

THE TIMES

of Howard Community College

March, 2011

RISE OF THE NEW MIDDLE EAST



HOWARD
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

RISE OF THE NEW MIDDLE EAST

By Mohammad A Sharif

The recent struggle by the Egyptians against social injustice and prejudice has brought changes into the whole Arab and Non Arab world dramatically. The protest against the authoritarian regime of the former President Hosni Mubarak turned into celebrations when Mubarak announced his resignation on Feb, 11 2011. The streets of Cairo are now looking for a change that can provide justice at all levels. There is still lot more steps that Egyptians must take in order to continue their struggle in the cause of democracy, righteousness, justice and equality.

The Egyptians are looking forward towards a progressive society which can lead them towards a more civilized world. The frustrations among the Egyptians were mostly because of the corruption, inequality and injustice that they have been experiencing for decades. A political science professor, Joanne Drielak told HCC times that, "The reasons for the uprising were both economic and political. The weak economy with both high unemployment and inflation strongly contributed to the frustration and unrest of the Egyptians. The Egyptian economic system has resulted in their citizens being dependents of the corrupt government for basics such as food and shelter. The lack of free speech, free press, corruption and police brutality were grievances that reached a tipping point". She added that, "I am feeling cautiously optimistic about the political possibilities for Egypt. The future of Egypt will be

dependent on numerous variables.

Will the elections be fair, how will the Constitution be amended or re-drafted? Which faction in Egypt will succeed in galvanize support in the near future? For now, Egyptians rejoice with news of Mubarak's resignation. There is much work ahead to create a new direction and government. Civil society must be developed. Egyptians must be determined but also cautious that they do not undermine their objectives of economic and political freedoms with hasty or poorly evaluated responses. Let's hope for a positive outcome for Egypt. This may be the start of new freedoms in the Islamic world."

The idea of the protest was to demand free and fair competitive elections, which can bring the change through the ballot box. The time it will take for the interim government to hold these proper elections will be of crucial importance. The military government has promised free and fair elections within six months. Other factors that contributed to the movement were corruption and lack of trust government greatly affected the movement. A professor of Sociology at HCC, Greg Fleisher, responded to this by saying that, "When explaining social events sociologically, we do not see events like this as isolated incidents. Instead, when we look throughout history, we see many similar incidents.

By looking at the Egypt situation in this way, we are able to uncover general causes of events like this. The Egyptian situation is similar to others throughout history in that it is born of the social exclusion of the people. Social marginalization in a society breeds discontent and desire for change. So when we examine change that has taken place throughout history, it often starts with the existence of a wide power gap between the haves and have not in the society. This

is what we have seen in Egypt." He thinks that this is not an end but it's the beginning of the New Middle East when he said that, "If social change is contagious, then perhaps Yemen, Jordan and Saudi Arabia are the next places to watch. If change sweeps the region, then global politics will look very different."

If there is a delay in the vote for a President and for Parliament without a reason this will endanger the geo-politics of the region. The frustration and determination of the people will not set in peace until a positive change is made. People demand a change that will not only bring new faces into the government, but a change in the political system is certainly required.

As Americans, our perspectives and interests are quite different from those of Egyptians. Interviewing students on campus provides opinions that are generally sympathetic to the people of Egypt. A short survey on campus which was based on a subject of 100 students from different ethnic background showed the amazing result that 94 out of 100 students said that they are pro-Egyptian people and are really concerned about the situation. The 6 remaining were those who refused to answer or were not aware of the Egyptian crises. Students who were concerned about the issue were well aware of the situation and stated that it is of real importance to the United States foreign policy.

"The issue of Egypt is of great importance for us as United States citizens, because we as a nation owe some duties to global citizens especially when we are more powerful and stable than others," said second year Pre-Med Major, Aymun Saleemi, She also said that, "We acted short sighted and reacted to the demands of Egyptians very late as a United States government and people." Many other students looked wor-

ried about the injuries that took place to journalists from our nation and to many Egyptian protestors. Most of the students agreed with Egyptian public sentiments.

The people of Egypt need to turn their power of idealism into realism; they will still need to face difficulties in making future decisions. History will mark dictators such as Mubarak as tyrants and unsatisfactory leaders of the world. This kind of struggle by the people, will warn future Egyptian and world leaders. The struggle of Egyptians will be considered as landmark reforms in the history of world politics which denies oppression

over innocent citizens.

It is important to realize that the United States is engaging in realpolitik, as well as being supportive of the Egyptian people. Defining the importance and role of the U.S, Professor Fleisher commented, “The U.S. interest is significant. What the U.S. wants is stability. But stability for the U.S. means that we maintain our positive relationship with Israel and our positive relationship with Middle Eastern nations that provide oil, such as Saudi Arabia.

The Mubarak regime provided the type of stability that the U.S. had wanted.

So the change presents a potential threat to this. Therefore, the U.S. is trying to maintain a balancing act where it supports efforts to promote democracy on the one hand, but also pushes for the type of stability that it desire politically.

