

Pretzels making
you
thirsty?

2

Worri FREE
shopping

4

GCC's Art Gallery

7

Britney's com-
back
Circus

8

Gazette

The Student Newspaper of Gloucester County College • Sewell, New Jersey

November/December 2008

Obama's improbable march into history is major, perhaps defining, turn on race

By Christi Parsons
Chicago Tribune
(MCT)

Rosa Parks sat down. Martin Luther King Jr. marched. Barack Obama ran. And on Tuesday Nov. 4th, Obama's marathon reached an unprecedented place in American history.

The president-elect is an African-American, one whose face and words have come to define not just an election but a time in history.

A nation dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal has elevated that principle to its highest office.

"This is a central moment in American history," said Michael Dawson, one of the nation's leading authors and scholars on race and politics. "America's reputation in the world is at its lowest point, maybe since the end of World War II.

"Obama is an important signal to the world about the ability to overcome such a wretched history of conflict and hatred," he said, "and to



President-elect Barack Obama gives his acceptance speech after it is announced he has won the presidential election at his Election Night Rally in Grant Park, Chicago, Illinois, November 4, 2008. (Chuck Kennedy/MCT)

build a more democratic society through the sweat and tears of its people."

On its face, the achievement is plain. An African-American will soon be sworn in as president of a country built partly with the forced labor of black slaves. Michelle Obama, who unlike her husband is a descendant of American slaves, will become first lady.

The moment takes on an even richer meaning when considered in the context of modern culture and politics — especially if that is defined in terms of the Illinois senator's own life span.

His parents' generation saw institutionalized racism begin to crumble, as Jim Crow laws were felled one by one. In 1954 the Supreme Court decided that segregated

schools violated the 14th Amendment to the Constitution, guaranteeing all citizens equal protection of the law.

Shortly after that the court decided that segregation on public buses was illegal, a development stirred by Rosa Parks' refusal to give up her seat in the whites-only section and King's ensuing bus boycott.

See "Obama" (Continued on page 2)

NJ Community Colleges Experience Record Student Enrollment Jump--Except GCC

By Christina Meares
Gazette Staff

Enrollment in New Jersey's 19 community colleges increased by a record 6.4 percent from Fall 2007 to Fall 2008, according to a recent press release from the New Jersey Council of County Colleges.

"[A] trend we are experiencing is the increasing number of traditional students, age 18 to 22, enrolling at our community colleges," said Dr. Lawrence A. Nespoli, NJCCC president in the release.

"Recent high school graduates are making community colleges their college of first choice. In these uncertain economic times, students and their

families are taking advantage of our high-quality programs at affordable prices.

This however, hasn't been the trend here at Gloucester County College. In fact, GCC is the only college out of all 19 NJ community colleges whose total student enrollment has dropped during that time period.

Neighboring Camden County College's total student enrollment increased 1.7% while Cumberland County College's increased a whopping 8.4%, the largest percentage increase of all 19 colleges.

So, what is to blame for this drop?

According to the latest census bureau reports, Gloucester County is 1 of only 2 counties in

New Jersey with population growth that exceeds the national average.

GCC lags its competitors with the number of new programs offered and by the growth of distance learning courses and programs.

Camden CC offers two degree programs online: AA with concentrations in Literature, Philodophy, the Arts, and Social Sciences as well as a AS Business Transfer.

According to the college's elearning site, the majority of the Fall 2008 online courses are Computer, Business and Allied Health with Psychology, History each offering two courses.

Part time enrollment was essentially flat, according to the

Coucil's report, with 77,375 students enrolled in fall 2007 and 77,375 enrolled in the fall of 2008.

GCC's part-time student enrollment fell 1.7%, but its full time enrollment grew by 0.4%.

The report mentions how colleges are responding to the unprecedented growth by adding space in creative ways.

For instance, Salem College leases space in the PSE&G Training Center for its nursing program. Others are seeing significant enrollment jumps in online courses.

"We are providing access to higher education without placing a significant burden on taxpayers," Nespoli continued.

GCC STUDENT IS CRACKIN' EM UP



Katie Pidge Decker knows a thing or two about making people laugh. In fact, the Williamstown resident has already got the trophy to prove it.

