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THE *trident* TIMES

July 2008

www.tridenttech.edu

SUCCESS, BELIEVING THAT YOU CAN: Involvement, hard work, and perseverance bring rewards

By PTK member, Gilbert Cavazos
My childhood dream of joining an honor society became a reality when I joined Phi Theta Kappa at Trident Technical College. Officers and advisors of the Alpha Epsilon Omicron Chapter empowered me to raise the bar of success. When I attended my first meeting, I sensed this warmth and belonging. I saw people with vision and purpose. They had so much passion and desire to change the world one person at a time. I could not wait to become an official member. When they challenged me to step up as an officer, I thought, “Now wait a minute, I don’t have what it takes to be an officer. What if I fail?” Not realizing I had the potential to serve as an officer on the executive board, they instilled in me vision and purpose to change the world through my involvement in many chapter activities. At the induction ceremony, Ms. Joan Keller, a former advisor, told me,

“Gilbert, you must serve as an officer.” She saw something in me that I could not for myself. I embraced this opportunity because she looked me in the eye as if saying, “You will succeed!” I did not know what I was getting myself into. Months later when it came time to write award packages for our chapter, I volunteered to write the “Most distinguished chapter member” package for Joan Simond. I do not know why I did that because writing is not one of my gifts. Everyone kept telling me, “don’t worry; if you need help, we’ll help you.” Officers Kerry Cutler, Heather Dallas and Shannon Harvey along with Advisors Ms. Joan Keller, Dr. Chris Solomon, Ms. Jane Benton and Mr. Frank Monterisi never stopped motivating me to aim higher. They believed in me when I doubted myself. Because of them, I want to maximize my God-given



Gilbert Cavazos — Photo courtesy of TTC Marketing Department

potential and inspire as many people as possible to further their education and demonstrate to them that nothing is impossible.

At the 2008 TTC Awards Ceremony, I knew I was receiving an award. Dr. Timothy Brown informed me a few

weeks before, that the faculty and staff from the Associate of Arts program had nominated me to receive the Merit Award. He further explained that the highest honor to earn at Trident Technical College is the President’s Award.

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OUT AND ABOUT: THEATRE 99

By David Spears

Performances at Theatre 99, rate high amongst the live entertainment offerings available on the Charleston Peninsula. Improv group, "The Have Nots!" forms the core of the entertainment presented in the cozy upstairs space. A talented cast, comprised primarily of Brandy Sullivan, Greg Tavares and Bryan Muhanes, delight audiences with their fast-paced improv comedy.

Suggestions solicited from the audience form the foundation for sketches, which take off at hilarious tangents from the original ideas. Their style of Improv comedy employs physical mannerisms and verbal word play. The Theatre space is cozy and the walls serve as a display area for

local artists. Most recently, I attended a benefit held there to raise funds for the New Music Collective and Cabaret Kiki. This was the first time I had seen Cabaret Kiki perform and their musical and performance talent displayed delighted me. This was truly a Cabaret performance complete with accordion player and sultry voiced singers.

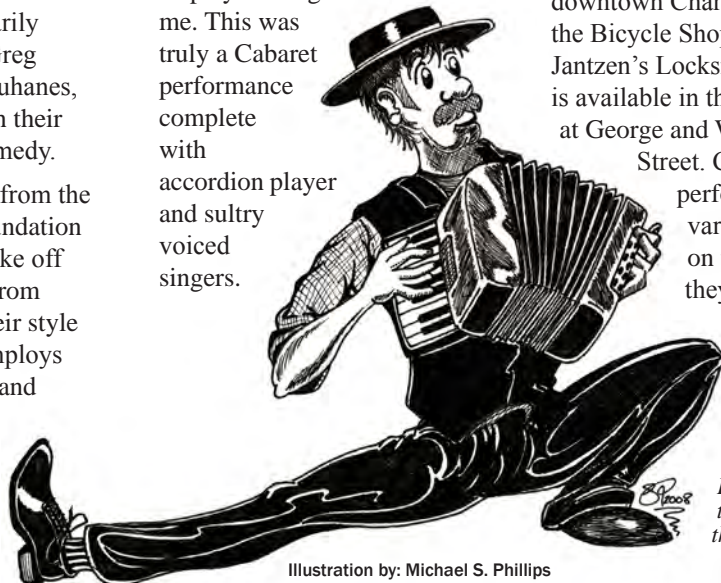


Illustration by: Michael S. Phillips

Performances by the New Music Collective added to the high-spirited evening.

A small bar serves beer, wine and soft drinks. Theatre 99 is located upstairs at 280 Meeting Street in downtown Charleston, above the Bicycle Shoppe and Jantzen's Locksmith. Parking is available in the garage at George and Wentworth

Street. Cost of performances varies depending on the show and they often have mid-week shows for as little as five dollars. ●

Find them on the web: www.thehavenots.com

TRIDENT TECHNICAL COLLEGE STUDENTS WIN AWARDS AT STATE-WIDE WELDING COMPETITION

From: TTC Marketing

Three Trident Technical College students won first place in separate categories at the 2008 South Carolina Technical College Annual Welding Competition held at Tri-County Technical College in Pendleton, S.C.