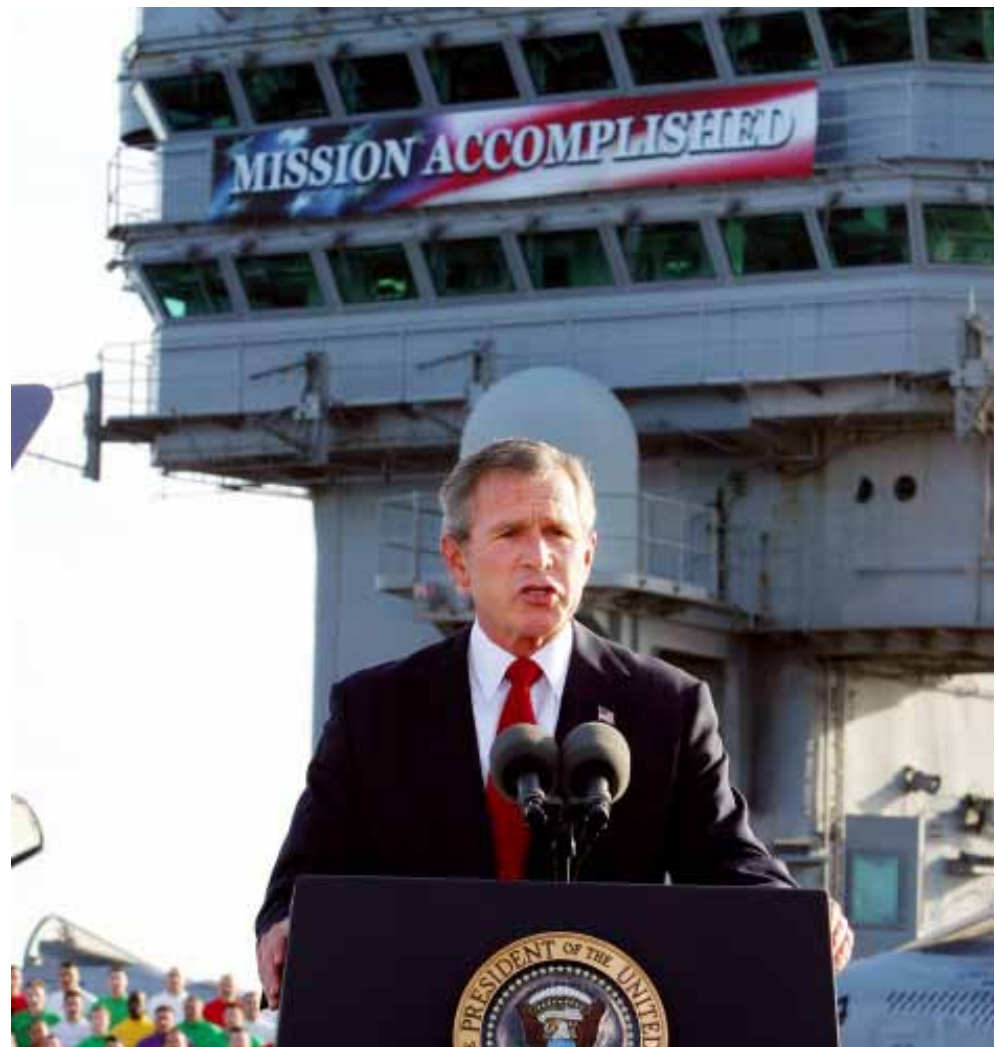
ONE BALL, ONE STRIKE

The Consequence and Casualty of False Intelligence

By Brian Johnson

February 5th, 2003, the US Secretary of State stood before the United Nations Security Council, claiming to have evidence -- an eyewitness account of a chemical engineer previously under the employment of the government of Iraq -- of “biological weapons factories on wheels”. The Secretary would use this evidence to bolster the argument for military action in Iraq, though such a course of action was sternly discouraged by other nations on the council. The resolution to authorize the use of military force which followed Colin Powell’s presentation would eventually be dropped, and the 2003 invasion of Iraq would proceed without UN authorization.

February 2011, eight years after Colin Powell’s presentation before the UN, the eyewitness whose testimony the former Secretary of State used as evidence to implicate the government of Iraq in the manufacture of weapons of mass destruction comes forward in an interview with the Guardian to admit his account was fiction. Rafid Ahmed Alwan al-Janabi, better known by his nickname within the intelligence community, “Curveball”, was a defector who saw an opportunity while being questioned by German foreign intelligence in 2000 to strike at the dictatorship which he describes as having “caused a lot of problems for



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[my] country”.

While Curveball did have an education in chemical engineering, he was not employed to supervise any mobile weapons factories, nor did he, as he said, witness an explosion in one such factory which killed 12 people. Al-Janabi is quick to note, however, that the lies were not all his creation, and that by as early as 2002, he became aware that German intelligence was attempting to assemble a case for war in Iraq. The Iraqi defector also maintains that his reaction to his fabrications being used as evidence by the US was complete shock -- he was sure the German government would not trade the information he provided them to the US.

If Curveball was shocked, then so too must have been German intelligence officers, as they had been aware of al-Janabi's lack of credibility for some time, after some of his claims had been contradicted by other informants and indeed his own personal records.

When al-Janabi's former supervisor at the Iraqi Military Industries Commission stated that there were no mobile weapons factories, Curveball even went as far to agree with this statement outright, even though it contradicted his prior testimony. The U.S Senate Intelligence Committee reported in 2004 that the CIA, when supplying key U.S officials such as the President and his cabinet with intel, “withheld important information about Curveball's reliability”. Still darker, former CIA officer Tyler Drum Heller says that by the time Colin Powell addressed the United Nations, the fact that Curveball's credibility was in question was no secret, and even German officials admitted they could “never validate [al-Janabi's] reports”.

According to the Huffington Post, Colin Powell, who after his presentation to the UN would become an integral figure in the Iraq war had this to say, “The question should be put to the CIA and the DIA (Defense Intelligence Agency) as to why this wasn't known before the false information was put into a key intelligence estimate sent to Congress, the president's State of the Union address

and my February 5 presentation to the U.N.” For his part, Curveball claims to be “satisfied” with his actions “because there is no dictator in Iraq anymore.”

As of October, 2010 the Iraq Body Count project records the civilian casualties incurred by the 2003 Invasion of Iraq at over 100,000. The United States has officially declared that combat in Iraq is over as of August 31, 2010, and that the 50,000 American troops remaining in Iraq are to function as trainers to the Iraqi military; despite this, American soldiers have perished in combat in Iraq as

recently as January 15, 2011, with eight total casualties in 2011, and over 4,000 casualties to date.

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-Editor

The Palestinian - Israeli Conflict

Suffering on Both Sides



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By Mohammad A Sharif

The issue of Palestine and Israel is considered one of the most delicate issues, both domestically and internationally. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is not new news for many of us. The conflict originally has long roots in history. In 1920 Palestine was ruled by the British which had a mandate over it. Since 1920, Palestine included all of what is now Israel and today's Occupied Territories, of Gaza, West Bank, etc. Since its establishment, Palestine experienced heavy Jewish immigration from different parts of the world, including most parts of Europe. In 1948, the United Nations awarded Jerusalem as International land and

declared the State of Israel.

The clashes are over the wide range of issues including demarcation of boundaries, national security, natural resources, water rights, control over Jerusalem and the acceptance of both Israel and Palestine. Throughout history there have been many attempts to reach a settlement between both entities. United Nations and United States have always been at the forefront in order to maintain the stability in the region. Unfortunately, the attempts at negotiations by international society have failed. The broadness and sensitivity of the issues do not permit time to write about them from every aspect.

Though, it is highly recommended that readers conduct their own research on the different summits and peace talk that

took place over the years in order to better understand complexity.

I have no personal biases over the issue. I want all of us, as future leaders and global society, to understand the merits of the issue and have our voice heard. I am not worried about who gets what and when because that is the concern of politicians. I am concerned about the loss of human lives that we have experienced over time. The killing of millions of innocent men, women and children is of a bigger concern than supporting one party over other. It is either Jewish or Muslim, whoever is put to death or made hostage is of a larger big concern than any other issue. The actual cause of the issues involves biases and interests of



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many, including those in charge.

Talking to different students on campus I found that only a few people were upset about the killing of innocent people. Many students were reluctant to share their opinion and most seemed unaware of the issue. By citizens of the world, I am not specifically talking about either Muslims or Jewish people but about any human beings who have been oppressed should be considered as citizens of our world. I interviewed different students around campus and found some shocking results even though the assumptions were that we all belong to an educated and unbiased society. I was surprised to hear that was every Muslim student had sentiments that were pro Palestine and anti Israel and many students from other countries such as India were pro Israel and

against Palestine.

The majority of white students showed anti-Palestine sentiment and few refused to answer because of the delicacy of the issue. I am shocked that most of us either Muslims, Christians, Hindu, Jewish or White or non whites all were biased in our perspectives. All showed an emotional affiliation with the people of Palestine or Israel and none of them looked worried about the killing of innocent Israelis and Palestinians.

After reading this article, I would like everyone to do some research regarding this important issue. You should also try to develop a perspective based on facts which might result in the hope that millions of our fellow human beings deserve to live

their lives out in peace, whether Israeli or Palestinian. The conclusion of the whole story is that, many of us still view things from one side and make opinions by what we hear or see on media instead of doing some research and have some perspective that is neutral and not biased.