Ranked as the funniest female college student in New Jersey in 2007, Decker continues to compete for laughs making the cut at Rowan University's "Battle of the Comedians" on October 7 to advance to the New Jersey Comedy Festival.

Fifteen full-time students from Rowan, Gloucester County College, Camden County College and Rutgers University (Camden) were given five minutes to entertain fellow students at the jammed packed student center during the second annual comedy competition.

Judging was based on four categories: material, originality, stage presence, and audience response. Only four comedians could qualify as finalists; three from Rowan and one from another college. Frank Albanese, cast member of HBO's *The Sopranos*, served as a judge for the competition.

Decker is looking forward to taking the stage at the state competition on December 6 at Monmouth University where winners from other participating colleges will compete.

"I feel honored to be representing GCC in the state wide competition. I am thankful to the GCC faculty and staff who have been supportive of all my endeavors," said Decker.

Keep an eye on this up and coming comic who has only been performing stand-up for less than one year. The Fine and Performing Arts major can be seen at various comedy clubs and events in South Jersey, New York, Norristown and the Comedy Cabaret in Philadelphia.

CAMPUS LIFE

Pretzels mania prompts the obvious: Why Not Corn Nuts?

by Yasmin Conner

Gazette Correspondent

There's green in pretzels. Ever wondered why the school clubs only sold pretzels? Truth is they are the fastest selling profit. I had an interview with Cheryl Budd (Student Activities Coordinator) and Eoin Kinnarney (Student Activities Director) to find the real reason to this pretzel success.

For more than twenty years GCC have been selling pretzels and it all started thanks to one of our many founders the Childhood Parents' Club. My interview with Mr. Kinnarney was all about the history of the pretzel selling at GCC. He has been a member of student activities for twenty years. So he was kind enough to do some refer-



Teresa Warren of the Parent's Club sells a pretzel as part of the Nov. 3rd fundraiser which raised \$104.

ence checking on how the pretzel profit came to be. Before the Philly Pretzel factory came to town, our famous distributors were A&A Pretzels.

In the past, GCC's entire student activity board use to sell pretzels everyday but Cheryl noted that it use to be time consuming and costly to provide

pretzels daily. They were a student's favorite past time. Also the pretzels were bigger, softer, braided twist for a dollar.

Now almost all of the clubs sell pretzels but there are only two major ones that sell them

almost every other week. The most popular one is Group T2k a.k.a Teachers 2000; it is a group of faculty staff and teachers that raise money to go on field trips. They have risen four hundred and fifty dollars year to date and the staff usually sells over two hundred pretzels a fundraiser. Another popular assemble is

D.E.C.A, it is a club for business aspiring students. The only difference between the clubs' in fundraising is that D.E.C.A occasionally sells pretzels. They only fundraise when they have a cause to support, as well as any contributions or profits that a GCC club is fundraising get deposited into that club's account. Also, Mrs. Budd states that "It's a great way to earn money and help the school". So now every other month you can find Group T2K or any reputable club selling pretzels for fifty cents a twist.

You are probably wondering why they don't sell other things as well as those soft pretzels, like corn nuts perhaps. The reason for this is they have tried selling other things such as hot-dogs and pastries. Just recently

the student government had "Dollar Dog Day" because of the patriotic Phillie Phanatic victory. It was a beautiful warm October day to celebrate, so if any one wore Phillie gear, they could get a hotdog for a dollar. On that day the S.G raised three-hundred and forty dollars.

So do the clubs get a kick-back or tax write-off for this? Of course not, they are doing it out of the kindness of their hearts. They are just supporting the community and doing what's right. So if you think their causes are justified, then don't hesitate to join. Cheryl Budd (Student Activities Coordinator) will help get you started. Her office is located across from the Mini Center in the College Center building. She never minds supporting a good cause.

GCC'S UPCOMING EVENTS Holiday Toy Drive

Donate a new, unwrapped toy in the bins around campus. SGA and PTK are teaming up with South Jersey Vietnam Veterans to Collect toys for Children.

Reminder: Don't Forget To Register For Spring Semester!

