What DCCC students need to know about the presidential candidates

By Lisa Foreman
Managing Editor

On Nov. 4, a decision will be made by the American people that will most likely impact the rest of your life. The country will be electing a new president. This person will have within his power to make decisions about your healthcare, your financial aid, your employment, and your life in general.

Barack Obama, the Democratic nominee, is a senator from Illinois who is campaigning using the mantra of hope and change. John McCain, the Republican nominee, is a senator from Arizona who refers to himself as the “maverick.”

With the recent economic crisis, much of the country’s attention has been diverted from issues to focus on our economy. The top concerns relating to college students seem to have been put on a back burner in the debate. Concerns relating to college students seem to be healthcare.

In Obama’s book “Change We Can Believe In,” he addresses the issue of higher education by saying: “We know that education is everything to our children’s future. We know that they will no longer just compete for good jobs with children from Indiana, but children from India and China all over the world. We know the work and the studying and the level of education that requires.”

Mc Cain’s plan for college financial crisis involves simplifying the complicated process. According to his Web site, he wants to “simplify higher education tax,” so that more families will be able to claim them. He also wants to “simplify” the process for requesting financial aid and consolidate the programs to make them easier to navigate.

Finally, McCain’s plan calls for the current student lending system to be fixed. He writes that “effective reforms and leveraging the private sector will ensure the necessary funding of higher education aspirations, and create a simpler and more effective program in the process.”

Another issue important to college students seems to be healthcare. According to the U.S. government accountability office, 20 percent of college students have no health insurance. Obama’s plan aims to give affordable health care for all Americans. His agenda includes forcing insurance companies to cease discrimination, lowering costs for businesses to provide insurance, and establishing “a National Health Insurance Exchange with a range of private insurance options as well as a new public plan based on the experience and all over the world. We know the work and the studying and the level of education that requires.”

According to his Web site, he believes health care insurance need reform. He hopes to make the changes by taking away the Bush tax cuts and by maintaining the estate tax at its’ 2009 levels. His plan is estimated to cost between $50 and $65 billion dollars.

McCain’s plan calls for the “four pillars of healthcare: accessibility, affordability, access, and choice, portability and security, and quality.” On his Web site, he states that he believes in lowering the cost of health care, allowing affordable cost to Americans, allowing health insurance to transfer from job to job, and strengthening the quality of health care through research.

His plan would continue the employees-based healthcare coverage available today; however, he would give families that want to choose a different health insurance plan a tax credit to help pay for the plan they want. The credit would be $2,500 for an individual and $5,000 for a family.

The money would be sent straight to the insurance provider to pay for the cost. If the new plan is less than the credit, the remainder would be deposited into a “Health Savings Account.”

Many college students have been in the war or have loved ones who are currently overseas. The question of whether to stay or leave Iraq is one where the candidates perhaps differ the most.

Obama has been against the war “from the beginning.” He calls for a “responsible, phased withdrawal” of the troops. They believe “we must be as careful getting out of Iraq as we were careless getting in.” He would like to make the new mission in Iraq to get out. He would like some residual forces to remain, but not to build bases, rather to train Iraqi troops and help the leaders to rebuild.

“Military experts believe we can safely redeploy combat brigades from Iraq at a pace of one to two brigades a month that would remove them in 16 months. That would be the summer of 2010 – more than seven years after the war began.”

McCain has been a strong advocate of the war. On his Web site, he states that he has been a leading advocate for the troop surge. He states that the surge worked, and sectarian and ethnic violence were reduced by 90 percent. He believes that all the gains from the surge would be lost if the country follows Obama’s plan to withdraw troops. He strongly supports continuing with the “counterinsurgency strategy” currently taking place.

“I do not want to keep our troops in Iraq a minute longer than necessary to secure our interests there. Our goal is an Iraq that can stand on its own as a democratic ally and a responsible force for peace in its neighborhood. Our goal is an Iraq that no longer needs American troops,” McCain states in his Web site.

“And I believe we can achieve that goal, perhaps sooner than many imagine. But I do not believe that anyone should make promises as a candidate for President that they cannot keep if elected,” the Republican presidential candidate said.

One day after this paper comes out, one of these men will be our next leader. They will be making decisions that will impact millions of people. The American people, including DCCC students, will be making that decision.

For more information about the candidates, see these Web Sites:
www.offtheline.org
www.factcheck.org

Contact Lisa Foreman at community@msu.dccc.edu
Who are you voting for?

“[Barack Obama] supports, like taxes and the war in Iraq, and because he’s going to make history by being the first black president.”

