

The Current

December 9, 2005

Metropolitan Community College

Lee's Summit, Missouri

Making the grade



Will Haddix/Longview Current
The Longview Campus

MCC personnel prepare for accreditation

by ERIC FRIZELL

Though it isn't a regular occurrence at Longview, the college is about to undergo re-accreditation, the process by which MCCCKC is recognized by other institutions as having an effective educational system.

The evaluation process for accreditation is complex and is critical to the availability of financial aid, the transfer of student credits between MCCCKC and other colleges and universities, and regular college funding from federal and state sources.

In 1996, MCCCKC was awarded a maximum 10-year certification for

meeting standards set by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association (NCA) of Colleges and Schools. According to Brian Mitchell, co-chair of the Longview Location Committee for Accreditation, four-year institutions are "more likely" to accept individual courses from an HLC-certified col-

lege.

To again meet HLC's standards or, as Mitchell labeled them, "core elements," MCCCKC has spent the past two years examining its continuing development and aptitude toward providing a resourceful learning environ-

See ACCREDITATION
page 15

Battling Bands

Choose your axe

3

The Plaza

Lighten up

8

Syriana

Politics & Clooney collide

10

Calendar

December

9 Friday

Last day for evening classes

10 Saturday

Last day for Saturday classes

UN Human Rights Day

Old Fashioned Christmas Carolers, Downtown Lee's Summit, 1:30 - 3:00

Missouri Town 1855 Christmas Celebration, Lake Jacomo Park

Voices from Christmas Past, 1859 Jail & Marshal's House, Independence

12 Monday

Last day for day classes

13 Tuesday

Reading Day
Evening Finals Only

14 Wed - 20 Tue

Final Exams

15 Thursday

4 p.m. Chessime, the chess and anime club, CC 241

5:30 - 8:30 p.m. Good-night Cafe meet-and greet at CC257, The Good Center

Corrections

THIRD AND VIEW HIGH
In the November 11 issue of The Current, we stated that 9 lanes of traffic intersect at Third Street and View High Drive. Upon a recount, we discovered that 10 lanes come together at the popular Longview four-way stop.

17 Saturday

Old Fashioned Christmas Carolers, Downtown Lee's Summit, 1:30 - 3 p.m.

22 Thursday

4 p.m. Chessime, the chess and anime club, CC 241

5:30 - 8:30 p.m. Good-night Cafe meet-and greet at CC257, The Good Center

24 Sat - 31 Sat

Campus Closed

January

3 Tuesday

Intersession Begins

16 Monday

Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday - Campus Closed

17 Tuesday

Campus Inservice

18 Wednesday

Day and evening classes begin

19 Thursday

4 p.m. Chessime, the chess and anime club, CC 241

5:30 - 8:30 p.m. Good-night Cafe meet-and greet at CC257, The Good Center

25 Wednesday

9:30 - 3:30 p.m.
Fun Flicks interactive video in the Campus Center

26 Thursday

4 p.m. Chessime, the chess and anime club, CC 241

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Dr. Randall Moore 816.672.2310	January 18, 2006

www.jackkentcookefoundation.org

7270
IC 062408060

5:30 - 8:30 p.m. Good-night Cafe meet-and greet at CC257, The Good Center

8 Wednesday

Club Day
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

9 Thursday

4 p.m. Chessime, the chess and anime club, CC 241

5:30 - 8:30 p.m. Good-night Cafe meet-and greet at CC257, The Good Center

10 Friday

The Current is published

14 Tuesday

Late Night Cafe
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

22 Wednesday

Faculty Convocation - no day or evening classes

February

1 Wednesday

Late Night Cafe
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

2 Thursday

4 p.m. Chessime, the chess and anime club, CC 241

5:30 - 8:30 p.m. Good-night Cafe meet-and greet at CC257, The Good Center

3 Friday

Deadline for advertising in the Feb. 10 Current

Campus

Battleground Bands



Brian Doty/Longview Current

Tears at the Wall rips out some more screaming metal.



Brian Doty/Longview Current

Singer of Mythadus belts out screams and cranks out chords.



Brian Doty/Longview Current

Finally, the only thing Longview's ever needed besides gasoline. Caffeine arrives in the form of JP Coffee.

Going Greek with the Longview honor society

by KENNY TAYLOR

Kay Thomas walked into the meeting as a curious student, but she walked out as the president of Kappa Tau, the Longview chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two year colleges.

"I came to my first meeting to find out about Phi Theta Kappa, which turned out to be an election," Thomas said. "There was a need for officers and through an act of God my hand went in the air and I gave an impromptu speech and was elected president not knowing anything about the club. This has turned out to be one of the best decisions of my life. At first, I did not think I had time to participate because of the pressures of school and study, but

I have found that my grades have not suffered and that it has enhanced my education."

Members of Phi Theta Kappa usually get interested in the club because of the \$36 million in financial aid and transfer scholarships that are available to members and the special attention larger universities give to the Phi Theta Kappa seal on their diploma.

Other benefits include wearing the honors stole and tassel at graduation. Phi Theta Kappa members receive these benefits in return for the work they do for the community, because organizations that they support recognize them on a national level.

"Phi Theta Kappa has been a dedicated partner in the mission of the American Cancer Society, and continues to lead the way as 2005's most suc-

cessful national student organization," John R. Seffrin, Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer of the American Cancer Society said in a press release, "raising monies for Relay for Life! In our three years together, Phi Theta Kappans have raised an amazing \$1,314,214 -- funds that are being returned to the communities the Society serves all across the country."

In addition to serving the community, Phi Theta Kappa members may also get to go to international conferences and participate in satellite seminars on topics such as "Popular Culture, Shaping and Reflecting Who We Are," the topic for December.

Rachel Wolf, the society's vice president of publicity, said she first got to know people at one of these seminars.

"I was new to the organization, just inducted a few days prior, and didn't know anyone," Wolf said. "I went in

and everyone was so nice and sociable. It was new to me. I had never been around so many polite people."

Kappa Tau invites eligible students to join, depending on academic standing - students must rank in the top 20 percent and maintain high standing throughout their enrollment in the two-year college. Phi Theta Kappa is the largest higher education honor society in America, with more than 1.5 million members.

"I have never had so much fun in my life," Thomas said. "This is a great group of people, with a solid work ethic as well as the ability to have fun. We have helped build a house at Habitat for Humanity, participated in a KCPT phone-a-thon, walked all night for the Relay for Life walk for cancer, went roller skating, and even washed cars together. We enjoy helping Longview whenever possible."

