One’s first impression of Elizabeth “B.J.” Pearsall, R.N., BSN, a professor of perioperative nursing at Delaware County Community College, is that she is exactly the type of person that could comfort a patient’s anxieties about having surgery. This self described “healer” has kind eyes and a sensitive demeanor when she speaks about her experiences in nursing. She is also a 10-year survivor of breast cancer and has undergone surgeries herself. “It helped me put myself in the patient’s place,” said Pearsall about her surgery experience. “It has given me more empathy and I am more attuned to the patient’s fears.” Pearsall has been teaching at DCCC for more than 10 years. She enjoys being a part of DCCC’s Allied Health and Nursing program and working with Jane Rothrock, RN D.N.Sc., the head of the perioperative nursing and surgical technology program, she said. “I like the atmosphere of academic,” Pearsall said. Nursing and Allied Health are two of the most popular majors at DCCC, and Pearsall was attracted to nursing because she thought it was a secure field, she said. However, she understands that this may not be the case anymore. “It’s a real uphill battle,” he said, “not knowing which reports that registered nurses have the largest number of healthcare jobs, with 2.5 million jobs in the United States. Registered nurses also have one of the largest growing occupations in the United States and are expected to generate about 587,000 new jobs from 2006-2016. About 59 percent of these jobs are in hospitals and 51 percent in outpatient care. Nursing jobs in physician’s offices and home health care services are expected to grow considerably faster then in hospitals because more procedures, including surgery, are being done on an outpatient basis, in or outside of hospitals, according to the BLS.

An average of two perioperative nurses per surgical technician is needed per surgery, according to the National Center for Biotechnology Information. Pearsall was attracted to nursing because she thought it was a secure field, she said. However, in the past few years, nursing has been attracting more interest from students. The number of students applying to nursing school is rapidly increasing and approaching levels not seen since the late 1970s, said former Army Sgt. Michael Clifford, 26, veteran and vice president of the association. The association’s primary mission, according to Clifford’s wife, former Army Cpl. Victoria Clifford, 25, is to “ease the tension and frustration” that DCCC veterans face upon their return to civilian life by informing them of available benefits and helping them to network with other veterans. Victoria Clifford is the president of the association. Michael Clifford said he had a difficult time returning to the workforce in November 2005 after spending nearly five years in the service. His transition was particularly difficult, he believes, because his return home coincided with the beginning of the current recession. “It was a real uphill battle,” he said, “not knowing what programs were specifically engineered for veterans.” The Cliffords, both of whom spent time in Iraq and, most recently, Germany said they are committed to helping veterans reconnect to society through the association. They are aided by faculty advisor and Vietnam veteran Michael Sestak and David Castor, a student association officer and liaison to Congressman Joseph Sestak. While attendees enjoyed cookies, crackers, cheese and pretzel nuggets, they picked up several handouts from a one-inch stack that outlined the benefits and services available to veterans, as well as their eligibility requirements. The benefits range from health care to housing loans, and are offered by agencies on the local, state and federal level. The association’s goal, in the very near future, is to have an easy-to-navigate Web site “instead of a table full of papers,” Victoria Clifford said. At the reception, members signed a guest book so they could be notified of future events and other important information. During the mid 1970s, the veterans club was the largest club on campus, according to DCCC faculty member Dennis Davis, Student veterans, Professor Linda Darkin and Labron Shuman, and financial aid adviser Annette Kelly were instrumental in reactivating the organization, now referred to as an association, nearly a year ago when they planted a tree in dedication of Veterans’ Day, said Durkin. The association is still relatively small, but its officers believe this will change soon. They stressed that the association is not only for veterans, but also for anyone who knows a veteran. “We want to cast a net out to as many as will grab onto it,” Michael Clifford said. Contact Walbert Young at communitarian@mail.dccc.edu

