts to say anything because he never thought you feel that way. You don’t want to end up at his wedding watching him marry someone else because you were afraid of disturbing your friendship. Dating a best friend is risky business, but it also has the potential to be the most fulfilling relationship you’ve ever had.

I’m here to answer your questions. If you have a dilemma like the ones above, I’m at your service. Just e-mail me at Montefeu@yahoocom with the title ‘Attention G.M. Grosse.’ I look forward to hearing from you.

Avoid Indigestion
Steps to Prevent Overeating Hazards

James Carpenter
Staff Writer

Are you still feeling the after-effects the days following the recent bountiful Thanksgiving Day dinner? Perhaps you stuffed yourself on the delicious stuffing and indigestion resulted a few hours later. And, in a few weeks, it’s back to holiday feasting with Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and New Year’s Eve celebrations.

It is no wonder waistlines expand, pounds increase, and perhaps worst of all, that uncomfortable feeling of indigestion follows after consuming loads of “comfort” food. But before you reach for the nearest over-the-counter antacid to counter acid reflux or the disease called GERD (gastroesophageal reflux disease), Ted Mitchell, health columnist in USA Weekend magazine’s Nov. 28 issue offers these guidelines:

1. Don’t eat large meals or late at night. Eating a large meal late at night creates more reflux, especially when you lie down at bedtime before the meal is completely digested.

2. When you go to bed, make sure you raise the head of the bed by about six inches with wooden blocks under the bed frame or a wedge under the mattress at the head of the bed. This small incline prevents food and stomach fluid from coming up from the stomach.

3. Avoid tobacco, smoked or smokeless, as it aggravates acid reflux.

4. Pay attention to food culprits that may have contributed to digestive problems such as heartburn, or regurgitation, for you in the past, such as spicy foods and alcoholic beverages.

5. To soothe a bad case of heartburn, try over-the-counter antacids that will neutralize the acid that has already formed in the stomach and can relieve indigestion symptoms.

However, for chronic heartburn or recurrent episodes of indigestion, definitely make an appointment with your physician to pinpoint the cause or causes of the problem.

If you do overindulge during the holidays, keep the above tips in mind and as always: chew your food thoroughly and enjoy it. Don’t rush meals and do have smaller portions or smaller meals throughout the day instead of eating one or two large ones.

Taking a walk or getting up and moving around after a big meal (instead of sitting at the table or watching TV for a lengthy period after the meal) can also diet digestion (and can relieve indigestion symptoms).

above all, don’t deprive yourself of those traditional holiday meals of your ancestry. Food nourishes and brings family and friends together for special times. Try to eat sensibly and follow the above guidelines during the holidays and year round to prevent digestive problems.
COMEDY

CONTINUED FROM P 9

and no one cares much. He even poked fun at the "Staff Recommended" shelf. "I just made fun of a fictitious stock boy."

This 45-year-old graduate of the University of Florida grew up in the Bronx. He too has had a half-hour segment on Comedy Central Presents and you can also find him on MySpace.com. At one point, after improvising for a little bit, he quipped, "I learned a new phrase here tonight, 'off the cuff.' I'm going to use that in my next term paper."

"I'm going to be honest. I am hoping to sleep with one of you after the show."

Christian Finnegan

"ment, but not men. Relevant Entertainment was approached by collegehumor.com and was eager to up the show. Relevant producer Nick Bayne sets up the national college tours and plans to continue to next semester and further if possible. Julie Kratz of collegehumor.com and co-producer at Relevant Entertainment assures it will get "bigger and better."

Over 150 people attended the event, which was one of the first of its kind at MSU. Some comedians, like Kyle Grooms get a better response than others, such as Christian Finnegan, but all were enjoyable.

FEATURE

Start Shopping Like A Pro
Tricks to Save Time and Money During The Holiday Season

Alicia Feghhi
Staff Writer

Santa told me that Montclair State University's students were extra good this year. As an early holiday present, here is a holiday shopper's survival guide. It will fully equip you to enjoy the season to the fullest.

1. Stay healthy. On the night before the holiday, would you rather dream of sugar plums dancing in your head while sleeping soundly under the covers or feel sick? To avoid the sniffles, wash your hands.

Think about all the shopping you will do. You will open doors from store to store, grab a shopping card used by many people, select gifts that have fingerprints all over the box, pay for your purchases with dirty money (do not let the shiny George Washington fool you), and exit the store. Another way to avoid the common cold or flu is to keep your hands behind your back and eyes.

Spending Now that you are a healthy holiday shopper, you can shop until your legs fall off. But don't fall for the hype of gift giving just yet. If you don't want those last-shopped for loved ones to receive lose change or coal because you ran out of money or ideas, create a shopping list. Set up a price range you want to spend and the type of gift you want to buy for someone. This year. As an early holiday present, otherwise, you will have to pay extra shipping charges, and sometimes-costly overnight fees.