Chew on this

LV senator hopes to continue family tradition

by TERAH LAKEY

Richard Porter, 19, one of the newly elected Longview senators, pushes back on two legs of his chair with leather ropers. In jeans, t-shirt, boots, a milled straw hat and a large Confederate flag belt buckle, Porter shows pride in being raised on a cattle farm, where, he said, he was no stranger to hard work.

He talks of control in every aspect of his life - running the farm, selling and marketing cattle - Porter likes running things. That's why he chose to run for the student senate. He wants to be involved "and have a voice," he said.

Porter attributes his "upbringing" to shaping his thoughts and ideas today. Being from the south is an important part of his personality. The belt buckle he wears reflects his past. "It's my heritage," Porter said. My whole family fought in the war. The Civil War, that



Mike Smith/Longview Current
Senator Porter

is - they were Confederate soldiers. To Porter, the Confederate flag symbolizes rebellion. Wearing it, he said, "shows my character."

In addition to his experience running a cattle farm, Porter has been a leader in showing and judging cattle for the FFA (Future Farmers of America) and took part in a business club in high school. He intends to come up with new ideas for student activities at Longview.

Porter graduated in 2005 from Raytown High School. This is his first semester attending Longview, with plans to obtain an agricultural degree and eventually take over the Fort Osage cattle farm business. For now, Porter represents a group of students with similar views and provides them a voice.

Check and animate

by KYLE WILSON

Every Thursday the Chessime club meets in room 241 of the Campus Center to play chess and watch Japanese animation together as a club.

"The club is nice because it's the blending of Japanese Art through Anime and a cunning mind game through chess and I think they complement each other in a very weird way," club president Jason Heitzman said.

The room is equipped with a large screen and movie projector. Chess boards are present at the meetings and some members play chess while watching anime.

Heitzman said the club welcomes all who like chess or anime to join. Brad Jackson, vice president of the club, said he is more interested in the chess. He keeps track of the wins and losses of everyone in chess. These records are kept in order to create tournaments of chess that are played at the end of the



KRT Campus

semester. Jackson is considered far superior at chess to the others in the club so members say the tournaments are not competitive.

Sometimes the club will leave the campus together and head to places such as Moikiki Anime store at 40 Highway and Noland

Road. There the club can purchase or rent anime DVDs and play anime video games. On December 7, they will challenge Longview's Student Government in dodgeball at the Longview Rec Center. Both groups hope to expand the dodgeball challenge in the future.

If you are interested in this club you can visit the website at www.eccentrix.com/members/chessime.

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Get all the flags together and play

Student-formed football league is fun for everyone

by MIKE SMITH

The flag football program is spiking its way to Longview for the fifth year, and it's a popular intramural sport among the students.

"There are not a whole lot of sports students can participate in here at Longview, so flag football gives students an opportunity to participate

in something at Longview besides school," said Rec Center coordinator Kwasi Pryor.

Students meet to play flag football every Saturday and play from noon to 4 p.m. Currently the flag football program has five teams, but Pryor wants to get more students to join.

In order to join the flag football program, a student has to be enrolled at Longview and pay a \$5 fee.

"The people that play here play more to win than to have fun. We could use another referee on the other side of the field. Things can sometimes get a little physical out there. I like the way the program is run and it's very fun to play," said Matt Grey, a member of last year's

championship team. Gray said he enjoys the flag football program and the competitive nature of it. His team has their own playbook and they run some special plays, such as the H.B. pass and reverse pass.

The rules for Longview's games are similar to most standard flag football rules. On a team's possession, they start in their own end zone and try to drive 45 yards to the other side of the field for a touchdown. A team has to drive ten yards to acquire the first down and fifteen yards to get a second one. No tackling or diving is allowed at any time to keep the game clean without anyone getting injured. Any infraction of the rules results in a penalty and a loss of yards. The teams play two 20-minute halves. If a team scores three touchdowns in a row without the other team scoring, the team automatically wins.

Pryor lets the students organize their own teams, and he sets a schedule every week that has four teams playing at a time with one team getting a bye week. Each team consists of five to six

players, with four players being allowed to be on the field for each team.

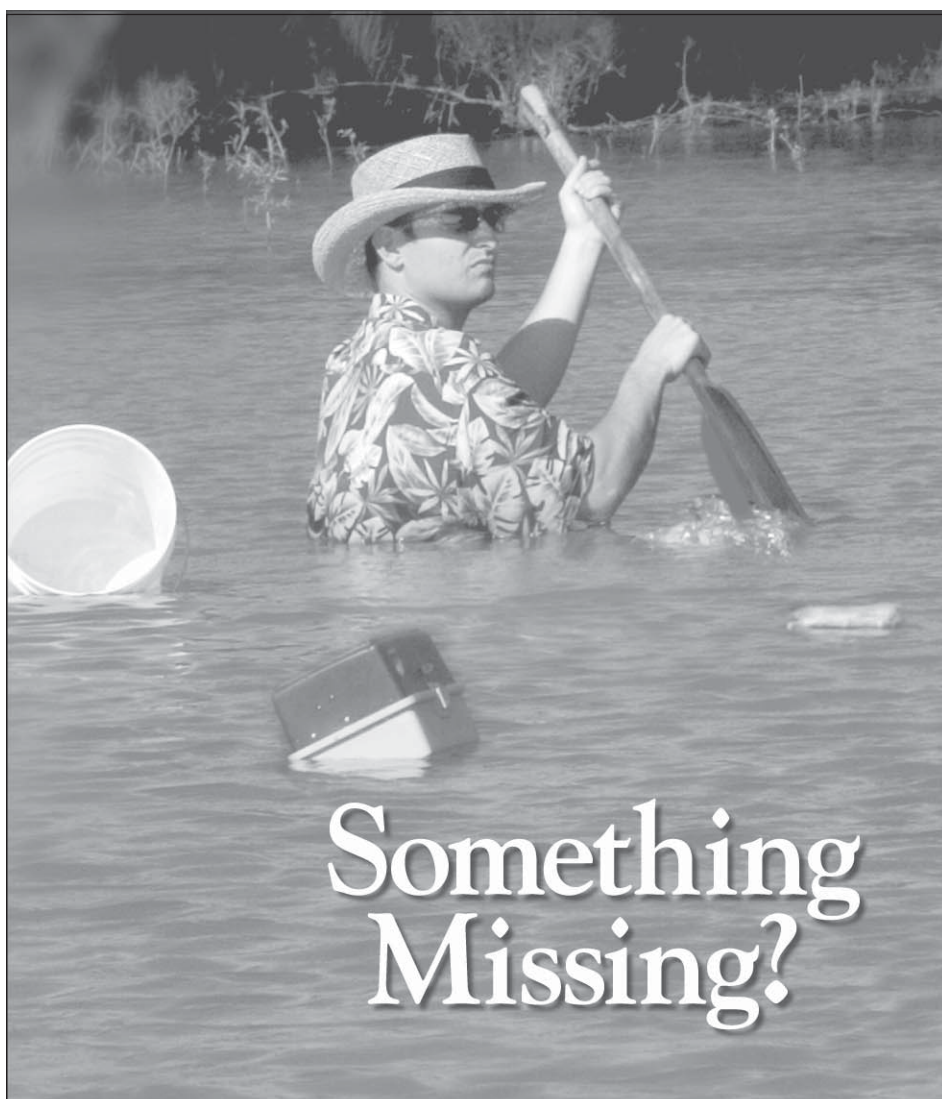
The teams play two games per week. Teams play two to three times a week over four weeks, and the team with the best record at the end of the season is declared the champions.