William "Will" Hunt of Hollywood won first place in Category I—Gas Tungsten Arc Welding Tee Joints and Gas Metal Arc Welding Butt Joints. Justin Cannon of Moncks Corner won first place in Category II—Shielded Metal Arc Welding Tee Joints. Chris Lawrimore of Moncks Corner won first place in Category IV—Gas Tungsten Arc/Shielded Metal Arc Welding Pipe.

The competition is open to all South Carolina technical college students enrolled in credit welding programs, and instructors



(From left to right): Trident Technical College students Chris Lawrimore, Justin Cannon and Will Hunt placed first in separate categories at the 2008 South Carolina Technical College Annual Welding Competition at Tri-County Technical College.

must verify that competitors have never worked professionally in the welding industry.

TTC offers an associate degree and six certificates in welding. The College's faculty is certi-

fied by the American Welding Society. For more information, call Ronald Vann, welding program coordinator, at 843-574-6139 or visit www.tridenttech.edu. ●

Call for Submissions

The Trident Times encourages students, staff, and faculty of TTC to submit items for review and possible inclusion in the paper. Submissions from student organizations about upcoming events and notices of awards and achievements are also sought. Due to deadlines, some time sensitive material may not be published. We also welcome submissions such as illustrations, photos and original art. For further information, please email trident.times@ttc.mailcruiser.com or contact us at 843.574.6347. Our office is located in room 130 F, building 410.

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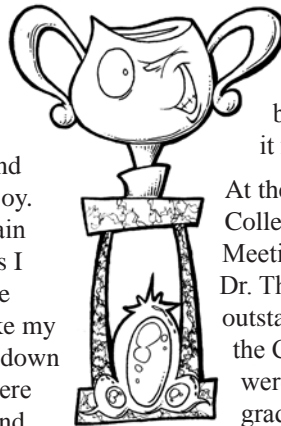
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Thank you to all of our volunteers!

Cavazos story from pg 1

When it came time to announce the Merit Award recipients, I immediately knew there was heavy competition for the President's Award because everyone had accomplished so much. After receiving my award, Dr. Thornley asked, without prior rehearsal, "Why are you so involved in your church and community?" I responded, "We all have issues in life. I have come a long way. I am graduating because of the influence of the Faculty and Staff here at Trident. Therefore, I want to do everything I can to help others understand that we are all leaders and we can make this world a better place." Her response, "I nominate you to be the president of the United States of America." As I returned to my seat, I began thanking God for all of the awards I have earned. I had settled in my mind that it was okay for me not to receive the President's award. After all, I really have come a long way. The moment everyone was waiting for finally

came. Dr. Thornley announced that there was a two-way tie for the President's Award. After hearing Nateshia Grimes' name called as the first recipient, the room cheered and yelled. Then, the room got silent. When Dr. Thornley announced that I was the other recipient, my body began to tremble in shock and excitement. Everyone clapped and shouted while my family yelled and cried with tears of joy. Words cannot explain the emotion I felt as I made my way to the front. It seemed like my tears were dancing down my face, my feet were trying to jump up and down, my voice was trying to shout, butterflies were going berserk in my stomach, my mind began reminiscing about all of my accomplishments and God was telling me just how proud He was of me. Of all the awards I have earned, nothing compares to



receiving the President's award. Knowing that I began college with remedial classes and graduated with the highest honor proves that impossibilities become challenges when you believe. The example I have set, by being the first in my family to graduate from college has sparked a new legacy in my family and will continue because they experienced it first hand with me.

At the Trident Technical College Foundation Board Meeting held on May 6, 2008, Dr. Thornley recognized outstanding students from the College; among them were, Stephanie Legette-graduation student speaker, Nateshia Grimes-President's Award recipient, and myself. After a delicious buffet breakfast, the meeting began with official business matters and financial reports. Toward the end of the meeting, Dr. Thornley questioned all four of us several times with questions like, "What are your

plans after Trident Tech?" To Nateshia, she asked, "How did you manage to maintain a 4.0 GPA and raise a family of four children?" To me she asked, "Why did you choose to go to college and why Trident Tech?" My response was "I wanted to start a legacy and be the first one in my family to graduate from college. I chose Trident Tech because the faculty and staff empowered me to persevere after my first semester." Dr. Thornley concluded the meeting by presenting each one of us gifts of appreciation for our hard work.

