Dialogue explores religious extremism

By Joseph Giordano
Co-Managing Editor

Delaware County Community College hosted its third religious dialogue on Nov. 24th at 11:15 a.m., welcoming Islamic, Jewish, and Christian scholars to speak in the large auditorium on the roots of religious extremism in their respective faiths.

The event was presented by the college’s Institutional Diversity Committee, Campus Life, and the Black and Women’s History Committee. The event was open to anyone who wished to hear the discussion.

Dr. Francesco Bellini, an assistant professor of comparative religions at DCCC, presented the speakers to the audience, and explained the theme of the discussion, which was the matter of religious extremism within the Islamic, Jewish, and Christian faiths.

Bellini announced that two questions would be posed for the three scholars to answer: what is their religion’s traditional stance on war and what is the difference between extremism and traditional orthodox beliefs.

The first to speak was Rabbi Reba Carmel, who works with the Interfaith Center in Philadelphia. She has dual American-Israeli citizenship and has taught Judaic studies in Israel, the United States, and Australia.

Carmel explained that the Jewish faith traditionally believes in peace, which is the goal of Shalom (Hebrew for ‘peace’ and ‘completeness’). However in the Jewish faith, there are two distinct types of conflict. There is commanded and permitted war.

According to Carmel, commanded warfare was described as being a direct order from God to conquer land. These are known as ‘wars of Mitzvah’ or commandment. All examples of commanded warfare though were written hundreds of years after the fact and no actual records were kept at the time of combat.

As far as permitted warfare, one of the earliest examples that Carmel shared involved King David who used warfare as a way to keep Jewish control over conquered land.

The next speaker, Dennis Feltwell, is a professor of religions at Holy Family University and with La Salle University’s graduate theology program.

Feltwell indicated that from the traditional Christian point of view, the stance to be taken is pacifism.

See DIALOGUE on Page 2

Students cope with holiday depression, other stressors

By Ryan S. Williams
Staff writer

18 million college students.
That’s the estimated number of college students that are dealing with mental health issues according to statistics gathered in a new study by American University and Maharishi University of Management that’s slated to be published in the American Journal of Hypertension this month.

The information gathered from colleges across the nation shows there has been a 50 percent rise of diagnosed depression, and more than twice as many students are receiving psychiatric medications than in recent years.

“I see [depression] often,” said Eileen Colucci, a counselor in DCCC’s Marple Campus Career and Counseling Center. “I’ve had four serious cases of depression come into my office and I’m only one counselor.”

Colucci’s encounters with depressed students represent only a few of the many serious cases that seem to be plaguing college students for a number of reasons. Loneliness and financial problems can cause stress any time; however, during the holidays there is additional pressure to spend, spend, and spend some more. Everyone either wants gifts or wants to buy gifts that will surprise their friends and families.

For many people this comes with a very high price tag — overwhelming stress and depression.

The physical demands of the holidays are arguably enough to exhaust a professional athlete. Feeling exhausted increases a person’s stress, which lowers the immune system and leaves the body more vulnerable to illness.

Physical symptoms of depression that may not respond to traditional treatment include chronic pain and headaches.

The MHA recommends that students who are struggling with any of these symptoms seek immediate help.

Colucci said students only need to make one connection with a person they can talk to. It may not be a person they expect, but if they don’t try, they don’t know how influential it can be to a person they can talk to.

Contact Ryan S. Williams at communitarian@mail.dccc.edu

DCCC travels around the world in a day

KuluMele performing a West African dance. They recently performed during the 2009 Multicultural Festival. See page 3 for the story.

KuluMele performing a West African dance. They recently performed during the 2009 Multicultural Festival. See page 3 for the story.

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New textbooks still more popular than cheaper alternatives, like ebooks

By Patricia Alex
The Record (Hackensack N.J./MCT)

HACKENSACK, N.J. — It may be one of the last frontiers of the digital download: A generation that gets its music, news and other information off the Internet is still lugging around heavy, expensive hard-cover textbooks.

Other options — such as electronic textbooks, book rentals and Internet shopping for used books — are increasingly available and growing wildly, but the lion’s share of textbooks are still bought new and at retail, according to industry analysts.

“The bookstore is still making tons of money,” said Samantha Binet, a junior at Amman American University in Wayne, N.J. She frets about “tons of money,” said Samantha Binet, a junior at Amman American University in Wayne, N.J. She frets about the amount of money spent on textbooks, and one book. Most students still go to the campus bookstore to buy their textbooks.

The average new textbook costs $57, but most undergraduates can summon an anecdote about having paid $200, $300 and even $400 for a required book. Students spend an average of $1,200 on textbooks in college.

Still, it’s an idea whose time has not quite yet come. Students and faculty say that the move to e-books has been slow, and that it’s still more popular to buy new textbooks.

“A half-dozen schools nationwide, including Princeton, have gone e-textbooks. "I’ve actually never seen anybody using them," she said. Professors haven’t promoted the new options, and she said she’s seen no advertising for e-books on campus. "You kind of just take your professor’s word and go to the bookstore and buy it.”

Indeed, for many students it’s just easier — and often quicker — to go to the campus bookstore, especially if Mom and Dad are paying. Then there is the worry that the edition will be outdated or the format difficult, a complaint with some e-textbooks.

Some students could have the option of using an electronic device, like the Rocket eBook, to download text books. "The students have really been getting used to the idea of downloading. This is a year where awareness is expanding very rapidly.”

Some e-textbooks are just digital versions of hard copies. But increasing- ly, the e-books are being designed with the latest bells and whistles, allowing students to mark up and highlight text, use notes and share comments with classmates.

“The Kindle pilot has received a lot of hype recently,” said Jeremiah Ryan. “I’ve heard it isn’t working so well for the rental scheme to be profitable.”

Some e-textbooks are available on making traditional textbooks more affordable. But the market may be on the upswing.

