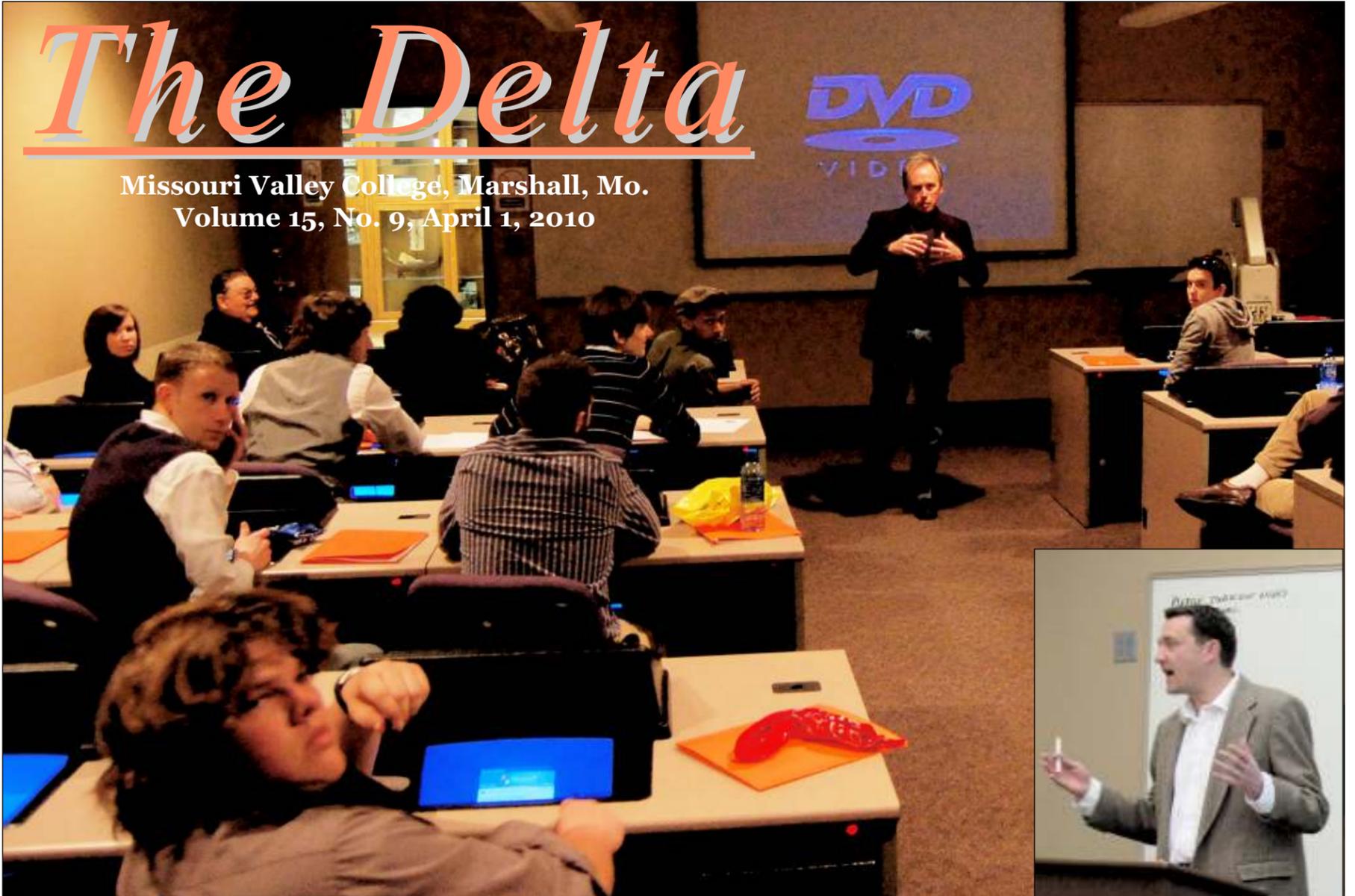


The Delta

Missouri Valley College, Marshall, Mo.
Volume 15, No. 9, April 1, 2010



Top: Ed Fillmer talks to students about his experience as a one-man band (Photo by Phillip Hamer); Right: Lee Peek speaks about using the Web for promoting his radio show.

Five MVC Mass Communication students recognized at MBEA conference

Ralitsa Gospodinova
DELTA CO-EDITOR

Missouri Broadcast Educators Association held its annual conference on the Missouri Valley College campus on Friday, March 26. More than 80 students and instructors representing 11 Missouri colleges and universities attended the conference.