Trident Technical College does not merely provide its students with the tools to achieve success, the faculty and staff partner with them and make their dreams come true. I began Trident Tech with the mentality of the little engine that could, "I think I can. I think I can." I am leaving Trident Tech with the mentality, "I know I can! I know I can!" Thank you, Trident Tech for believing in me and making my dreams a reality! ●

Illustration by: Justin Cammer

STUDENT SPEAKER AT 2008 GRADUATION DESCRIBES HER JOURNEY

PRICELESS!!

By *Stephanie Legette*

Being the student speaker at graduation was an amazing opportunity. It enabled me to let everyone know how much I have loved being a student, and now a graduate, of Trident. I almost did not audition for the spot. I chickened out at the last minute and Dr. Sharon Willis was not about to have that! She got me an audition and the rest is history.

I wanted to be student speaker because I wanted to talk about my journey here at Trident. Before I started here, I had no desire to go back to school and since starting, it is all I want to do. If I could afford it, I would be a professional student. I do not think my experience here is so different from other students, at least I hope not, but there were certainly people that I wanted to let know they made a huge impact on me.

I do not think that the teachers and other employees always get the recognition they deserve. I spoke about how the teachers and staff have made their life's work a testament to our success and that everyone here is dedicated to helping us achieve our goals. I firmly believe that. Not one teacher, counselor, or staffer has ever denied me help when I asked for it. Everyone always made me believe that I can do whatever it is that I want to do. That is priceless! ●



Foundation Breakfast (Stephanie Legette pictured left) — Photo: by Pat Fox

A SPECTACULAR SHOW, A GOOD CAUSE: DRACULA & THE CLEMENTE COURSE AT TTC

By Madalyn Mavris

What if you put on a big show in the beautiful TTC's College Center, raised money for the Clemente Course, and had fun at the same time? You would get a well-performed play like *Dracula: Forbidden Fruit* written and directed by TTC instructor Sharron Willis, assisted by students, faculty and local community volunteers. "I believe that we are all placed here to be servants, if I serve you, someone will serve me", the proud director Willis noted. Her dedication as a teacher, director, make-up artist, and designer, has created a masterpiece and with her, a cast and crew like no other! Coming from all walks of life, professions and majors, this cast served the community, and in turn, the community gave back to support the Clemente Course.

The cast practiced very hard and there was never a day this cast was not laughing, cutting up, or more dedicated. I believe that these people surpass any I have met before because it was all about having fun and that we did! Dancing brides, high tech screens, singing starlets, asylum lunatics and, of course, a very good-looking Dracula, set the stage this weekend with an explosion of intensity and emotion for the audience and the performers. The Clemente Course is dedicated to education for people in need of an education for a brighter future and the idea that all people deserve to have an education, despite the extraordinary circumstances they face.

This weekend proves that the arts are a necessity in the community and we are lucky to have so many artists who wish to contribute. Will there be an encore? Only time will tell, but you can expect nothing but the best and many performances to come, dedicated to the community, academics, and liberal arts. ●



Photos courtesy of Tiffany Simmons



Photos courtesy of Nathan Bell Photography

DRACULA: FORBIDDEN FRUIT FROM THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

WHY I DO CLEMENTE PRODUCTIONS



Photos courtesy of Nathan Bell Photography

By Dr. Sharon Willis

I believe we are all granted gifts and talents. I believe there are many opportunities to use those gifts and talents and some should be for the good of the body. In the case of Clemente, I always choose to send a message ... sometimes about life's journey, sometimes about what connects us together, sometimes a message of compassion. Whatever the message, I believe theatre has an opportunity to offer insight, even if just for two hours, that can change lives and affect how we view ourselves and our fellowman. To be able to work with a team and produce something for the good of man is a rare privilege that I take very seriously. Success for the Clemente course is monetary, but far more extensive for those involved. In production, there is no hierarchy of value. Everyone works for the good of the show. Everyone reaps its success and everyone feels the pain of dedication. There is no faculty, staff, traditional student, community member, or Clemente student. There are actors, designers, crew and a production team.

My experience in Dracula is rich in memories with cast and crew. Perhaps the most memorable single day was a Sunday when our bass player and cellist came to rehearsal. We were rehearsing the climax where Dracula leaves Mina and decides to stop his heartbeat. There is a building of tension between Mina and her husband and brother, between Dracula and Mina, and Dracula and his three brides who will perish when he does, and of course between Dracula and Van Helsing. The bass player begins Dracula's heartbeat.

As the scene progresses, the heartbeat is louder and faster. Then suddenly Dracula says his final line, puts his hand over his heart and the heartbeat abruptly stops. We all knew it was good, very good. We gasped. I had tears in my eyes. Once in the production space, on the stage and with the set built, we played that climactic scene over and over. Each time we tried to make Dracula disappear in many different ways. Then someone said to me, the brides are all over him, why not use them to help him disappear. Stephanie, the bride by Dracula's shoulder, unhooked his cape discretely while the other two brides captured the audience's attention with their wails. In just a few timing exercises, we had a wonderful disappearance. This was the final piece of a director's vision fulfilled.