Dahren Davis, 19
Web Development

“I really think that [Barack Obama] will end the war in Iraq safely, and get us out of the debt crisis.”

Kathleen Donnelly, 19
Business Administration

“I think [John McCain] has more strength than Obama and I agree with all of his ideas.”

Jeven Jalal, 18
Criminal Justice

“I think America needs to change and stop any racist biases and that’s a good way to start [by electing Barack Obama].”

Sonia Bhatti, 24
Pharmacy

“I can relate to [Barack Obama] because he understands college students’ issues, like [being a] single parent, trying to work and pay for tuition. He makes it personal.”

Joe Giotti, 18
Communications

Erica Jardia, 22
Allied Health

Want a free course?

“Get a parking permit”

The Communitarian staff conducted an informal survey of day and night students to see who they will be voting for come Election Day. Out of 138 students, 88 of them said they will be voting for Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama, while 10 said Republican presidential candidate John McCain will be their choice.

The permits, Cubberley said, will play a major role in promoting student parking and solving promotional challenges.

The permits will be officially introduced prior to next semester’s registration forms. Permits may also be obtained at any time at the security desk of the college.

“Security is a factor in issuing the permit,” Cubberley said, but mostly, she said, the permit aims to stir pride among students, answer parking logistic issues and solve promotional challenges.

The permits will not be numbered.

“The permit will also ease students’ access to the new buildings on the main campus are priority parking management is also a factor in issuing the stickers. “Students will get [parking] preference,” Cubberley said, when the new buildings on the main campus are ready and allow the college to host more special events.

The permit will also ease students’ access to loading docks on campus to unload art work or special projects, Cubberley said.

“I want our students to feel good about being here,” said Cubberley, who takes pride in the number of DCCC graduates transferring to Delaware Valley.

“[Barack Obama] answered questions in the debates. He was very professional and I’m really interested in what he would do in office about healthcare.”

Sonia Bhatti, 24
Pharmacy

“One of the purposes of the sticker is to capture the number of DCCC graduates transferring to Delaware Valley.”

“We hope that [students] are proud of the college and distributed by mail along with next semester’s registration forms. Permits may also be obtained at any time at the security desk of all campus.”

The first six students who provide proofs of ownership will receive free three-credit courses for Spring 2009 semester.

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Study in Florence!

DCCC is once again offering a study abroad experience in Italy for our own community college students and for students enrolled in other local colleges as well. This year three courses are offered: The History of Science, Cross Cultural Attitudes through Literature, and The Art and Architecture of Renaissance Florence.

Students must take at least one course and may take two courses for a total of 6 credits. To ensure a total immersion experience, participants will share apartments in Florence and will study at a 15th century palazzo located in the heart of the city. Let employers know that you have lived and studied abroad as part of your preparation for success in a global society.

Come to the information meetings or contact Professor Formichella in the Communications, Arts and Humanities department: dformich@dccc.edu

The following dates have been scheduled for interested students to meet with Professors Formichella, Fenimore and Hench to learn more about the courses and program in general. All meetings are held at Delaware County Community College’s Main Campus in the Academic Building. Please note the various locations of the meetings.

November 6, 2008
Thursday, 03:20 – 04:45 p.m. Room #2256

November 14, 2008
Friday, 12:20 – 01:15 p.m. Room #4453

November 17, 2008
Monday, 03:45 – 04:45 p.m. Room #4453

December 1, 2008
Monday, 05:00 – 06:00 p.m. Room #2256

December 10, 2008
Wednesday, 05:00 – 06:00 p.m. Room #2256

DCCC Theatre Company to show ‘Twelfth Night’

Delaware County Community College Theatre Company will present William Shakespeare’s Twelfth Night on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, November 12, 14, 15, 19, 21 and 22, at 7:30 p.m. in the College’s large auditorium (room 2225).

Twelfth Night is under the direction of Stephen Patrick Smith, Assistant Professor of Drama at the College.

Tickets are $5. For more information on the play, call 610-359-5041.

Delaware County Community College’s Main Campus is located on Route 252 at Media Line Road between Newtown Square and Media.

Please be aware that the College is undergoing construction and while parking is free, the lots are some distance away from the buildings.

While the College is handicap accessible, parking for handicapped drivers will be extremely limited.

From now to November 24, the Art Gallery at DCCC will host the 2008 Art and Graphic Design Faculty and Staff Exhibition.

It will feature work in a variety of media. Gallery hours are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The Main Campus is located on Route 252 at Media Line Road, between Media and Newtown Square. Please be aware that the college is undergoing construction and while parking is free, the lots are some distance away from the buildings. While the college is handicap accessible, parking for handicapped drivers will be extremely limited.