Photo by Walbert Young

The Armed Forces Information and Networking Association hosted a reception on Veterans’ Day to recognize, support and show appreciation for veterans who attend DCCC. About 30 students and faculty members attended the event, which was held in the cafè on main campus. The association has been working to reestablish its presence after being out of service since the Vietnam War, members said. The number of veterans in the school is rapidly increasing and approaching levels not seen since the late 1970s, said former Army Sgt. Michael Clifford, 26, veteran and vice president of the association. The association’s primary mission, according to Clifford’s wife, former Army Cpl. Victoria Clifford, 25, is to “ease the tension and frustration” that DCCC veterans face upon their return to civilian life by informing them of available benefits and helping them to network with other veterans. Victoria Clifford is the president of the association. Michael Clifford said he had a difficult time returning to the workforce in November 2005 after spending nearly five years in the service. His transition was particularly difficult, he believes, because his return home coincided with the beginning of the current recession. “It was a real uphill battle,” he said, “not knowing what programs were specifically engineered for veterans.” The Cliffords, both of whom spent time in Iraq and, most recently, Germany said they are committed to helping veterans reconnect to society through the association. They are aided by faculty advisor and Vietnam veteran Michael Sestak and David Castor, a student association officer and liaison to Congressman Joseph Sestak. While attendees enjoyed cookies, crackers, cheese and pretzel nuggets, they picked up several handouts from a one-inch stack that outlined the benefits and services available to veterans, as well as their eligibility requirements. The benefits range from health care to housing loans, and are offered by agencies on the local, state and federal level. The association’s goal, in the very near future, is to have an easy-to-navigate Web site “instead of a table full of papers,” Victoria Clifford said. At the reception, members signed a guest book so they could be notified of future events and other important information. During the mid 1970s, the veterans club was the largest club on campus, according to DCCC faculty member Dennis Davis, Student veterans, Professor Linda Darkin and Labron Shuman, and financial aid adviser Annette Kelly were instrumental in reactivating the organization, now referred to as an association, nearly a year ago when they planted a tree in dedication of Veterans’ Day, said Durkin. The association is still relatively small, but its officers believe this will change soon. They stressed that the association is not only for veterans, but also for anyone who knows a veteran. “We want to cast a net out to as many as will grab onto it,” Michael Clifford said. Contact Walbert Young at communitarian@mail.dccc.edu
DCCC maintenance man Richard Doney remembers the day his doctor told him, “You’ll never use your hands again.” After a head-on car collision, Doney experienced paralysis on the right side of his body, in addition to the severe damage of his hands. Although he was one year away from graduating as a machinist, he was unable to complete his certificate because of his hand injuries. So 32 years ago, Doney took a job as a Delaware County Community College maintenance man, hoping that working would strengthen the right side of his injured body.

Now Doney is a self-proclaimed “mop-jockey,” whose hands are worn and rough from sculpting and molding wood into functional art. These same hands delicately perform the whittling and smoothing of tiny pieces of art, collected and stored in many a customer’s home. Doney also taught a wood carving class his first 10 years at DCCC. When he became interested in carving wood, Doney said he didn’t know where to begin. So he created a course for students who wanted to learn how to carve wood, but didn’t know how to get started. His hope was to inspire and guide others through a process he had traveled alone.

Eventually, he was forced to stop teaching so that he could devote all his energy and focus toward his father, who was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s.

Doney exhibited his work while caring for his ailing father. Through the years, his work has won countless first, second or third place ribbons at the Media Art Fair. Doney creates his winning pieces in a barn’s renovated horse stall decorated with stained glass windows. He tore down the walls and insulated the 9 foot by 18 foot space, producing his own studio.

Doney draws inspiration from nature and all that surrounds him. He searches the landscape for elegant organic forms that he can replicate in wood. He has mimicked the shape of nature, following the line, building the contour, influencing the curve, casting the essence in sculpted wood.

He puts the bowl back on the lathe and power sands it. Up to 20 times each time the bowl is oiled before the bowl can be sanded again. He alternates power sanding with oiling, until the oil has completely permeated the wood. The exterior can be buffed to a silky finish and or notched, a process used to texture the exterior with divots. A unique piece is produced each time.

Last summer, he planted a community garden on the estate, where he rents his studio from another tenant, whose children help care for the garden, working and learning beside Doney. “We grew tomatoes, beets, sweet potatoes, carrots and broccoli,” he said, adding, he’s thinking of building a green house in the future to house the garden year round.

Doney has commented on the number of unhappy people in the world. Despite an overabundance of instant gratification, Doney said people are still left feeling “empty and dissatisfied.” Being able to do something for yourself is more interesting and rewarding, he said.

Doney draws inspiration from nature and all that surrounds him. He searches the landscape for elegant organic forms that he can replicate in wood. He has mimicked the shape of nature, following the line, building the contour, influencing the curve, casting the essence in sculpted wood.

He peruses the local area, constantly seeking to rekindle his stock of wood. When someone has a tree cut down he will approach the individual and offer a proposal.