THE SHACKLES ON HUMAN DIGNITY

By Mariam Eltoweissy

Supported, armed, and enabled by the US government and its citizens' taxes, the Israeli government has killed 6,430 Palestinians from September 2000 until today; of the 6,430 murdered, 1,452 were innocent children. Compare these horrific Palestinian death rates with those of the Israelis, 1,084 were killed within the same time period, 124 were children. These are hard-core statistics not skewed by partisan politics nor selfish interest, in fact they are provided by B'Tselem an Israeli peace organization, established in 1989, seeking to "...document and educate the Israeli public and policymakers about human rights violations in the Occupied Territories, combat the phenomenon of denial prevalent among the Israeli public, and help create a human rights culture in Israel."

Why, I must ask, are these statistics virtually unheard of? Why are they not proof enough to warrant an immediate stop of Israel's brutal occupation? Why has the Obama administration submitted a 2012 budget request asking to dole out \$3.075 billion in military aid to Israel? A budget request that was sent in on Valentine's Day, a day that is supposed to celebrate love and kindness, inherently asking Congress to willingly condone actions of violence and abuse that will ruin the lives of millions of innocent Palestinian civilians and children. Why, I ask, is a country that prides itself on



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the practice of justice and equality supporting a country that strips people of their basic human rights on a daily basis? Does anyone feel the irony? Is anyone left beyond confused by the actions of our country?

Now I refer to the wise thoughts of our beloved Martin Luther King Jr., whose birthday we celebrated last month, who connected the evils of poverty, racism, and militarism in his magnum opus on "Beyond Vietnam" urging people to understand that fighting for civil rights and justice in one's own country is not enough, rather human rights and dignity must be fought for and promoted worldwide. It is high time people realize that the injury of over 45,000 Palestinians in 10 years is not okay. The imprisonment of almost 6,000 political prisoners is not okay.

The destruction of nearly 25,000 homes is not okay. An unemployment rate

of 40% in Gaza and 16.5% in the West Bank is not okay. And it is definitely not okay for us to sit around and do nothing.

In the words of Bob Marley "Emancipate yourself from mental slavery, none but ourselves can free our minds." Let us take as an example the Egyptian youth who realized that indeed power lies with the people and not with corrupt and inhumane dictators and so-called "leaders." Let us break through the social stigmas holding us back, wake up to the harsh reality of unjust occupation, and take action to put a stop to the violation of human rights in Palestine.

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CHRISTIANITY AND JUDAISM ON CAMPUS

Why Minority Religions are slipping between the cracks

By Hasan Razeq
Editor-In-Cheif



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Our college prides its self on its diverse range of students and faculty. We have people from all walks of life roaming the halls and grounds of our campus. While all this is good and well, there remains an issue of the respect of different holidays on campus. Every year, around the time when Christmas and Hanukkah roll around, we see no shortage of decorations all around campus and in administrative offices. In the main hall of the Duncan Hall building we see an 8 foot Christmas tree surrounded by gifts and other rather cheerful decorations. We also see a Menorah set to one side on a table. While nether of these things are particularly negative within themselves, it seems that the “Holiday Season” stops there.

We have selected two main stream religions and decided that the campus grounds should observe their holidays every year.

The problem with this is that it leaves out all the other religions that students and faculty are affiliated with. It stands to reason that if we are going to have an 8 foot Christmas tree one our campus then we should have an 8 foot statue of the Buddha as well. But we can't stop there because what about the Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Taoists, Shinto's, Janist's and all the other religions we have excluded.

The solution is very simple and basic. It's either every religious holiday and function is observed or no religious holiday is observed. Everyone or no one. We cannot just take it upon ourselves to decide what holidays are “main stream” and get displayed all over campus and what holidays we will ignore. The media pushes mainstream ideology on us enough, its time for someone to be the voice of the minority. This is America; no one's religion gets to slip between the cracks.



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MIDDLE STATES IS COMING!



By Dr. Michael Heffren

Have you heard? Some very important visitors are coming to HCC. As you make your way around campus this semester, you may hear some of the faculty and staff talking nervously about Middle States. You may hear them discussing “the self-study” or “the site visit”. It almost sounds like they are getting ready for a final exam, so what’s going on?

Every ten years colleges have to be re-accredited and this is our year. Accreditation is a process in which an outside accrediting body studies the college to make sure that it is meeting the mission of the college. They will evaluate whether we are operating effectively and maintaining high standards. The group that provides accreditation to colleges in this part of the country is called the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. By the way - What is HCC’s Mission Statement? It is not “You can get there from Here”. That’s the slogan. The answer is at bottom of article. There are two parts to the accreditation process. First, the college studies itself and produces a 100 page report which assesses the college on 14 standards. These standards cover large areas of the college operations including planning, finances,

student support services and the quality of faculty and course offerings. Administrators, faculty and staff members, and some students have been working for the past two years to produce our self-study. Recently we sent the self-study report off to Middle States for their evaluation. The second part of the process is the site visit. A committee of nine faculty and administrators from other colleges will be coming to HCC to confirm the accuracy of our report. Our site visit is coming soon: March 28 to March 30. During that time the committee members will talk to people from all parts of the college community to determine our strengths and weaknesses and to ensure that we are providing quality education.

The accreditation process is incredibly important to the College and to you as students. Without being accredited our degrees would not be worthwhile, other colleges would not accept our credits for transfer, and the government would not provide our students with financial aid. So you can see why this is important and why many people who work at HCC are gearing up for the site visit. Since HCC is constantly assessing and improving its operations we are expecting a positive report from the examiners. If you

would like to participate in this process and perhaps speak to the committee studying the College, send your name to the Co-chairs of the Middle States Self-Study, Dr. Bernadette Sandruck, Division Chair, Mathematics and Professor, Mathematics, and Dr. Michael Heffren, Professor, Social Sciences. Oh, and the mission statement is “Providing Pathways to Success”.

TO SMOKE, OR NOT TO SMOKE?



By Adan Hammed

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According to the American Non-smokers' Rights Foundation as of January 2, 2011, there are 466 Colleges and Universities that are 100% smoke free. In summer of this year, HCC will be incorporated into this rising group. In Maryland Carroll, Harford and Fredrick Community Colleges already have smoke free campuses. Consequently while on campus students, staff and visitors will have to keep away from tobacco products at least while on the college campus.

Currently there are designated smoking areas and people have to smoke 15 feet away from the entrance of the buildings. During the convocation of spring 2011 semester, Dr Hetherington, the president of HCC, announced that HCC will become a smoke free campus. She appointed a committee made up of faculty, staff and students. The committee has been created to enact a policy that would be tailored for the HCC community when it is

established. The duty is to help in the development of the policy and to make sure that there is a smooth transition to a non-smoking campus. This is going to be a daunting task for the committee. This decision was decided after surveys were conducted by Planning, Research, and Organizational Development (PROD). The results of the surveys showed 87.7% of faculty and staff and 78% of students at HCC supported a smoke free campus.