DCCC Art Gallery presents faculty and staff exhibition

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**Good health gets you good grades**

By Josephine Marcoty
Star Tribune (Minneapolis) (MCT)

MINNEAPOLIS — Quit smoking, turn off your TV, and exercise. It could improve your grades. Of course, parents have always known that. Now, in the first study of its kind, researchers at the University of Minnesota have proved it. They found that the grade-point average of students with the typical health problems such as smoking, drinking and stress reported by nearly 10,000 Minnesota college students. They found a clear connection between student health and academic success.

"Health is important," even for young adults who seem to be in the prime of their lives, said Dr. Ed Ehlinger, director of Boynton Health Services at the University of Minnesota and leader of the study. Both parents and college administrators "need to make sure that students have access to this care."

What affects grades the most? Stress (lots of it), excessive screen time, binge drinking and gambling.

Students who reported eight or more emotional stressors anything from failing a class to credit card debt to a conflict with parents, had an average GPA of 2.72. Those who said they had no significant stress reported an average GPA of 3.3.

"Stress is one of the biggest factors," said Maria De La Garza, a senior from Duluth, Minn. A year ago, she was a straight A student. But then she had to go home to take care of family members with serious health problems, and it showed in his grades, he said.

"It was out of the game," he said Friday. "Now I'm bouncing back."

His GPA is up to 3.5.

"The ability to handle stress was equally important," the survey found. Those who said they could effectively manage it performed much better than those who said they couldn't. That's an important finding, because it can persuade colleges to provide students with the resources they need to learn how to manage stress, Ehlinger said.

Earlier surveys showed that students who spend a lot of time on the computer, watching TV or playing video games were more likely to engage in other unhealthy habits such as eating fast food, Ehlinger said. Now it's clear that these activities cut significantly into their grades as well.

Four or more hours of screen time a day resulted in an average GPA of 3.04 or less. Less than an hour a day bumped it up to 3.3 or better.

The same was true for students who spent a lot of time binge drinking or gambling.

**Interview with Daniel DeVivo**

By Katy O’Dwyer
Staff writer

K.O.: How did you feel about the immigration issue before working on "Crossing Arizona"?

D.D.: Before we began this project, I had no idea what people go through to come to the U.S. I also had only a very basic understanding of the forces motivating people to uproot themselves from another country to come here. I assumed that their lives were difficult back home, and that living in the U.S. was easier.

But crossing the border and living undocumented in the U.S. is actually more difficult than staying at home. Migration is not the path of least resistance for the people who decide to leave home. It’s a difficult path and it requires a great deal of courage. The folks who cross the border don’t find life easy for them upon arrival; on the contrary, it’s a challenge every step of the way. That they do for their loved ones and not themselves is what makes their sacrifice heroic in my view.

K.O.: How do you feel that the U.S. exploits these migrant workers?

D.D.: The U.S. exploits the availability of cheap labor. It always has. Greed is so strong that it will allow people to overlook some very basic moral principles. Consider the ruling class of the confederacy who refused to relinquish ownership over migrated African slaves. The tradition continues today. Our government refuses to offer a path toward legalization in return for the contributions that migrants make in our economy. This is greed and it is wrong.

K.O.: In the film you seemed to frame it so that every character seemed sympathetic. Was that intentional?

D.D.: The kind of film I want to make isn’t the kind that hits you over the head with a message; it’s the kind of film that makes you think. It’s the kind of film that rather than telling you how things are, it invites you into a discussion about things, look, how things might be, how things can be changed. Documentary films are a great resource for popular education because I think they have the potential to create discussion [and] create dialogue around important issues for our time.

Contact Katy O’Dwyer at communitarian@mail.dccc.edu

**Illegal immigration battle captured on film**

By Katy O’Dwyer
Staff writer

Mike Wilson pushing a cart of milk jugs and other recyclables starts his day at one of the stations in the Tohono O’odham Indian Reservation in Arizona.

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NATIONAL NEWS

Musicians lend their voices to candidates

By Josh Shaffer
McClatchy Newspapers (MCT)

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — With acoustic guitar and gentle voice, James Taylor crooned "America the Beautiful" to a flushed hometown crowd of thousands in Chapel Hill, N.C., recently — a fervent but soft-spoken pitch for Sen. Barack Obama.

Four days earlier, country music wiz定期 Hank Williams Jr. handled the same chore for Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin in Eielson, N.C., belting out the national anthem in a gut-bucket baritone, mixing in songs about whiskey and harangues against the media.