"It was a lot of hard work but I think it came off successful," said Harry Carrell, president of MBEA, who also instructs MVC Mass Communication and Public Relations courses. "We had a lot of positive comments from the people who attended and this is the most important thing," he added.

Five students from Missouri Valley College were recognized.

Senior Katie Kimble won first place in the "News script writing" category for an edition of KMVC-TV news show. Kimble also received honorable mention in the "Station promotion" category for her "Dirty Little Secret" promo for KMVC-FM.

Four other MVC students received honorable mention in the radio category: Mike Othic and Katie Kimble in the "Feature" category for "Today in the Valley" program on KMVC-FM; Megan Shepherd and Phillip Hamer in the "Commercial" category for "Mass Comm Department at MVC"; and Ralitsa Gospodinova and Mike Othic in

the "Commercial" category for "International Students at MVC."

The presentation of awards was followed by break-out sessions on various topics, such as radio broadcasting, television production and interview techniques.

The guest speakers were Art Hains and Lee Peek, broadcast journalists; Ed Fillmer, a freelance video journalist; and Michael Moyer, a television producer.

The speakers talked about their experience in the journalism field and gave advice to students.

Art Hains, a sports broadcaster, has broadcasted more than 1,700 MSU games during his time in Springfield,

including six NCAA basketball tournament appearances and the 2003 college World Series. He was elected to the Springfield Area Sports Hall of Fame in 2003. He is currently marketing specialist for Missouri State University and referred to as "the voice of the Bears."

Ed Fillmer has received four Emmys, two Edward R. Murrow Awards, the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award, and dozens of other awards for photojournalism, breaking news, investigative reporting and service to the profession. Fillmer was a faculty member of the prestigious NPPA "Newsvideo Workshop" for 15 years.

As a one-man band, Fillmer said he

(Continued on page 8)



Never again!!!

Student relives the horror of a bus ride

Devon Wade

DELTA CO-EDITOR

I am a big fan of consistency. For those who have never experienced the joy of riding “ridiculousness on four wheels,” or also known as the Greyhound, then you are truly missing out. I took a Greyhound trip recently and, on the ticket I purchased a month in advance, an itinerary said I was to go from Columbia, Missouri, to Dayton, Ohio, with four stops in-between. The trip was to be 11 hours long. Not long by Greyhound standards. I arrived in Columbia with high hopes and medium expectations.

I also arrived two hours earlier than I needed to be only to find out that there was a strong possibility that I would not be able get on this bus. Why? The fine folks at Greyhound decided that it was a good idea to sell 62 tickets for a 55-person bus.

I was going to find out my fate in about an hour so I decided to pull out my Zune and watch “Marley and Me” on a screen that wasn’t too much bigger than the face on my watch. About halfway through the movie, a bus showed up and everyone sprinted outside in hopes of being one of the first people in line, thus increasing the likelihood that they would find a seat.

We soon found out that we all broke a sweat trying to race to a bus that wasn’t even going in our direction. Most of the people filed back into the station, while some of us decided to wait outside for the next bus so we could be toward the front of the line. The wait outside lasted about one minute and thirty seconds for Devon Wade.

Inside, I snuggled up next to a vending machine older than my granny and continued my movie, that’s when another false alarm happened.

Moments later yet another bus arrived but this time I was not joining the stampede of everyone else.

I should have known that the time

that I don’t rush outside is when a bus going on my route would show up.

The seven people from the previous night were able to go to the front of the line, and everyone else pretty much had to hope for the best.

Hope for the best would describe Greyhound trips in general. The bus driver came to greet the mob and deliver the news that there were only seven seats available on the bus.

The same bus that was supposed to pick up all 20 of us only had only seven seats conveniently available. By this time it was about 10 a.m. and an hour later than I was supposed to leave.

The rest of us just stood there, not in disbelief because if it’s not one thing it’s another with Greyhound. The attendant who resembled the creature from the “Tales from the Crypt,” television series, told us that the next bus wouldn’t be there until 3:30 p.m.

He did inform us that he was going to attempt to get another bus heading to St. Louis to pick us up.

I guess it’s back to “Marley and Me.” After two hours, another bus finally showed up and

the excitement about an arrival of a bus was gone. We made our way to the line outside only to find out that there were only two available seats left.

Eight people had left the station by this point, and two people rushed on to the bus leaving three of us to

just stare at each other. Just when we had given up completely, we were given great news. After waiting for three buses, we were told that we were going to get to ride in the aisle of the bus all the way to St. Louis. When the three of us finally got nice and comfy in the aisle, our trip finally

began. I am still waiting to be tagged on Facebook from the seven people who brought out their cameras and iPhones to take pictures of the three losers riding on the aisle.