4. Shop Early. Not only will you have more time to browse, but you'll feel less pressure to buy last-minute gifts. Even though last-minute shopping offers bargains, you may end up buying anything that is on sale because you feel rushed. Inside your shopping bag may be poorly thought-out gifts because the better items were sold out weeks ago.

5. Avoid Crowds. Monday's shoppers are inspired by Sunday ads, and Thursdays and Fridays can be hectic. Don't even enter the mall on weekends. You may actually get a chance to sit on Santa's lap Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

6. Use Gift Cards. They are easy to buy and they stick to a dollar amount. Restaurants, video rental, book, music, and clothing stores are among the many places that sell gift cards.

7. Be Creative. You do not have to spend a lot of money to give the "perfect gift." After all, when coming from someone that you care about, almost any gift, despite its monetary value, is special. Magazines like Crafts 'N Things, channels such as Home and Garden Television and websites such as www.kiddodomain.com/holiday are good sources for ideas. You can also offer the gift of time to baby-sit, bake a cake or cookies, or make a picture collage or clean the house.

8. Make Your Own Cards. Can't find a greeting card that expresses exactly what you want to say? Make your own by pasting clip-art, ribbons, and pictures of you and your receiver. Then sprinkle glitter or holiday confetti inside the card for a surprise. Don't forget to put your trademark symbol on the back of the card. When your card is displayed among others, it will definitely stand out. Priceless.

9. Send Letters. Dec. 21 is the last day you can send a U.S. Postal Service priority mail package to arrive by Christmas. Do not procrastinate when sending gifts, unless you, Don't forget to put your trademark symbol on the back of the card. When your card is displayed among others, it will definitely stand out. Priceless.

Keep Track of Spending. Save your receipts and shopping list. If you are satisfied with the amount spent, then you will "save yourself a mery little Christmas" for next year and the years to come!
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For information call 908-709-7518 — or — visit us online at www.ucc.edu
Destiny's Child's Half-Hearted Reunion

Beayonce and Company's Lyrical Love Fest Is Musically Unfulfilling

Michael T. Martin
Assistant Arts & Entertainment Editor

**Destiny Fulfilled**

*Destiny's Child, Stay Music*

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**PS2's Killzone Disappoints**

Jose Ortiz
*Sports Editor*

I
can't deny the heart-pounding excitement that filled me as I moved down the hallways in the Guerrilla Games' Killzone. PlayStation's attempt at a top-rated first-person shooter. However, after I played a few levels, killed hundreds upon hundreds of drones with the cumulative AI of a set of dominoes, followed a redundant storyline, I was left feeling like the orphan Oliver, asking, "Please employ me?" The rap verses in the song, by T.I. and Lil' Wayne (why are we stuck with Cash Money still employed?), are simply filler and the song would be tighter without them. Be advised to skip the next few songs.

Although they are supposed to be ballads, don't rely on them to get you in the mood for love - if anything, they'll just give you a headache.

Besides the incoherent mixture of trite lyrics and slang, the songs are overly produced, with drum machines, random sounds and erratic melodies. On "Cater 2 U" and "Is She The Reason," the group sings each line as if holding a note for more than two beats is a criminal offense. In DCCI tradition, Beyonce's voice is dominant in the harmony, but her voice becomes getting after a while, especially if the songs aren't well composed.

The songs themselves aren't horrible on their own - the tunes can sneek into your head unexpectedly - but strung together, they are nothing short of mind numbing, you begin to feel like you'd have a more pleasant musical experience listening to a vacuum cleaner suck up basketball.

"If" provides a welcome variation in sound. The group finally breaks it down and provides a genuine groove. The soothing harmonies and intermitent piano are literally an antidote to the jolted mess that precedes "U." Once again, though, the group sings as if the tape in the studio is going to run out, and the song is short-changed. "It isn't the classic it pretends to be, with its clickable background record scratch, but I'll do.

On "Free," the trio really gets it right. It's all about being happy outside of a

SEE "DESTINY" ON P. 11

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**WILL, well, it has come to the end of another exciting year, full of shrills, scandals and some hits.

We have gathered much; we have gained some great new entertainers, as well as lost some of our favorite leaders in entertainment. In 2004, the media was slumped by young teen queen Hillary Duff's rival Lindsay Lohan.

She came out this year with two movies, including a break-out role in Mean Girls. She even came out with her own album Speak, acting like a Britney Spears wannabe, which doesn't say much for her considering Briney is at her worst this year.

The presidential election this year left us all Republican red. It also gave us bloodshed - but that's whole other story. Baseball also had everyone at the edge of their seats as the Red Sox took all the glory.