“Students are still frustrated by the pricing, but technology is evolving,” said Ryan. “I see a day when a kid will buy a Kindle and rent what ever they need.”

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CAMPUS

By Reba Carmel
The Jerusalem Post (Israel)/MCT

NEW YORK — There is a broad view among Muslims, according to Zaidi, that current Middle Eastern governments fail to care about the interest of the youth. "In Muslim countries, religion still plays a major role and will always be an important element of everyday life.” Zaidi said.

There is a broad view among Muslims, according to Zaidi, that current Middle Eastern governments fail to care about the individual and do nothing to empower the people. She stated that Egyptian extremist Sayyid Qutb wrote the book “Milestones” after his disgust at seeing Egypt become subservient to the west.

"Christian pacifists believe in loving one’s neighbor, even if they are the enemy, and living in solidarity with everyone.”

Feltwell related, the founder of the Religious Society of Friends, George Fox, had claimed that war takes place at the fall of humanity and that humans engage in dishonest and sinful activity during times of conflict.

Dr. Supna Zaidi, represented the Islamic position on war. "If you are the enemy, and living in solidarity with everyone.”

"During the time of the Crusades, there was the notion of military service and political pressure,” said Feltwell “Pope Urban II in 1095 wanted the Christians to stop fighting each other and unite against a common enemy.”

Feltwell explained that one of the earliest forms of martyrdom in the Islamic tradition is “Heaven was granted to all crusaders who died in battle against the Muslim armies.”

On the other hand, as Feltwell explained, the Quaker movement preferred to stay more faithful to the Christian ideals of pacifism and strictly prohibited participating in war. Their belief was that war was greater than civic authority and to take no part in violence.

Dr. Zaidi made an example of the 1979 terrorist attack on the Grand Mosque in Saudi Arabia. Extremist attacked and took over a mosque, believing that the Saudi government was corrupt and inefficient. Rather than follow along with traditional teachings of Islam, they took it upon themselves tooble the line by committing a major act of violence.

Zaidi said that extremism can also be a result of coercion or economic pressure from social groups. Young people can be pressured into going along with what a group wants and how they distort traditional beliefs into extremism.

Reba Carmel stated that “Upholding God’s will at the expense of peace is a misplaced value,” and, “If you have a person who has only enough resources to light either the Sabbath or the Hanukkah candle, he should choose [to light] the Sabbath one, in the name of peace.”

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Getting a sensory experience of culture at the multicultural festival

By Maxwell McAdams
Staff writer

Hundreds of students with open minds and mouths enjoyed the “concentrate” of over 20 cultures at the Multicultural Festival held on Thursday, November 19 at the Marple Campus.

In its second decade, this year’s festival offered Delaware County Community College (DCCC) students an academic experience for all of the senses. Each of the 15 booths assigned to a particular country, city, or culture offered a unique culinary delight.

Warm, crisp vegetable dim-sum in a sweet and spicy sauce could be found in China while next door in Algeria, one could savor hot vegetable chili.

Students were also invited to look at the artifacts, maps, stories and brief historical outlines sitting on the corners of each booth. A host of volunteers, whose ancestors were from the country they represented, managed the booths and were available to answer questions.

The pleasures that could not be devoured or examined could be seen and heard from afar.

In the college’s large auditorium, Kulu Mele, an African dance and drum ensemble, performed a vast repertoire of ancient song and dance numbers from Nigeria, Ghana, Brazil, Cuba, Haiti, and Guinea.

“It’s a really neat experience to see so many cultures in one spot,” said Shelly Breecher, a 19-year-old theater major. “It’s like studying abroad for an hour. . .[One] gains a new sense of appreciation for a culture they might be learning about [in a class].”

Although small in size, the event’s preparation is a massive undertaking calling on the efforts of Campus Life, International Student Services, and the International Diversity Committee.

According to Amy Wendle, 24, Campus Life program coordinator for Chester County, the effort yields a reward that makes all planning worthwhile.

“Most students are not immersed in other cultures on a daily basis,” Wendle said. “The festival is an opportunity for foreign language students, history students and all students, really, to come together and get a better grasp on another culture.”

Wendle said the festival is also an exercise in cultural sensitivity -- an experience where students may better learn to “appreciate and respect the differences between other ethnic groups.”

Other upcoming events can be viewed on the college’s Web site at www.dccc.edu/calendar. For detailed information visit the International Diversity Committee’s schedule page at the Delegate Portal under Campus Life.

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Katherine Young taking her first bite of Peruvian Arroz con Leche, or rice pudding.
EDITORIAL

Feminist view of sex workers changes

By Katy O’Dwyer
Executive editor

The wariness of sex workers, which is a primary component of the feminist community — or if they no longer submit to, or cite papers in, this community — has been quite visible of late.

This brings us hurricanes from women in the sex industry, and flames from conservative feminists and angry second wavers.

The core of this discussion among feminists is whether women who work in the sex industry should be thought of as self-sufficient hard working people who deserve respect and support of the feminist community — or if they should be shunned as insecure people who exploit their bodies and decrease the value of their gender.

A sex worker is defined as someone who receives money for sex, or sexual favors, a loose definition that applies to a variety of different occupations and services including escorts, pornstars, exotic dancers and so on.

This topic was championed first by the second wave of feminists in the 1970s who declared war on the adult entertainment industry. Gloria Steinem’s crusade against the porn industry along with former adult star Linda Lovelace had a dramatic effect on the feminists of the time, and the image of the “good girl” feminist resonated years after.

In recent times, feminists have found it in vogue to support women who work in the adult industry. The belief is that because sex workers can use what they have to get what they want they are empowered.

Women in the sex industry have been glamorized in recent years, most notably by the memoirs of an escort named Belle du Jour, whose novels are the basis of a popular British television show “Secret Diary of a Call Girl.”

This show follows the adventures of Belle and her friends, her many “ Johns” and how she balances her personal life with being a call girl.

This glamorization of the sex industry has certainly had an effect on young women because it makes prostitution look like a fun job that’s easy money.