OPEN REGISTRATION INTERTERM AND SPRING '09

(Available to all students)

DECEMBER

Monday, December 8	9-4, 5:30-7
Tuesday, December 9	9-4
Wednesday, Dec. 10	9-4, 5:30-7
Thursday, December 11	9-4
Monday, December 15	9-4, 5:30-7
Tuesday, December 16	9-4
Wednesday, Dec. 17	9-4, 5:30-7
Thursday, December 18	9-4

OPEN REGISTRATION SPRING '09

JANUARY

Monday, January 5	9-4, 5:30-7
Tuesday, January 6	9-4
Wednesday, Jan. 7	9-4, 5:30-7
Thursday, January 8	9-4
Friday, January 9	9-4
Monday, January 12	9-4, 5:30-7
Tuesday, January 13	9-4
Wednesday, Jan. 14	9-4, 5:30-7
Thursday, January 15	9-4
Friday, January 16	9-4

(*"Obama" Continued from Page 1*)

Still, when Obama was a child in Hawaii, the marriage of his parents _ a white woman and a black man _ was illegal in 16 other states. In some parts of the United States, encouraging blacks to vote could get a person killed. The Ku Klux Klan was in full rage.

"It underscores the real historic break here," says Martha Biondi, professor of



Soon-to-be first family of the U.S.

African-American studies and history at Northwestern University. "When he was born, people who looked like him couldn't even go into the voting booth. Now he is about to go into the White House."

In many ways, Obama's life course is a study in the country's racial progress. Obama wasn't even in grade school when the Supreme Court banished laws forbidding the marriage of whites and blacks.

The court struck down one Southern state's "Racial Integrity Act" with a 1967 decision in the case of Loving vs. Virginia. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was passed to protect the rights of black voters.

But if racist laws were struck down in his first decade of life, Obama would grow up in a country where de facto racism has been slower to die. He personally encountered that daily reality as a young man on the South Side of Chicago, where he worked as a community organizer with poor people, many of them African-American.

He later found a career in constitutional law, the realm where so many of those early battles were being waged.

Today it's tempting to see Obama's historic election as a closing chapter of the country's tormented racial story. It's hard to witness the tears of joy on the white, black and brown faces of his supporters and not sense the possibility of a new, more colorblind nation.

History warns against it.

"While it's a huge symbolic transformation of American politics, it doesn't mean that racial conflict and disadvantage (are) going to disappear," Dawson said. "I think it means it's declining. But it's easy to misunderstand the resiliency of racial disadvantage and racial conflict."

Look no further than the U.S. Senate. When Barack Obama leaves it, it could once again become an all-white club.

Scan the world for another head of state who comes from his or her nation's ethnic minority. The

instances have been rare.

Biondi hesitates to declare the nation post-racial, but she does point to the symbolic power of Obama's singularity.

"We can't discount the significance of symbolism," she said. "Having a black man in the White House sends a message that the U.S. is waking up, that we're embracing diversity, that we're embracing the world. It sends a message to youth of color that there really is no barrier to what they can achieve."

"It shows us something about the whole project of citizenship," she said. "Obama is taking us to another chapter in that story."

Historians aren't the only ones mindful of that. At a rally Tuesday in Philadelphia, rapper Jay-Z uttered a line that has been picking up currency among black voters and politicians this year.

"Rosa Parks sat so Martin Luther King could walk," Jay-Z told the crowd. "Martin Luther King walked so Obama could run."

An anonymous black man on the "L" in Chicago put his own spin on it when he announced to a car full of strangers: "Rosa Parks sat down. Martin Luther King marched. Barack Obama ran. And my grandchildren will fly." _

(c) 2008, Chicago Tribune. Visit the Chicago Tribune on the Internet at <http://www.chicagotribune.com/Distributed by McClatchy-Tribune Information Services>.

Inauguration Information
Tuesday, January 20th
Inauguration of the
44th President of the
United States
Barack Obama
Noon - Inaugural Parade
Mall on Washington, DC
www.pic2009.org

CAMPUS LIFE

“What is your opinion about teachers discussing and displaying their political views in class?”