All four Clemente productions stand alone as unique experiences. The first (*Britomart*) will always be special just because it was the first and was a great act of faith on my part and a few supporting people. I will never forget

“Everyone reaps its success and everyone feels the pain of dedication.”

building the giant tree onstage at the Humanities Center. Some supporters I gained in this show have aided in every show since. We went to Piccolo Spoleto and we had more actual Clemente students directly involved in the production than any other production. The second play (*The Good Doctor*) was special because we set the venue as a Russian cof-

fee house and we had the support of the local Russian community. Our revenues more than doubled to \$3600 that year. Our third production (*The Canterbury Tales*) was close to a musical and created much excitement among the cast. The set and stage were built and donated by the efforts of an Eagle Scout project. This alone allowed our program to grow tremendously. We raised over \$5000 and had full houses for each show. Of course, Dracula: *Forbidden Fruit* was a dream-come-true for me as both playwright and director. Our revenue was \$8700 and our fellowship was remarkable. The set and costumes were perhaps our most ambitious and extravagant. Bonds were formed that I believe will be lifelong for many.

Every year Mary Edwards and Kathryn Sparkman have been by my side; each year I have met and worked with faculty (Kevin Eakes, Igor Kogan, Phil Regalbuto and Jane Benton) and students (Peter Regalbuto, Stephanie Legette, David Spears) over and over again that have allowed our productions to get better and better. I have met and worked with students who have repeatedly told me this experience has enriched and at times changed their lives. I have had the privilege of watching a Clemente student

the first year become an outstanding regular student in my theatre class three years later. Yes, producing a play does at times consume your time and life, but

what is there more important or better for me to do than use my gifts and talents for my fellowman and at the same time become a part of so many wonderful people's lives along the way? ●

ROOTS AND SHOOTS CLUB SPONSORED INVISIBLE CHILDREN DURING GLOBAL AWARENESS WEEK

Plight of Ugandan refugee children presented to TTC students.

By: Madalyn Mavris, R&S Club Member

Four Deep South Team members (Steve, Caitlin, Maria, Chris) of Invisible Children, Inc. visited Trident as part of their National Tour to raise awareness of the plight of children in displacement camps in northern Uganda. Invisible Children's mission is to improve the quality of life for war-affected children by providing access to quality education, enhanced learning environment, and innovative economic opportunities for the community.

The Deep South roadies invited TTC students to help the cause by doing such things as writing letters to their senators and members of House of Representatives asking them to

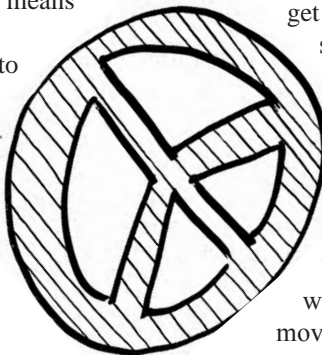
support the current peace talks and through participating in their bracelet campaign. Interested groups can also help by buying "peace bonds" (by means of sending a small amount of money to Invisible Children to help their mission) and showing the film "Invisible Children: Rough Cut" in order to educate others. Bracelets, etc. are available on their website, and come packaged with a DVD highlighting the story of a real child in one of

the displacement camps.

The students travel all around the country, trying to assist in ensuring these refugees get what they need to survive in a country in shambles in Northern Uganda. Forced to leave their homes with no protection, food, or shelter because of a ten year war, these people were moved to displacement camps and eventually, some have lost their lives for a war they never wanted. The students who tour continue

to educate people about the terrible tragedy in Uganda, so that one day, these families and abducted children may return to their land and homes.

So many students attended the presentation that people had to sit on the floor. The participation and empathy of the students was extraordinary to witness. TTC students contributed whatever they had because the presentation was so moving. Through speaking out and education, the children of Uganda may have a better future. For more information on how to help, visit their website at, www.invisiblechildren.com.



VOTE

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Register now and be a part of our country's future!

SOSL to Present Clemente Cabaret

Volunteers needed now for event planning and marketing

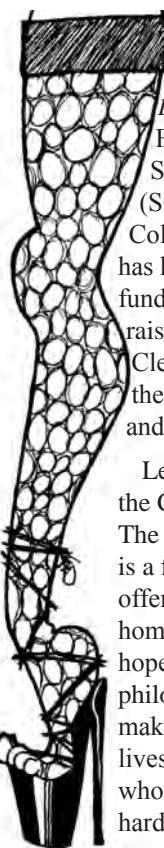
By Stephanie Young

For the past two years, The Society of Student Leaders (SOSL), a Trident Technical College student organization, has hosted a Cabaret-style fundraiser/awareness event to raise money for the Charleston Clemente Course. Every year the volunteers keep learning and the event keeps growing.