Pryor wants to stress the importance of sportsmanship to the participants and wants them to go out there and have fun. After each football game the players go up to shake hands and congratulate each other.

"I enjoy organizing and refereeing flag football," said Pryor. "I want students to participate so students can get an active, competitive, extra-curricular life style."

Chris Thomas, another participant in the flag football program, said he enjoys it as well.

"I get good exercise by playing. It is fun because of my love for football and the competition. This needs to be promoted more so we can get more people to join so we can have more teams," Thomas said.



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Ode to Hartman

Twelve-year Longview professor retires into the arms of photography

by TOM DAVIS

At the end of the fall 2005 semester, the political science staff at Longview will change dramatically. Professor Ken Hartman will be retiring from full-time teaching and will only teach two days each week during the spring 2006 semester.

"He is a gentleman....he is broadly educated and he is a product of what a liberal arts education should be," said history professor Randall Moore, who said that Hartman will be missed.

Hartman has spent almost 30 years as a college professor, starting in San Antonio, Tex. While he was working on his graduate degree at the University of Texas in 1966, before he started teaching he was drafted into the Army, but unlike most young men at the time, Hartman did not go to Vietnam for his tour of duty. He mainly spent his time stationed in Europe, working under a flight surgeon and enjoyed his time he spent in the army and his travels throughout Europe, he said.

After his honorable discharge from the Army, Hartman briefly worked for the Defense department, but decided he did not like the job and after a brief stint as a small business owner in Texas, he started teaching.

Hartman said he began teaching adult education courses in history as a volunteer and discovered he liked teaching adults. He began teaching at San Antonio College, and was also a teaching assistant at Louisiana State University while working on his masters' degree, and he taught at for five years at Francis Marion University in Florence, S.C. before coming to Longview in 1993.

Hartman experienced history first hand when he was pinned down by sniper fire from Charles Whitman at the University of Texas bell tower for over 90 minutes.

Moore said he and Hartman taught a learning community course together that resulted in a profound respect for Hartman. "He has a command of the theory of politics and the mechanics of politics" that Moore found enjoyable. A



Tom Davis/Longview Current

Hartman always willing to help out eager students in the classroom.

former student of Hartman's, Eric Ree, said that he liked to be in Hartman's class because "Mr. Hartman did not let his personal views guide the way the subject was taught." Angie Rafferty said she enjoys his class because he is a good teacher, and he "explains the subject very well in a manner that I can understand it."


Hartman said that a change he has noticed over the past 10 to 15 years is that being politically correct has become more important than being historically correct. He said he believes political correctness harms the educational experience, since it can make some people afraid to express ideas that may be controversial and it can create a climate that has made important sub

See **HARTMAN**
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Showdown

The burger wars light up the to

J.C. Nichols and the Cheesecake Factory

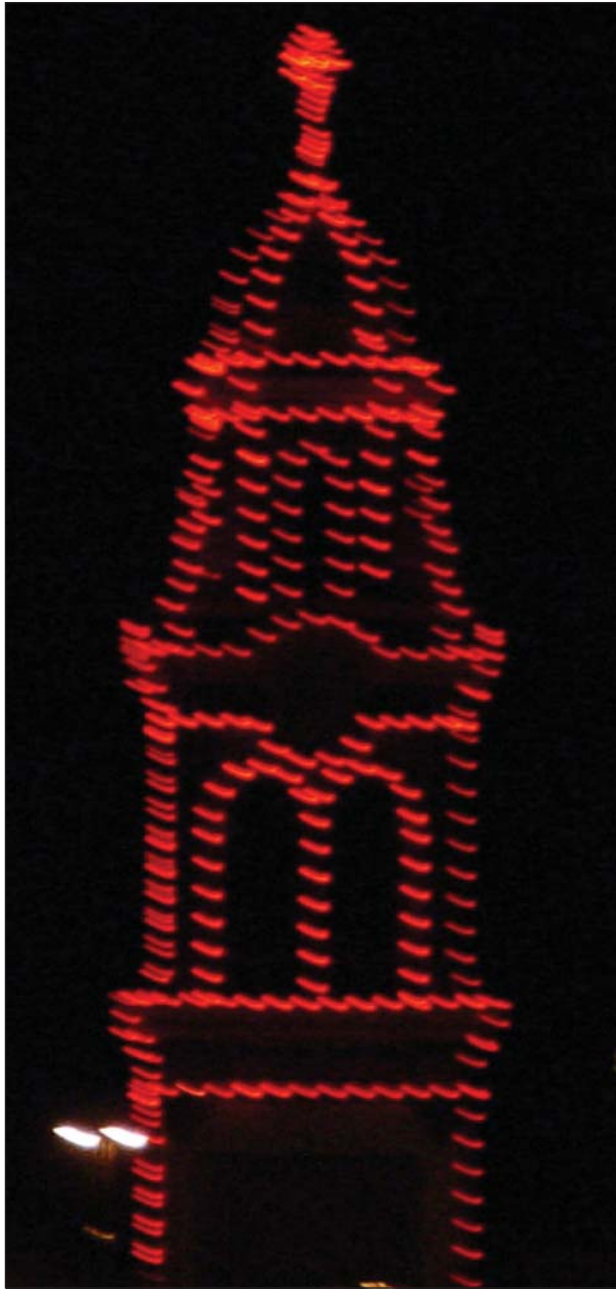
by MICHAEL E. WEIR

Suppose even fountains of the Christmas-lighted Plaza don't fill one's holiday appetite.