While I agree with supporting the health and interests of sex workers, I do not believe that this is a new age of feminism where the objectification of one’s body should be thought of as empowering.

If all sex work was de-criminalized on a national basis, it would remove many harmful elements. It would give the women opportunity to receive healthcare, remove the middle man or "pimp" from their lives and take away at least some of the stigma of their profession that follows them into society.

I believe in protecting the interests of all women, but I do not believe in promoting the idealized Hollywood version of the call girl.

All women inside or thinking of entering the business should be wary of the dangers.

Moreover, all feminists should think before they leap to judge anyone in that line of business because we’re all sisters and we need to look out for each other’s interests.

Contact Katy O’Dwyer at communitarian@dcc.edu.

Can We Ever Trust Global Warming Scientists Again?

By Anthony Leone
Graphic Design Editor

The riveting news has shocked both sides of the global warming debate as private e-mails from some pro-man-made scientists and researchers reveal that they have been actively skewing their controversial findings.

An unknown person hacked into the e-mail servers of the prominent climate-research center, the Climate Research Unit at the University of East Anglia in England, and stole more than a thousand e-mails about global warming and posted them on the Web, according to CNN.

Some of the e-mails have startling quotes such as:

“I’ve just completed Mike’s Nature trick of adding in the real temps to each series for the last 20 years (i.e., from 1981 onwards) and from 1961 for Keith’s to hide the decline.” — Phil Jones, director of the research center, CNN.

“...And to prove climate change is real, I brought all my files along.”

The Communitarian

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The opinions expressed on the editorial and the op-ed pages do not necessarily reflect those of The Communitarian staff or college. We welcome your comments on any matter relating to Delaware County Community College, and responsible rebuttal is encouraged. Write to communitarian@mail.dccc.edu. Please write “letter to editor” in the subject box.
First-time shoplifters on the rise

By Joe Lambie
McClatchy Newspapers

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Stores want strong holiday traffic in a tough economy, but they’d like to avoid some of the foot traffic, a growing number of shoplifters. December is the worst month for shoplifting, experts say, and the crime has been on the increase for about two years.

Shoplifters can be hard to spot but are major players in thefts that cost American retailers about $13 billion a year. And more people are doing it for the first time.

“They can be anyone _ your mother, my sister _ there is no profile,” said Barbara Stahl, communications director for the National Association for Shoplifting Prevention.

Most are otherwise normal people, experts say, but some get addicted to the rush of a five-finger discount.

Three-quarters of 27 million people who shoplift act out of impulse related to social or personal pressures, according to the association. They steal anywhere from $2 to $200 in goods at a time and often buy something as well.

Of course, there have been famous thieves such as actresses Winona Ryder and Hedy Lamarr, but shoplifters come from every demographic.

In an incident this month, Overland Park, Kan., charged an assistant county prosecutor with shoplifting about $40 worth of deodorant and liquid bandages.

Not unusual at all, said Terrence Shulman, an author and counselor on the subject who is also a lawyer with a master’s degree in social work _ and a former shoplifter.

Shulman, who founded Cheptromaniax and Shoplifters Anonymous in 1991, said lawyers often have been among his clients.

“I’ve worked with doctors, lawyers, prosecutors, judges, millionaires,” he said.

Most amateur shoplifters tend to have middle-class incomes, he said, although that might be shifting in hard economic times.

“Most people are doing it when there is a perceived loss in their lives or a loss of control and a perceived injustice or unfairness,” he said. “It’s a secret cry for help but also an attempt to regain power or control.”

Casey Chroust, an executive vice president with the Retail Industry Leaders Association, said most shoplifters don’t do it to feed families.

“These are not Robin Hood stories,” he said. “They’re stealing in order to try and save their lives _ they’re trying to maintain a lifestyle they can no longer afford.”

The largest increases in shoplifting reported this year were in clothing and electronics, his trade group reported.

Last December, more than 80 percent of retailers in Chroust’s trade association reported that amateur shoplifting had increased in the previous six months. Not one reported a decline, he said. In May a update this year, more than 60 percent reported additional increases, he said, and the trend is worldwide.

A global study that came out this month reported that retailer losses related to all thefts increased almost 6 percent on average in 41 countries in the year ending last June.

The largest part of that $121 billion in increased losses _ 41 percent _ was caused by shoplifting. Overall, the increased losses in the U.S. and 40 other countries cost each family $208 in higher prices for goods.

Retailers are in a bind, Chroust said, because they probably can’t afford to hire as many loss-prevention officers as they would like.

“They have to make do with what they have to sty this,” he said.

However, more retailers are using high-tech tools, such as wires with electronic sensors wrapped around boxes of high-end items and smart cameras that send signals over the Internet.

As for gift cards, which were widely stolen last year, they now are useless at many stores unless a clerk has activated them at the time of purchase.

Shulman warned that December is the most dangerous time for recovering shoplifters or for those trying to stop.

Best they avoid going into stores entirely over the holidays, he said, and shop on the Internet instead and spend time with family and friends.

“There are a lot of things we can do that don’t involve going to stores willy-nilly,” he said.

And retailers probably would not mind losing those particul customers.

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Real horror for Rob Zombie

is getting stuck in genre

By Luis Arroyave
Chicago Tribune/MCT

CHICAGO — Rob Zombie has made a name for himself outside of music by writing and directing four horror films, including two "Halloween" movies, but now the 44-year-old heavy-metal legend feels it’s time to make a name for himself outside of the horror genre.

Zombie doesn’t know what his "coming out" project will be. He’s busy touring, his fourth solo studio album, "Hellbilly Deluxe 2," comes out Feb. 2, and he recently switched to Roadrunner Records after 18 years with Geffen.

But he knows he doesn’t want his next movie to be a horror flick.

“If you go down that road too far, it’s hard to break out of it,” said Zombie last week. “I don’t want to get stuck with anything. I want the freedom to do what I want to do.”