With all this and more throughout the year, I had to evaluate the best and worst of 2004. It could have been the unstoppable music maker Usher, since we have heard his music constantly from January to December. It could be the great talent Jamie Fox who released Collateral with Tom Cruise, came out with the Oscar-worthy performance as Ray Charles in the movie Ray, and collaborated with rapper Kanye West and Twista for the song "Slow Jams." But there are just few people that can put on a show without entertaining for them. This year, one brilliant person did this so successfully and also achieved great things most artists found impossible for someone in his position.

This person, one of the greatest in hip-hop history, taught us to take charge. This man produced an array of musical hits. Even though he has retired, he is not gone by a long shot. He collaborated with the hottest rock group out this year, Linkin Park, as well as produced music we love to jam to in memory of '94.

The man came out with a film called Fade to Black about his concert and album. He also has been named the president of Def Jam records, one of the biggest marks for a hip-hop entertainer ever! He is known for his relationship with "the hottest chick in the game," Beyonce. He is a legend and leader, a genius who even humble beginnings to the accomplished man that he is. Jay-Z, in my opinion, is THE ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR!
I

the three seasons that The WB's Everwood has been on the air it has done no

amazing thing. Sure, the show, at its core, is about the struggling father-son rela-
tionship between Andy (Treat Williams) and Ephram (Gregory Brown), but the

marvelous thing it does is constantly give the viewer side-characters that we actually care about.

During the first season, the excellent writ-
eres developed an interesting will-they-date-
or-won't-they-date relationship between the show's central teenage characters Ephram and Andy (Emily VanCamp).

The problem Andy was already involved in a relationship with one of his classmates, Colin (Blake Erwitt) then in a coma. While most fans were rooting for Ephram and Andy to hook up, there was also sympathy for the coma kid that was the other leg of their love triangle.

When Colin got out of his coma he was still a compelling character. Everyone watched to see what the enigmatic non-comatose Colin would do.

Additionally, Amy's brother Bright (Chris Pratt) was originally written as a two-
dimensional womanizing mean kid. But the writers realized their error and soon the char-

ter was an exciting fixture on the show—no small feat to Ephram and a still womanizing,

but now frustrated teenager repeating his senior year, trying to do well the second time.

When Bright finally managed to get into a community college, viewers were absolutely inclined to feel bad for him after he had worked as hard.

Bright has truly lived up to his name, being the most energetic character in the show's cold, lethargic Colorado town.

Last season, Everwood brought us two more great characters. First there was Linda Abbeet (Marcia Cross), sister to Andy's sometime rival Harold (Tom Amandes). Linda was a good character just as a love interest for the widower Andy. Then we discovered that the doctor had HIV and that she and Andy could never get as close as they wanted.

Eventually, Linda got her brother in trou-
bles when he could no longer be insured with his sister employed by him. It was a pity that unemployably Linda had to leave so soon (Cross left the show to cup it up over on Desperate Housewives) but like the time the writers killed off Colin, it demonstrated that the show knew how to spoil a character being around after their sell-by date.

Last season they also introduced Madison (Sarah Lancaster), the college-attending nanny of Andy's daughter Delia (Vivien Cardone). Madison turned out more than anything to be a love interest for Ephram. This was an inter-
esting romance since Ephram is an underage high schooler.

Viewers watched as Andy dealt with the relationship and the fact that Ephram was ready to have sex with his paramour. This recurred late in the season's great cliff-hanger when Madison revealed to Andy that she was pregnant with Ephram's child and unmoved to Ephram, Andy forced her out of town.

Hopefully Lancaster will return some-
time this season now that her CBS show Clubhouse is likely cancelled, but even if she doesn't, Madison's presence is still felt as Andy must deal with keeping such a mas-

sive secret from his son.

This season the show has been no exception for good new characters. Over the summer, when The WB announced Scott Wolf and Anze Heche joining the cast, the show's fans let out a hefty groan.

They were bringing Wolf, a former whiny teen from Party of Five and Heche, a celeb-

rity known more for her off-screen exploits rather than her on-screen work.

And yet the casting department wasn't as crazy as they seemed. Wolf's Dr. Dake Hartman, Heche's Amanda Hayes, and less-

er-known Sarah Drew's Hannah are excel-

lent side-character additions.

Wolf's inner character seemed irrede-
cible at first as the new medical rival in town to now professional partners Andy and Harold. But more importantly, he looks to be a more personal rival for Andy as he gets closer to Nina (Stephanie Nimiz), still waiting for best pal Andy to notice her in romantically.

Meanwhile, as Andy continues to be oblivious to Nina, she does grow closer to Amands. Again though, the show has one of those slightly tedious relationships forming between the two. Here's character is an adult version of Amy at the beginning of the show. She is starting to fall for good Andy, a problem since he is treating her cancerous husband.

Then there's Drew's Hannah who is a per-

fect addition to Everwood's teen scene as a new best friend for Amy. While Ephram has had Bright to confide in, Amy has been devoid of any friends with enough brain cells to carry on a conversation.