Photos by Delia Mello



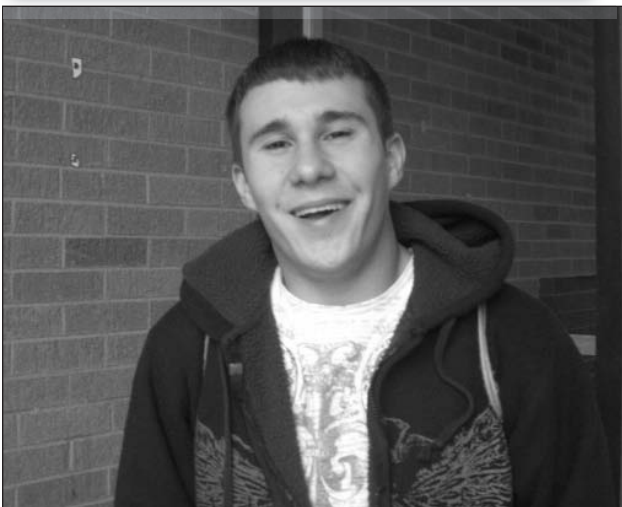
Vince Capone said, “I don’t want it to influence me. They should not try to persuade others.”



Rachel Goeggel said, “I don’t really care as long as they are open-minded and don’t insult others.”



Joseph Manganello said, “Academic freedom is, to me, the highest academic priority. As long as a teacher makes it clear that it is their opinion, I believe it is our obligation to share our views.”



Sam Mannera said, “It would annoy me. I come to school to learn, not talk about politics. People have different views and it causes too much trouble.”



Regina Harrison said, “That’s just a little too bit too much information to be sharing with the students.”



Mike Welding said, “It’s too boring of a topic to talk about and it stirs up too much controversy.”



Dr. William Gavin said, “Personal political views should not be discussed by professors unless it is part of a general give-and-take discussion about a topic.”



Gina Rongione-D’Argenio said, “While there can be academic value in clearly articulating a point-of-view or position, I think teachers should do that as the devil’s advocate and not as a display of their own convictions, primarily because they’re in a position of influence, so they should probably be circumspect.”

Responses compiled by Delia Mello and Christina Meares

Obama is GCC’s Choice For President

By Gazette Staffers

An informal poll conducted by those who stopped by the Gazette table during First Night reveals that GCC students wanted Sen. Barack Obama as their next president.

With nine GCC students selecting Sen. John McCain and 21 picking Obama, the campus’s choice for president won with 70% of the vote. However, this 3-1 margin of victory did not reflect the national results of 53%

of the 124.8 million votes cast.

Obama’s victory of winning majority of the 538 electoral votes with 364 – representing 67.6% , does more closely reflect the college’s significant preference for the junior Senator from Illinois over the senior Senator from Arizona.

Media outlets harped endlessly about the “Bradley Effect” in whether national polls were reflecting peoples’ sentiments about the election. Real Clear Politics’

average of polls placed the race at 52.1% Obama and 44.5% McCain, days before the election.

Since the polling data and the actual results were close, the media’s preoccupation with whether those polled told the truth should put to rest the theory that some white Americans tell pollsters they are in favor of a black candidate, but on Election Day vote against that black candidate—a phenomenon referred to as the “Bradley Effect.”

The first night events

also revealed that GCC community were in synch with the nation in determining which issues were at the forefront of voters’ minds when casting their choice for the nation’s highest elected office.

This informal poll showed the issues of concern to GCC students, staff, administration and faculty in the following order:

#1 Economy/Jobs, #2 Ending the war in Iraq, and #3 Healthcare.

Presidential Cabinet Nominations

Sec. of State
Hillary Clinton
Sec. of Defense
Robert Gates
Sec. of Treasury
Timothy Geithner
Sec. of Commerce
Bill Richardson
National Security Advisor
Jim Jones
Sec. of Homeland Sec
Janet Napolitano
Attorney General
Eric Holder
Chief of Staff
Rahm Emanuel
US’s UN Ambassador
Susan Rice

FEATURES

Healthier habits equals better grades

MINNEAPOLIS _ Quit smoking. Turn off the computer. Go to bed.

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



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

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

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

"Stress is one of the biggest factors," said Marcus De La Garza, a senior from Duluth, Minn. A year ago, just before finals, he had to go home to take care of family members with serious health problems, and it showed in his grades, he said.

"I was out of the game," he

said Friday. "Now I'm bouncing back." His GPA is up to 3.5.

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

Earlier surveys showed that students who spend a lot of time on the computer, watching

TV or playing video games were more likely to engage in other unhealthy habits such as eating fast food, Ehlinger said. Now it's clear that these activities cut significantly into their grades as well. Four or more hours of screen time a day resulted in an average GPA of 3.04 or less. Less than an hour a day bumped it up to 3.3 or better.