Perhaps The Cheesecake Factory would. There's no substitute for good food, so a worthy establishment has an ambience required for an unparalleled experience. The Cheesecake Factory is such a place.

It may come as a surprise that The Factory could be a good place to find a hamburger, but they have one that's recommended to the tastebuds as well as the pocketbook. The Ranch House burger is a generous three-quarter-inch thickness and is topped with bits of tenderloin sautéed with mushroom and onion weighed down by a large heap of melted cheddar and a side of ranch dressing. Accompanied by large, well seasoned fries, the quickened relief from hunger hinges on the edge of overdoing it after only half of the monstrous burger and fries have been disposed of. Oh, yeah - they have cheesecake, too.

With large, heightened booths, bar seats, small rounding tables or a heated patio, the desires of seating and low lit atmosphere of the Country Club Plaza is well combined with hospitable hosts.



Will Haddix/Longview Current

Houston, no problems here

by JESSE BROWN

One only hears good things about Houston's on the Plaza. It's expensive food and the restaurant is elegant. Described on the menu as just-ground chuck with cheddar, tomato, lettuce, and onion on a toasted egg bun, it already sounded promising, but the burger exceeded expectations. As burgers should be, it was thick and juicy, with a little extra of flavor to increase the goodness that is this cheeseburger. Every bite was worth salivating over. The burger was big so customers gets their money worth the cheeseburger was \$10 with a side of fries - and even though the fries were small, they made up in quantity and they compliment the burger.

The restaurant, with a peaceful atmosphere, sits in the middle of the Plaza and feels like something special. The place is dark with soft lights and the grill can be seen with confidence from where the customers sit. The service is top-notch, as well as the cooking. Everything is so pleasant that the restaurant is an ideal choice for a date.

In the ongoing Burger Wars, Houston's on the Plaza stepped it up a notch with quality and quantity. The menu claims that "At Houston's, we stand behind our service as well as our food." It's easy to

on the Plaza

Up joints at the J.C. Nichols Plaza



Will Haddix/Longview Current

Tomfooled

 by WILL HADDIX

Average in taste, medium in size – nothing special here. Tomfooleries on the Plaza serves burgers that are no more remarkable than any served at an ordinary restaurant. The only difference would be the large selection of alcohol for customers 21 and up.

While Tomfooleries is labeled as a restaurant and bar, it's easy to tell that the bar portion is much more appealing, with its wide variety of liquor. There are several different kinds of burgers to choose from and, after a few bites of a normal one, it's obvious why. Served with a thin slice of cheese and large, but

See **BURGER**
page 15



An exotic utopia

by JESSE BROWN

The Country Club Plaza holds a special place in my heart. Places of great beauty always do, but this is the midwest. One would not think to see something as exotic and beautiful as the Plaza in the midwest. It's so unexpected. People visit the Plaza and get the feeling that they have been blessed to see such maj-

See **PLAZA**
page 15

Reviews

Small players in a big world

Gaghan and Clooney's *Syriana* says oil corrupts absolutely

by MICHAEL E. WEIR

From dust, man is born, to dust he will return, and from the dust another will be born.

These words are a fictional suicide bomber last in the political film *Syriana*, a movie that may leave one wondering what exactly they just watched.

This movie is hard to follow, but that's probably its strongest aspect in comparison to so many box-office movies that make one less intelligent to have sat through.

Syriana, based on the novel *See No Evil* by Robert Baer, is a playhouse of characters separately involved in their own complicated lives, all collecting speed so that they may collide into one another at the end of the film. It's a lot like crashing all of the involving highways together at the Grandview triangle.

One of these characters, Bob, is a secret intelligence agent being used in Iran played by George Clooney, who also executive produced the film. Supporting cast includes Matt Damon, Chris Cooper, Christopher Plummer, Amanda Peet, Jeffrey Wright, William Hurt, Alexander Siddig, Mazhar Munir and Tim Blake Nelson.

High merit to Clooney for an almost unrecognizable appearance and to the rest of the cast for their stellar performances. Director Stephen Gaghan's hand is definitively seen in the film and

hardly goes unappreciated.

This film is essentially about deep rooted corruption in American government, big businesses and intelligence agencies over an ongoing struggle for control over parts of the Middle East and possession of the greatest natural resource of all time, which they happen to have quite a bit of.

It is complex and educational, though it is still a work of fiction.

It can, of course, be compared to the Academy Award-winning movie *Traffic* which was also written by Stephen Gaghan. Clooney also recently co-wrote and directed the Warner Independent film *Good Night, and Good Luck*, already in theatres.



Warner Bros.

A bearded George Clooney means business.

Take it to the IMAX

The Polar Express gets the IMAX 3D treatment

by ERIC FRIZELL

To coincide with the November 22 Warner Home Video release of the beloved children's tale *The Polar Express*, more than 60 IMAX theaters in the U.S. – including AMC Olathe Studio 30 – have begun showing *The Polar Express: An IMAX 3D Experience*.

With a gross surpassing \$45 million since its original theatrical debut, Chris

Van Allsburg's Christmas story has been re-released to the IMAX screen as a three-dimensional feature that will allow moviegoers to look through a special pair of eyeglasses and be entertained by elements seemingly within reaching distance.

The 3D conversion gives way to plenty of fun moments in this animated adaptation by producer Robert Zemeckis, such as when the film's star, Hero Boy (Daryl Sabara), loses his grip on a train boarding pass that drifts and dances in a windy sky. Another exciting time occurs with a musical number dur-

ing which the young passengers aboard *The Polar Express* are served hot chocolate with cups and saucers that leap far from the screen. Spiraled toy chutes and roller coaster rides provide some of the other thrills in this well crafted tale about the joy of believing.

According to a May BizJournals report, Studio 30 was granted a small-scale version of the "The IMAX Experience" this past summer, as it is one of the nation's top performing AMC theaters. *The Polar Express* is the first full-length feature film to show in 3D at the Olathe IMAX.