We've been able to see more into Amy's psyche through her conversations with Hannah, like when the two recently discussed Amy's readiness to have sex with Ephram.

Furthermore, Hannah has an excellent background of her own. Originally, the girl claimed to be studying with family friend Nina because her parents were in Hong Kong.

An episode earlier this month, however, revealed that, in fact, Hannah's parents were still living in her hometown but Hannah had left, no longer able to deal with her dying father.

Sure, Brown's Ephram and Williams' Andy are the phenomenally acted heart of the show, but it's the a la carte of characters that put Everwood in TV's upper-echelon of ensemble casts.

### Strong Ensemble Elevates Everwood

Dennis R. Anderson

assistant Copy Editor

as the show, but it's the a la carte of characters

CONTINUED FROM R 10

### DESTINY

CONTINUED FROM R 10

- hammering against metal walls while duck-

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- that put Everwood in TV's upper-echelon of ensemble casts.

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**Left Out in the Cold**

Oh, the sorrows of being a smoker; this week, Montclair State University announced their plans to ban smoking in all residence facilities, The Village and the Clave Road apartments included. This is more bad news for the bastarded offspring of the Marlboro Man, who will once again be forced outside if they want to light up.

The University is citing possible health problems to non-smokers and claims that smoking damage costs property over time, making this a cost-cutting move as well. The dimished threat of an accidental fire is an additional bonus, as the hopefull elimination of smokers should prevent any careless activity. By implementing this policy, MSU joins a national trend - only two other colleges in the state of New Jersey (Ken and TCNJ) presently allow smoking in residential buildings.

With this mandate comes the threat of housing withdrawal to multiple offenders, which should prove convenient for a school desperately in need of more resident space. According to the the University, Resident Assistants are being instructed to strictly enforce this policy.

On the other hand, it’s difficult to stop an addict from getting his fix, if people want to smoke in their rooms, then they’ll find a way, through whatever means necessary. Just as MSU has a stern anti-alcoholism/marijuana policy, it’s common knowledge that dedicated individuals will find a way. In that sense, this announcement comes as nothing more than a mere formalism of school policy.

An additional benefit for the school is the possible reduction of marijuana use in dorm rooms. From now on the smell of marijuana will be inmitatining. The rock will be kicked over; no longer could students say “it’s just a cigarette.”

Naturally, this is a decision that is sure to infuriate more than a few people. However, most students would agree that this is a wise course of action for MSU, the overwhelming population of this campus does not smoke, and it is the job of the University to cater to the will of the masses. And if they cannot fully eradicate smoking in the resident buildings, then this announcement, coupled with its harsh rebukes for dissenters, should work effectively in drastically reducing the presence of cigarettes smoke in residence halls.

**Time For MLB To Step Up To The Plate**

In Aftermath of Giambi’s Steroid Admission, Major League Baseball Must Enforce Anti-Steroid Policy

With the “revelation” last week of Jason Giambi’s steroid use, professional athletes of all circles, baseball players in particular, should take a step back and re-evaluate the price and competitive edge in regards to their perspective careers.

Last week, baseball fans across the world watched a former league MVP humiliated and re-evaluate the price and competitive edge in regards to their perspective careers.

And when you compare the home-run statistics of the last 10 years in regards to the previous 90-60 era year history of modern professional baseball, the numbers are incomprehensible: according to espn.com, Brady Anderson, a player accused of using steroids who had never hit more than 26 home runs in a single season over the course of his career, suddenly exploded by hitting 50 in 1995. The previous year he had hit 16, and only 18 in 1996.

Then there is, of course, the Barry Bonds’ side to this case, the magnitude of which threatens the game to its very foundation; very shortly, Bonds will be on the brink of passing Hank Aaron for first place on the all-time home run list (755).

This accomplishment has not been approached even by some of the game’s most legendary batters, from Mark McGwire to Mickey Mantle to Reggie Jackson. But while Bonds was always a half-of-fame caliber player, his numbers in the past four seasons are mind-boggling: 71 home runs in 2001 (new record) and averaged 32 homruners in the last five years, according to espn.com. All this was accomplished after the age of 36, a time when most athletes have become designated bench players.

Recently, under mounting heavy pressure, Bonds admitted to using steroids, but feigned ignorance in regards to the cream that was being spread under his knees. After spending the last five years denying he used steroids, Bonds eventually sidestepped the question, saying that he didn’t know what he was taking, leaving me to conclude the following: Bonds will never, ever admit to having used steroids.

There are many other good reasons for why the homuer totals in the past 10 years have ballooned to the numbers they are at today; smaller ballparks, talent-stretched, watered-down pitching staffs brought on by expansion, better conditioned athletes, and possibly a “juiced” ball, designed to travel farther and faster.