Zombie, whose real name is Robert Cummings, was attached to 2008’s "Punisher: War Zone" until he realized he wasn’t interested in directing the action film. He hopes his next film will be another action flick, "Tyranosaurus Rex," which is about a washed-up boxer who gets into the world of underground fighting after he’s released from prison.

There has also been talk of Zombie remaking "The Blob." The film, which has yet to get the green light, would mark Zombie’s second time remaking a horror monster. His 2007 "Halloween" remake grossed $80 million worldwide at the box office, but the film was met with backlash from fans who didn’t want to see the John Carpenter movie remade.

What did Zombie think of the criticism?

He didn’t care, he said, laughing.

Although there could be more "Halloween" movies, Zombie said he doesn’t expect to be part of them.

“I have no interest in it at all,” Zombie said.

“I made the second one because any John Carpenterness had been taken away by the end of the first movie, so it was ‘OK, this could be 100 percent my own thing.’ After that, me and the actors involved were like ‘Enough is enough.’”

For somebody who puts on a sweaty, high-energy metal show, Zombie is surprisingly laid back. He said he wasn’t always that way.

When he first stepped into the limelight, he felt like everything was “the end of the world.”

But now, 17 years after making his major label debut with his former band, White Zombie, he feels he is calmer and more carefree.

“I’m more relaxed about stuff,” said Zombie, who made eye contact once in the 10-min ute interview. “You’ve been there and done that, so it’s not your first time. Every time I make a movie, I’m more relaxed about it. It doesn’t mean it’s easier, but you know it’ll get done somehow.”

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Computers used for HW?

By Lucas Rodgers
Staff Reporter

DCCC liberal arts major Laura Alcawitz shocked fellow classmates and faculty this week by utilizing an on-campus computer for something productive: homework. While most students use the school computers for social networking or playing games, Alcawitz is ushering in a new era of productivity, using technology.

According to DCCC, 18-year-old Alcawitz said she was eager and determined to change the status quo. “It was really, pretty simple,” Alcawitz said. “I mean, I had to take an online quiz for a Western Civ. I class, so I figured, hey, why not use one of the school’s computers instead? All I needed was a login and password, which one of the students was using to take online classes. Also among the possessions were several wallets containing several active credit cards.

Laura Alcawitz sparks an academic revolution by using a school computer for homework.

won’t be able to harvest my crops on Farmville; she’ll be waiver and the rule is illegal.”

Despite all the controversy, Cornelius Mendenzahl, 23, a business major. “She can’t just come in here and expect to change our ways. This isn’t some kind of Learnautorium or something. It’s a college campus for crying out loud.”

Some students support Alcawitz’s technology-based, academic escapades, however. Her decision to utilize a school computer for homework is a step in the right direction, said Anna Vladinov, 19, a nursing specialist and first class CAFCA ranger. “It at least gives us a better idea of how the students are using the technology, especially for schoolwork.”

The issue of students following proper computer etiquette has been vexing DCCC staff for years. Hugo Glickenspiel, DCCC director of computers and staff, and chair of the recently formed Computer Appreciation Force Control Academia, or CAFCA, has been spearheading “Operation Livewire” to promote acceptable use of technology for academic purposes.

CAFCA plans to settle this dispute once and for all and finally find answers to the age-old questions: How do you determine what’s acceptable on campus and what’s not? Where do you draw the line between academic and personal? Why can’t students just ignore the professor and go on Facebook?

“We could put Internet blocks and filters on the computers, but at what cost?” said Mark Norton, a DCCC information technology specialist and first class CAFCA ranger. “It might impose upon the students’ right to freedom of speech.”

Some students feel they should have complete Internet access and freedom to use computers or other communication devices, such as cell phones, whenever they wish, even during class time.

“We’re paying tuition so we can take classes here, and we’re the ones who make the effort to come here, and we’re the ones who make the effort to show up and pay professors’ salaries,” said David Powers, 21, a humanities major. “We should be able to do whatever the [expletive] we want!”

It seems that the DCCC staff is just as conflicted as the students. “It’s about time students started using these blasted computers the right way,” said John Finkart, a psychology professor whose specialties are hypnosis and pyrokinesis. “The school spends all this money on ‘em and all the students do is screw around. It’s ridiculous.”

But some professors still refuse to even require the use of technology in their classrooms.

“Back in my day, no one ever heard of these confounded contraptions,” said Benjamin Bartley Prescott, who holds a doctorate in ancient wombat civilization. “I don’t see why we can’t simply use a good ol’ pen and pad. These darn calculatin’ machines are corrupting our youth and undermining the foundation of education.”

According to an anonymous tip, the DCCC board of directors will soon vote on a new regulation to completely ban personal computer use.

“Where can they even think about restricting our Internet access? If I can’t log in to Facebook, I wouldn’t be able to harvest my crops on Farmville; she’ll be waiver and the rule is illegal.”

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“Where can they even think about restricting our Internet access? If I can’t log in to Facebook, I
By Joe Giotti
Staff writer

In a dramatic turn of events, quarterback Donovan McNabb finally won the big one by leading the (11-5) Philadelphia Eagles down field in the final minutes to win Super Bowl XLIV at Dolphin Stadium in South Florida, 24-21, Feb.7, 2010 over Peyton Manning and the (13-3) Indianapolis Colts.

The Eagles, who were 10-point underdogs, closed their regular season with four straight victories and plowed their way through the NFC playoffs, their momentum carrying over just long enough to defeat Jim Caldwell and the Colts in the 44th annual crown of the NFL champion.

With just over three minutes to go, McNabb and the Philadelphia offense got the ball trailing 21-17, following an Indianapolis fourth quarter touchdown. McNabb capped off their game winning drive with a 24-yard touchdown pass to surprise mid-season acquisition Terrell Owens, with only three seconds remaining on the clock.