Garbo It Up

Classic Greta Garbo movie shows she is the foremost leading lady

by MICHAEL E. WEIR

Anyone who would learn from Shakespeare what a tragedy should be must also consult the literature of Alexandre Dumas. Now on DVD is the classic 1936 Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer production of Dumas' novel and play *Camille*.

Camille is the first of ten films to be individually shelved on DVD from the newly released Greta Garbo DVD box set, *Garbo: The Signature Collection* from Turner Classic Movies. Directed by George Cukor, Garbo plays the role of Marguerite Gautier, an 1847 Paris version of what F. Scott Fitzgerald denounced a flapper and a floozy of France in the 1920s.

Driven by lust for money and prestige in the haughty European society, Marguerite is forced to choose between

true love and wealth untold. Her suitor and true love, Armand Duval (Robert Taylor), is the personification of Adonis but lacks wealth enough to satisfy the most frivolous of spenders in the city of pleasure. Being also pursued by the Baron de Varville, a middle-aged man of means indescribable, creates a

“It is ‘Garbo’s best performance.’ ‘Screen acting of the highest order.’”

difficult decision that such a legendary beauty as Marguerite would lay her life down for. Whether or not Marguerite is right in refusing Armand is a moral of the story and a question in itself, but being without her true love is for certain what kills her in the end. No doubt this is a tragedy of enormous proportion.

Many consider *Camille* to be one of the greatest films of all time. It is “Garbo’s best performance,” according to John Douglas Eames of The MGM

Story, “screen acting of the highest order.” To watch *Camille* is to know why Garbo earned an Academy Award nomination in 1937 and the New York Film Critics Best Actress Award for her work in it. She not only conquered her era as the foremost leading lady but has never had an equal to this day.

Also included in the DVD special features is the 1921 silent version of *Camille*, starring Alla Nazimova, Rudolph Valentino, and directed by Ray C. Smallwood, making the dual-fea-

ture disc well worth the purchase. The special features also include the original theatrical trailer for the 1936 version of the film and an audio bonus: *Leo Is on the Air Radio Promo*.

The ten discs completing the box set are divided into two categories: Garbo Silents and Garbo Talkies. The first category includes *Flesh and the Devil*, *The Temptress*, and *The Mysterious Lady*. The talkies are *Anna Christie*, *Grand Hotel*, *Anna Karenina*, *Queen Christina*, and of course, *Camille*.



KRT Campus

Greta Garbo.

Trading the ballads for the blues

John Mayer Trio wants listeners to *Try!* their new album

by BRIAN DOTY

The lead track from John Mayer Trio's awesome live album *Try!* asks the listener an important question: “Who did you think I was?”

Did people really think John Mayer would spend the rest of his music career writing ballads and playing acoustic guitar for a strong female fan base? Instead of going into the studio and working out another sure-hit solo record, Grammy award winner Mayer did what few expected and formed a powerful blues trio. Their first record, *Try!*, is a live album recorded on the band's recent United States tour and one of the best albums of the year.

Yes, the trio did in fact go on a tour before releasing a record, and a studio album should be due out next summer.

Grammy winning drummer Steve Jordan beat the skins on Mayer's last solo record, *Heavier Things*, and has also played with Chuck Barry, Eric Clapton, Bob Dylan B.B. King in the past. Mayer and Jordan got the idea to start up a band after working with each other on *Heavier Things* and picked up bassist Pino Palladino, who has worked with D'Angelo, Erykah Badu and Common, and also played bass for The Who's final tour.

Try! is an 11-track album packed with over an hour of music. The lead track, “Who Did You Think I Was?”,

does a good job of getting things started and questions Mayer's pop past. It's fast, fun and short, just three minutes and nine seconds long. The first of two cover songs is Jimi Hendrix's “Wait Until Tomorrow.” Mayer and the band have no trouble playing even a Hendrix song, which sounds quite good.

After being blasted with rock and blues, “Gravity” brings things down. The slow jam is a vocal showcase for Mayer and has bluesy vocals like “Gravity, is working against me./ And gravity wants to bring me down.” Mayer also cranks out some catchy guitar that parallels the feeling in his vocals and continues into the mid-paced song “Vultures.”

The album's second cover song comes in the form of Ray Charles hit song “I Got a Woman”, which sure sounds better here than in sampled form for Kanye West's hit “Gold Dig-

ger.”

Mayer's original songs from *Heavier Things*, “Something's Missing” and “Daughters”, are amazing and sure to be enjoyed thoroughly by fans of Mayer's solo work. Mayer puts a lot of emotion into both his vocals and guitar on these songs and makes for some powerful stuff.

The album concludes in strong fashion with the title track. The fast-paced, seven-minute rock and blues song reminds the listener of the band's talent, in case they could actually forget.

Overall, *Try!* is one of the best albums of the year and is sure to make waves in the music industry and probably at award shows as well. Even though Mayer fans will most likely enjoy the trio, the music is so different that even non-Mayer fans can love it. Mayer plans to go back and forth between the trio and his solo career.

Aeon Flux a little too in flux

Overkill in style and plot twists makes *Aeon Flux* an insufferable film

by JESSE BROWN

Aeon Flux was not screened for critics. With that knowledge, it could be hard to shake the idea that this movie was going to suck. And it isn't good, but it isn't bad either.

Aeon Flux is an oddball piece of film coming from the oddball anime that used to air on MTV. Set 400 years in the future, the city of Bregna is inhabited by the last survivors of the human race after a virus wiped them out. A scientist, Trevor Goodchild (Martin Csokas), found a cure for the virus, and the Goodchild regime has ruled for

those 400 years. The city has mysterious vanishings of its citizens and unexplained events. The people think they have their freedom but some believe the opposite. A band of rebels operate to bring down the Goodchild regime to bring freedom back to the people of Bregna. *Aeon Flux* (Charlize Theron) is one of the rebels who is determined to end the Goodchild regime. Throughout the film, though, twists and turns completely hack that plot into erratic action scenes and failed dramatic cues.

This movie has two things to like. Oscar winning Theron (*Monster*) is a great and beautiful actress. She sells the femme fatale *Aeon Flux* as a fighter.

Csokas (XXX) is the other good thing as the love interest for *Aeon Flux*. They are both good actors but due to a plot that shoots in all different directions, their skills get lost in the translation.

Parts of the film ought to have some emotional weight. A message could have reached the audience brilliantly

and even give the film some meaning.