Perhaps Bonds has just been advantageous of circumstance, born in the right year, and conditioned using state-of-the-art technology designed to make him the game’s best player well into his 40’s. Maybe that’s the case, although you can conclude what you want from the following: Giambi was asked to name the source for his steroids. His answer? Bonds’ trainer.

I’m not going to sit here and give any rose-colored speeches about the account­ability of ballplayers as role models to America’s youth, there being a bad example, etc., but I do believe that athletes should feel a measure of responsibility to each other, and the history of their game. Last week Giambi permanently sealed his name and reputation by making a concession; he was not the first to do so, but will also not be the last.

Major League Baseball, if it wishes to save face, must create and enforce strict testing policies, regardless of “privacy” complaints and other token excuses. They should feel a measure of responsibility to each other, and the history of their game.
Draft: Dropping The F-Bomb of Freedom

In Time of War, We Must Answer The Call to Duty

Like it or not, the United States has launched a multi-front war against terrorism. As a result of the Sept. 11 attacks, our President has engaged the armed forces in an all-out war to bring those responsible to justice and deny them safe haven by confronting nations who harbor and give aid to them.

The men and women of the US military have fought bravely all over the globe, from the mountains of Afghanistan to the jungles of the Philippines to the deserts of Iraq.

More then 1,100 men and women have given their lives and nearly 10,000 have been wounded in the struggle to bring security to our nation. Our army overseas in Iraq consists of nearly 40 percent National Guard and Army Reserve soldiers.

As a result of this ongoing conflict, the armed forces have developed a serious problem: they are running out of people. The men and women of the National Guard and the Army Reserve are being called out in numbers to fill the gaps that our active military is unable to do. We no longer have enough volunteers to maintain prolonged conflicts and endure long occupations.

The US has not instituted a draft since the Vietnam era, when nearly two million men were called to duty to serve their time, but the fact of the matter is it's time to start again.

The conflict in Iraq will not stop anytime soon; George W. Bush has been re-elected for a second term and has no plans of pulling our troops out right away. The US government is bolstering the number of troops to 150,000, by sending over more units and keeping those whose tours of duty are already up, forcing them to stay longer than expected.

Army sergeant Marvin Lee Trout in the 82nd airborne division was serving his third tour of duty in Iraq when he was killed this week. Tell his wife and kids that we don’t need a draft. How fair is it that the men and women who volunteered to fight for their country are the only ones paying the price?

Constantly, they are being called upon to put their lives in danger while the rest of us here at home continue on with our five.

Our nation has pledged itself to stabilize the situation in Iraq and as we have seen, the Iraqis are not ready to handle the security situation on their own. As Americans we find ourselves morally responsible to ensure that we fix the problem in Iraq, because we won't cut our losses and run as Spain did.

However, we need more men and women to do the job. The army can’t keep up with its quotas for enlistments; the National Guard and the reserves are also finding themselves empty as they try to refill their ranks.

The army has instituted stop-loss measures to prevent their volunteer army from disappearing - this keeps troops who have done their duty for their nation and served the time they promised from getting out. It keeps those troops who volunteered to fight for our freedom from enjoying the lives they want after doing their civic duty.

Perhaps the time has come for the US to reinstitute the draft. The idea of mandatory military service is not uncommon in the world today. Nations like France, Israel and Spain all have compulsory military service, so that is not just volunteers who are shouldering the burden of their nation’s military defense and foreign policy commitments, but the civic duty of all the citizens.

These nations recognize the benefits of their military service: they are in the best shape of their lives, taught basic self-defense and discipline, and it puts a sense of pride in the people of having done their part for the nation. Are any of these aspects so terrible that our nation couldn’t follow in these footsteps to require everyone to do their part in the protection of our freedom?

Many of our fathers and grandfathers did their part in World War I, World War II, Korea and Vietnam, why can’t our generation pick up our rifles and do our part to fight in the war against terrorism? Our troops are doing their part; it’s time for us to follow suit.

It’s completely unfair that our troops are being kept in the service long after they’ve done their part. It is time for America to share the responsibility, not just those who volunteered, but everyone. We need to start a draft to ease the burden on those who have already decided to go, and are having to go back two or three times.

We can’t stand by and watch as our government bullies them around and keeps them because they are all the US has left. It’s time for more Americans to answer the call; it’s time for us to take up arms, and it’s time to bring back the draft.

I, for one, will not stand by and wait for the administration to institute this policy, which seems more and more inevitable each day.

I am enlisting in the Marine Corps on Jan. 10, to do my part for America.

I am doing my part for my family, my countrymen, those who are still fighting for the second or third time, and for those who have already given their lives in the name of our freedom.

The US has not instituted a draft since the Vietnam Era...but the fact of the matter is it’s time to start again.”
Dear Editor,

Are you "white"? How many times have we, as not-readily-identifiable, been forced to label ourselves according to the "white?"