After three quarters of an epic battle between McNabb and Manning’s AFC champion Colts, Manning finally looked like he had been to the big game before. Manning drove the ball down the throat of the Philly defense, second half drought with a 19-yard touchdown pass to Reggie Wayne, the team’s number one wide receiver, to put Indianapolis up 21-17.

Coming out of the gate uncharacteristically slow, Indianapolis found itself trailing 10-0 after a 38-yard field goal on the opening drive by David Akers and a 11-yard screen pass to Brian Westbrook’s replacement, rookie LeSean McCoy, following an Asante Samuel interception of Manning on Indy’s first drive of the game.

“I knew I had to step up and play a game because Peyton is one of the league’s best,” Samuel said. “The defense just tried to make the late coach Johnson proud and I think we did that tonight.”

After rallying the troops, Manning was able to relax and slow down the tempo of the game. The former University of Tennessee star led back-to-back touchdown drives ending with a Dallas Clark nine-yard touchdown reception to make it 11-10 Indianapolis. The Manning to Clark connection wasn’t to be outdone, the previous drive ended with a 4-yard Joseph Addai touchdown plunge into the end zone.

“The Philadelphia defense was suffocating,” Manning said. “I knew I had to calm myself down and find a way to beat their aggressive approach.”

Indianapolis took their first lead of the game with only 2:13 left in the first half.

Prior to kickoff, McNabb and injury ridden Westbrook discussed the game plan with a pair of smiles, yet seemingly focused. This was a much different story in Super Bowl XXXIX when the Eagles lost to the New England Patriots, 24-21.

This time the Eagles looked completely in control as they drove the ball down the field with little trouble, until the drive stalled short of the end zone and Philadelphia had to settle for a David Akers field goal.

Manning never really found a rhythm or seemed comfortable after his first quarter interception he threw to cornerback Samuel on his fourth passing attempt of the day.

It was much of a defensive battle throughout the game until the second half when Philly finally broke through.

Midway through the third quarter, Indianapolis led 14-10, until McNabb took the field with a sense of determination. Indianapolis took the lead late in the first half and the defense seemed to be frustrating McNabb snap after snap. With only 5:32 left in the third quarter, the Eagles began to drive on the Indy defense and the Syracuse alum, McNabb, looked confident.

Trailing 14-10, the Eagles offense started after the drive at the 32-yard line and would eventually end with a 13 play, 68-yard drive. McNabb drove the team down field, scrambling like the Donovan of old, and he was having fun. The drive was capped off by a Michael Vick touchdown pass to seldom-used running back out of Tennessee-Chattanooga, Elda Buckley. This touchdown drive put the Eagles up 17-14.

Immediately following the Philadelphia score, Manning made a statement. He traveled the length of the field, passing for 48 yards and ended the drive with a 19-yard pass to Wayne with 10:12 remaining in the fourth and final quarter. This put Indy up 21-17.

After both teams’ offenses couldn’t get it going long enough to sustain a drive in the fourth quarter, both teams were forced to punt on successive drives.

Indianapolis punted to second-year receiver DeSean Jackson with only 3:03 remaining in regulation. The Philadelphia youngster was forced to call for a fair catch at the Philadelphia 21-yard line and this is where McNabb took over. University of Georgia’s Reggie Brown made back-to-back receptions totaling 24 yards to put Philadelphia up at its own 45-yard line.

After two rushes by Vick, the birds gained only five yards to make it third down, and they needed to get five more yards. McNabb was heavily rushed and seemed to have been destined for a sack, but miraculously escaped and ran down the sidelines all the way down to the Indianapolis 36-yard line where he was pushed out of play.

It was first and 10 on the 36-yard line with 1:09 remaining and it looked like Philly was in position to take the lead. McNabb took the ball from under center and handed it off to third string running back, Buckley and he motored for 12 yards, down to the 24.

The clock was ticking: 35, 34, 33. The ball was snapped and McNabb dropped back looking to pass. With defenders in his face, he avoided the rush and heaved the ball into the end zone. The stadium was quiet and the fans held their breath only to watch the ball hit the ground.

Now it was second down with 43 seconds left to play. The Eagles handed the ball off to fullback Jeremy Weaver, but he is stopped for no gain. The clock continues to tick, only 20 seconds to go.

Third and 10 and Philadelphia elected not to call their final timeout and they went no huddle. This caught the defense and first year coach, Caldwell off guard. McNabb received the snap with 12 seconds left. He faked the quick screen to rookie Jeremy Maclin and threw a strike to Owens, standing almost all alone for the go ahead touchdown.

With only three seconds left, Akers added the extra point to make it 24-17 Philadelphia and the stadium was shell-shocked. Aker’s kicked off on the ensuing drive and booted it two yards deep into the end zone. It was caught by Manning and he ran it out. He halted to the sideline and sent a bullet to the left hash, but Wayne was brought down as soon as he made the catch, and the clock read triple zeroes.

Philadelphia finally broke the drought and won the Super Bowl.

“I’m really proud of these guys, especially Donovan,” said head coach Andy Reid. “He’s taken so much criticism ever since we drafted him before the 1999 season and throughout his 11-year career. And mark my words, this is a start of a dynasty here in Philly!”

Contact Joe Giotti at communitarian@mail.dccc.edu

This blonde Dallas Cowboys fan reinforces the stereotype that cute blondes can’t spill.
**TECHNOLOGY**

**Gadgets: Gift ideas for your holiday shopping**

By Gregg Ellman (MCT)

Black Friday has come and gone and if you’re like me, you barely made a dent in your holiday shopping list. Here’s a batch of gift suggestions to choose from; some are useful and some are just for fun.

Digital photo frames have been popular for several years, but the technology is so much better along with packing in addition user-friendly features.

The Pandigital with Pantouch 8-inch frame is the leader of the pack and holds a whopping 6,400 images. The touch screen allows users simply touch anywhere on the glass frame to access them or use the included remote control.