One such barter produced a set of salad bowls for a mother. Her son was marrying soon. She lamented the loss of the tree. Doney wished to take, telling of the years her son had spent climbing from branch to branch while still a small boy. The tree became a salad bowl set, a wedding gift, and a piece of someone’s childhood forever commemorated in a functional piece of art.

Doney tries to educate people about wood, including its care, protection, and enduring quality. He wants people to appreciate the medium.

“It’s not just something that drops leaves on your property,” he said. “I look at a tree and think look at all those salad bowls.” He feels most rewarded when customers approach him and say how Doney’s piece is even more beautiful today than it was 20 years ago when they bought it.

His infatuation with wood began as a 10-year-old boy, crafting skis, stilts, house signs and benches, in elementary woodshop. Through the years his skills have transitioned him from carpenter to craftsman to artist. His work is priced from $10 for a bottle stopper to $65 for a salad bowl. The most popular item is the salad bowl sets, Doney said. He sells so many bowls he’s been told he should write a salad dressing book.

Another customer told Doney if he bought anymore bowls he’d have to build an addition on to his house.

Doney’s most valued piece resides in the Temple Chapel in Philadelphia. He was contracted to repair and replace the decorative wood supports also known as finials or corbels, which run perpendicular to the chapel ceiling.

Whether large or small, Doney said, he puts the same quality workmanship into all his work. “I try to go the extra distance,” he said, “in all that I do.”

Doney’s work can be seen at the upcoming Wayne Art Show, which includes the “Reflections of Radnor Township” exhibit. It runs from mid-February through March 2009. He has won the “Reflections of Radnor Township Award” two years in a row. Retirement is looming in the future for Doney. He still tops and talks of exploring new avenues, continually learning, expanding, and perhaps building a Web site, maybe some teaching.

Wood and all that it entails for Doney will follow him wherever his path may turn, he said. “I love carving wood,” he added. “Doney’s not come into it.”

His motto is that if you do something you love, you will always find happiness.

“Everybody smiles at something,” he said. “That’s what they should do.”

Contact Catherine Gledhill at communitarian@mail.dccc.edu

Theater troupe brings Shakespeare to life

By Katy O’Dwyer
Staff writer

Carrying her letter in hand, Malvolio seeks his mistress, the countess Olivia, to embrace her confession of love. “Sweet lady, ho, ho,” he greets the object of his affection, displaying the yellow stockings she presumably admired in a letter.

But his display of affection is in vain because someone else wrote the letter. The tricky maid and uncle of the countess forgot Olivia’s handwriting as a joke, and Malvolio is throw into a jail cell for making advances toward Olivia.

Such farcical scenes were brought to life on stage by the DCCC student troupe in a somewhat modernized performance of William Shakespeare’s “Twelfth Night,” which ran from Nov. 12 through the 22 in the large auditorium on the Marple Campus in Media. “Twelfth Night” is set on the ancient Mediterranean island Illyria and mostly centers around Viola, a shipwrecked woman whose identity is masked by men’s clothing while she searches for her twin brother, all the while posing as one of Duke Orsino’s gentlemen. Cross dressing, mistaken identity, trickery, and unrequited love pepper this classic Elizabethan comedy, and the director seem eager to take on the task of performing the difficult piece.

The director, theater professor Stephen Smith, wants to make Delaware County Community College a destination for the arts, he said. “Twelfth Night” and the first DCCC Performing Arts Festival, two projects that seem ready to take on the task of performing the difficult piece.

Because of his ties to many theater schools and independent troupes, as well as years of experience as a professional actor and director, Smith believes he has the ability to beef up DCCC’s theater scene.

“We’ve just started a Shakespeare course,” Smith said, because he feels Shakespeare’s plays are something every actor should know how to perform.

“This is my first Shakespeare play,” said Greg Friedrich, 19, who plays Valentine. Most of the actors in “Twelfth Night” are in one of Smith’s theater classes. “All my theater students are required to see the play,” Smith said, though enrollment in a theater class is not required to perform in a production.

“I’m not a big Shakespeare actor,” said Michael Tambon, 21, who plays Antonio. “But the director really knows how to work with students, and explains everything [about the play] to us.”

All performers said that working with Smith was their favorite part of acting at DCCC, second to working with their fellow cast members.

“I like the cast,” said Friedrick, a first semester liberal arts major who is acting in his first DCCC production. “We all have a good chemistry,” he said.

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Terence Salmon, Marino Canavarro, and Nick Roscioli as Sir Andrew Augecheek, Feste the Clown, and Sir Toby Belch.