Are you "other"? How many times have you just wanted to call yourself "Mexican," "Italian," or "Trigueño?"

Well, the ever-popular safety net of "other" may soon be taken away from us. According to The New York Times Oct. 24, issue in the 2000 Census, almost 15 million Latinos identified themselves as "some other race."

According to them, officials assign us a...
WHAT'S OUT THERE

MAN AND BOY: DADA

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Monday - December 20
For Classes with First or Only Meeting on M or R at 0830am ..........................0830am-1030am
For Classes with First or Only Meeting on M or R at 1000am ....................1045am-1245pm
For Classes with First or Only Meeting on M or R at 1130am .....................0100pm-0300pm
For Classes with First or Only Meeting on M or R at 0100pm ..................0315pm-0515pm

Examination Notes:
1. All examinations are to be held in the regularly assigned classrooms. In courses where more than one room is involved, the location of the exam will be the same as the first room of a series (e.g., a course meeting WF in different rooms will have the exam in the W room).
2. Courses which have a start time other than those listed above should follow the exam schedule for the preceding class start time (e.g. a course beginning at 9:30am will follow the exam period for courses with a first or only meeting at 8:30am; a course beginning at 12:00pm will follow the exam period for courses with a first or only meeting at 11:30am). Faculty involved in teaching courses on a "To Be Arranged" basis and who require an exam room are asked to make arrangements for a specific time and room. Please call the Office of the Registrar at ext. 7100 prior to November 15.
3. Students with a time conflict in their exam schedule should immediately notify each faculty member involved and make arrangements to reschedule one of their exams.
DeFelice’s Picks

Week 14
Patriots over Bengals
Bills over Browns
Packers over Lions
Vikings over Seahawks
Raiders over Falcons
Jags over Bears
Saints over Cowboys
Colts over Texans
Eagles over Redskins
Steelers over Jets
Broncos over Dolphins
Panthers over Rams
Cards over Niners
Chargers over Bucs

Upset Pick
Giants over Ravens

Monday Night
Eagles over Redskins

MacKerchar’s Picks

Week 14
Patriots over Bengals
Bills over Browns
Packers over Lions
Ravens over Giants
Falcons over Raiders
Jags over Bears
Cowboys over Saints
Colts over Texans
Eagles over Redskins
Steelers over Jets
Broncos over Dolphins
Rams over Panthers
Cards over Niners
Chargers over Bucs

Upset Pick
Vikings over Seahawks

Monday Night
Saints over Cowboys

G-Men Continue To Fall Short

Pete DeFelice
Staff Writer

I don’t think I was over this ill after watching a football game. I had the worst case of the spins (maybe because of the amount of alcohol consumption I underwent just so the Giants looked like a decent football team). I thought this was going to be one of the easier games the Giants were going to have to play for the duration of the season, but once again, I was wrong. After the game, I was a dejected Giants fan for yet another week. It seemed to be the turn around game for the Giants, but instead it was just another three-hour disappointment. I watched, but couldn’t believe what exactly I was seeing. We all know that Eli Manning is not quite ready for the big time yet. His timing is off, his decision-making skills during the game are lacking, and the ability to read his defense isn’t exactly what Coach Coughlin would like. However, before the Eli haters go out and bash him for yet another week, let’s look at the Giants’ loss as a team loss.

The defense, which was once one of the greatest defenses at stopping the run, got trampled over by Clinton Portis. Tiki Barber, who is usually good at bouncing off defenders and running for big gains, didn’t bounce but merely got walked on. All of this, not to mention the Shockey-catching phobia that still continues, and the Amani Toomer “I can’t catch a single pass from a rookie quarterback” that plants the seed in my chest great wide receivers. The fact of the matter is that Manning cannot be the scapegoat for every New York Giants debacle of this past week. He is doing better than expected, given the surroundings of a ridiculously horrible team. People are wondering how Ben Rothlisberger can win so many when Manning can’t seem to find a single win. Well, I think I have the answer to that one. Ben plays for the Pittsburgh Steelers, and Eli plays for the New York Giants.

This week, the Giants play the Baltimore Ravens. I dread to predict this game. The Giants, in reality, must win the next four games to even have a chance at the playoffs. Not that the NFC is high in the competition chart. However, and I don’t know why I am doing this, I predict that the Giants will beat the Ravens this week. The Ravens really only have a defense, and if Eli Manning can work on a hookup like they did two weeks ago, they do have a shot to win the game. I say Giants 21 and Ravens 17.

Upset Pick
Chiefs over Titans

Willingham Gets The Boot; Time For The NFL

Rob MacKerchar
Staff Writer

As the NFL season begins to wind down, the playoff picture is shaping up and planning for the 2005 season has already begun. Some coaches have already found themselves unemployed, and a few more will soon join the fired list. Recently, Butch Davis resigned as head coach of the mediocre Cleveland Browns, an expansion team that has gone nowhere since they were recreated in 1999. The first pick in that 1999 draft, the first player to wear a Cleveland jersey in the new era, was Quarterback Tim Couch; he’s not even in the league anymore. The Browns have said that they will hire a new manager and hire a new head coach.