For many this is going to be a tough nut to crack. Mark Twain once said "Giving up smoking is the easiest thing in the world. I know because I've done it thousands of times." Many can't stand going without a smoke, especially before, after or in between classes. After interviewing employees and students there were various responses to the issue. Chris Boswell, an employee at HCC, is against a smoke free campus. He says, "I feels that people should have a choice to smoke," whereas Mr. Freeman, also an HCC employee, is for the new policy. "I want to

see people live longer like the people from Reisterstown."

Sara Reddin, a student at HCC, has a different opinion. She comments that, "instead of having a complete ban, the smoking area should be moved to another location. I am asthmatic and it's not a great start to my day walking by and breathing smoke." However James, a General studies major, says "By preventing smoking on campus, more students would be late or miss class as they would have to go outside campus to have a smoke. Also they would lose their parking spots and again be late for class. He furthermore says, "Smoking in the designated areas should be better enforced. If we prevent people from smoking then we are promoting a forced and controlled community." A student who wished to remain anonymous added that "if they stop me from smoking then I will go to another college." Some students who do smoke feel the ban would be great benefit to them. They would get the chance to reduce their smoking habits or quit them. The idea of a ban is not to control you, like dictators, but to help you to lead a better and healthier lifestyle. According to an article by ABC News in 2010 a student from The University of Florida says that, "A right to free air is more important for everyone. I don't think it's a right to smoke. We're not born with a cigarette in our mouths."

Whatever it may be, it seems the policy is going to be a smoking gun and is going to remain a very controversial issue. All we can do is just keep our fingers crossed and lighten up. Hopefully there will be a smooth transition and when the policy is enacted, the authorities will be able to enforce it diligently, and then everyone will go home with a smile.

A TUTOR SESSION ON HIGH EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS



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By Janeen Scott

As a part-time tutor for HCC it is clear to Ben Arthur that the standard of schools here, in America, differentiates greatly from those around the world so much so that it could possibly be detrimental to the advancement of American students abroad.

This is very evident in public school systems, where students can “pass” a class with a grade of a ‘D’, although in most secondary institutions that particular class credit may not be transferrable. The new generation of high school and college students has also been known to show a lack of critical thinking and problem solving skills. If the students are not motivated to achieve more, the future of this very country may be at stake.

Ben Arthur stresses the fact that students who study math and biology will be the leaders of the future. This is a ‘no-brainer’ seeing how technological advancements are occurring more rapidly each year. Not to mention the fact that in the 21st century anything useful that cannot be accessed via, smart-

phone, iPad, or computer is simply awaiting its own demise.

The fact that many students did not have high expectations of their own was something that stuck out to Ben Arthur, when asked if there was anything significant about the students, collectively, that he tutors. Emphasis on the concept of students being “in tune with the world” was just one way of proving his point. He thought this observation was rather “scary” and disappointing.

With a mediocre standard of schooling here in the states, he encourages students to “realize the competition out there” and to set higher educational standards and goals for themselves. It is important to understand that in other countries around the world, educational standards are very high; hence the stereotypes, so to overcome being second rate, students need to step it up in the education department.

Born and raised in Cape Coast, Ben Arthur came to America as a college student and graduated from Caltech where he studied Biology. Despite his general shock of school standards here in America, he enjoys the country, “it’s one of the few places on earth where you can achieve what you want, in spite of racism”, he shares. So why is it that we have such mediocre school standards?

Well, it’s a compilation of a number of things that all have an immediate effect on one another, from the individual motivation of a student to state mandated tests and government policies. Ben Arthur is not the first nor the last to share this particular view on the American standard of schools, many students, teachers, companies agree with him. A former professor at a University in Switzerland where he taught Molecular Genetics and Behavior Neuroscience, both in German, Ben Arthur has a very good idea of what American students are up against abroad.

We all know the saying, “School is not

for everyone”, and although there is truth to the statement, how do we maneuver around this ‘old school’ adage? Vocational schools, where students can get non-traditional schooling are very prominent in other countries and it allows for immediate job placement. Even in the traditional school setting, encouraging students to think more about “long term [results] instead of short term gratification” is a way to start.

Ben Arthur’s interest in Biology and Mathematics is what encouraged these ideas of setting higher educational standards for students. He is a firm believer that biology and math students are the “next frontier” for the future. All of this is expressed in a quote from Galileo Galileo on philosophy: “we cannot understand it if we do not first learn the language and grasp the symbols, in which it is written. This book is written in the mathematical language, and the symbols are triangles, circles and other geometrical figures, without whose help it is impossible to comprehend a single word of it; without which one wanders in vain through a dark labyrinth”.

So ask yourself every now and then, and be honest with yourself, “Are my standards high enough?”

CAMPUS LIFE

ROYAL WORDS OF WISDOM

By Kechi Amaefule

Attention all HCC students, this is a warning letting you know if you continue to read this article you will become addicted.

My name is Kechi Amaefule and this right here is my column. How many of you thought I was going to say swag? Lol, well if you did you are correct in a sense. Royal Words of Wisdom is my perspective on life situations and different topics that we all may face everyday.

When I received the chance to start a column I didn't know what to write about. I thought about everything from news flashes to an advice column, to sports but none of them seemed to be good enough for me. One day a friend approached me to talk about a difficult

situation he was in and for the first time that I can recall I had no good advice to give him! Well being the person that I am I couldn't just sit there and stare at him with a blank face so I opened my mouth.

I can remember his facial expression turning from confused, to amused, to encouraged. Then his voice from being down, to understanding, to enlightened. Unlike others he sought advice from, I hadn't told him how he should feel or how he should react, but I showed him his situation at a different angle. As I watched him walk away I felt like I found my purpose. I was meant to encourage, to find the good where there seems to only be bad, to bring out the positive at times when people start to lose hope. Thus Royal Words of Wisdom was created.

The topics that I pick to write on will be random but rest assured if you don't need

them now you will in the future, or know someone who does. I have been told various times that my words are helpful and find it true that taking a second look at a situation will always help you find positivity and increase your productiveness to help you reach your goals.

If you liked this short introduction of Royal Words of Wisdom be sure to tune into the paper next month for the first step to a new perspective.

Remember, we are all kings and queens so wear your invisible crown and reach for the stars.

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WHAT'S IN A DAY?



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By Eleanor Chung

School days, especially about this time, can become particularly tedious. It's not from the lack of interesting subject matter in our classes, nor is it from our sleepy, peaceful town. It is rather from repetition - wake up, go to school, go home, sleep - our routines have been established, and all that there is left for us to do is to maintain them.

Boredom, that insidious affliction from which no one can escape, strikes at the beginning of March. Every day is the same.

In times like this, when each day seems redundant, I turn to history. History, the least glamorous of school subjects. When I bring up my major (history) in conversation, I'm invariably inundated with anecdotes about suffering through dull classes in grade school. However, I firmly attest that nothing can be more interesting than history. Hollywood can't hold a candle to it.

For example, on this day, March 6th, Davy Crocket was murdered at the Alamo. Aspirin was patented by a German scientist, and our government announced it would send 3,500 troops to Vietnam.

Davy Crocket, "king of the wild frontier," was much more than the man who "kilted him a bar when he was only three" - he was a harbinger of justice, who stood up against President Andrew Jackson and his forced removal of the Native Americans to

reservations.