(Photograph by Rowland Barnum)
By Joe Smith
Executive Editor

“Dave Schultz is going to break my head open,” I couldn’t help thinking. “I’m going to get beaten senseless by an ex-Flyer in the middle of a wine tasting, of all things.”

After an hour or so, the band mercifully went on behind the scenes at a Flyers game. I said, “I’m going to get the waltz,” and they said, “You’re right, because at one point somebody confused them with college newspaper reporters with busted cameras.”

Leaving Coatesy and the Zambonis behind, I found myself in the area designated for the post game press conferences, which is a lot smaller than you’d think. I can only imagine how cramped it gets after games, choked with reporters asking questions of the players and coaches.

We made our way out to the concourse area, and along the way, it hit me that every single game, this was not how I envisioned my night would begin. But there I was, standing in the Wachovia Center’s Cadillac Grill, two hours before face-off, ready to accept the dent in my skull that was surely coming.

Fortunately for me, Shauna’s fearsome reputation, built upon routine facial rearrangements of his opponents’ faces, does not extend to college newspaper reporters with busted cameras.

“Don’t worry about it,” Schultz said. “We’ll try it again once you get it worked out.”

As he walked away, I took a moment to appreciate his congeniality before resuming my duties as a reporter. For the time being, that meant taking part in the unveiling of signature wines from both Schultz and fellow legend Bobby Clarke.

The Cadillac Grille, although certainly appropriate for the event, couldn’t be further from the usual experience of a Flyers game. The muted, purple-tinged lighting, three-piece jazz band, and plates overflowing with hors d’oeuvres just scored, giving the Flyers a 1-0 lead less than a minute into the game. The players were introduced, and it was time for the national anthem. As Lauren Hart began her stirring rendition of “The Star Spangled Banner,” Adams motioned for me to peak around the curtain, and I was greeted with quite a sight: Hart, bathed in spotlight, before a crowd of 20,000 fans. From where I was, I could almost imagine all those eyes pointed down on me.

After the lights came back on — and with a grin still plastered on my face — I was nearly floored when Hart graciously let me take a picture with her. No sooner had I started mugging for the camera than perhaps the loudest foghorn in creation blared out behind me. Simon Gagne had just scored, giving the Flyers a 1-0 lead less than a minute into the game.

“That’s a good sign,” Hart said. “Maybe you’re good luck.”

I have since considered asking Flyers management to let me hang out in the tunnel for every game, for the good of the team.

With the game underway, I made my way back to the press box. It was much busier than an hour before, with media personnel, Flyers staff, and scratched players making use of the area.

After taking full advantage of the complimentary snacks, I looked for a spot from which to watch the rest of the game. The space reserved for Flyers press was full of reporters hunched over their laptops, so I sat down in enemy, but not exactly hostile, territory.

Hunched over the short glass partition in the uppermost area of the arena, I had a much different view of the crowd than 15 minutes earlier.

While admiring the view, it wasn’t long before I was nearly blasted out of my seat by announcer Lou Nolan. You see, the speakers that pipe out the announcements, music, and sound effects for the whole arena are hung from the ceiling, and positioned in such a way as to maximize hearing damage for those in the press box.

Remember that unbelievably loud horn? Thanks to a Mike Knuble goal with 20 seconds left in the first period, my hearing may never fully recover.

Over the remaining two periods, I watched as the Flyers downed the Atlanta Thrashers 4-3. But the game was secondary to the things I saw before the puck even dropped.

As I walked to my car, reading myself for the joys of post game traffic, I realized that most fans will never get to explore the stadium like I did, see the things I saw, or meet the people I met.

Of course, the next time I go to a Flyers game I’ll be sitting in the same old upper level seats I’ve grown accustomed to. But while my vantage point will not be any different than it has been forever the years, the view will never be the same.

Contact Joe Smith at communitarian@mail.dccc.edu

Above, a view from the press box shows Flyers fans enjoying highlights of previous hockey fights. Below, my hockey fans dream of driving the Zamboni during a game. This is as close as I’ll ever get.

(Photos by Brian McGroarty/Courtesy of Shauna Adams)

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Show respect for the new president

By Anthony Leone
Graphic Design Editor

Maybe it’s a generational thing. The previous generation was fighting two unpopular wars: a combative one in Vietnam and a civil rights one on the home front.

More than 40 years ago, that young generation was split into two groups: one showing respect for the establishment and the other spitting in its eye.

And as time went by, it seems as if each new generation grew bolder in showing disrespect with elected leaders to the point where it went beyond petty remarks to downright nasty comments.