My legs fell asleep, my butt was numb, and I am pretty sure I had spilled diet coke stains on my sweat pants.

I was able to doze off once, but when I woke up, I managed to be half-way under the seat of a young woman. I finally made it to St. Louis where I was told that I was going to have to wait three hours for my bus to arrive.

This time, I made sure that I was one of the first in line. Three hours went by and I was finally on my next bus. Some kid no older than 17 sat next to me with his family taking up the surrounding seats.

About halfway through the bus ride, he asked me if he could use my cell phone to call someone.

My minutes were free so I didn’t mind. For the next two hours of the trip, whoever this kid called, called my phone back at least 487 times.

Later, the kid fell asleep on me. He snored so loud that I had to check every five minutes to make sure he wasn’t dying.

I eventually got to the last stop before my destination. By this time, it was midnight.

I was supposed to be in Dayton at 9 p.m. And what did I get for all my pain and suffering?

I was told that my last bus would not be there until 4 a.m.

I made the fatal mistake of thinking that it could not be any worse than this. I spent the next nine hours in the Indianapolis.

I finally made it to Dayton and enjoyed my time there. But always in the back of my mind was the thought of a return trip on a Greyhound bus.

I am still waiting to be tagged on Facebook from the seven people who brought out their cameras and iPhones to take pictures of the three losers riding on the aisle.

The Delta

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Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

--First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution



Football team, clubs to help with Marshall clean-up

Samuel Njuguna
DELTA CONTRIBUTOR

With its annual mission of keeping Marshall eco-friendly, the Take Pride in Marshall Litter Pick-up Day is scheduled for next Saturday, April 10.

David Kemm is the coordinator of the event. Kemm said participants will meet at the Marshall City Office parking lot at 9 a.m.

"Gloves, T-shirts, safety vests, and instructions will be handed out," Kemm said. "The pick-up

will be around the Marshall plaza and along the highways."

Kemm added, "If it's warm enough, we will clean the banks along the creeks."

Kemm said that after the cleanup, a picnic party will follow at the Indian Foothills Park at 11:30 a.m., and many prizes will be given to participants.

"Some of the prizes were donated by Red Cross Pharmacy, Holiday Lanes, Wood & Huston Bank, Wal-Mart, and many other Marshall businesses," Kemm said. "I am pleased about their giving."

Kemm said the MVC football team will be there to help and said any groups or organizations on campus are welcome to help.

"The group or organization with the most people will get a \$100 certificate for a savings bond," Kemm said.

He said participants will also plant trees at the Indian Foothills Park if the ground is dry enough.

Kemm has worked on the cleanup for 35 years. Kemm is a member of Missouri Stream Team and Adopt-A-Highway.

It's election time Students campaign for SGA positions

Student Government Association will be holding elections for the upcoming 2010-2011 school year.

The election will take place in front of the café between 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. on Tuesday, April 6.

The candidates will include Randy Beltz for treasurer, and Drew Mohler for secretary. The vice presidential candidates will be Natalie Cotto-Garcia and Marissa Foreman, and the presidential candidates are Paul Spitzig, Raymond Banks, and Chris McDaniels.

(From left to right) Randy Beltz, Paul Spitzig, Marissa Foreman, SGA President Lindsey Simmons, Raymond Banks, Drew Mohler; Natalie Cotto-Garcia, and Chris McDaniels.



MVC to host six new sculptures on campus



Chad Jaecques
MVC MEDIA
RELATIONS

The newest campus visitors have arrived on the MVC campus, and they will be here for a while. Artists Skip Willits, Kristen Garnant, and Matt Moyer finished installing their sculptures as part of MVC's rotating sculpture exhibit.

Three other artists will install works before April 15 in the first year of the exhibit. The sculptures will remain on campus until July 2011, at which time new sculptures will be installed.