Perhaps Crocket didn't succumb to racism because of a strong sense of right and wrong, learned from roaming around the Tennessee wilderness and getting to know his Native American neighbors. Can you imagine growing up in pure wilderness - the sweeping countryside, trees for as far as the eye can see - and getting to know people that were completely foreign to you? It's as if nowadays, you were plopped down in the middle of Inner Mongolia, you formed great friendships, and then you went to Washington and challenged Obama's foreign policy. This kind of adventure takes my breath away.

So what would you do if you had a headache before March 6th, 1899? You would probably gnaw on some willow bark, which contained the acetylsalicylic acid that Felix Hoffman patented for Bayer. Too bad for Mr. Hoffman - the Germans began WWI, and his patent was ignored by the rest of the world. But this brings up fascinating questions about the right to protect intellectual property, and if such a thing even exists. Who the heck is Mr. Hoffman to "own" a folk remedy?

When I get the runs, my mom says to eat rice and bananas. How much sense does it make for me to patent bananas, or banana extract? I'm not one to rage against the machine, but sometimes capitalism seems ridiculous. What about all the moms of yore who told their kids to chew some willow bark when they got headaches?

Just think, whenever you take an aspirin, you're consuming a thousand years of moms who gave your great great great grandfather some wise nurturing. Aspirin belongs to you and me more than it belongs to Bayer, Johnson & Johnson, and all those other enterprising companies who made a fortune when the murder of Archduke Franz Ferdinand

kicked off WWI.

The US entered Vietnam because of the "domino theory" - if one country in East Asia fell to communism, then they all would. On March 6th, 1965, Lyndon Johnson sent 3,500 troops. Over the course of the war, that number would exponentially increase - in the end, 58,159 Americans died in a foreign jungle. When I was teaching English in South Korea, I made coffee with a French press. Two teachers joined me - they explained that they had shared coffee prepared this way with Americans during the war, and from then on they shared my morning sludge (I like it strong).

They explained Mr. Ha's limp - he was wounded and left for days. For all the misery that Americans suffered abroad, can you imagine what it was like to be one of the 50,000 South Koreans fighting in Vietnam? To be Mr. Ha, when he was our age, must have been terrifying and perplexing - a cruel twist of fate, to be fighting with foreigners for foreigners. For that matter, can you imagine what it was like for our fathers, who felt sick waiting for their draft numbers? The Vietnam War is still with us today, on this March 6th - in our parents, in Credence Clearwater Revival, Bob Dylan, Forest Gump, in hippies and in "boho chic." Our March 6th is inextricably tied with their March 6th.

Turn to history for justice, violence, murder, money, sex, drugs, and rock and roll. Our March 6th is standing in the tremendous footprints of previous March 6ths. Each day is a reminder of our shared history, in all its beauty and tragedy, and it is never boring.

CAMPUS LIFE

DIVERSITY ON CAMPUS

By Mohammad A Sharif

The diversity on campus plays a significant role in developing our educational institutions throughout the nation. Howard Community College sets an example of successful top ranking colleges which by being so blessed with having such a diverse student body. The coursework, academic criteria and multicultural environment helps students to prepare well for their goals in their fields of interest and to become global leaders understanding the need of every community. It also provide with a new way of thinking and dealing individual life and community issues.

The diversity also serves as the key element to better understand the world and look it at from different perspectives rather being ethno centric. Sana Mirza, a dual major in Psychology and Elementary Education from Pakistan told HCC Times that, "There is always something you learn from others around you. It is of great importance, because I am pursuing to become teacher or psychologist that requires me to understand different cultures and views that are present

in the society."

Students from different ethnic, cultural and racial backgrounds show their positive attitudes toward diversity on campus. A military background, Pre-Pharmacy major, Kyle Hochreiter commented that, "Diversity is really important for him as his dad was in military and he had traveled a lot with his family." He further told that, "I loves being around different people and you learn more about different cultures." A student from India, Shayan Ullah, commented that, "It gives you strength of understanding yourself as an individual by discovering different ideas from different diverse friends." He also said that, "It gives lifelong friends and experiences that fulfill your life with joy and happiness."

Diversity provides students with a broad imagination that helps understand everything from class room interaction to little curiosities about different people from different cultures. It answers many of the questions without even asking them. It gives us a chance to work with people from different backgrounds, both academically

and professionally. Many students were able to do a better critical analysis after being exposed to different cultures. At HCC we experience diversity both as students and faculty. Different cultures and languages are now intermingling with each other which can be really helpful in the years to come.

I was lucky to get comments from a Professor of Sociology at HCC; Greg Fleisher stated that, "Diversity is great in the sociology classes I teach. It is an asset for a sociology instructor to have so many different perspectives represented in the classroom. In class, I want students to see that there is no single way to think about the world. So when we are exposed to a variety of perspectives, it allows us to see how different societies organize themselves. We are then in a position to analyze the how and why behind the multitude of social realities that exist in the world. He added, "As an institution of higher education, our obligation is to prepare students to succeed. The society in which we live is diverse, so it is our duty to prepare students to succeed in this diverse society. So our job as educators is to facilitate learning that is made possible by the presence of so many different cultures."

TRANSFER

By Ian Hester

Are you planning to transfer to a four-year school? If you answered 'yes', have you thought about your transfer resume? Most of us do not think about these things until the last minute, but if you are thinking about transferring then you should be thinking about what your resume looks like.

As we all know, four-year schools are competitive. You cannot just walk in to the admissions office and sign up for classes like we all did when we first came

to HCC. Since you will be competing against other students when you apply, it is absolutely vital to give yourself every advantage possible. Make yourself look good. More importantly, make yourself look better than the people you are competing against.

So many people think that your GPA is the only thing that schools will look at when you apply. This could not be further from the truth! Just having a 3.5 or even a 4.0 will not necessarily guarantee that you will be admitted to

the school of your choice. Every college and university wants well-rounded students, so you need to have more than grades.

So how do you develop a well-rounded resume? The one thing that any HCC student can do to strengthen his/her transfer resume is to get involved on campus. Participate in the SGA, Student Senate, or Student Program Board. These groups are open to anyone, and most of them do not require a lot of time. You will get out of it what you put into it.

CAMPUS LIFE

I cannot stress the time issue enough. Most of us have packed schedules between school, work, and/or families. But if you have two hours to spare every other week, you can attend the SGA General Assembly meetings every other Friday and participate in the Leadership Workshop. Or if you have two or three hours to spare once a month, you can be a Student Senator and serve on one of HCC's committees as a representative of the student body.

If these do not sound like fun to you, then maybe the Student Program Board is for you. Have you seen the talent shows in the cafeteria? Or maybe the Stuff-A-Plush event in the Galleria? Or the comedy show last year? All of these were planned by the Student Program Board. They run all of the fun events on campus.

Participating in any of these student

organizations will be fun, and it will look great on your transfer resume. Being a member of the SGA, Student Senate, or SPB will set you apart from the other applicants, and you will be more likely to be accepted to the school of your choice. Remember that transfer resumes are about more than grades, they are about you as a person. Four-year schools want to have students who will not only be smart, but who will enhance their campus. Being involved in student organizations is the best bet for any student at HCC to strengthen his/her resume, and thereby strengthen his/her future.