These new attitudes have become increasingly brazen and shameful towards the president in recent years.

Many Americans, sadly, were atrocious and downright belligerent to President George W. Bush these last eight years, as a recent example.

Many have allowed their political bias to take over, causing them to call Bush stupid, a murderer and a warmonger, with little regard to the fact that he is the President of the United States of America.

A lot of these same people have childishly said that he is not their president because they did not elect him.

And sadly, this same immature demeanor has unjustly been aimed at President-Elect Barack Obama. Because certain people cannot see beyond either his skin color or simply his political beliefs, they have already said that he is not their president.

This type of ignorance is being spread far and wide, from liberals to conservatives, from politicians to voters. It’s the increasing political bias of the people that is creating this near socially accepted disrespect for any elected official.

Believe it or not, there was once a time in this country when saying a discouraging word about any U.S. president would result in a bloody nose by anyone, despite his party affiliation.

But where is that respect now? We must respect whoever is in office, whether we have voted for that person or not. Yes, we can disagree with the president. We would not be called Americans if we ignored our First Amendment rights and kept silent about things we do not agree with. It was not what our forefathers fought for.

However, there is a strong, bold line between disagreeing and being disrespectful. We must bring back that level of respect to our elected officials, especially the ones we disagree with most. If not, it just furthers hateful feelings and severely slows the healing process this country desperately needs.

So I welcome, respect and honor Barack Obama as my new president. But I will also respectfully disagree with any of his policies and decisions that I may take issue.

Hopefully, all of my fellow Americans will do the same in welcoming Barack Obama into the White House as commander-in-chief. After all, it’s the respectful thing to do.

Contact Anthony Leone at communitarian@mail.dccc.edu

Time to get rid of the Electoral College?

Feeling relief now that Election Day is finally over? Think again. The real election won’t take place until Dec. 15. That’s when the Electoral College meets to pick the winner — and it hasn’t always been the candidate with the highest number of popular vote.

The popular vote is for a slate of representatives to the Electoral College, where the electoral votes are distributed by states on a winner-take-all basis. The last time was in 2000, when Al Gore lost to George W. Bush despite receiving 543,816 more popular votes.

Isn’t it time to get rid of this horse-and-buggy-era political contraption? The theory behind the Electoral College was that it would create a rough balance between states with large and small populations. Without such protection, small states feared that they would be overlooked as presidential candidates campaigned in states with the most voters.

Because it was the states that created the central government, this made sense to the framers of the Constitution.

In the modern era, however, it’s the states with some of the highest populations — California, New York and Texas among them — that usually are ignored because the outcomes in those states are considered a done deal. Indeed, Florida is the most populous state to enjoy — if that is the right word — a real presidential campaign, because it’s a swing state.

These days, candidates focus almost entirely on a few states where the race is close, regardless of size, thanks to the Electoral College. In 2004, President Bush and Sen. John Kerry spent almost 90 percent of their campaign time and money in fewer than a dozen states. This tends to depress turnout in states that are overlooked. It discourages potential voters who believe their vote has no real significance.

Giving swing states more clout is inherently undemocratic. Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla., says it also violates the basic principle of one man, one vote. He’s right. Sen. Nelson wants to get rid of the Electoral College through a constitutional amendment.

That, however, would require a two-thirds’ majority in Congress and approval of 37 state legislatures, an almost impossible political obstacle.

There is another way. Four states — Hawaii, Illinois, New Jersey and Maryland — already have passed bills to cast their state’s electoral votes for the winner of the national popular vote. This would take effect when states with an electoral majority — 270 of the 538 electoral votes — also have passed such laws.

The sooner we are rid of the Electoral College, the more representative our democracy will be.
Learn some manners and respect

“World f–king champions!” yelled Phillies second baseman Chase Utley at the World Series Championship celebration held at Citizens Bank Park Oct. 31. No doubt intoxicated with adrenaline and pride, the all-star baseball hero made quite the verbal faux pas. Philadelphia had finally won a championship. I can understand Utley’s error; but, on the other hand, I can’t. In times of adrenaline and pride, the all encompassing word “f–k” bursts forth. It’s just a word, people say. But growing up, I was taught manners and respect. I wanted a cookie, I had better say “please” and “thank you” and deliver it with a Broadway smile or it was no cookie for me.

But, on the other hand, I can’t. In times of championship. I can understand Utley’s error; but, on the other hand, I can’t. In times of anger, extreme joy, and high levels of stress, the all encompassing word “f–k” bursts forth. It’s just a word, people say.