There were some surprises, especially in how resilient young adults can be, Ehlinger said. Students who said they had been sexually or physically abused at some point in their lives had no significant differences in their GPA compared with other students.

Working to earn money had no effect on grades, another surprise, Ehlinger said. That was true regardless of whether students spent one or 40 hours a week at work.

"There must be something else going on that is protective of folks that are working," Ehlinger said. "It might be a matter of time management."

But Mom and Dad probably knew that, too.

Newsie Tracy Davidson Shares All That and More

By Christina Meares
Gazette Staff

Emmy-award winning news anchor Tracy Davidson is most passionate about helping people.

Her recent trip to GCC's campus is a case in point. During her "Transition With Tracy" presentation about the upcoming nationwide switchover from analog to digital cable, Davidson provided consumers with knowledge about the purpose of the transition, how to get coupons, and how to buy and install their converter boxes. She also answered any and all questions that the audience had for her.

In addition, the opportunity for Davidson to help the public has doubtless been seized through her fully interactive NBC-10 news program "All That and More."

The hour-long news program, which airs at 5 p.m. on weekdays, is designed to provide viewers with extensive information about consumer and health-related issues.

"I love being able to provide information that helps people make a better decision for their lives and their money," said Davidson through a wide-eyed smile. "There's nothing better than when somebody says, 'Thank you, I was able to make a good decision for my family based on the information that you gave [me].'"

Another financial service that Davidson and her team offers is called "Money School."

"We go out into the community sometimes and then other times people come to us and we teach them all about budgeting and the importance of a credit score, and making the right decisions with regard to mortgages," she said.

A graduate of Temple University with over 20 years of experience in the field, Davidson

has a wellspring of insight to offer GCC communications majors, and she isn't hesitant to share it.

Whether you plan to work in broadcast journalism, news reporting, magazine writing, or public relations, Davidson stresses the necessity of making sacrifices for success in the increasingly competitive industry.



"If you're not ready to live in the one room apartment and eat macaroni and cheese, that's fine, just re-evaluate," said Davidson about pursuing a career in communications.

As a freshman at State University of New York at Geneseo, she started out working as DJ for the college radio station. Shortly after, she took a stronger interest in covering community news.

For communications students, Davidson believes that there's nothing more important to consider than hands-on training when choosing a transfer school.

"That's one thing that's really hard to learn in a classroom...to actually do it, you need to do it," she said. If you want to work in radio, she suggests choosing a school with an active radio station; if you want to work for a newspaper, a school with an active newspaper.

After graduating college, Davidson worked for many different New York radio stations and was an anchor and reporter

for CBS affiliate WTVH in Syracuse, NY. It wasn't until more than 10 years passed that she joined WCAU in Philadelphia.

"You have to want it, and the brick walls are put there for a reason: if you get through them you know you really want it," she said.

Davidson has certainly proved that she wants it. A paradigm of success, Davidson has won many awards for her work. Just this year she was awarded a Mid-Atlantic Emmy for "Best News Anchor."

The Philadelphia Business Journal and the National Association of Women Business Owners honored her with "The Woman of Distinction" award in 2004, according to NBC's web site.

Although Davidson uses her career as a vehicle for creating positive change, she also strives to do so on her own time. In the past, she has dedicated time and energy to serving women and children at Vera House, a battered women's shelter in Syracuse, N.Y., for which she was awarded the Sister Mary Vera Award.

She has also served on an advisory board for the non-profit organization Laurel House, a domestic violence shelter in Norristown, Pa.

Davidson understands that a great responsibility has been imparted to her by those who have lead her to where she is.

"[It] is a gift that people expect of you to deliver them the correct information, the balanced information, and as the industry progresses I think some of that gets lost," she said.

"I'm not sure that all journalists came up with that feeling of 'this is a huge responsibility that you've just been given.'"

Perhaps this is the foremost lesson that aspiring communications majors at GCC can learn from her.

Looking back at history to see the future impact of US's new president



Photo by Christina Meares

GCC student Heather Millian and Assistant Professor Joseph Fitzgerald field questions from the audience during a post-election day open forum discussion.