"I have seen these types of rotating exhibits on several campuses, and I thought this would be an excellent opportunity to get artwork on

our campus," said MVC President Bonnie Humphrey. "There are great artists throughout the U.S., and I was thrilled with the response we received when we asked them to display their work on campus in Marshall. I think the art chosen for the inaugural year is spectacular. I think it will provoke a lot of conversation, and I can't

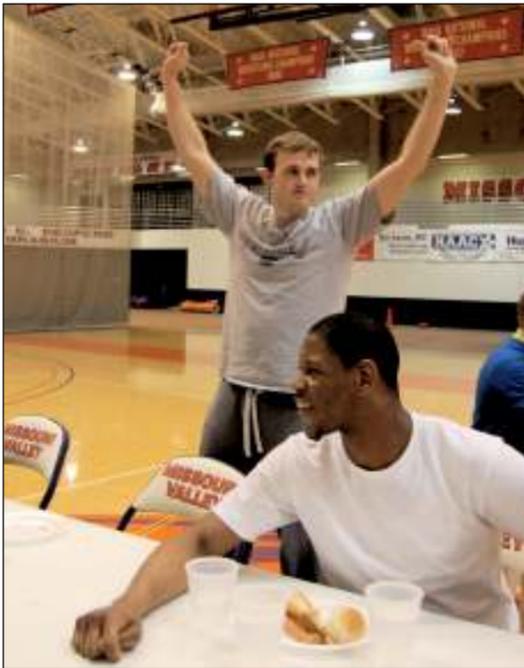
wait to see it grow."

A call for work was sent to artists all over the U.S. Several entries were submitted and the committee chose five works that they felt would be a good fit for the MVC campus.

"We tried to find a variety of sculptures—some shiny, some colorful—that would get more members of the campus community

interested in art," said Charity Woodard, MVC assistant professor of art and exhibit organizer.

In addition to Willits' "River Marker," Garnant's "River Siren," and Moyer's "Kubota Orange Dinosaurs," the other sculptures that will be installed are Robert Thorpe's "Up and Down," and Chris Morrey's "Horsemen."



Right: Students compete in the hot-dog contest. The winner ate 12 hot dogs.

Hot-dog! Showdown raises funds for Haiti

Toray Henry

DELTA STAFF WRITER

On Wednesday, January 13, the earth shook and the country of Haiti crumbled. Many people were displaced from their homes and families by the strong earthquake. Even worse, a significant number of people died. A number of countries and organizations have been working together in pooling resources to help the nation on its rebuilding path.

The Missouri Valley College Tennis team, under the leadership of Coach Ryan Carney, recently decided to do its part in aiding redevelopment efforts in Haiti by putting on a hot-dog-eating competition.

The contest was held in the gym and the participants were members of different organizations and programs on campus. Nineteen persons participated. There was a women's division, a men's division, and faculty division.

For the faculty division, Buddy "Mad Dog" Mayfield set the pace, putting down six hot dogs in five minutes.

In the women's division, the other contestants didn't stand a fighter's chance as wrestler Venus Barron smashed seven hot dogs in the five-minute period. "Remarkable," she was quoted as saying afterward, in that she could have eaten more.

However, the night was capped with the men's

division contest which was more exciting than the earlier encounters. These hungry humans went neck and neck. When the dust settled and the chewing stopped, there was a three-way tie for first place, with each eater having consumed nine hot dogs in five minutes.

Something had to be done. The crowd suggested an eat-off, and eat and eat they did. The men struggled to fill their mouths with more hot dogs. Rising from the pack with a stomach rounded into perfect form was "The Silent Food Assassin" Cooper Trumbo, who ate a total of 12 hotdogs.

The event raised more than \$1,100 which was donated to the Red Cross Haiti relief fund.

Student urges orange and purple to go green

Megan Shepherd

DELTA STAFF WRITER

The more convenient recycling is for students, the easier and more willing students will be to take action. But there must also be help and participation on the college's part to make the efforts successful.

Recycling will not only help the environment but it will offer numerous economic benefits to the college. The college should replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluo-

rescent light bulbs which use about 75 percent less energy and they last 10 times longer.

Every ton of paper that is recycled can save 17 trees, according to Recycling-revolution.com.

Missouri Valley College should place recycling bins in buildings for students to recycle paper. A great place would be near the mailboxes so that students can discard unwanted mail.