It’s a musical choice as stark as the presidential choice waiting at the ballot box. As Election Day nears, Republicans and Democrats are revving up the faithful using musical stars who bring ready-made personas and libraries of hits.

Moody's association with Democratic politics, for example, dates back to the 1979 "No Nukes" concert in New York's Madison Square Garden. And a lot of Obama supporters don't mind hearing "Sweet Baby James" one more time.

Maybe it boosts a campaign, maybe it doesn’t. No research suggests that a musical act can sway a voter either way, said Tom Carsey, UNC-Chapel Hill political scientist. It does bring attention.

"I think they’re hoping that the popularity of these artists at least gets their fans to look at a candidate in a new light," Carsey said.

Pop stars, for all their baggage, can sound more genuine. They’re rich. They don’t have to campaign. They’re rich. They don’t have to campaign. They're rich. They don't have to campaign. They’re rich. They don’t have to campaign. They’re rich. They don’t have to campaign. They’re rich. They don’t have to campaign.

Any rally brings out the raw partisan, no matter who’s playing guitar.

James Taylor performs on stage. Recently, he sang to a crowd of supporters for Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama.

( Photo courtesy of www.rollingstone.com )

Criminal Hijinx

YOU SEE, WE REALLY LOVE EACH OTHER: A woman called police after a violent argument with her husband at their Creve Coeur, Ill., home in which he threw a oil lamp at her and poured Gatorade over her head. When the cops grabbed him later, he told them they had "worked things out."

SAY, WE’VE BEEN LOOKING FOR THIS MONEY: Thieves stole $5,000 in dollar bills patrons had hung on the walls of a restaurant in Inyokern, Calif. People there traditionally wrote messages on the bills before handing them up. A few days later, one of the thieves used some of the very distinctive bills to pay a court fine. Arrests resulted.

AREN'T YOU OVERACTING A LITTLE? The parents of a 13-year-old girl, who lives with them in their Tokyo home, asked her to throw out some of the thousands of comic books she had collected because they were taking up so much space. So she went on the Internet to find someone to kill them. Her plot failed.

BUT HE LOOKED JUST LIKE A PATIENT! A man attempted to rob a chiropractor's office in Toledo unaware an off-duty police officer had an appointment there at the very same time. It was over quickly.

IT LOOKS LIKE ONE OF US PUT IN A LOT OF EFFORT: A man applying for a job included what he claimed were samples of his work, which, by an unfortunate coincidence, were actually done by the person who was interviewing him.

A FASHION STATEMENT FOR THE AGES: Apparently unable to find a mask, a man broke into a restaurant in Coralville, Iowa, wearing a pair of underwear over his face.

REMEMBER, ALWAYS PLAN AHEAD: Two armed men in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, robbed a security van containing $1.3 million, but they had to leave half the money inside. Their getaway compact car was too small to hold it all.

YOU’LL NEVER CATCH ME, COPPER! SCREECH!: An intoxicated woman stopped her car at a red light in Wichita, Kan., at 1 a.m. and fell asleep with the engine running. Another driver called the cops, who came and put spikes in front of her rear tires then woke her up. She hit the gas to flee and shredded her tires.

I DON’T WANT THE JOB NOW; I’LL JUST TAKE THE MONEY: One of three his 66-year-old wife killed herself in a Chicago motel room in which she claimed to have died of a heart attack. He told them they had "worked things out."
United we stand? Or not.

By Joe Smith
Executive Editor

If there’s one thing that you can count on in every presidential election, it’s that they demonstrate that we truly are a nation divided. It happens every four years like clockwork: what begins with clean campaigns based on tangible issues quickly devolves into a bloodbath once polling begins to tip towards one of the two major candidates.

Once the negative campaigning starts, it isn’t long before the knives are out in force, gilded by the tongues of skilled orators, but pointed at the threats of the opposition nonetheless. Each party focuses on landing a killing stroke instead of telling the electorate how it will be guided into better days.

The worst part about the cycle of negative campaigning is that we, the American public, buy into it. According to an article in U.S. News & World Report, researchers at Notre Dame found that a significant portion of viewers moved towards George Bush once television ads attacking John Kerry began to air in 2004.

The 2004 election was not an exception, but just another in an unfortunate string of events at night to allow everyone to participate. I also wish the campus offered more events at night to allow everyone to participate.

The will of the people still rules, and right now we are willing a schism to divide the country. We need to show our leaders, and ourselves, that we do not want to be at each other’s throats. We need to be able to cast our votes without drawing blood if we want to truly stand together as a country some day.