Aeon Flux is an expertly trained assassin, so action is guaranteed. The action is okay but no moments make the film a great action piece. The action scenes become redundant and never really satisfy an action junkie.

DangerDoom lays down the krunk

Rappers team-up to hit the beats on their album *The Mouse and The Mask*

by BEN CURRIER

DangerDoom's latest release packs a double punch with two of indie hip hop's most potent composers, Danger Mouse and MF Doom. This team powers up in their new Adult Swim themed album, *The Mouse and The Mask*, which not only features masterly beats inspired by Danger Mouse (who produced Jay-Z's *Grey Album*) painted with MF Doom's deep roller rap style.

From the shoulders of the television giants at Adult Swim, DangerDoom has found the bling along with an ideal market for pushing their music to a wide variety of consumers. All of the Adult Swim fans out there would be pleased with their purchase, as most of the Sunday lineup shows are covered: A.T.H.F., *The Brak Show*, *Space Ghost*, *Sealab 2021* and *Harvey Birdman*. The samples and character voice-overs keep any 'toon crazed junkie transfixed enough to gain appreciation for their musical talent despite any previous reservations toward hip hop. As for the hard at core rap enthusiasts, DangerDoom does more than enough to satisfy the most finicky amongst them with a fresh sound that's got a rhythmic explosion which leaves little to be desired. Danger Mouse's monster talent shown off on this album could just make Lil'

Jon blush long enough to set his Krunk cup down for a moment and reconsider his dance trance sound.

Danger Mouse and MF Doom have contributed to numerous projects of new and old within the hip hop community and up until their latest piece of work, had stuck to the small-airplay, low advertising-cost approach to reaching customers with an album release. MF doom MCs with his supreme low-tone tactical style and delivers a strong performance that goes eye-to-eye with Danger Mouse's chaotic yet smooth-finishing production style. Original samplings and guest appearances are scattered well to keep the flow going as MF doom's deep voice alone has wound up in previous albums to be a little repetitive and covers his limited ability to switch it up much.

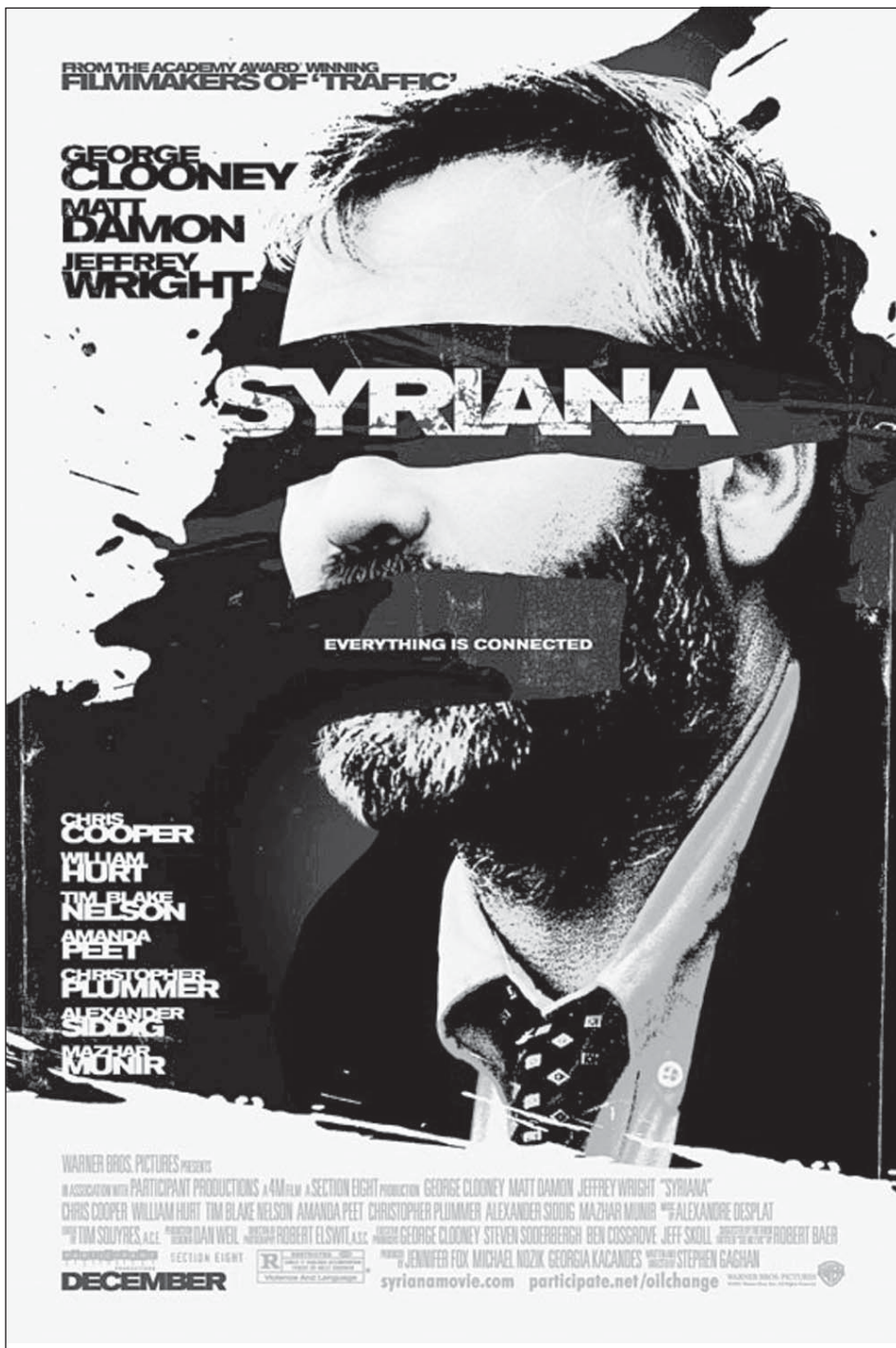
This roundabout of hip hop talents - guest appearances include Ghost Face Killah, Talib Kweli and the dirty south's CeeLo - laced with quality 'toon tid bits makes for a solid album release worthy of its acclaim, for a one of a kind hip hop sensation.

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Set your own goals for your life

Students taking advantage of internship feel well rewarded

HARTMAN
from page 7

by KENNY TAYLOR

The appeal of the Disney College Program first gleamed in Lauren King's eyes when she read about it while researching Walt Disney World for an upcoming trip.