To learn more about the SGA and Student

Senate: sga@howardcc.edu

To learn more about the Student Program

Board: spb@howardcc.edu



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ARTS & HUMANITIES

REPSTAGE: TRICKS OF THE TRADE

Interview with REPStage Director Michael Stebbins



Michael Stebbins photo by Wonsup Chung

By Chris Perillo

As I walk into the office of Michael Stebbins, The Producing Artistic Director of RepStage, the first thing I notice is, “My office isn’t nearly as nice as this one.” His office has a beautiful view of the HCC’s campus and has as many books as my local Barnes & Noble. Truth be told, I don’t even have an office. How could this be? We’re both actors. Sure he’s a little bit more experienced than I am, but I immediately decide that I need a cool office, too. I also need a fancy title to go along with my new office.

Even with the fancy title and the big office, Mr. Stebbins is very approachable and game to sit down and talk shop with me, a student actor. Over the past few years, I’ve appeared in two of HCC’s Arts Collective Productions (TempODYSSEY and 1001, both directed by Kasi Campbell) and have landed some parts in some television shows and movies such as “Annapolis”, “Gossip Girl” and the forthcoming Jason Statham movie, “Safe”. Currently,

I’m working on directing my first short film entitled, “Whitehead”. Michael Stebbins, on the other hand, has been in countless productions over the years. Currently he can be seen in the RepStage “An Almost Holy Picture” right here at HCC’s own Studio Theater. He has also appeared in many other productions including, but not limited to, Rep Stage’s productions of “Fully Committed,” “The Santaland Diaries,” “Mrs. Warren’s Profession,” “Stones in His Pockets” and “Wittenberg.”

Chris Perillo: How did you get started in acting/theater?

Michael Stebbins: I was involved in theater ever since I was a child. Raised in Wisconsin, right out of high school, I was hired by theme parks and cruise ships and then I was a singer and dancer where I wore a lot of spandex and sequins. And then I decided, “I might as well be a ‘serious actor’.” I had stopped off in MD for a performance and had auditioned for a theater scholarship at UMBC and then, I was on a full scholarship for 3 years. And then I went to a graduate program at a conservatory in Milwaukee. I received both of my degrees in Theater Performance and History. So I finished my Masters and then moved right to New York in 1992 and lived there for 13 years. I would oftentimes go off to act, which led to directing, which led to teaching. In between jobs, I picked up marketing, administrative, and business management skills on top of my directing and acting. When I applied for this position, which is responsible for all financial and artistic decisions, the jobs I had worked at in between performances helped me get hired.

C.P.: As far as the marketing/business end

of acting and show business, has that changed or evolved over that past few years because of the Internet and cell phones?

M.S.: We still prefer to have hard copies of headshots and résumés. We regularly attend the Union and Non-Union open calls in Washington D.C. and we have seasonal auditions for Union members. I feel that we are still in a paper age mainly because there is no substitute for people receiving a post card to serve as a reminder for when a performance is that they can stick on their refrigerator. But lately, the postcards have had links to our Facebook and Web pages so the majority of the information is there. We’re bridging the gap right now, but paper is still the most personal way to get in touch with people. There’s no substitute, in my opinion, than receiving a hand-written post card or note saying “Hello, I just appeared in so-and-so play and am eager to work with you in a future production.” Also, as far as marketing goes, the Howard Community College film department produces promotional videos for use that are pretty effective.

C.P.: Do you have any horror stories from when you were a struggling actor? For instance, a bad audition, or performance?

M.S.: Not particularly. As an actor, you develop such a thick skin and become accustomed to rejection. It’s just part of the job. The hardest part for any actor, in my opinion, is to support yourself and have flexibility with a day job to go on auditions or to rehearsal. That’s horrible in

ARTS & HUMANITIES

and of itself.

C.P.: What were some of your original goals when you started out?

M.S.: The main thing that always stuck with me is that, I never wanted to do anything else in the world. Living another person's life is fun. It's like pretending. This is a fun job! It also helps that I had a supportive mother who told me to "Pursue anything that brings you joy." That's stuck with me over the years.

C.P.: What are some of the things that you look for when choosing a play to direct, star in or produce?

M.S.: Choosing which plays to do is like choosing meals. You don't want to eat the same thing every night. You want different flavors and different textures. As an actor, it's challenging to try different things. Sometimes a piece sounds fun and challenging, so I'll do it simply because of that. When choosing a play to produce here at RepStage, I want to put on plays that are relatable for an audience. I also have to take the budget into consideration. I need to ask myself if we can do what needs to be done to make the play look it's best. The upcoming show, "Speech and Debate" was chosen to appeal to a young audience. It's a dark comedy about 3 high school students and has themes that young folks can relate to. We're trying to reach out and get young people to come to the theater and see a show that is relevant today.

C.P.: Finally, I wanted to ask a question about directing. I'm directing my first short film that I also wrote in April and just wanted to know how to pull a performance out of an actor. Because I have a vision for this piece, but the actor may have a completely different vision for a character. What can I do to compromise and have a finish product that is balanced?

M.S.: The first thing I do when I direct a play is hold a table read. We all sit at a table and read it and discuss what we think the piece is about. We ask questions and try different ap-

proaches. It's about trusting your vision, but also trusting that the actors have their own ideas that can enhance the overall vision. Trust that everyone is there to do his or her job. But most of all surround yourself with people you trust. That goes a long way.

A veteran actor teaching a young actor the ways of "The Biz". Acting is a brutal business. Most people start out just wanting to be a "star" but fail to realize that there is more business in "Show business" than there is "show". As I sit typing this in New York City, I'm exhausted from a day full of rejection. I met with 10 different Talent Agents and only 3 of them are even considering representing me. Mr. Stebbins said that having a thick skin goes a long way in this business, and he's 100% right. An actor can't let rejection get to him or her. If a particular actor doesn't get a particular job, it doesn't mean that they aren't good looking or talented. It could be a number of things. It could be that they're too tall or short for a certain part. It could be that they aren't the right body type. Whatever the reason for 7 out of the 10 agents not liking me, I'm headed to more auditions tomorrow. In this business, the more you get yourself out there, the more successful you'll end up. As for me, I'm working on getting a nice office with beautiful view. Someday, that will be a reality.