Let me tell you a little about the Charleston Clemente Course. The Charleston Clemente Course is a free humanities course offered to disadvantaged and homeless individuals in the hope that a study of literature, philosophy and history can make a positive impact on their lives. Clemente students, all of whom have suffered numerous hardships and difficulties in

their lives, come from homeless shelters, rehabilitation centers and low-income areas. Some have achieved three or four months of sobriety for the first time in their adult lives so that they can attend the course. An interview and placement test is required for admission because the course is a rigorous, college-level course.

The program has had numerous success stories. Many Clemente graduates enroll in additional college courses. Many find permanent employment. All Clemente students gain confidence, hope and respect for themselves.



Illustrations by: Justin Cammer

Charleston Clemente Course Fundraiser



Build Your Resume!

Build your resume while contributing to your community. Trident Technical College (TTC) Clemente Talent Search Committee is looking for the following talented positions to assist with the 2008 Charleston Clemente Course Talent Search Fundraiser (the event will have a small budget to work with):

Caterer / Chef

Volunteer(s) to plan, organize and cater food and beverages

Decorator / Designer

Volunteer(s) to assist with decorations

Gift and Donation Coordinator

Volunteer(s) to assist with donations and purchasing gifts to make the event possible

Event Planner

Volunteer(s) to oversee and manage

Marketing Manager

Volunteer(s) to advertise and market including ticket sales

All positions and volunteers will be recognized / advertised.

Date: October 10, 2008

Theme: Costume Party (Optional)

Time: Arrival from 5:30 to 6:15 p.m.
(Show begins at 6:15)

Place: TTC's New College Center

We are planning for about 200 guests.

Contact:

Stephanie Young
Trident Technical College
7000 Rivers Avenue, RP-M
Charleston, SC 29406

843.574.6775

Stephanie.Young@tridenttech.edu

STATE CREDIT UNION CELEBRATES NEW BRANCH IN CHARLESTON

State Credit Union celebrated the grand opening of its new branch in Charleston with a ribbon cutting and official welcome from the Charleston Area Chamber of Commerce. The office is located at 6750 Rivers Avenue near the Trident Technical College campus.

The new branch will give Charleston members more convenient options to conduct business at SCU with new drive-through service, a drive-up ATM, night depository and all-day banking.

State Credit Union is a not-for profit full-service financial institution serving state employees, anyone enrolled in South Carolina State Retirement Systems, anyone who attends or is employed by any school in the

SC Technical College System, as well as any relative of an SCU member. Additionally, persons who live, work or attend school in Aiken, Anderson, Florence, Greenwood, Lexington, Oconee, Orangeburg, Pickens, Richland and Spartanburg counties are eligible to join. SCU has 17 branches in 12 cities throughout the state and more than \$400 million in assets.

Editor's note: As part of their commitment to area communities, the bank sponsored the first annual, State Credit Union Award at TTC Awards Day in May 2008. This very generous award of a \$1500.00 individual scholarship was for a returning student, who enrolled with six or more hours during both the fall and spring semester. ●



Photo courtesy of SCU Marketing Department.

Pictured: City of N. Charleston Mayor Keith Summey and Trident Technical College President Mary Thornley wield super-size scissors to snip the official ribbon at SCU's new Charleston branch. Also participating are: (L-R) Senior Vice President Ruben Sweatman, First Vice Chairman Ronald Herrin, President Rick Hammond, Chairman Vince Rhodes, Elected Official Marie Isert, Summey, Thornley, Regional Executive Angie Huffstetler, manager Kimberly Rentz, Elected Official Norman Adams and Senior Vice Presidents Buck Holland and Terry Sabol.

APPRENTICES COMPETE FOR PRIZE MONEY AT TRIDENT TECHNICAL COLLEGE

From: TTC Marketing Department



Pictured, from left: Kendall Nowocin of Summerville, third-year winner; Mike Young of Goose Creek, second-year winner; Johnny Richards, vice president of Gatch Electrical Contractors; Jim Ritter, president of Transworld Electrical Contractors; Billy Kelly, president of CECA; John Autrey, director of apprenticeship programs at Trident Technical College; Dr. Mary Thornley, President of Trident Technical College; Don Sick Jr. of Summerville, first-year winner; Derrick Perry of North Charleston, fourth-year winner; and Russell Lamb, director of CECA.

April 3, 2008... During an Electricians Fair held on Trident Technical College's Main Campus, electrical construction apprentices displayed their skills in installing electrical components and circuitry. Co-sponsored by Trident Technical College, the Charleston Electrical Contractors Association (CECA) and the Carolinas Association of General Contractors (CAGC), the competition allowed first-, second-, third- and fourth-year electrical construction apprentices to compete on the skills they have gained through a combination of practical experience and classroom instruction.

Competition winners were Don Sick Jr. of Summerville (first year); Mike Young of Goose Creek (second year); Kendall Nowocin of Summerville (third year); and Derrick Perry of North Charleston (fourth year).