She was eager to apply for an internship with Disney "because they are the best in the nation, if not the world, at what I want to do," King said. She recognized that she would have the opportunity to gain experience toward her dream career with a combination of marketing and tourism in the program.

The program combines college credit from Metropolitan Community College with earning money in a full-time job and the fun of living in Florida. On top of that, participants get to meet and talk with executives from many departments of the company.

"There were so many networking opportunities and you could meet a lot of the higher-ups, if that's what you want to call them," said John Anderson, a program graduate. "It blew me away how easy they made it to talk to these people. It was like the cream of the crop of motivated college students with the people there because they had to be motivated to do the internship and then they had to be motivated to go and meet them."

Taking advantage of the opportunity paid off for Anderson's friend John Vias, who went on to become a media support manager at Magic Kingdom.

"From the program he met people who motivated him to start an animation business, so it's amazing how much of a future of success can start there," Anderson said.

King said that she found a lot of useful information about the program on-line, but also realized she shouldn't believe every thing she read.

"I read on a web site that Disney is very particular about the 'Disney look' so I went out and spent \$150 on a new outfit," King said, "and I dressed up a lot more than I normally would. Then three weeks before, I realized that they changed it to a phone interview and it was a waste."



Jesse Brown/Longview Current

John Anderson at the MCC's 90th Anniversary Dinner.

Preparation out of the way, King said that the longer she waited for the interview date, the more nervous she grew, but the work had paid off because she knew what to expect so she was more at ease.

"Leading up to the presentation, I was really excited. After all of the research I had done, I decided that it was what I wanted to do," King said. "Then as it got closer, I started to get nervous. And I was really nervous the day after the presentation as I waited for my phone interview. I was really nervous because I sound like I am 12 on the phone."

By the day of the interview, King said, she could only anticipate what corners she might talk herself into.

"My interview went really fast and I realized that it was because I was talking faster than ever before in my life. I sounded like I just drank a six pack of Red Bull and I realized that I wasn't even breathing."

On Halloween, King received the

letter that let her know her preparation had not been in vain. Disney offered her a job in merchandise. She said that the opportunity to miss the worst part of the winter made the whole thing even better, but she had hesitations about living arrangements.

"Living with up to seven other girls from around the country or even around the world will be a little scary because it's not something I am used to," she said.

Anderson faced the same problem. The worst part was the drive to Florida, he said, because he had so much time to just worry. "But the second I went into the apartment, I felt better because I met my roommates and got to know them," Anderson said. "Then Orlando became my home. I came home and I got homesick for Walt Disney World.... I was driving down 291 and there was no EPCOT, only Master Wok."

King may feel uneasy about life in Orlando, but she said that she feels ready to move on.

jects almost taboo to discuss for fear of offending someone.

"It forces people not to speak up, or be intimidated to say certain things," Hartman said. College is the place where everyone should come to expand their minds, Hartman said, adding that creating taboo subjects is not only harmful to the students but harmful to colleges in the long run. One way he said that he has resisted such changes is by selecting books that don't always agree with the common sentiment of the era, either socially or politically, but accurately state the facts.

Hartman said he wants to impart to his students that they need to think for themselves, explore their world and draw their own conclusions. He asks students to keep open minds and to "never back away from a challenge and keep learning."

With just three classes on his schedule for the next semester, taking a course from Professor Hartman may require some juggling of classes to work his classes in, but the experience will be rewarding.

With his early retirement allowing him to pursue other interests, Hartman will spend more time with his family and also plan to delve back into another interest he has had, photography. With plans to photograph the rapidly disappearing history of American Civil War historical sites, Ken Hartman will continue to increase his knowledge, but he will also be saving history for the future. Dr. Moore said it best with these few words about Hartman leaving and they are "He will definitely be missed"



What is the number one item on your Christmas wish list this year?

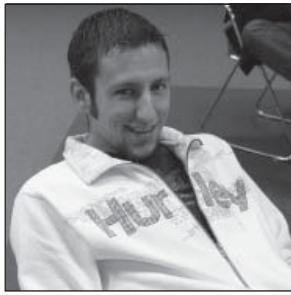
Current Questionnaire



Mark Fixler: XBOX 360



Andrea Wilhoit: Gloves



Nick Swope: Gift card to The Buckle



Alix Swope: New digital camera



Laura Penn: "I just want my car fixed."



Eric Frizell/Longview Current



Kenny Taylor/Longview Current



Eric Frizell/Longview Current

Top and bottom: Choir gets ready for performance while the Drama department prepares for an audience (center).

ROUNDBOUTS from page 16

fusing and take some getting used to, but a good amount of common sense can get a person through just about anything.

That sign that says “yield” means let the traffic in your desired path go first, and once they are clear, you can go. If a driver doesn’t see one of the 30 yield signs, common sense will still get the person through in one piece; just don’t pull out into oncoming traffic. It can really be that simple.

STEROIDS from page 16

professional sports, like basketball and football.

Steroid usage has been a rising problem in MLB because players keep on using performance enhancing drugs to give themselves an advantage. Baseball has been performing random steroid tests on players to enforce the current policy, which sets penalties for testing positive for steroid use at a 10 day suspension for the first offense, 30 days for the second, and 60 days for the third. A permanent ban from baseball is not even considered till the fifth offense.

Selig has said that the current policy is working well to keep players from using steroids, but because of Congress’ intervention, he’s been forced to come up with a new one. The commissioner proposed a new policy to the players association that included a 50-day suspension without pay for the first offense, 100-day suspension for the second, and a permanent ban for the third. Selig suggests that Congress’ penalties are too harsh and his proposal will be enough to get rid of the problem. The new policy could start as early as 2006 training camp could run for the next several years if accepted by the players association.

The players association will meet December 5-9 in Henderson, Nev. to vote on whether to ratify the new steroid policy proposed by Donald Fehr, the chairman of the players association, has been saying that the policies proposed by both MLB and Congress are too harsh and he’s made a counter-proposal: a 20-day suspension for the first offense, a 75-day suspension for the second offense, and a permanent ban decision would be left to the discretion of the commissioner upon a the third offense. This counter proposal was rejected by Congress and MLB.

This season potential hall-of-famer

Rafael Palmeiro tested positive, along with several other players. Palmeiro emphatically said in a Congressional hearing this year that he had never used performance enhancing drugs and was later suspended for 10 days for testing positive.