Students should also invest in buy-

Commentary

ing recycled notebooks and recycle notebooks at the end

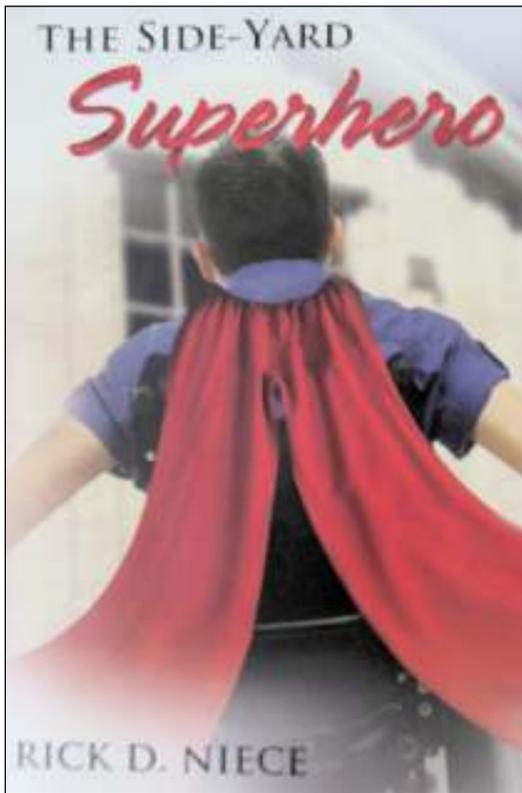
of each semester. Try using the backs of paper as scrap paper to do math problems or write notes.

Everyone should turn off the lights when leaving rooms or in the day when sunlight can be used.

Remember to turn off the television when you leave the room or if you are in your room but not watching it. Remember that you can brush your teeth without letting the water

run. Did you know that plugged in appliances still use energy, though they are not in use? Unplug appliances like your microwave, desk lamp or phone charger when you are not using them. Sure it takes a little extra bending down to plug and unplug but consider it good stretching for your back.

Doing your part to recycle and save energy does not have to be a difficult process. With these simple tips and a little research of your own, you can make a difference.



Book themes include optimism, community

‘Superhero’ tells of lasting friendship

Jacob Uhrig

DELTA STAFF WRITER

"The Side-Yard Superhero" by Rick D. Niece is a very well-written autobiography about a man coming home to visit a dying friend.

The story is about Rick reminiscing about his childhood days in the small town of Degraff, Ohio, and his adventures as a paperboy beginning at the age of four and continuing for the next nine years.

During this time, he also became friends with Bernie Jones who had to use a wheelchair because he had cerebral palsy.

Whenever Rick delivered newspapers, he would always take the time to read the comics to Bernie. When

Rick gave up the delivering papers and went to college, he gave the job over to his brother. Decades later, he gets a call that changes his life.

The story gives a very interesting look at how their friendship would continue throughout the rest of their lives, even when they were far away from each other.

The stories that are told about his adventures on the paper route are entertaining, and also give people a sense of what life was like in a small town in the 1950s and 1960s.

Some of the stories included in the book involve him delivering papers with his dog, and when Rick took Bernie to a carnival that had come to town.

During the time, Bernie began to

experience having a good time with Rick and his friends.

Some of the themes in the book include realizing that there are "superheroes" around us, keeping a sense of optimism during pessimistic times, accepting others the way they are, and having a sense of community.

Rick Niece is president of the University of the Ozarks in Arkansas. His 2009 book is available through Barnes and Noble stores, Amazon.com, and RickNiece.com. The book is 175 pages and sells for \$17.95

"The Side-Yard Superhero" is a very good story about the lasting bond between two people that began during childhood.

Rock Stars, Monsters and Amps...Oh my!?

Diverse effects come from high caffeine, sugar of energy drinks

**Commentary by
Ian Gray**

We've all done it. It's late at night, you have two tests to study for, and you're dead tired. So, you reach for a little pick me up, that we call energy drinks, to boost your enthusiasm.

Their popularity is clearly evident by a visit to any convenience store: Rows and rows of flashy cans sporting names like "Rock Star," "Monster," and "Amp."

Students especially have bought into the lively image, with many kids downing them like sodas. Is this just a harmless fad, or are there real health concerns with energy drinks?

Basically, an energy drink is simply a glorified can of soda. Both are carbonated beverages containing caffeine and sugar, the difference being that the energy drink contains a lot more. The average soda holds 25-40 milligrams of caffeine, whereas most energy drinks have double that.

One new energy drink advertises a whopping 280 milligrams of caffeine per can! When the caffeine from an energy drink lingers in our system too long, insomnia may follow. Of course, this is a

risk with any caffeinated beverage, but the risk is greater with energy boosters because of the massive amounts of caffeine.

The main health risk associated with consuming these quantities of caffeine is the effect it has on heart rate and blood pressure. With large doses of caffeine, the heart rate can become so accelerated that it may lead to an irregular or quickened heart beat.

This can last long after the initial effects of the drink.

For people with heart conditions, this can be very dangerous.

There have been several reported cases of people dying after drinking energy drinks and exercising heavily, but there is no proof that the drinks were the primary cause.