My father would say, “You may as well say the real word because either word will earn you a slap.”

I sound like a grandma, but perhaps Grandma was right. Maybe things were better back then. When I sit and watch America’s youth stroll past making their way home from school, they spout foul language.

“F–k this and f–k that!” they holler. “Super sucked Johnny’s d–k!” they scream, oblivious to the elderly, other adults, and even children.

Cars speed past and obscenities loud and rancorous entwine and twist to the beat as they trail behind the moving vehicle, their notes ending where they may.

How about the man who flips you the bird ending where they may. Grandma was right. Maybe things were better back then.

My father would say, “You may as well say the real word because either word will earn you a slap.”

I sound like a grandma, but perhaps Grandma was right. Maybe things were better back then.

But growing up, I was taught manners and respect.

If I wanted a cookie, I had better say “please” and “thank you” and deliver it with a Broadway smile or it was no cookie for me.

I was taught not to mouth off to adults, to listen to my teachers, and to never curse.

Even saying “fudge” was not an acceptable replacement term for the commonly used f-word that peppers my ears daily in today’s society. My father would say, “You may as well say the real word because either word will earn you a slap.”

I sound like a grandma, but perhaps Grandma was right. Maybe things were better back then.

When I sit and watch America’s youth stroll past making their way home from school, they spout foul language.

“F–k this and f–k that!” they holler. “Super sucked Johnny’s d–k!” they scream, oblivious to the elderly, other adults, and even children.

Cars speed past and obscenities loud and rancorous entwine and twist to the beat as they trail behind the moving vehicle, their notes ending where they may.

How about the man who flips you the bird and machine guns a few hundred curses in your direction while you’re driving?

Vulgar language is classless and ignorant. We forget that as manners and respect fade and become obsolete, so does the respect we have for ourselves. Each time we’re vulgar or cursed, we strip away our own character. Vulgar language is rude and disrespectful. Vulgar language is classless and ignorant. Above all, some of us have forgotten what it is to be polite. We need a refresher course on manners.

When I went to high school, cursing at one’s teacher earned a student a few days of suspension. Now it is nothing unusual. This is unacceptable. We are supposed to become more advanced with time. Civilization is supposed to evolve and move toward loftier goals.

So why are some people speaking like they are uncivilized?

We forget that as manners and respect fade and become obsolete, so does the respect we have for ourselves. Each time we’re vulgar or cursed, we strip away our own character.

Some will say it’s a matter of free speech.

We are free to say as we please, just as we are free to disagree with one’s way of speaking. But the issue isn’t about freedom; it’s about respect. We are free to say as we please, just as we are free to disagree with one’s way of speaking.

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We are free to say as we please, just as we are free to disagree with one’s way of speaking.
By JoAn Verdon
The Record (Hackensack N.J.) (MCT)

HACKENSACK, N.J. — Fifty-five temporarily homeless teenagers huddled against the cold in cardboard huts on the grounds of Paramus Catholic High School on Sunday night. The teens were homeless by choice, to show support for those who have no choice but to be homeless.

The outdoor sleepover is intended to increase the students’ empathy for the less fortunate. But participants said the purpose is already being done by that, making them realize how quickly someone’s fortunes can change from good to bad.

“There are a lot of people who didn’t think they’d ever be homeless, but if you lose your job on Wall Street it could be you out there, too,” said Matt Sartori, 18, of Lodi, N.J., a Paramus (N.J.) High School graduate. You don’t have to look hard to see growing numbers of homeless, said Sartori, a freshman at Seton Hall University. “I call it ‘Happy Holiday.’ ”

Follow these easy steps to create your own holiday gift basket. Whether you decide to bake a sweet treat or wrap a thoughtful gift in colorful packaging, the result will be well received.

Gather your Materials
You will need a basket, plastic basket bag, ribbon, packing material, tags, holiday punches, gifts, and scissors.

Choose your Gift
“With less money to spend this year, your gifts should be well chosen,” said Verjin Kazanjian, an employee of Soprano’s Trattoria and Caterers in Broomall. Kazanjian makes gift baskets year round, stuffed with imported Italian goods. Unfortunately, Soprano’s gift baskets could be a bit pricey for the working student.

So Kazanjian suggests that “you think personal, not price” when filling your own basket. The thought you put into the gift is more important than the price you pay, she said. A basket filled with favorite cookies or candies shows you listened and cared, she added. If you can’t afford certain items, you can make them at home.