Chris Perillo photo by Wonsup Chung



REPStage.org

UP COMING REPSTAGE

PLAY

April 13 - May 1, 2011

Speech & Debate

By Stephen Karam

Directed by Eve Muson

Featuring Florrie Bagel,
Parker

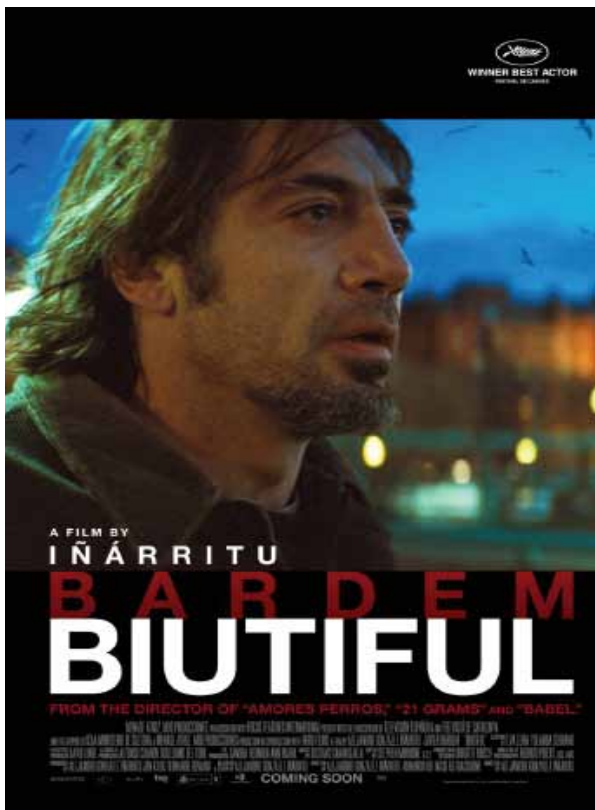
Drown, Sam Ludwig,
Karen Novack

.....

A cutting edge comedy from one of Off-Broadway's hottest young playwrights that cleverly blends music, cyberspace, and dance in a story of three teenage misfits linked by a sex scandal that rocks the town of Salem, Oregon.

ARTS & HUMANITIES

MOVIE REVIEW: BIUTIFUL (2010)



By Charles Higgins

This is the overall felling you will have once you have dedicated your afternoon to viewing this film starring, Javier Bardem and his supporting cast Maricel Alvarez, Hanaa Bouchaib and Guillermo Estrella.

The Screenplay for the 2010 release was written by Nicolas Giacobone. The story follows Uxbal (played by Bardem) for roughly 9 months or so, while he is coping with true to life issues. The film is set in Barcelona, Spain and takes place in the present day setting. Biutiful has been nominated for an Oscar and British Academy Film Award (Bafta) awards.

Uxbal (Bardem) is an unofficial black market salesman. Who handles every odd job, from managing the merchandise that is sold on the black market, to where the product is sold and to whom it is sold by. Uxbal is a modern day Spiritist, while earning extra

money for families in need of closure from their loved ones that have just passed.

The films acting is truly one of the two major components that sets this film apart from the rest that have released thus far in 2011. Bardem seems to have truly to an artistic high and truly owned his craft. Bardem is not alone in the film and his performance is balanced by Alvarez, who plays Marambra, Bardem's wife in the film. The two of them embraced the roles, which is clearly translated on screen.

Biutiful, the fourth film by the Academy award nominated director Alejandro Gonzales Inarritu. Also know for his so called "Death Trilogy", which is comprised of Amoros Perros, 21 Grams and Babel. He has been labeled by Benjamin Secher of the Telegraph a paper out of London, England as the only director to "Comprise one of the most arresting and upsetting film sequence in contemporary cinema." Biutiful, unlike Inarritu's previous work is a single narrative film. This was a first for the acclaimed director; however is not the only first for this director. His long time friend and screen writer for the death trilogy, Guillermo Arriaga, claims that Inarritu has been claiming the credit for the films and has not given credit to Arriaga, for screen writing and story development. This being the case, Biutiful is Inarritu's first film without Arriaga's writing.

The technical aspects of the film are exactly what one should expect coming from Inarritu, meaning it was pure genius. The sound is loud and unfiltered, and at times seemed like they did absolutely no mixing or production. The sound was unbalanced to the point it was life like, which made every scene come to life. Lighting was dark, cold and harsh, again making the scenes real. The camera angles moved with intent and spoke to more than what

was being displayed on screen. The story line was engaging and real to the viewer. The characters had an enormous amount of depth to them, even those who appeared only for a short time for example, Tito, (Uxbal's Brother). Inarritu has painted the emotional tug-a-war that is constantly going on between Uxbal and Marambra.

Throughout the movie Uxbal is on the continued pursuit to gather as much money to survive in the cold cruel streets of Barcelona. Inarritu describes his films by saying "those are times you are most who you are-when you are in limited circumstances, you express yourself in a major way".

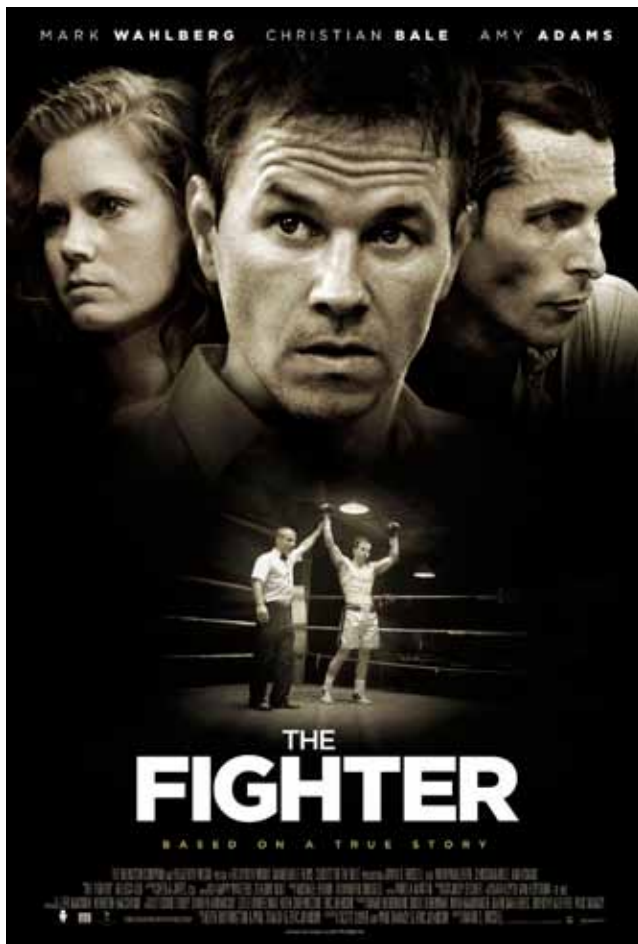
Throughout life people are dependent on other for survival; this is most obvious in the parent child scenario. Unfortunately, parents will at times put themselves first, before the child. When I say this I'm not suggesting the simple scenario about, getting a plate of food before the child.

What I'm saying is that it takes a special person to do what Uxbal did; most people will not sacrifice their own personal happiness for the children to have a normal upbringing. Uxbal gave everything away, every self satisfying feeling away to make sure that he was there every day and night for his children. He loved them with every ounce of his body.

This is another aspect of the film that is solely accredited to the screen writing. The story is complex and emotional. Inarritu is quoted to saying that his films "explore the decision making under the toughest of circumstances". Biutiful is the perfect film that truly does just that.

ARTS & HUMANITIES

THE FIGHTER (2010)



By Charles Higgins

The film is a true story of a boxer's climb from nothing to something. If you enjoy the underdog story mixed in with a little crime and drug addiction, this is the film for you. The star studded cast, which is made up of Mark Wahlberg, Christian Bale and Amy Adams, definitely aims to make this true story heartfelt and authentic. The film was directed by David O. Russell with screen writers Scott Silver and Paul Tamasy.