In addition, energy drinks can lead to dehydration. Caffeine and sugar may provide an energy boost to help perform a task, but they do not provide the necessary hydration. As a result, people drinking energy drinks will feel fine for a while



without realizing they are becoming dehydrated. Even worse, they may sweat more, burning off all the extra energy. Once the drink wears off, the effects of dehydration can be felt acutely. In extreme cases, dehydration can be fatal.

I have had my demons with energy drinks and how they

affect me throughout my day. It is hard to be an athlete with the demanding schedules, not to mention the amount of homework.

However, there are better ways to stay awake. A cup of coffee or maybe a light snack is an alternative to reaching for your favorite energy drink.

They may be tasty and give you a jolt of energy for a small period of time, but energy drinks aren't the buzz you're looking for in the end.



Young student works with MVC group for shoe drive

Samuel Njuguna
DELTA CONTRIBUTOR

Through the vision of a young Marshall resident, some of the less privileged in the world will benefit from a basic need they can't afford: Shoes.

Savannah Simpson, an eighth grader at St. Peter's Catholic School, is the coordinator of a shoe drive that aims to collect 750 pairs of shoes. Savannah read an article about Soles4Souls in a magazine and decided to act. Soles4Souls is a non-profit organization that distributes shoes free of charge to people in need.

"I saw that as an easy way to make a difference in someone's life," Savannah said.

In one of her assignments for her English class, Savannah wrote a persuasive essay titled, "How we should have a shoe drive for Lent." Her teacher liked the essay and showed it to the principal who also liked it.

"We then planned and worked out details from there," Savannah said.

Savannah contacted Soles4Souls headquarters in Nashville, Tenn., and the organization supported her idea. They sent her shipping boxes and fliers for the project.

Savannah is working on the project with the help of her best friends Elizabeth Angelhow, Andrew Markes, and Payton Beeler, also students at St. Peter's.

The shoe drive started on March 20 and ends on April 4. As of Monday, March 29, more than 500 pairs of shoes had been collected.

Once the drive is over, West Central Delivery, courtesy of its proprietor, Eddy



Howery, will take the shoes to Nashville for free.

Savannah heard about Pamoja Vision Moja (PVM) from her dad, John Simpson, an employee at MVC. Savannah decided to partner with the club with the aim of supporting students of Wangui Primary School in rural Kenya.

"My dad told me how they play soccer in parts of Africa without shoes," Savannah said. "I see how easily God could have changed things and I could be the one depending on someone else."

Savannah added, "So, I have a moral responsibility to reach out to the less fortunate."

Savannah Simpson also donated school supplies to PVM.

Kloee Shipp, vice president of PVM, is glad to hear about the partnership.

"I think Soles4Souls is a very good way to get the student population at Missouri Valley aware of what is going on outside of the United States," Shipp said. "A lot of students have no idea what is going on in other countries, and I think if they see what is happening and think they can help by giving some of their older shoes to people who need them, they will do it for the right reasons."

Janie Ross, president of PVM, said it's wonderful to see the youth taking the initiative to help others.

"I was thrilled John and his daughter wanted to partner with Pamoja and I'm delighted Wangui Primary School is now on the list for help with Soles4Souls shoes," she said.

Faculty learn dance moves from students

Coach Derick White and his team of student dancers Charlique Rolle and Aaron Elliott wait with co-host Tremaine Clayton (right) for the judges' remarks. They eventually won the "Dancing with the Faculty" contest, Monday night at the theater. The event was organized by Janie Ross, assistant professor of Dance.



Right: History instructor Tiffany Bergman and student Lance Weinhardt await judges' remarks after adding a steamy salsa dance to the competition.



Above: English Assistant Professor Jennifer Eimers and student Bradford Scott perform the waltz. Left: English Professor Loren Gruber joins faculty and staff on stage for a dance finale.



Entrepreneur event to present 11 speakers

Megan Shepherd
DELTA STAFF WRITER

The fourth annual MVC Maastricht Institute of Entrepreneurship will feature 11 speakers and entrepreneurs from across the United States and the Netherlands.

Speakers will lecture for three days on a wide variety of topics including politics, education, the financial industry, and the theater industry. The institute, which is scheduled for April 19- 21, will be held in the Ferguson Center on the Missouri Valley College campus.

Some of the scheduled speakers are alumni of Missouri Valley College and have moved on to fulfilling and successful careers. These alumni speakers include Brent Bahler (class of 1975), Jasmine Grimm (class of 2004), and E.J. Narcise (class of 1981).