Contact Joe Smith at communitarian@mail.dccc.edu

The challenges of a night student

By Laura Pizzuto
Copy Editor

Working full time and juggling classes can be a challenge. Rushing from work, to school, to finally home from early morning to late at night can take its toll on me, but like many DCCC students, I’m here for a good education. I want to transfer my courses to a four-year university. DCCC students, I’m here for a good education. I also wish the campus offered more events and workshops at night. I’m aware of the variety of campus activities, but I was frustrated that I missed the Voter Registration Drive and the Red Cross Blood Drive because I was away during the day.

Night students can sometimes feel out of the loop of campus events.

I’ve heard that students are frustrated with SEPTA’s 112 schedule to DCCC, and it seems impossible to take Sepa at 9:30 p.m. from the Marple campus. SEPTA should run more often to the campus at night to accommodate the later classes.

I also wish the campus offered more activities and workshops at night. I’m aware of the variety of campus activities, but I was frustrated that I missed the Voter Registration Drive and the Red Cross Blood Drive because I was away during the day.

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Contact Laura Pizzuto at communitarian@mail.dccc.edu

The Communitarian

The Communitarian is produced by both current and former students of Fundamentals of Journalism II in collaboration with Campus Life and published at Delaware County Community College. Students who would like to write for the campus newspaper and have already completed Fundamentals of Journalism I should register for Fundamentals of Journalism II (ENG 131). Students who have completed both classes are welcome to join the senior staff. For more information, see Bonnie McMeans in Room 4311, call 610-359-5271, or send an e-mail to bmcmeans@dcc.edu or communitarian@mail.dccc.edu.

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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.

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To apply or schedule a visit: www.ohiopitt.edu/transfer.aspx

November 3, 2008   Page 7

COMMENTARY

Stop the excess on the SEPTA 112 Express

A typical afternoon waiting for SEPTA’s crowded 112 express is filled with plotting and strategy. Who’s going to get to the first seat on the bus? Who’s going to stand?

The 112 bus to 69th Street Terminal is more of an excess bus than an express bus. Because of the number of students needing to take public transportation, SEPTA should offer more express buses going to and from the college.

As a child, I always memorized each route at the Darby Terminal including SEPTA’s 115, which took me home. As I got older, I got to travel on different routes. The people were nice. The men would let the women on the bus first. The elderly and single parents would get help from other passengers when they got off.

Unfortunately, the days of good manners have disappeared when I boarded the DCCC-bound 112. People push to get a seat like Bob Barker or Howie Mandell is giving it away. Ordinarily, I am patient when trying to get a seat, but what usually happens is that the pushers get the seats. I do not like to stand up in a crowded bus, and the poles are useless.

When the bus driver makes a sudden stop, the passengers usually fall. One morning, I had to deal with a sudden stop, causing me to crash into students after trying for a few seconds to hold on to the pole.

SEPTA needs to add extra express lines for the 112. For one thing, the 104 route has more buses going to and from West Chester University than the 112 has going to DCCC.

It seems that a university with dorms has more bus service than a community college that doesn’t have dorms.

According to Reuters wire service, SEPTA has identified the 112 as one of the bus lines to get expanded service. However, when I look at a schedule for the 112, I don’t see this happening. All I see is the same schedule from the spring semester. I also see the 104 to West Chester identified as having expanded service.

I found other students that agree the 112 is more excess than express. Jasmine Small, a pre-med major, thinks that SEPTA “should have express buses during the afternoon.” She feels that students should be able to get home and to work at the speed on the express bus offers rather than being forced to go on the hour-long local 112.

Small thinks that there should still be a local bus running every hour because students need access to locations that don’t run directly to 69th Street.

Criminal justice major, Tori Logan feels differently. “There should be more space on the bus,” she said.

SEPTA buses come in different sizes. When the Market-Frankford Line had shuttle buses, they had larger buses to fit all of its passengers. Even the 102 Sharon Hill trolley connects two trolleys to accommodate the high school students from Upper Darby, Archbishop Prendergast, and Monsignor Bonner High Schools during the times students are let in and out of school.

SEPTA needs to have one more 112 express bus for every hour an express bus runs. For example, if an express bus leaves DCCC at 4:07 p.m. have another one leave at 4:37 p.m. two minutes after the 4:35 p.m. local bus so students won’t fight for a seat.

If SEPTA can’t do that, they should bring in the larger buses that were used during Market-Frankford Line shutdown. I remember seeing buses like that in the city, specifically on Market Street when I was younger. They may have scared me with the black accordion-looking band connecting the two portions of the bus, but they held more passengers.