"I wanted the GCC community to have an opportunity to talk about the 2008 presidential election," said Dr. Fitzgerald who organized the event and served as a panelist.

A total of about 70 students packed the mini-center the week after the Nov 4 election. GCC Communications Instructor Keesha Patterson (not pictured) also served as a panelist.

Adjunct professor Debra Hill brought about 40 students. "I thought the students would benefit from a historical and a current perspective on the changing discourse" as it involved politics and the family," said Hill.

Strapped for Cash? Holiday Shopping on the Cheap

SAN FRANCISCO _ In uncertain economic times like these, it's comforting to know you can still find items that are free. And one way to avoid going into debt this holiday season is to find free items to fulfill your own needs, thus freeing up your cash for holiday purchases.

Want to control your holiday shopping? FinancialRecovery.com offers a free holiday planner. This spreadsheet will help you track spending so you don't bust your budget. See the site. <http://www.financialrecovery.com/>

Meanwhile, Rudder.com is another free personal finance site that helps you take control of your spending. It tracks credit cards and bank accounts, and even offers free software aimed at helping people dig themselves out of debt. See the site. <http://www.rudder.com/>

There are a number of blogs that direct readers to free offerings, including Gayle Bu's AffluentPauper.com. See the site. <http://affluentpauper.blogspot.com/>

Bu, from Grayson, Ga., said she started her blog out of a frustration many middle-income American families share.

Bu has received free tacos at Taco Bell, a free cappuccino from Barnes & Noble, and free ice cream

at Ben & Jerry's. Some recent offers:

Free sample products from Wal-Mart <http://wal-mart.com/triaddigital.com/In-Stores-Now-free-samples.aspx>

Free sample products from Procter & Gamble http://www.pgeverydaysolutions.com/pgeds/en_US/jsp/EDS_Page.jsp?pageID=UMLP&brand=eds_brandsampler

Instant coupons for free meals at Captain D's <http://www.captains.com/files/home.aspx>

Free museum visits sponsored by Target <http://sites.target.com/site/en/corporate/page.jsp?contentId=PRD03-002065>

Special offers for Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus <http://www.ringling.com/PortalContent.aspx?linkID=348&parentID=348>

Leah Ingram writes a blog called "The Lean Green Family," which offers a wealth of free items and resources. See the site. <http://suddenlyfrugal.blogspot.com/2008/08/getting-something-for-nothing-or-almost.html>

C&T Publishing produces how-to arts-and-crafts books _ dozens of free projects are available on their site. See the site. <http://www.ctpubblog.com/category/projects/>

ENTERTAINMENT

“Dark Knight” shining brilliance overshadowed by Ledger’s tragic death

By Joe Evans
Gazette Contributor

I’ve been a Batman as long as I could remember and through the years I enjoyed some of its highest moments (2005’s *Batman Begins*) and dreaded it’s lowest (the ill-fated 1997 *Batman and Robin*).

Last December, many people were excited after seeing the first trailer. Tragically, on January 22nd of this year everything came to a screeching halt, when Heath Ledger was found dead at the age of 28 from an accidental drug overdose.

In this film, Ledger portrays the maniacal, ruthless, and sickly comical antagonist known as The Joker. Whether when he greets another thug with his “magic trick” or his interrogation with Batman in his holding cell, Ledger’s Joker steals every scene in the movie.

Speaking of Batman, Christian Bale reprises the role of the caped crusader and his alter ego Bruce Wayne.

Wayne with help from his loyal butler, Alfred (Michael Caine), Lieutenant Jim Gordon (Gary Oldman), and the new district attorney Harvey Dent (Aaron Eckhart) try to track down the psychotic Joker.

Eckhart has a memorable turn as Dent when becomes a sympathetic character after a horrible accident. Rounding out the rest of the near-perfect cast is Morgan Freeman, Maggie Gyllenhaal, and Anthony Michael Hall.

Director Christopher Nolan’s vision is what makes this film so great. Instead, of your run of the mill superhero film like *Iron Man* and *The Incredible Hulk* (which weren’t bad by the way), Nolan combines the fantasy of the superhero movie, the flash of great action movie while having the gritty realism of a crime drama.