Grimm, who graduated magna cum laude, majored in English and took a number of mass communication classes. She is now working as editor in chief of Connections magazine which is a fully digital magazine that offers actionable insight on a national and local level.

Grimm's responsibilities include blending "the techniques of bloggers with the story-telling of the print world to craft business-to-business stories with an emotional hook."

Grimm recalled the precise day she knew she wanted to be a magazine editor. "Professor Virginia Zank and I were in the Learning Center and she said the editor of The Purple Patch wouldn't be able to put the literary magazine together. She said aloud, to no one really, that she didn't know who would do it. I don't know why I

stepped forward because I had no clue how to lay out the thing, how to get submissions, or even how to go about getting it printed. But before I knew it, I stepped forward and volunteered. I think that day changed my life."

She recalled the many late nights spent in the Learning Center practicing and learning her craft. "I fell in love with it. I loved editing and pagination and cracking open the spine when the magazine was printed so I could smell the ink. I had always loved English, but I found my passion there," Grimm said.

Grimm describes her upcoming speech for the Maastricht Institute as "a simple little speech about candy bars, failure and telling stories." When asked what she wants students to take away from her message, she said, "That as they move forward in their careers, that they can't be afraid of failure, that they should use social media intelligently and that they should learn to tell a great story."

Technology as well as the job is constantly changing. Grimm advised students to learn whatever technology is needed for their field, "follow TechCrunch blogs," read about and practice what you can in your free time. Grimm added, "Don't fuss when you get into the job market that you don't know about the latest technology in your field. It's your job to take the initiative to learn it."

There are also two speakers that have visited the Valley campus in the past year and took time to speak with students.

Bill Rasmussen, founder of ESPN and College Fanz, came to Missouri Valley College in the Fall 2009 semester when a football game was chosen as the NAIA Game of the Week. Playwright Jim

Henry was also on campus during the Fall 2009 semester when the Theater Department performed a production of his award-winning play, "The Angels of Lemnos."

The other six speakers are Wynand E.J. Bodewes, lecturer of Entrepreneurship, Maastricht University; Robert Dresen, owner of M5-Solutions; Robert Dunham, founder of Institute for Generative Leadership; C.A. van den Ende, founder of Soapbox and Sportacus; Jay Sebben, president of EDC Technology/Principal, Fultonbridge Partners LLC; and Dr. Benoit Wesly, president and CEO of Xelat Group.

The goals of this institute, as listed in the brochure, are "To compare and contrast the entrepreneurial business environment within the United States with that of other countries throughout the world, to highlight domestic and international philosophies regarding entrepreneurship, and to enable Maastricht Institute attendees to develop a greater understanding of the entrepreneurship field."

The Maastricht Institute is open to students as well as business professionals, CEOs, venture capitalists and those interested in entrepreneurship. The Institute is aimed at students who are willing to learn and take advice from professionals who have been in their shoes and experienced everything they are about to face after leaving college.

According to the MVC website, "The Maastricht Institute is named after the city of Maastricht, Netherlands, and is an outgrowth of experiences and friendships among residents of Maastricht and several cities in the United States."

News briefs...

Packages of goodies, books, clothing and other items were sent on March 31 to soldiers Brittaney Wade, Paul Zapata and Jonathan Woodward through the MoVal Cares Project, coordinated by Tamara King, associate professor of History. This was the 28th monthly package sent to soldiers who have MVC connections and are serving in Iraq or Afghanistan.

The first of the **Science and Religion Seminars** for the spring is set for Monday, April 5, at 7 p.m. in the R. Wilson Brown Room in the Ferguson Center. Physics Professor John Gault will speak on the subject of "The First Day of Creation, Light, and Physical Laws." Additional April seminars at the same hour and location are: "Nothing in Biology Makes Sense Except in Light of Evolution" by Sarah MacDonald, assistant professor of Biology and Botany, April 12; "Some Analogies

Between Salt and God's People" by Stephen Patton, professor of Chemistry, April 19; and "To Understand the Bible, You Must Think Like an Ancient Hebrew" by Peter Warnock, assistant professor of Anthropology and Archeology, April 26.

"**An Evening of Music**" featuring the MVC Brass Ensemble, under the direction of Garry Anders, and the MVC Concert Choir, under the direction of Diana Malan, is set for

Wednesday, April 7, at 7:30 p.m. at the Eckilson-Mabee Theater. Free admission.

The Academic Scholars Banquet is set for Tuesday, April 6 at 6 p.m.

Senior Day is scheduled for Thursday, April 8, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sign-up for seniors for the event goes through April 5 at the table outside the cafeteria. The event will include an etiquette luncheon, job information, and wine-tasting.