To load up the frame with your files, insert a memory card in the built-in 6-in-1 memory card reader on the side. Images can also be stored in the 1GB of internal memory.

With a screen resolution of 800 by 600, users will see photos displayed without cropping or distortion. Users can load any combination of digital photos (JPG), videos (AVI) or audio (MP3) files.

For connectivity, it is Wi-Fi and Bluetooth compatible and has a USB mini and 2.0 port. Additional features include a real-time clock with an alarm, calendar, a headphone jack and microphone. Details: www.pandigital.net, $99.99.

The iLUV iNT170 Internet Radio has access to more than 15,000 stations and podcasts from all over the planet. Users will find the powerful sound iLUV is known for with jAura Soundcell Technology through the built-in speakers.

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From there the menus are incredibly easy to navigate on the LCD using the included wireless remote. They are powered with 2 AAA batteries (included) and require no setup.

You might think programming something like this is difficult, but it takes just a few minutes from unpacking to listening to some tunes. When you turn the unit on, it searches for a WiFi connection. Then, you select one and enter your password (assuming the connection requires one).

Users of any of the latest iPhone and iPod won’t have any problem fitting the device in the dock and also syncs with a computer. The unit also acts a charger when a device is docked and also syncs with a computer.

An infrared remote is included and has a 30-foot range. With the remote you can select specific content, control volume and pause or play the selections.

For Mac users a perfect companion for any of these is the Blukey, a wireless Bluetooth keyboard for Mac ($69.99).

This is an extended full-sized 108 key unit, which also works on 2-AAA batteries for up to 2 months. Details: www.macally.com.

Colfax’s Macbook storage sleeve, called The Original, is exactly as described to me by a company representative _ unique and a welcome change from the competition.

The notebook cover is made by hand with all natural environmentally friendly fabrics. The heavy padding provides valuable laptop protection from dents, dust and scratches, while being stored in a fashionable case. A pocket is on the outside to store a power source or other small accessories.

Accessories include black, brown, sherpa and red. They fit laptops from the 12-inch iBook up to a 17-inch MacBook pro. Obviously users of other brands of laptops can make use of the sleeves, just make sure you get the right size. Details: www.colcasac.com, $30.

Contact Gregg Ellman at greggellman@mac.com.

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**‘Halo’ RC vehicles will give fans more freedom**

Game Informer Magazine (MCT)

"Halo" fans know the UNSC Warthog is sturdy enough to travel over just about anything, including your neighbor's dog. These N2O RC vehicles are modeled after "Halo 3"s" vehicle fleet. Roll over Covenant troopers with the M12 Warthog and the Mongoose, or take to the skies with the Hornet. Details: $24.99 (Warthog, Mongoose), $34.99 (Hornet); find them on Amazon.com.

For more video game news and reviews, check out the latest issue of Game Informer or visit the magazine's Web site at www.gameinformer.com.

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In Kabul, U.N. workers cope by cooking

by Dion Nissenbaum
McClatchy Newspapers
(MCT)

KABUL — When Susan Marx was awoken before dawn last month with word that United Nations colleagues across town were under attack, the 32-year-old human rights researcher did the only thing she could think of to calm her nerves: bake.

With ominous, conflicting reports streaming in, Marx and her husband, United Nations program manager Chris Serjak, retreated to their kitchen to bake pumpkin muffins with walnuts, cinnamon and semi-sweet chocolate chips.

“When bad things happen: Bake,” Serjak, 34, wrote later that day on “Foodie in a War zone,” a blog the couple write on their efforts to cultivate their culinary passions while living in one of the poorest countries in the world.

That quest for normalcy has grown more difficult in the weeks since militants killed eight people during the assault on a United Nations’ guesthouse in Kabul.

Marx, a South African by birth, said she nearly lost her marriage one Thanksgiving when she blithely suggested to her American husband that they serve rosemary roasted potatoes instead of traditional mashed potatoes.

“Food is a glue for community,” said Marx. “It’s extraordinarily important to take pause and fort food it what it is. Comfort through food.”

Sejk wrote: “A bit of normalcy in the midst of lunacy.”

Seasoned aid workers like Serjak and Marx worry that Kabul could become “another Baghdad,” with more attacks aimed at the U.N. eventually forcing the vast network of international aid groups to close shop and leave Afghani stan.

That would undermine a critical cornerstone in the shaky international efforts to transform Afghanistan into a stable democracy.

Things in Baghdad deteriorated rapidly after a suicide bomber hit the U.N. headquarters in August 2003, killing 22 people, including the head of the mission, Brazilian diplomat Sergio Vieira de Mello.

The U.N. dramatically scaled back its presence in Iraq, and it was four years before it began beefing up its staff again.

Plenty of people view as overblown the worry that Kabul could become “another Baghdad.” Still, in the wake of the guesthouse attack, the U.N. moved rapidly to scale back what had been its largest political mission in the world, with 1,100 international aid workers doing everything from overseeing the nation’s elections to building housing for refugees.

Hundreds of “non-essential” staff were sent to Dubai and other nearby locations. Many others who were on vacation outside of the country were told not to come back to Afghanistan.

Those still working in Kabul now are being relocated from guesthouses and homes to austere, better-protected U.N. compounds.

The U.N. has imposed new travel restrictions limiting where its staff can go around town.

The War Zone Foodies worry the changes could mean this was the last Thanksgiving they’d be able to host in their temporary Kabul home.

The couple — who met more than a decade ago outside a bar in Palo Alto, Calif. — first became War Zone Foodies in Baghdad, where they worked on development projects.

Known for their meals, they convinced private security contractors to regularly escort dozens of Omaha steaks from Baghdad’s airport to their compound in the Green Zone.

In 2006 — their first Thanksgiving in Iraq — the couple helped cook a half dozen turkeys for more than 50 people.

They took up their current assignment in Kabul in 2007, and have found themselves with much more freedom to go out, have friends over and to build a comparatively comfortable life.