A word to fellow 112 bus riders: I called SEPTA to complain about the excess number of students on the bus. They seemed to take my complaint seriously. If you agree that the 112 is overcrowded, contact SEPTA’s customer service at 215-590-7800.
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THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW
STILL DRAWS A PASSIONATE CROWD

By Laura Pizzuto
Staff writer

Theater, sexuality, music, and good fun were on full display at the Oct. 17 performance of the Rocky Horror Picture Show by Transylvanian Nipple Productions at the William Way Community Center in Philadelphia. The William Way Center is a community center for the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered community. For a $12 admission fee, the audience enjoyed a live performance with a light dinner and refreshments.

For more than 30 years audiences have attended midnight viewings of the film, which was made in 1973. rocky Horror is a rock ‘n’ roll musical that depicts cross dressing, sexual experimentation, and spoofs science fiction movies.

Although the acting and storyline are notoriously slow and silly, it features entertaining music and dance sequences. Fans come to viewings dressed as the film’s characters, often of a different gender than their own. They are entertained by a live cast that acts out the movie scenes on stage while the film is playing.

A sexually diverse audience attended the performance. Some of the 80 attendees started viewing Rocky Horror in the 1970s, while others were first timers and proud of it. The movie begins with Brad and Janet’s car breaking down during a storm. They decide to approach an old mansion to ask someone for help. One virgin blew his condom to the audience.

The Closing song and theme of the film is “Don’t dream it, be it.” “Rocky Horror definitely brings awareness to the gay and transgender community,” said castmember Becca Gebhart of Philadelphia. “We thought William Way would be a perfect place to perform it, especially around Halloween time.”

Contact Laura Pizzuto at communitarian@mail.dccc.edu.

Ed Hicks, of Upper Darby, Pa. performed a tribute to Tina Turner,蟋蟀k between 1982 and 1987.

Cast members ran through the audience at key moments.

Nick Drafinis of Philadelphia plays Frank-N-Furter, and embodied the character completely. Drafinis stroked around the audience and sat on peoples’ laps, ruffled their hair, and danced around them.

“I like to push people’s buttons but it’s all in good fun,” said Drafinis, who is married to fellow cast member Erica. “This is definitely the type of crowd that can handle it.”

The Rocky Horror performance feels similar to watching a Philadelphia Eagles game among diehard fans. Instead of screaming at Donovan McNabb, the audiences scream at Tim Curry dressed as a transvestite.

When the movie characters are walking in the rain, audience members hold newspapers over their heads. When the characters don birthday hats and sing happy birthday, so do audience members. When the Criminalist yells “Great Scott!” audience members throw rolls of toilet paper around the room.

The enthusiastic audience performed all of these acts at the William Way Center. The entire audience rose and danced to the “Time Warp,” the most famous song from the movie that is often associated with Halloween.

“The Rocky Horror Picture Show is a lot of fun. The performances are entertaining, the music is great, and the dancing is top-notch,” said cast member Nick Drafinis of Philadelphia. “It’s a great way to celebrate the holidays.”

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A perfect* season for Brad Lidge

The season ended on a good note for the Philadelphia Phillies, but what about Lidge?

By Donald Wood Jr.
Staff writer

Philadelphia Phillies pitcher Brad Lidge has been lights out this season. Maybe that’s why they call him “Lights Out Lidge.”

In his first year with the Phillies, he recorded 41 saves in 41 opportunities. His 100 percent conversion rate led all closers in Major League Baseball. He also led all closers (with at least 10 saves) in strikeouts with 92.

But Lidge wasn’t limited to just closing duties. He also came into 30 games that were not considered save opportunities and managed an earned run average of 1.95.

The Phillies, with the help of Lidge, were a perfect 79-0 when leading after eight innings.

With his streak extending into the playoffs, and the Phillies pummeling on all cylinders and heading to the World Series, Lidge is the reason the Philadelphia Phillies were the visiting team in the 2008 World Series.

With all of Lidge’s success and the success of the Phillies, it’s easy to forget why it’s Lidge’s fault.

The hoke team of the World Series is determined by the winner of the All-Star game. For example, this year the American League All-Stars beat the National League All-Stars giving the American League representative in the World Series home field advantage.

But why is it Lidge’s fault? He’s been perfect all year. Almost perfect.

In the bottom of the 15th inning of the 2008 MLB All-Star game, NL coach Lou Piniella called on Lidge to come in and sustain the 3-3 score and let the NL have another shot at winning.

Lidge gave up two quick hits, and then he struck out two AL All-Stars. He then gave up a walk to load the bases.

Lidge then gave up a sacrifice fly to Michael Young that scored Justin Morneau and lost the NL home field advantage.

At the time, it was no big deal. Lidge was even quoted as saying it was a good game and that he enjoyed it.