Well, Cleveland, allow me to make a coaching suggestion. Tyrone Willingham was recently fired as head coach of Notre Dame, much to the chagrin of his players and fans. The Notre Dame program once was preppy, so Willingham’s 2-10 record as head coach just wasn’t working out. NFL teams, especially the Cleveland Browns, should be salvaging over this marks recent unemployment. He has integrity and class, not to mention a knowledge of the game. In a recent press conference, while discussing his firing, Willingham admitted that he didn’t do a good enough job as coach of Notre Dame, but listed the excellent academic progress of his players as his proudest achievement.

In his parting words, Willingham said, “My wish will be that this program has great success in the future, and that whoever the coach is that he comes in and does a great job because I believe there’s some great young men in that locker room.”

After Davis’ resignation, many Browns’ players voiced their sense of distrust for their ex-head coach and management. Willingham’s integrity could rebuild that trust. Let’s also not forget Kellen Winslow Jr. in the Browns first-round pick and future superstar, when choosing his college, Winslow opted not to go to the University of Washington because their head coach was trying to find a single win. In fact, his father and the driving force in his collegiate decision, Kellen Winslow Sr., said in an interview that if he were being recruited at the time his son was, he would potentially choose Stanford, whose head coach at that time was none other than Tyrone Willingham. His hiring would put another black head coach out there and keep superstar Kellen Winslow, or at least his father, happy.

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By Jonathan Tujim
Directed by Michael Allen
Dec. 9-12th @ 8PM
Dec. 11th @ 2PM
Free Admission
Montclair State University
L. Howard Fox Studio Theater

Wild Card Games
NFC: Vikings vs. Rams
Seahawks vs. Packers
AFC: Chargers vs. Ravens
Jets vs. Colts

Divisional Championship
NFC: Vikings vs. Eagles
Falcons vs. Packers
AFC: Steelers vs. Ravens
Patriots vs. Colts

Conference Championship
NFC: Falcons vs. Eagles
AFC: Colts vs. Steelers
Super Bowl
Falcons vs. Colts

Super Bowl MVP
Indianapolis Colts

Wild Card Games
NFC: Vikings vs. Rams
Bucs vs. Packers
AFC: Chargers vs. Jets
Broncos vs. Colts

Divisional Championship
NFC: Vikings vs. Eagles
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Philadelphia Eagles

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Indianapolis Colts

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The Sports Guy
Nothing Else Left to Say; He’s Calling It Quits

Today The Sports Guy feels like the luckiest man on the face of the Earth. It has been a great ride, and The Sports Guy wouldn’t trade in his time with the sportlings for anything in the world.

It was born on the baseball diamond, baptized on the soccer field, raised by a football coach, and divinized by a cheerleader. The Sports Guy is sport, and sports are his life. When he wakes up in the morning, he eats Sportlings peppered with statistics. The Sports Guy is sport, and sports are his life. When he wakes up in the morning, he eats Sportlings peppered with statistics. The Sports Guy is sport, and sports are his life. When he wakes up in the morning, he eats Sportlings peppered with statistics. The Sports Guy is sport, and sports are his life. When he wakes up in the morning, he eats Sportlings peppered with statistics. The Sports Guy is sport, and sports are his life. When he wakes up in the morning, he eats Sportlings peppered with statistics. The Sports Guy is sport, and sports are his life. When he wakes up in the morning, he eats Sportlings peppered with statistics. The Sports Guy is sport, and sports are his life. 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There are five undefeated teams in Division IA college football this season, and yet only four of them will be going to Bowl College Series (BCS) matches. Why is Michigan (9-2) going to the Rose Bowl, and Boise State (11-0) stuck in the Liberty Bowl College Series (BCS) matches? Why?

This is just one of the many examples begging for a new system to replace the current one. The current system uses eight computers and two media polls to decide a national champion. That's like letting Olympic judges, and Big Blue, the IBM super computer decide the presidency.

This system's design is supposed to reward teams for an entire season, rather than just one game. But what this system fails to do is uphold the football philosophy that on any given day any team can win. These are the current ideals under which the NFL, and college basketball govern themselves. The BCS is intended to make it so that there are no Cinderella stories. No Carmello Anthony and Syracuse, no Florida Marlins, and none of those little things that sometimes happen and make sports so exhilarating to watch.

Another problem with the current system is that it does not properly reward winning. Under the current rules, margin of victory and strength of schedule factor into ranking. So a one-point win doesn't count as much as a 30-point victory. Granted, one may be more convincing than the other, but where I'm from, a win is a win, and you let people make their own speculations from the score.