A registered apprenticeship program is a paid, in-house training program that combines classroom instruction and on-the-job training. Working according to standards set by the company and approved by the U.S. Department of Labor, an apprentice earns a nationally recognized certification as a Journeyworker upon completion of the program. More than 1,000 occupations qualify for apprenticeship training. ●

TTC HOLDS SPRING SPIN-OFF:

Auto Show Spins Out on Main Campus

By Jennifer D. Lockhart,
TTC Marketing Services

On May 19, 2008, area residents came out to show and admire 180 classic, new and customized vehicles at Trident Technical College's 17th Annual Spring Spin-Off. Proceeds of the car, truck and motorcycle show benefit the W. Athell Yon Scholarship Fund, which provides scholarships to TTC students pursuing careers in automotive technology.

A 1967 Chevy Nova owned by Larry Bowman of Summerville was the big winner, receiving the coveted Best of Show and the Advisory Board Trophy. The President's Trophy went to Dick Benedict of Goose Creek for his 1930 Ford Coupe.

Spin-Off attendees also enjoyed a valve cover race with 10 racers as well as refreshments from TTC's student organizations.

Trident Technical College offers an Automotive Technology associate degree that prepares students to become technicians

and supervisors or managers. Several certificates focus on specific automotive areas, including transmission, brakes and alignment, and engine performance and repair. Proceeds from the event benefited the W. Athell Yon Scholarship Fund for automotive technology students. ●

For more information about TTC's Automotive Technology programs, call Pete Dambaugh at 843-574-6184 or visit www.tridenttech.edu.



Larry Bowman's 1967 Chevy Nova received Best of Show and the Advisory Board Trophy at the 2008 Spring Spin Off held at Trident Technical College.

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TTC STUDENTS ATTEND CAMPUS SAFETY CONFERENCE

By Kerry Cutler

In February, two students from Trident attended the Linda B. Floyd Campus Safety Conference in Hilton Head, SC. Trident's Police Chief, Amy Knight who also serves on the Conference Planning Committee was in attendance and sponsored some of the summit activities.

Held annually, the symposium educates students, public safety officials and college administrators about the importance of campus safety. The theme for this year's gathering was "New Challenges...New Solutions". The focus was on education and awareness. Attendees received a variety of information during general sessions.

This year's general sessions included information on the mental health and legal issues facing campus officials. Chief Wendell Flinchum of Virginia Tech gave a special presentation on the college's response to the April 16, 2007 shootings that occurred on that campus. Breakout sessions covered a variety of topics including medical ethics, infectious disease management, gang violence, rape, and mental health and community relations.

Of particular interest to conference attendees was the lunch session held on Thursday, February 21. The speaker, Dr. Gordon Davies, was one of eight members appointed by the Virginia

Governor's office to the panel that investigated the Virginia Tech shootings. Dr. Davies carried attendees through a moment-by-moment journey of April 16. He also spoke on the role of the Blacksburg police department as well as campus communication and community involvement after the shootings.

This conference offered the attending Trident students a rare

opportunity to network with other students and administrators and to voice their concerns regarding campus safety. Both students hope to share their newly acquired knowledge with their respective student organizations by serving as student liaisons between our Public Safety Department and their peers. ●

Illustration by: Justin Cammer

CALL OF DUTY 4: MODERN WARFARE OR JUST A GAME?

By Elizabeth Remus

Call of Duty 4, is a first person shooting game that mimics modern warfare. When I first heard this, I was mortified. How dare the gaming industry produce entertainment resembling what real soldiers go through in the Middle East and all over the world! Imagine my concern when my husband, who is in the Navy, bought the game. I do not mother him or control his purchases but I was interested in the game so I started to watch him play. Even on our tiny 27-inch TV, the graphics are astounding. The various settings are heavily realistic looking. The attention to detail is incredible. Looking at the several maps, each unique, they seem to resemble some foreign town ravaged by war. Through playing the game, I see so much more. I see cars abandoned in the street as