Now how does he feel as he travels to Tampa Bay for the opening of the World Series?

With Lidge red hot and still perfect, the Phillies are going into the World Series as the visitor and the responsibility lies on one man’s shoulders.

Brad Lidge will try to redeem himself by helping the Phillies bring a World Series Championship to Philadelphia for the first time since 1990.

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

With Brand comes big exceptions for new season

By Donald Wood Jr.
Staff writer

After an early exit from the first round of the National Basketball Association’s playoffs, the Philadelphia 76ers went on the offensive in the free agency market to improve their team.

On July 9, 2008, former Los Angeles Clippers forward Elton Brand signed a five year deal with the Sixers worth $79.925 million.

“It's an honor and a privilege to be here to play for these passionate fans of the Philadelphia 76ers,” said Brand at a press conference on the same day.

Brand, who had one year remaining on his existing contract, decided to opt out of his final year to play for the rising Sixers.

“They made the playoffs without my assistance, so I'm looking to provide bigger and brighter things for sure,” said Brand in reference to last season's results.

Brand brings more than just talk to a relatively young Sixers team. With young forward Samuel Dalembert, Brand will be looked upon to provide guidance and experience to improve their low post play.

Elton Brand brings his 6-feet-9 inch, 254 lb. frame to secure a heavy presence in their defensive zone. Brand has a career average of over 10 rebounds and two blocked shots a game, which should help the Sixers.

Brand doesn’t just bring a defensive presence to the Sixers team, he can be explosive in the offensive zone as well. With over 12,000 points in nine seasons and a 20.5 points per game average, Brand brings a new weapon to an already potent offense.

But with expectations come big concerns. Brand played only eight games last season after rupturing his left Achilles-tendon.

“Health wise, I’m definitely 100 percent. My Achilles is totally repaired and strong. The athleticism is there,” said Elton Brand.

Brand brings a new weapon to an already potent offense.

But with expectations come big concerns. Brand played only eight games last season after rupturing his left Achilles tendon.

“Health wise, I’m definitely 100 percent,” Brand said. “My Achilles is totally repaired and strong. The athleticism is there. Believe me, I got a thorough checking from the staff. Everything is fine and I’m excited. I’m prepared to do some big things this year.”

Everyone from the top down in the Philadelphia 76ers organization is excited about the changes that this move will give the team a greater chance to go deep into playoffs, and even into the NBA Championship.

“I see myself fitting in on the court,” said Brand. “Of course low post production, rebounds, defense and helping get to that next level.”

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The Philadelphia 76ers’ Elton Brand (center) shoots between Cleveland Cavaliers defenders Zydrunas Ilgauskas (left) and Ben Wallace during preseason action at the Wachovia Center in Philadelphia recently.

(Photo by John Costello/Philadelphia Inquirer/MCT)
By Gary West
 McClatchy Newspapers

FORT WORTH, Texas — Major League Baseball attendance has dropped for the first time in five years. In a cost-cutting move, the NCAA recently sent a letter to its members outlining new postseason travel restrictions. The future of the Grand Prix du Canada, the only Formula One race in North America, could be in jeopardy with the recent announcement that organizers have pulled their financial backing.

Even the sports world reeks. It can’t avoid or escape, not this time, the salvo of economic blows. Bankruptcies, bailouts and dubious mortgages, which Warren Buffet once called, back in 2001, “financial weapons of mass destruction,” dominate the headlines. The Dow recently had its worst week ever. And sports won’t be far removed from the effects of it all.

Economic turmoil historically has had little impact on sports. As an escape from quotidian drudgery and gloom, sports even thrived during The Great Depression. (Think Joe Louis, Babe Ruth and Satchel Paige.) But that won’t be the case this time around, except perhaps for a few.

The old business model for sports franchises was simple: Sell tickets and hot dogs, win games and make money. Nothing to it. Revenue depended on ticket sales and concessions, depended, in other words, on fans. But when sports teams and leagues became big business, they hitched their prosperity, along with their futures, to all those economic indicators and factors that have materialized in recent weeks onto a humpy, perhaps even treacherous, road.

“It will have a different effect than it would have if 15 or 20 and certainly 30 years ago,” said Michael Leeds of Temple University, co-author, with Peter von Allmen, of The Economics of Sports, about the economic downturn. “That’s because sports teams and leagues have very much shifted their focus from the average fan to corporate interests. And that, I think, will come back to bite them a little bit.”

Or maybe bite them viciously. At this point, though, it’s impossible to tell how deep the bite will be. But the effects could be felt for years, and they’re already becoming apparent.