The so-called experts are suggesting that college football add in one extra Bowl game after the championship game. Last year, when the University of Southern California and Louisiana State University split the National Championship, they would have played one more game against each other to determine a true champion. The problem comes up when there are five teams that are undefeated, and three that just had a bad day and lost one, like this year. If the regular season determined championships in all sports, then some of the most memorable sports moments in history would have never happened.

A playoff is the best way to determine who the true champion is, because in order to be the best, you must beat the best. The people in charge claim that there is no time for a playoff, and that it allows teams that get hot at the right time to win, and teams that have been great all season to lose. Such is the nature of the game, and if a playoff this year ended with USC gone in the first round, then maybe they weren't the best team in the nation to begin with.

If you implement a playoff in which the top eight teams battle for the national championship, I think it would create more excitement than the current BCS system. Have the first round of the playoffs be the four major bowl games, the Fiesta, Orange, Sugar, and Rose, and in the next two weekends play the semi-final, and championship game. This system would not only ensure a true champion, it wouldn't allow a 6-5 team to win a national title.

Fans don't care about the history, the mystique, or the allure of the Fiesta Bowl, they care about the match-ups. Although this year's Rose Bowl will feature Texas (10-1) and Michigan (9-2), the Liberty Bowl pitting undefeated Boise State (11-0), and Louisville (9-2) may end up being a better game.
MSU Wrestlers with Their Eyes on The Prize

Jose Ortiz
Sports Editor

For the first time in a very long time, the Red Hawk wrestling team has begun a season without a returning All-American. As a result, the expectations of this year’s team are a bit lower than in previous years. However, it’s obvious that this view is not a prevalent one inside the wrestling room at Panzer Gym. In fact, assistant coach and former Red Hawk National Champion Rami Ratel says that his expectations are nothing short of high.

“We have a whole new crew, all eager to learn with a very structured practice,” said Ratel. “This season we are a lot more balanced than in the past. We don’t have any standouts, but in my eyes, all of our guys are secret weapons.”

While listening to Jay-Z and Linkin Park music, the team trains everyday for two hours. At the end of the season, the intensity that each of the Red Hawk wrestlers bring to the mat can clearly be seen dripping from their faces to the floor.

“We are going to have a strong team, because everyone is so competitive, and eager to do whatever it takes to get it better,” said Ratel.

“Anytime you have guys like that in the room it helps the team. Whenever there is competition, everyone gets better.”

Unlike many other teams, both Head Coach Joe Sobel and Ratel not only lead practices by barking orders, but participate in them, showing the players that the coaches are more than willing to hit the mat.

“Sobel and I believe that using a hands-on approach will help everyone else,” said Ratel. “We are leading by example.

This translates into what Ratel calls a team with excellent conditioning.

“Our conditioning is a lot better than the wrestlers from other schools,” said Ratel. “All of our matches we lost by a difference in skill, which is a good sign, because skill comes in time.”

The team captains this year are John Beitz, a 157 lb., John Vogel from 184 lbs., and Jonathan Suero from 133 lbs. Some other wrestlers to watch for this year are freshman Mark Goduto and senior heavyweight Danny DeJesus.

Beitz says that he is settling for nothing less than a national championship this season and expects big things from all of his teammates, captain or not.

“As long as I put in the time and effort, I shouldn’t have a problem,” said Beitz. “I also think that John Vogel is capable of winning a national title. All the kids on this team are capable of being All-Americans.”

Vogel isn’t concerned with the accomplishments. He says he just wants to wrestle his best, train you when you are on the mat, no body bag in and no one to pass the ball too,” he said.

With people bashing bodies for two hours a day, this team and every other wrestling team’s number one goal is to keep everyone healthy. Another goal of the Red Hawk wrestling team is to conduct themselves in a manner becoming of good sportmen.

“Our goals this season are to wrestle to the best of our abilities, have guys compete for a national title, with good sportsmanship along the way,” said Ratel.

At the end of the day, Ratel says that winning and losing are not things that he and the coach place too much importance on. What’s important to the coaching staff of this team is how they carry themselves and the kind of men that they will have will have a hand in producing.

The team’s only female wrestler, Lorraine Enfante, says that the most appealing thing about the sport is the challenge of both physical and mental perfection.

“Wrestling takes mind, body and soul,” Enfante said. “If you don’t have one thing, you can’t succeed. That’s what makes me keep coming back, because those are the things that are important in life.”

The consensus around the practice room is that the best thing about wrestling is the individuality.

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Overtime

If a match is tied after regulations, a sudden death overtime decides the victor. Both players start in neutral position. If no points are scored, the match goes into double overtime. In double overtime, the wrestler who scores the first offensive point gets to choose which position he wants, top or bottom. At the end of the overtime, the wrestler on top must hold on to the head.