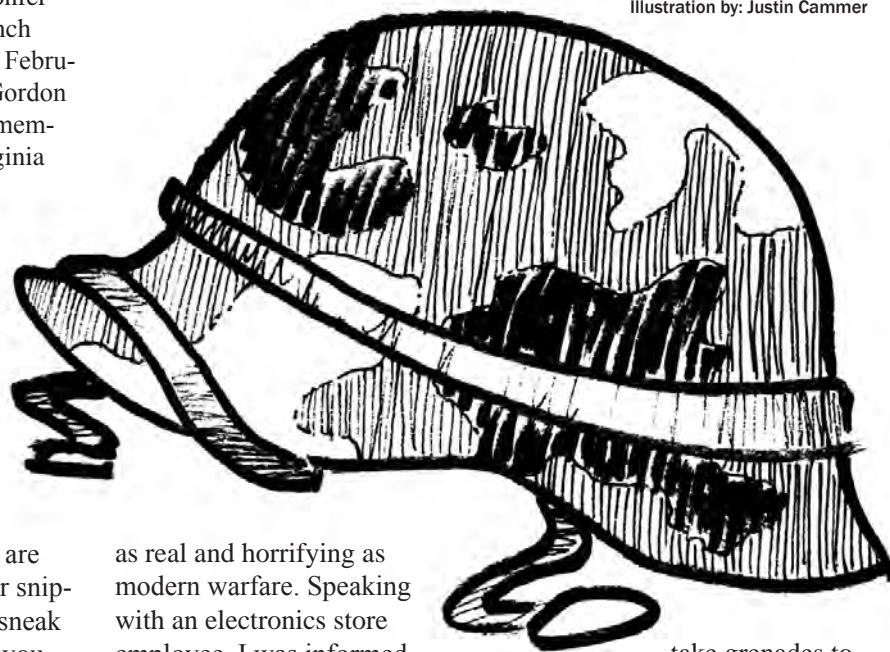
shelters from snipers so I can cross the road safely. There is no safe spot to hide. Even if you are hiding in the second floor sniping, someone can easily sneak up behind you and knife you. Every corner can be your last if you do not watch for planted bombs called claymores. As you may have guessed, I became addicted to the game. I play online with various people around the world mostly other Americans but I do see some of our UK brothers online. I love listening to them talk. I hear the French online as well as some Brazilians and even some Aussies.

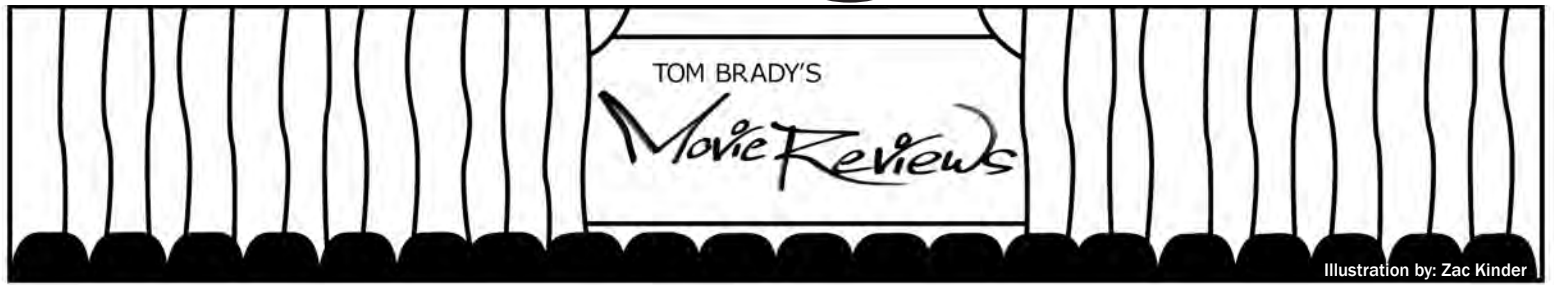
No matter my enthusiasm for the graphics and the strategy involved in playing, I was overwhelmed with feelings of guilt for enjoying something

as real and horrifying as modern warfare. Speaking with an electronics store employee, I was informed that most of the sales of the game are purchased by real life marines and other branches of the service and that they probably enjoy it the most of everyone. This made me feel a little better.

In the end I think what really matters, is acknowledging that it is just a game. I still feel just as sensitive to our military soldiers as I did before. Maybe because of this game I can understand better what they go through. To bring up an old controversy, this game most certainly does not make me more violent. I do not want to

take grenades to the street and throw them in random windows. That is absurd. Call of Duty 4 is just a game. It may imitate real life warfare but it does not spill into my real life. This is dedicated to all of our military, past present, and future. You sacrifice your lives for America and I appreciate all that you have done and continue to do. ●





Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull ★★★

I went into this movie with reduced expectations because I had seen the poor reviews in the paper and it still disappointed me. I thought the chase scenes were just okay and the one in the jungle went on way too long although, the army ants were cool. What was really missing was the humor that made Indiana Jones movies so enjoyable. I felt the humor was poorly written and did not work at all.

The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian ★★★

This was a well-made movie with great special effects. I really do not care about magic spells, gnomes and talking badgers so I could not really get into the movie. It would be great for pre-teens though.

What Happens in Vegas ★★★★★

I thought this was a very funny movie although a bit raunchy. Ashton Kutcher and Cameron Diaz were both great with a nice sense of chemistry between them. While watching the movie you cannot help but feel that the actors had a fun time making this movie. I really enjoyed it and so did the audience.

Iron Man ★★★★★

Robert Downey Jr. is absolutely perfect for this role. The story is great, the special effects are super and there is good humor throughout. If you do not go to the movies often, this is the one to see because you want to see it on the big screen.