With season-ticket renewals down, the NBA is laying off 80 workers, or 9 percent of its workforce. Commissioner David Stern explained the reduction by citing a “deteriorating” economy that “is a bit wobbly.” The Arizona Diamondbacks are searching for a company to sponsor their right-field pool; the original sponsor has filed for bankruptcy protection.

Through the first nine months of the year, the handle, or money wagered, at North America’s racetracks has dropped 5.75 percent from a year ago, according to the National Thoroughbred Racing Association. The Milwaukee Mile has blamed a loss of sponsorship dollars for its not paying its cleaning bill.

The impact on sports is ubiquitous; it even affects billionaires. Talking about his efforts to buy the Chicago Cubs, Mavericks owner Mark Cuban told the Chicago Sun-Times that the “falling economy” has put the “brakes on the sale.” The economy, Cuban said, will affect the deal and “create a challenge.”

But not only do they feel the effects, sports also provide a measure of the nation’s economic problems. How severe must the problems be if the LPGA Tour loses four sponsors and General Motors announces it won’t air a commercial during the Super Bowl? Well, that’s how severe the problems are.

And like the economic downturn itself, which has spread with seismic reverberation, the effects on sports have become global. The Olympic Delivery Authority has had to rely on “contingency funding,” according to London’s Telegraph; and the British government may have to contribute more than $250 million toward the completion of the Olympic Village for the 2012 Summer Games.

Construction has stopped on a new 60,000-seat stadium for the Liverpool Football Club of England’s Premier League because “of the credit squeeze,” according to the Daily Commercial News. One of the U.S.’s foremost owners, of course, is Tom Hicks of Texas, who are all set to play in new, lavish surroundings next year. Because revenue sources shrink and credit disappears, so, too, could some sports venues. Leeds said NASCAR could be one of the hardest hit, in part because the cars are “200 mph billboards” that depend heavily on sponsorship and because fans often must drive long distances to each event. Professional golf could also feel an acute impact, he said.

And although some celebrated teams are scheduled to move into new residences in the next year or two, stadium construction will also slow down. Leeds said that the Cowboys, Mets and Yankees, who are all set to play in new, lavish surroundings next year, might have gotten home just before the economic curfew. Still, the new Yankee stadium has seven unsold luxury suites. And since “Death Star” has been taken, the new Dallas Cowboys stadium awaits a name.

“Naming rights are the capstone of sponsorship,” said Don Hinchen, vice president of The Bonham Group, a Denver-based sports and entertainment marketing firm. “They deliver the highest value for sponsorship dollars, and I think you’ll continue to see keen interest in naming rights when the opportunity arises for association with the right team and the right community.”

An “iconic facility” and “Cowboys cachet” make for an attractive combination, Hinchen said about the new stadium in Arlington. He pointed out that one naming-rights sponsorship deal in New York was reportedly worth $400 million. On the other hand, what’s going to happen to the Wachovia Center in Philadelphia? Generally, Hinchen said, sponsorships are going to be affected by “downward pressure and level off. Still, he said, “sports sponsorships aren’t going away.”

The NFL has built a carpool of television around itself, protecting it from financial earthquakes and mudslides. The NFL has contracts through 2011 with the major networks, plus ESPN, worth billions. And so more than any other league, the NFL would seem immune from the effects of economic vicissitudes.

But during the league’s recent owners meetings in St. Petersburg, Fla., even the NFL focused on some unpleasant harsh realities. Clark Hunt of the Kansas City Chiefs told the Sports Business Journal that the NFL owners seldom talk about the economy but that they were talking about it now. And Roger Goodell, the NFL commissioner, spoke about cutting expenses, trimming costs and tightening belts, all because of the economic turmoil.

“The reality is it’s going to impact us,” Goodell said about the economic downturn. “The economy is affecting us directly, our partners and our fans. We’re sensitive to that. We’re looking at everything we do. Whether it’s stadium financing, whether it’s pricing on the club level, we’re looking at all these issues.”

Some owners and sports executives, however, seem unwilling to talk about the iceberg, to borrow DeSarbo’s metaphor, as if ignoring it will cause it to melt. And some continue to insist that the economy won’t affect leases of luxury suites and extravagant PSL prices, and maybe they’re right.

Miami Dolphins’ Joey Porter comes up with aumble by Buffalo Bills’ Trent Edwards in the fourth quarter at Dolphin Stadium in Miami, recently. The Dolphins defeated the Bills 25-16. Will fans still want to shell out hard-earned money to teams that can’t grasp the pigskin? (Photo by Al Diaz/Miami Herald/MCT)
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