Preparing for Thanksgiving in a country that doesn’t celebrate the American holiday is always a challenge. So the Foodies spent weeks plotting, preparing and planning.

During one recent break in Kabul, the couple filled a refrigerated travel bag with fresh cranberries, sweet potatoes and, because they could, avocados. They will use celery from their garden to make the stuffing. And friends at the U.S. Embassy are providing them with fresh turkeys to feed dozens of friends and colleagues.

Preparing for Thanksgiving in a country that doesn’t celebrate the American holiday is always a challenge. So the Foodies spent weeks plotting, preparing and planning.

Upon returning home in January, the couple plan to serve rosemary roasted potatoes and other traditional American dishes.

“Food is a glue for community,” said Marx. “It’s extraordinarily important to take pause and say, ‘It’s a rough mission, but we’re all here and what brings us together is our togetherness.’ ”

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“Food is a glue for community,” said Marx. “It’s extraordinarily important to take pause and say, ‘It’s a rough mission, but we’re all here and what brings us together is our togetherness.’ ”

The morning of the guesthouse attack, Marx said cooking in the kitchen with her husband seemed like the most natural thing to do.

“We were together in the kitchen, it’s warm, you could smell the pumpkin,” she said. “Comfort food it what it is. Comfort through food.”

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Photo courtesy by Dion Nissenbaum/MCT
‘Tempest’ presents strong stage presence

By Tim Brennan
Co-Managing Editor

The DCCC theater department’s interpretation of William Shakespeare’s “The Tempest” was nothing short of spectacular. Nick Roscioli led the way as Prospero who, after being unjustly left for dead at sea by his brother Antonio and Alonso, the king of Naples, gets his chance at revenge.

When a ship carrying Antonio and Alonso passes Prospero’s island, he raises a great storm to shipwreck them with the help of his servant Ariel.

The tale ultimately ends with forgiveness. Roscioli did a great job displaying Prospero’s wide range of emotions throughout the story showing satisfaction whenever Ariel completed a task, as well as anger and frustration anytime Ariel questioned him.

He also turned out in an excellent performance as Ariel. He commanded the stage very well, showing his grace and elegance as he danced around.

Canavaro did a great job with his reactions to Prospero, displaying frustration over his servitude but also covering in fits anytime Prospero became angry with him. He sold the character perfectly, especially at the end when Prospero releases him. Prospero holds out his hand to be shook, and Ariel begins extending his hand out but quickly pulls it back and runs off stage with a humorous grin.

The show was also highlighted by the romance of Prospero’s daughter Miranda, and Alonso’s son Ferdinand, played by Alandra Lawler and Henry Ventura.

The two showed great on stage chemistry, constantly trying to catch each other’s eye and sharing several long romantic gazes.

Other standout performances were given by Greg Friedrich as Antonio, Alexander Fraser as Caliban, Terence Solomon as Stephano, and Jennifer Tiniawon as Trinculo.

However the strength of the show was not exclusive to the acting. Director Stephen Smith utilized every element of the show to share his vision of this classic Shakespeare play.

The blocking was very good and maximized the very small stage that limited the actors. They each navigated the set effectively, exiting the stage from multiple points and being very on cue.

Speaking of the set, it was constructed beautifully with the floor painted to look like sand and several tall prop trees that gave a convincing island feel. Also two large prop hands, helped Prospero’s power resonate even more, one of which was used for Caliban’s entrance as he emerged from within it.

The music played a big role as well. Compiled by Assistant Professor of Music, Richard Belcastro, the music was done in an upbeat reggae style that perfectly captured the story’s theme of forgiveness.

Not to be outdone by the music though, was the choreography. The dance scenes were choreographed by Danamurrie Every, Assistant Professor of Speech/Communication. The dancers, especially the fairies, moved very fluidly around the stage and were consistently in sync.

However, from a production value standpoint, the costumes stole the show. The costumes, designed by 22-year-old fashion design major Mack McKinney, did a great job bringing each character to life.

The royalty figures were clearly separated from everyone else by the nice, gangster-like suits they were wearing. Prospero, with a small gold and black vest, as well as hair sprayed gray, was made to look like the wise and powerful character he is.

The characters of Miranda and Ferdinand were made to look like the young and innocent characters they are. Miranda wearing an elegant teal and red dress, while Ferdinand was given somewhat of a gothic look with very tight clothing.

This all added up to a very strong and well rounded performance. The theater department at DCCC is putting together a very nice tradition, that encourages all students and staff to support them now and in the future.

Contact Tim Brennan
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Childhood revisited — ‘Where the Wild Things Are’

By Leslie McDonnell
Junior Editor

“Where the Wild Things are,” directed by Spike Jonze and based on the book by Maurice Sendak, takes a serious in depth look at childhood and dissect its emotional impact.

The film is a glimpse into what it is like to feel like a child and follows Max an 8 to 9 year-old boy confronted by a storm of emotions.

Although Jonze directed “Where the Wild Things are” to stay true to the likeness of the popular children’s book, Jonze said it isn’t a children’s film.

“I didn’t set out to make a children’s movie,” Jonze said during HBO’s Making of “Where the Wild Things Are.” “I set out to make a movie about childhood.”

In that aspect, he succeeded.

Although the movie is rated PG, it’s very dark and violent at times. Max and the Wild Things have a mean streak that, if not for the delightful music, could cause them to act out in a destructive way.

Max and the Wild Things represent Max’s emotions and is just a boy.

Becoming aware that Max isn’t truly the king he claimed to be, promises the wild things that he will make everything better.

Each Wild Thing has its own unique personality trait: distrustful, anti-social, angry, lonely, naive, and so on. They represent the emotions living inside of Max that he is trying to control.

Max and the Wild Things interact wonderfully for a while, having fun and being wild. They build bonds as they create a huge fort to live in together with the ambition of sleeping in one big pile. But eventually the Wild Things turn on him and become aware that Max isn’t truly the king he claimed to be, and is just a boy.