Baby Momma ★★★

Tina Fey plays an executive wanting to have a baby and hires another woman to have it for her. It was funny in some parts but dragged in others and after about an hour, I was ready for it to be over.

Harold and Kumar Escape Guantanamo Bay ★★★

If you want to see a very funny movie, then rent Harold and Kumar Go to White Castle. This movie does not capture the same humor as the first one although it too has some very vulgar scenes. I was totally bored with it until the last 15 minutes but that didn't make up for the first 75 minutes.

The Strangers ★★

This is supposed to be a horror flick but it really falls flat. They try to spread a sense of impending doom but it really does not work. They should have placed many more "jump out of your seat" moments, which is why we go to horror movies. This movie only had two such moments, which is way too few. The violence that happens at the end of the movie is totally senseless and doesn't add anything to the movie. I think they only had that gore in it to give it an R rating.

Sex in the City ★★★★★

No, I did not see this movie. I really have no interest in it so any review would not do justice to it. My 21 year old daughter saw it though (she is a fan) and absolutely loved it.

Video Rentals

Here are some of my top picks currently out:

Across the Universe: movie set to Beatle songs, **Charlie Wilson's War:** Tom Hanks in an excellent movie about the "other" Afghan war, **Cloverfield:** science fiction movie about a monster loose in NYC—better seen on the big screen, **Diving Bell and the Butterfly:** yuck subtitles but an excellent true story of a paralyzed man's triumph, **Hitman:** if you liked the movie Transporter then you'll love this movie, **I am Legend:** Will Smith in the remake of the Omega Man, **Junō:** One of the best movies of last year (my top three) about how a jaded teen deals with pregnancy, **Lars and the Real Girl:** One of the best movies that nobody saw last year. You will love this movie! **Mr. Brooks:** You have never seen Kevin Costner like this (psychopathic killer), **The Namesake:** Kumar from Harold and Kumar in a touching and serious movie. **Michael Clayton:** George Clooney in a tense movie where he plays a corporate "fixer", **Sicko:** Michael Moore might twist the facts to make his point but his movies are always entertaining, **The Savages:** Dark comedy with my favorite actor Phillip Seymour Hoffman. Try to figure out what to do with his elderly dad, **There Will Be Blood:** One of my top three movies of last year. Daniel Day Lewis is an oil prospector and gives the year's best performance, **Wrist Slashers:** A very entertaining film showing what happens to people who commit suicide. A

funny, dark comedy, **You Kill Me:** another excellent movie that nobody watched when it came to the theaters. Ben Kingsley is a hitman trying to go straight.

Restaurant Review

3 Guys Wings ★★

This restaurant opened in the old Wendy's building south on Rivers Ave next to the Chinatown restaurant and the roller skating ring. I ordered 10 Buffalo wings that cost me \$7.40 with tax included. What I received was 10 tiny wings dipped in "off the shelf" buffalo sauce. Definitely not a good value particularly when you can go next door to Chinatown and for \$5.25 you can get "all you can eat" wings (three kinds, fried, buffalo, and lemon pepper). I cannot imagine them lasting until Christmas since I doubt they get any repeat business. ●

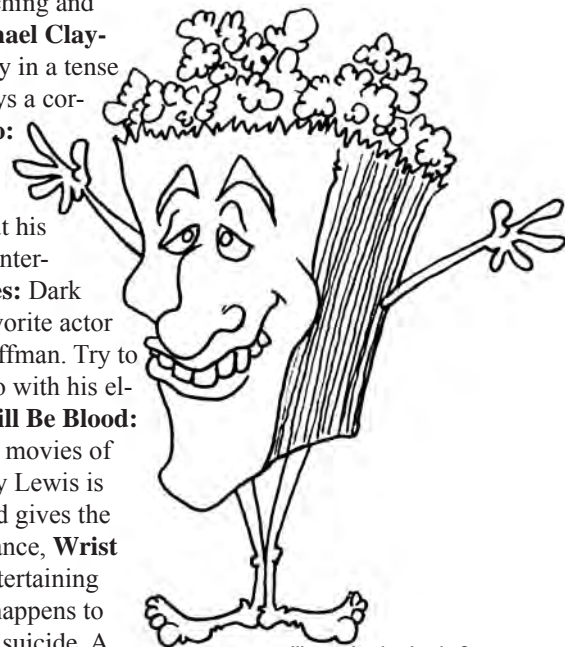


Illustration by: Justin Cammer

**Do you have trouble concentrating?
Have you ever used a friend's ADHD medication, such as Ritalin or Adderall?**



If you are at least 18 years old and have answered yes to both questions, you may be eligible to participate in a research study that is currently being conducted at MUSC.

Compensation is available.

For more information, please call [Ashley](#) in the Clinical Neuroscience Division at [792-5095](#).