The story is based off of the amateur boxer, "Irish" Mickey Ward, whose career took place in the mid 80's. Mickey Ward was managed by his mother, Alice Ward, who is played by Melissa Leo.

The family's business relationship takes a strain on the fighter and his family's ability continue in the right direction, which in the sport of boxing is to win the title belt. Mickey also has his drug addicted brother, Dickey Eklud, as his trainer played by Christian Bale. The brother's relationship reigns supreme throughout the movie, which is the conflict of the film.

The acting in this film is what makes it different than any other true story composition in recent years. Although many may assume that the main character's performance demands all of the attention, I'm here to telling you, sorry you're wrong. The supporting acting group is by far the best I have seen thus far in 2011. Wahlberg has worked extremely hard in the past decade to shake the "Marky Mark and the Funky Bunch" label.

I will say he has done a terrific job in doing just that, however this is not the film that he will get his praises in. The applause should be left for Amy Adams and Christian Bale, which I will say was a shocker for me. In my opinion, Christian Bale has failed to provide a solid and convincing performance yet in his career. This is not the case anymore; his portrayal of Dicky Eklud was not only convincing, but a mirror's reflection of the real life character. Amy Adams has always been pleasing on screen and continues to deliver the same in The Fighter.

This film stays true to the traditional "based on a true story" method, but is done extremely well. Again the acting made this movie entertaining; Christian Bale is the center of this film and provides bits of comedic relief and heart wrenching empathy. Christian Bale will be a strong contender for best supporting actor this year at the Academy Awards, which is rightfully deserved for this 2010 work.

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MEN'S LAX BRINGS THE HEAT



Photo courtesy of HCC lacrosse team.

By Brooks Rogers

The HCC men's lacrosse team is working towards another great season with its combination of talented athletes and great coaching staff. The team is led by their head coach Mike Jones, Defensive Coordinator Mike Morgan, Strength and Conditioning Coach Jay Fair and assistant coaches Joe Stanilaus, Mike Kincaid and Steven Kaatz. The men's Lacrosse team competes in Region XX of the NJCAA Division I and since it's founding in 2000, has become a national

top 10 program due to the team's hard work and dedication. Every year the men's lax team has the opportunity to battle in the Maryland JUCO Conference and Region XX Districts and the Nationals.

The team is filled with athletes who were the cream of the crop of their high schools and continue to excel at this game that is becoming more popular every year. The team has had no problem with connecting with each other. "All the players on the team get along really well", said Zach Wynne. "We are a tight knit group and when we aren't at practice, we are usually hanging out together." Players like attackmen Zach Wynne and Kyle Dove, midfielders Scott Wheeler, Curtis Adams and Chris Ricciuti and defenseman Brian Hofstetter symbolize the true meaning of the word "teammates". These players were teammates back at Glenelg High School, also my alma mater, while playing for the highly respected Glenelg Gladiators lacrosse team. Every member took part in winning at least one state championship, some winning multiple. Every player brings a special element to HCC's team, which helps bring W's to the win or loss column.

The men's lacrosse team is well prepared for every game due to how much work they put into practices, which started back on January 15th but the weather pushed the starting practice to the following Monday on January 17th. The practices are on Monday-Friday and usually last from 3:30-6:00PM. Most play-

ers agree that the practices really prepare the team for the upcoming game. "We try to practice as hard as possible and [Coach Jones] makes sure we are in good shape for the season", said Wynne. Scott Wheeler explained that the rigors of the practices are usually based on how the team performed in their last game. "...practices depend on how we play. If we play bad then we'll have to run."

The men's lacrosse team is currently halfway through a four consecutive road game stretch against Army Prep., Brookdale CC, Stevenson University and Rockville. When asked if home field advantage truly makes a difference, Wheeler replied, "I think that it definitely helps us to win games. When we play at home, we know most of the fans are ours, and that helps us to play better." This team is truly playing great and is exciting students all over campus. The coined name, "fastest sport on two feet", can definitely be justified by watching this team play





By The Flying Iguana

THE MAJOR

DILEMMA

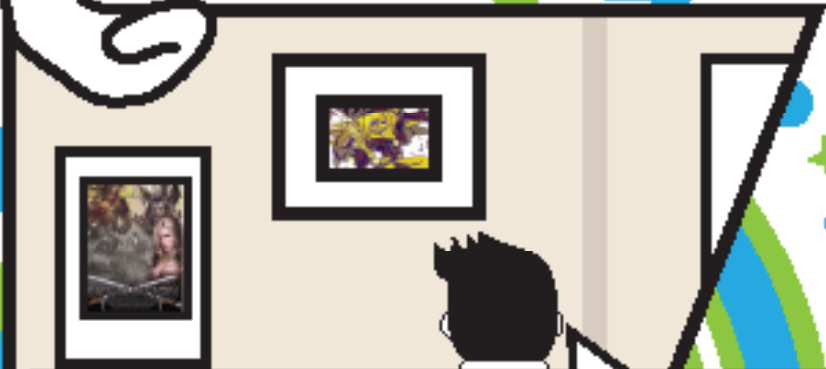
by
Terrall Tyson Carter



WELCOME BACK
It's Ty here, back and better than ever! As you all remember I dabbled my feet into a few majors last time at HCC! Even though I may not have had the best of luck in any of them, I know there is one here for me!



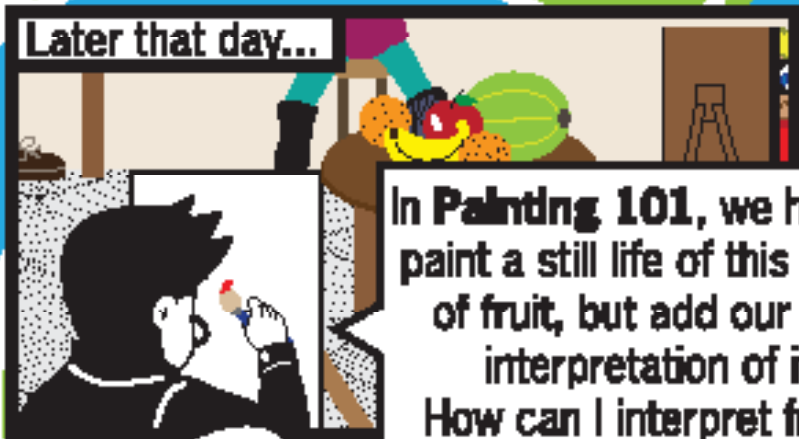
Over the winter I took a few general courses, as well as spent a lot of time becoming familiar with the campus.



I found this interesting place known as the **Rouse Company Foundation Gallery** in the HVPA building. The art featured is always great, and it's very inspirational.



Sooo...I decided to look into **Studio Art**. I used to sketch and doodle when I was younger. I might do well in this!!



In **Painting 101**, we have to paint a still life of this group of fruit, but add our own interpretation of it. How can I interpret fruit??



Time for critique...



TEACHER:
THE ABSTRACT FORMS FLOW NICELY TOGETHER, AND HELPS TO CREATE UNITY WITHIN THE PIECE, GREAT JOB TY!

**I GOT AN A!!
WHAT A SURPRISE??!**



TUNE IN NEXT TIME TO SEE WHAT HAPPENS NEXT FOR TY!!