Max leaves the wild things and returns home, and back to reality. But, it is unclear whether Max has learned anything. The point of the Wild Things representing Max’s emotions is clear to adults, but perhaps not to children, leading to the question: Who is the intended audience for this film? It is very violent and deep for a children’s movie, yet too simplistic to satisfy adults.

Regardless of the target demographic being unclear, the visual and special effects are fantastic. Moviegoers can feel the “realness” of the world created by Max’s imagination because to him, it is real.

Jonze does a great job of transporting the viewer into a fantasy world with stunning visuals, including Max’s oceanic voyage to the island of Wild Things and the dirt clod fight scene.

Jonze had the approval and support of Sendak while making this film.

“The film has an entire emotional, visual life which is as valid as the book,” Sendak said. “He’s done it like me but in a more brilliant modern, fantastical way which takes nothing from my book but enhances [and] enriches my book.”

With acknowledgement like that from the author, it is difficult to say anything bad about the film. But the movie still has its weak points. At times, some scenes seem to drag on and the viewer is left wondering, “Where is this going?”

And although it is clear that Max is confronting his emotions, there is no real lesson learned when Max returns home. His experience with the Wild Things led to no apparent revelation or epiphany.

Overall, I rate the movie a 7 out of 10. Rent it instead of seeing it in theaters. It might be worth the five bucks at Blockbuster, but not the $11 at the theater, unless of course you’re a diehard Sendak fan.

After all, childhood is painful enough without having to pay and relieve some of the turmoil of youth brought up in the movie.

Still, the story is unique like Max, who is one of a kind kid.

“I like the way you destroy stuff,” Carol, (James Gandolfini), told Max when they first met. “Good technique. There’s a spark to your work that can’t be taught.”

Contact Leslie McDonnell
Basketball team carries on with new players, coach

By Joe Giotti
Staff writer

DCCC men’s basketball team heads into the 2009 season with first year head coach, Johnny Woods, a social studies teacher at Lindenwold High School in New Jersey, and a whole new starting lineup.

The Phantoms are looking to fill some big holes after losing key departures such as Roderick Haynes, who went on to further his education and basketball career at Lock Haven University and Derrick Evans, a 2008 Eastern Pennsylvania Collegiate All-Conference selection.

The team is looking forward to big things from education majors Zak Thomas, 21, and Tyrek Rambert, 19, as well as Steven “Chunky” Thompson, 20, who is currently undecided on his major, to improve on a 2008 record of 7 wins and 12 losses.

Last year, the Phantoms made it to the Eastern Pennsylvania Collegiate Conference (EPCC) playoffs, but eventually lost to league champion Lehigh Carbon Community College.

Woods believes there are advantages and disadvantages with having a new group, but feels the positives outweigh the negatives.

“One down side is that most of this year’s team has never played together,” Woods said. “This may result in a lack of team chemistry.”

On the other hand, he feels that with having a new squad, everybody has a clean slate and everything is new and exciting.

Woods said team chemistry takes time, but when they do get there, they will be a handful for any team to handle on the court.

“We’re just ironing out the wrinkles right now,” Rambert said. “Things are moving a little slowly, but as a team we’re definitely progressing.”

Woods and assistant coach Anthony Marks plan on running a couple of offenses, including the flex and the high-low offense, to allow each of their players to become an offensive threat.

For the defense, Woods plans on being extremely aggressive, jumping from man-to-man assignments to zone sets throughout the game.

“The coaches show us a lot of support,” said Baba Jide, 19, a liberal arts major. “They are patient with us and they have a high basketball IQ.”

The young Phantoms have first quarter energy that few teams can compete with, but they’ve had their fair share of fourth quarter troubles, which can account for their record being below expectations.

“The Phantoms are wireless in six games, but hope to change that tonight at Bucks County Community College at 8 p.m.” Rambert added. “But not for long. That will soon change!”

“The team as a whole is dealing with problems in the right manner and we are taking everything as a learning experience,” Jide added.

“Things are moving a little slowly, but as a team we’re definitely progressing.”

“We started off not knowing many of our teammates,” said Andrew Johnson Jr., director of Wellness, Athletics and Recreation. “The team has a lot of talent and potential to turn the season around,” Johnson added. “All home games are that tonight at Bucks County Community College at 8 p.m.”

“Right now the team is 0-6,” Rambert added. “But not for long. That will soon change!”

The team as a whole is dealing with problems in the right manner and we are taking everything as a learning experience, Jide added.

“This is a slow process, but the team is beginning to gel,” said Andrew Johnson Jr., director of Wellness, Athletics and Recreation. “The team has a lot of talent and potential to turn things around in the right direction.”

Although the team started the season off in the wrong direction, fans and players believe the team is making strides in the right direction.

“We started off not knowing many of our teammates,” Rambert said. “We weren’t getting as a unit and we were thinking about the individual instead of the team. Now that we are getting to know each other off the court, we’re beginning to develop trust, which will then bring wins and then playoffs.”

“Come out to support and help your fellow classmates turn the season around,” Johnson added. “All home games are played in Bruder Gymnasium, located on Neumann University’s campus.”

Contact: Joe Giotti at communitarian@mail.dccc.edu

Left to Right Back Row: Babajide Aiyebo, Steven Thompson, Keenan Rand, Mark Kieh, Manager Dameian Winns, and Coach Johnny Woods.

Left to Right Front Row: Assistant Coach Anthony Marks, Patrizio Capolli, Dwayne Deloatch, Daniel Diez-Merida, Tyrek Rambert, and Nathan Wyatt.

Thompson told The Communitarian that The Phantoms beat Johnson College 74-64 on Tuesday, Dec. 1, the same night this photo was taken.

Woods said he has many goals to accomplish this year, on and off the court.

“As a team, our goal is to get better every day and we want to make it back to the playoffs,” Woods said. “Here at DCCC, I am given a great opportunity to help mold good basketball players and young men into great basketball players and even better men.”

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