Choose your Basket
It’s important to pick the right size. “Too big will leave the gifts floating and will look sloppy,” Kazanjian said.

She recommends color coordinating the basket and wrapping because the overall appearance is important.

According to Betty Crocker Christmas Cookbook, jars, cans, bottles, bags, and boxes are another unique way to package your homemade gift.

Choose your Packing and Ribbon
Materials used for packing come in a variety of shapes, colors, and designs. Silver stars, gold bells and spool colored packing are popular options.

Ribbons come in thick, thin, bright, dull, silk, satin and velvet. The choice in design is endless. Be sure to coordinate the packing with the basket and ribbon.

Also, choose your ribbon with the recipient in mind. If the person is conservative, “you don’t buy a flabby ribbon,” Kazanjian said.

Make Your Tag
Handmade tags can be constructed of card stock, old cards, magazine pictures, glitter, colored paper, and more.

A handmade tag gives you more control over the message, but a carefully chosen store bought card will (also) do,” Kazanjian said.

Fill your Basket
First, place the packing in the basket. Next, organize your gifts in a pleasing composition. Work from big to small or alternate colors and shapes to add contrast and texture. Now fill in empty space with extra packing or small filler items such as hard candies.

Package your Basket
Place your basket in the center of the plastic bag. Tie off the top with a rubber band or a twist tie. Measure and cut the ribbon, leaving excess at the end for the bow. Now, trim the plastic bag to size.

Next, tie the ribbon around the twist or band and then tie a bow. You can experiment with the type of bow you tie.

“Double tie big or small, curled ends” all make for a pretty touch, Kazanjian added.

Attach Your Tag
Punch a hole in the tag; then pull the ribbon through. If the ribbon is too large, add some curly ribbon to attach the tag.

Many of these supplies are available at A.C. Moore.

“You have fun and don’t worry if it isn’t perfect,” Kazanjian said. “It’s because you made it that they’ll love it.”

For more information read the “Betty Crocker Cookbook” available in book stores or visit www.homemadegiftbasketideas.com.

Contact Catherine Gridhill at cgridhill@communitarin.com.

NURSE from Page 1

Pease Hall is a quiet corner of the sprawling General Hospital School of Nursing and has a bachelors’ of science degree from Eastern University. She is a member of the Association of Operating Room Nurses (AORN).

Pease Hall received Taylor Hospital’s first annual Nurse Excellence Award for her exemplary contributions to Taylor’s nursing program after she was nominated for the award by her coworkers.

Some said Pease Hall’s experience and reputation has made her the mentor and role model for younger nurses at Taylor Hospital, as well as her students at DCCC.

Pease Hall currently teaches four sections of Nursing 205, Perioperative Nursing, as well as the simulating labs that accompany the course. She is also the clinical educator for surgical technology students.

Often called operating room nurses, perioperative nurses are responsible for keeping a safe surgical environment for patients before, during, and after surgery. They provide comfort and care to surgical patients that may be anxious about being in the OR.

Before a procedure, perioperative nurses are responsible for obtaining the patients’ documentation, including medical history and known allergies, as well as obtaining consent forms. They are also present in the OR to ensure that the surgical procedure runs smoothly.

A perioperative nurse’s duties include making sure that the patient is positioned and prepared correctly for surgery, that the required tools are set up and functional, that the procedure performed is sterile, and that all surgical supplies are accounted for.

Pease Hall said that change is the biggest obstacle that nurses face. There are constant changes in procedure, equipment, and personnel and nurses have to be adaptable, she said.

Pease Hall said that her decision to become a nurse might sound cliché, but she “knew that she wanted to help people.”

Pease Hall always wanted to be either a nurse or a social worker, she said.

Pease Hall also wants to become a nurse’s and patient’s advocate since she has experience on both sides, she said.

“You’re up on everything if you teach,” she said.

Pease Hall chose to specialize in perioperative nursing while attending PGH.

“I loved it and I was scared of it,” said Pease Hall, “but it was exciting. Maybe I have a sadomasochism tendency, but I was drawn to it because it scared me.”

Pease Hall recalled one of her favorite experiences in nursing. She described how she comforted an elderly gentleman that was undergoing surgery for cancer. Another nurse described the patient as grizzly and abrupt and was reluctant to care for him.

“I said to him, ‘You’re very frightened, aren’t you?’ and he began to cry,” said Pease Hall. “We closed the curtain around us and cried together for an hour.”