Palmeiro is setting a bad example. Players like him need to quit lying and quit using steroids. Baseball is losing many fans who are sick and tired of players cheating.

The players association ought to get it over with and agree to Selig’s proposal of a new steroid policy. It is ridiculous that it has taken this long to agree on a policy.

Players who use steroids are cheaters. It denigrates the integrity of the game when players use performance enhancing drugs. What happened to the good old days in the early 1900’s when players like Babe Ruth, Roger Maris, Ted Williams, and Mickey Mantle were able to perform well without the use of steroids?

Selig is doing a good job trying to end the use of steroids in baseball. The current policy simply is not good enough. The new policy proposed by MLB would improve the previous policy tremendously and would further prevent the use of steroids, but it still has much room for improvement.

The best steroid proposal was the one that Congress made. Their proposal would be extremely effective in stopping the abusive use of steroids. The harsh penalties of this policy would force players to stop using them, because they will be out of a job on the second offense. Players know better than to use steroids to begin with, so a two-year suspension for the first offense and a permanent ban for the second would be perfect punishment for breaking the policy.

Baseball is taking a step in the right direction to getting rid of the steroid problem for good. The players need to swallow their pride and sign the agreement for the new policy. But the steroid policy proposed by Congress would clearly be the most effective in putting an end to steroid usage in

ACCREDITATION from page 1

ment. The college has met this goal in part by establishing the Blue River and Business & Technology campuses as autonomous campuses (both were once considered extensions of the Longview campus). MCKC has also demonstrated its goal to enhance student learning by introducing Writ-

ing Intensive courses as a graduation requirement in the fall of 2002. The Writing Intensive program, offered in most disciplines in the curriculum, first appeared in the spring of 2000. Part of Longview’s Writing-Across-the-Curriculum program, the WI courses were fundamental in the naming of Longview Community College as 2001 College of the Year by Time Magazine and the Princeton Review.

MCKC conducts a general education assessment to determine how well students are mastering the skills their courses intend to offer. The assessment results, according to co-chair Kathy Hale, will assist in providing details for a self-study report that Longview will send to HLC in December, as well as offering data that will allow the college to improve.

Over the next few months, the accreditation committee and student government will work together to bring attention to the certification process and how students can become involved in all important issues regarding their education. HLC evaluators will visit the campus in March.

BURGER from page 9

not very thick, sesame seed buns, the burgers are mediocre at best.

In fact, even with lettuce, tomatoes and onions added on, the watered-down taste fails to improve. The waffle fries served as a side dish make a better meal. Customers sitting at the bar downing shots and margaritas have a much more enjoyable time, especially when happy hour kicks up with dim lighting and Kanye West pumping throughout the establishment.

Though the wait for food was a bit long, the service was friendly and attentive, making sure everything is perfect and that the customer will be going home happy. Though the burgers may not be up to snuff, the staff is wonderful.

If looking for a fine hamburger, don’t be fooled by this bar and grill. If looking for a place to enjoy a night on the town, then Tomfoolery’s would make a great spot.

PLAZA from page 9

esty in the heart of the country.

The Country Club Plaza’s official website tells that, originally called the Brush Creek Valley, it was just a swampy land that was a dumping ground with a hog farm on one end and a brickyard on the other. Where most people only saw a disaster, Jesse Clyde “J.C.” Nichols saw promise.

After successful ventures in the real estate business, Nichols aimed to build the country’s first shopping center in this watering hole that would become the Country Club Plaza. Formal plans were announced in 1922, for the construction of the Plaza and “many of the city’s leaders were calling it “Nichols’ Folly.”

Reminiscing about his experiences in Europe, Nichols selected a Spanish theme for the Plaza that would incorporate beautiful courtyards and stucco buildings with red tile roofs and ornate towers. He had a hand in choosing the art to adorn the Plaza and placed the antique sculptures, tile-lace murals, wrought iron and fountains himself. Throughout the decades, hotels and apartments were added to the Plaza. However, it was in 1925, when a single strand of lights were lit up that would start the tradition of the Plaza lights, a celebration for over sixty years that has grown into a world famous event.

The Plaza is my understanding of utopia. It’s just perfect and every time I go back, I can’t help but feel overwhelmed by its beauty. With its romantic Spanish architecture and European art laid out before me, I feel as if I’m somewhere far away from the midwest and in lands I’ve never seen before. It’s that feeling of escape that always excites me to go back to the Plaza.

What’s not to love about the Plaza? It’s got shops of all kinds, some of the best restaurants in Kansas City, great entertainment with its theaters and art fairs, and it is truly just a sight to behold. The old and the new are in unison in upholding the beauty of the Plaza. It’s perfect.

**ENROLL
EARLY AND OFTEN**

Opinions

Making the rounds

This Longviewer is 'bout to tell you to yield



**Brian
Doty**

Almost every time I drive through the roundabouts, I have to dodge and

yield to the traffic that is supposed to yield to me. In other words, if I am not paying extra attention to those drivers, I would probably have been in a wreck by now.

People are quick to blame the roundabouts themselves, because they're foreign to most local drivers. But the real problem is the drivers who drive through the roundabouts. When driving an automobile, does it not make sense to stop and look around when confused about the road? People are so overwhelmed by the roundabout setup that they forget what they know about driving. A yield sign means yield to on-

coming traffic. Instead, people are getting confused and just driving straight through.

When in our driver training did we learn to just say "Screw it, I'm just going to go for it and see what happens."

The roundabouts are being plagued with accidents because drivers have lost their common sense. Drivers have been taught the rules of the road, but not to use good judgment.

I will admit that the roundabouts are at first con-

**See ROUNDABOUTS
page 15**

Don't pump you up

Steroid use jeopardizes integrity of players



**Mike
Smith**

As Major League Baseball popularity declines because of

the problems with players using steroids, Congress held hearings about the MLB steroid policy and told MLB and the players association that if an agreement is not reached soon, they will implement their own policy.

The commissioner of baseball Bud Selig and the players association have said they are close to reaching an agreement for a new steroid policy.

Congress and fans were fed up with the ubiquitous usage of steroids. Congress heavily criticized the

current steroid policy for being too harsh. They proposed a new policy with very harsh penalties for players who test positive for steroids. First-time offenders would be suspended for two years. Second-time offenders would be permanently banned from MLB. Congress feels that such harsh penalties would stop steroid usage in baseball. They want to implement harsher penalties for steroid usage than are used in other

**See STEROIDS
page 15**