Students learn about production of drug for epilepsy

Samuel Njuguna

DELTA CONTRIBUTOR

While preparing for future scientific research and careers, the Organic Chemistry Lab class is learning to reproduce drugs and other chemicals. The latest drug that the class made is Dilantin which is used to treat epilepsy.

"Dilantin, commercial name for phenytoin, is the third oldest epileptic drug," said Stephen Patton, professor of Chemistry and the class instructor.

He said there are about 20 drugs available for treating epilepsy.

Patton said epilepsy is caused by a mild brain injury, a cancerous tumor or a number of physical injuries. He said that one out of 10 people have mild brain injury which could be found out through EEG testing.

"One out of 9 of these could be epileptic," Patton said. "Maybe 12 people on campus will know they are epileptic. I am one of them."

Patton said there are scholarships available for students with epilepsy and other disabilities and that the government is ready to help.

"My undergrad education at Spring Arbor University, Mich., was paid for, not through welfare, but with help from the State of Michigan's Department of Education and the



Students in Chemistry class help to produce an epilepsy treatment drug.

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation," Patton said.

Patton said epileptic students should tell those in charge of financial aid about their situation.

He said students should contact him or Charles "Buddy" Mayfield, director of Financial Aid.

Patton said that apart from the government, students should contact drug companies like Pfizer, the company that makes medicine for epilepsy and may get help financially.

Patton said he became epileptic as a

boy. "At age 14, I fell off a bike while trying to impress some ladies" who apparently were not impressed, Patton said.

"Everything healed but I started having seizures due to brain damage."

Patton takes the drug Phenobarbital to prevent seizures. He said the drug is very addictive and gave the reason why it's prescribed.

"You can't forget to take it," Patton said. "I see monsters when I don't and I risk having seizures."

Patton said he's been picked up on

the streets five to six times after having seizures and has found himself in a hospital.

"I think people should carry a card to say they are epileptic to avoid being taken to hospital because of the expenses," Patton said. "To drive, you also need doctor's permission." Half of American hospital beds and ambulances are occupied by epileptics, he said.

Patton said that his father was discharged from the Navy in 1945 after a head injury that caused seizures.

Patton has been involved in numerous scientific research breakthroughs with several professors at the University of Ohio. The group is headed by Tadeusz Malinski, professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry. This summer, Patton, Malinski, and a Chinese student will study the 20 drugs for epilepsy and will "look at epilepsy as a wound."

"I hope it will be an eye-opening research after publishing the findings," Patton said. "Our aim is to eliminate or question drugs that are making the situation worse."

Patton added that they will use the "do no harm approach."

Patton and the researchers will use rats for the experiment by inducing them into a seizure using Kainic acid, a drug present in seaweed.

More about: MBEA conference on Missouri Valley College campus

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has his own way of getting the best story. "I approach the person I am least comfortable with," he said. Fillmer also said that one of the best questions for him is silence itself.

"I enjoyed the one-man band break-out session with Ed Fillmer," Hamer said. "I learned that it's good to be able to do every aspect of production, and it also looks good on your resume," he added.

Michael Moyer, after serving in the Marine Corps Field Bands as a musician, producer, arranger and music director, started learning the television and video production business.

"Find what clients want, do what they want, no matter if you believe in it," Moyer said about television

production, "Put personal and political views aside."

Missouri Valley College graduate Lee Peek also had useful tips for the students. "A personality-driven radio show can never have too many weapons in its arsenal," he said. Peek said that what had radio going through the years was its content.

Peek currently hosts "The Great County Morning Show" on WDEZ in Wisconsin. He has received numerous awards for promotional and commercial production from the Wisconsin Broadcaster's Association as well as Radio Personalities of the Year in 2008 along with co-host Nikki Montgomery.

Peek said he was thrilled at the opportunity to return to the campus that helped launch his career in broadcast journalism.

The experience was educational for both students and faculty in attendance.

Carrell said "I had tremendous support by the people from the department and the college - Stan Silvey, Ken Kujawa, Dave Roberts, and Loren Gruber worked with me." Carrell said they were very supportive and helpful, especially with the judging of more than 200 student entries for the contest.

According to the conference program, special thanks was given to the guest speaker at the awards ceremony, Captain Mike Roberts, Missouri National Guard; the Missouri National Guard for sponsoring the conference; the Mid-West Family Broadcasting group for their generous donation; and Journal Broadcast Group and Askinosie Chocolate for prizes.