This patient remembered Pease Hall years later at another hospital visit. She had no real emotional experiences with other patients, but this was the first time that she felt such a strong connection, she said.

When Pease Hall gives tours of the two simulated ORs that students use for practice, many are surprised by how realistic it is.

With real operating tables and tools available, students practice their techniques with life-size dummies. They have a real scrub-in sink where they wash their hands. Machines and equipment that are used in real surgery are presented.

Pease Hall plans to continue teaching at DCCC. She says that she likes her students and enjoys the improvement each year.

“Over the years my students have become more knowledgeable and interested in their field,” said Pease Hall.

Pease Hall hopes to inspire her students by sharing her nursing stories in class, such as the elderly gentleman that she comforted.

“I try to remind them of what’s important about our role in surgery,” said Pease Hall. “We can touch the patient’s life.”

Contact Laura Pizzuto at lpizzuto@mail.dccc.edu.
SPORTS

Congratulations

The DCCC Golf Team finished in second place at the Eastern Pennsylvania Collegiate Conference Championship, and all five qualified to participate in the Pennsylvania Collegiate Athletic Conference State Championship. Four of the team members qualified as “Players” and one as an alternate. Brian Smarsh was the alternate.

At the State Championship, they finished in fourth place as a team. Player Anthony Spatacco captured fourth place in All State Honors and received a medal for that.

(Photos courtesy of Wayne Horn, DCCC Head Co/Ed Golf Coach)

Top from left is Anthony Spatacco, Brian Smarsh and Tim Feehery. Bottom from left is Sean Glavin and Brian Scott.

The Phillies are phinally champs

By Donald Wood Jr.
Staff writer

The Philadelphia Phillies are the 2008 World Series Champions. After beating the Tampa Bay Rays four games to one, the Phillies brought a title back to Philadelphia for the first time in 28 years.

It was only the second title in the Phillies 125 year history. After capturing their second straight divisional title, the Phillies faced off with the red hot Milwaukee Brewers in the playoffs in their short 11 year career.

Among the biggest heroes of the World Series were the pitchers. Staff writer Donald Wood Jr. gives a look back at this historic run.

After dodging shots, Chris DeSignor looks to lead his team to a championship in the near future.

(Photos courtesy of Chris DeSignor)

By Donald Wood Jr.
Staff writer

As a child, you idolize the athletes of your favorite sport. You look to them for guidance and wish to be just like them as you grow up.

For many who reach adulthood, that is where the dream stops. But for one DCCC student, he is living the dream.

Chris DeSignor, 21, is a criminal justice major playing professional paintball for the DC Assault in the National Professional Paintball League (NPPL).

When DeSignor was 14, he started to play small time paintball with his friends in the woods by his home in New Jersey. His hobby became an obsession and led him into the professional ranks.

Now that he has become pro, he gets perks from the sponsors. All of his equipment is paid for and he has the best of everything, he said.

DeSignor is on the front lines of the paintball battles because he is a forward in the sport. “That means he is the closest to the opponents, so he tends to be a main target,” he said.

He practices every weekend, sometimes with his teammates and sometimes against other professional teams.

“We try to play against our semi-pro team because it is the best competition around here,” DeSignor said.

The NPPL has five nationwide competitions a year. Two are held in California, two are held on the East Coast, and the fifth is selected each year from the Midwest.

DeSignor and his team of seven players are flown to the city of the event, all expenses paid. First prize for the competitions totals $10,000.

DeSignor’s team is currently in ninth place out of 18 teams.

“We’re pretty good, but we’re in the middle of the pack,” said DeSignor. “It’s a new team that I’m playing pro with so I’m playing with a lot of people who haven’t played pro yet and who are still getting used to it.”

With all of the positives that come with achieving your dream, there are also negatives. DeSignor said that with all of the pressure of being pro comes great commitment.

“It’s a lot of time,” DeSignor said. “It’s a lot of work and training.”

Although a lot of commitment is needed, DeSignor believes it is all worth it. “While he goes to college at DCCC and works part time, he still makes sure his dream doesn’t take a backseat to anything.”

“Yeah, it’s a lot of work, but this is what I want to do,” DeSignor said. “I want to do this until my body can’t anymore.”

Contact Donald Wood Jr. at communitarian@mail.dccc.edu

Professional paintball player amongst DCCC ranks

Brad Lidge celebrates with the team as the Phillies capture their first World Series victory in 28 years.

(Photos courtesy of PhiladelphiaInquirer.com)

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