The film is easily the best of the summer of 2008 and what’s even more impressive that it’s being considered for major awards at the Oscars (including a possible post humorous nomination for Ledger).

The *Dark Knight* is not only impressive because it was the perfect mix of style and substance but it does something that few expected: It lived up to its hype.

So, if there is one movie that you should see from this past summer it’s definitely this one. Not only to witness one of the greatest villains on-screen in a long time but to enjoy an actor’s final completed performance and is gone far too soon.

Quench your thirst by sinking your teeth into Twilight

By: Delia Mello
Gazette Staff

This year’s most talked about teenage romantic thriller, *Twilight*, is a definite must see.

Many were wary about the young Kristen Stewart playing the star role, but after time increased the controversies and fans were carefree. Stewart plays the not so average main character, Bella Swan. She barely cares about her appearance and never quite fit in with her schoolmates in Phoenix, Arizona.

Her tale begins when she moves to a small, secluded town in Forks, Washington to be with her lonely father. Bella deeply regrets the move and anticipates her life forever going downhill. Surprisingly, her new life starts to pick up when she not only makes friends, but finds love.

Her new found love, Edward Cullen played by new tween heart throb Robert Pattinson, almost looks and acts too perfect; for when Bella finds out his deep, dark secret she is the least surprised. For years, even centuries the Cullen family has been hiding the fact that they are all immortal vampires.

With this in mind, Bella has to be very careful; if seen or overheard at the wrong time both families could be in grave danger, but of course that doesn’t keep Bella from wanting to be with Edward.

You’ll find yourself wanting to fall in love



Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson star in the movie version of popular novel series.
Photo Courtesy of MCT Campus

all over again as this hair-raising journey tests both love and strength between Edward and Bella.

If you have not already started reading, do not fret, *Twilight* is only book one of a series of four. No matter if you read or have not read the first book of the saga you are guaranteed to be on the edge of your seat.

This book has the effect to put your firsts of things-to-do on your agenda list, last. For the guys out there who think *Twilight* is a “girl” book you think wrong.

The book carries a couple action pack filled scenes and includes numerous stunt scenes in the movie.

For those who have already sunk their teeth into the book make sure to see *Twilight* after its debut on November 21 and sure to be released on video shortly after.

'Twilight' soundtrack rules the charts

LOS ANGELES

The soundtrack for the vampire-romance *Twilight* is capitalizing on the growing excitement for the film.

More than two weeks before *Twilight* hits theaters, the movie’s soundtrack topped the album charts, according to Nielsen SoundScan.

Released by Atlantic Records, the *Twilight* soundtrack sold 165,000 copies last week, becoming the third soundtrack of the year to go to No. 1.

The other soundtracks to top the Billboard chart this year have been *Juno* and *Mamma Mia!*

With new songs from Paramore, Linkin Park and star Robert Pattinson, the *Twilight* soundtrack ended a two-week reign by rock legends AC/DC, as the band’s *Black Ice* sold 160,000 copies to fall to No. 2. Third place went to the *High School Musical 3* soundtrack, with 110,000 units moved.

Expect interest in the *Twilight* soundtrack to only build once the drama, which also features Kristen Stewart and Cam Gigandet, opens Nov. 21.

(c) 2008, Zap2it.com.

Distributed by McClatchy-Tribune Information Services.

MTV, stars bid farewell to 'Total Request Live'

By Chuck Barney
Contra Costa Times

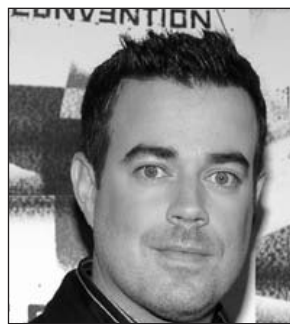
(MCT)

The screaming kids. The red-hot stars. The chart-topping hits. For its devoted viewers, MTV’s *Total Request Live* — or “TRL” — was a generational touchstone. For former host Carson Daly it was a lifestyle.

“It became so much more than a TV gig,” he recalls. “I spent more time behind that famous glass window than I did in my apartment. I treated it like my living room and that’s the way it felt.”

He’s referring to MTV’s second-story Times Square studio where the likes of Britney Spears, the Backstreet Boys, N’ Sync, Christina Aguilera and many others routinely dropped by to schmooze with him and peddle their latest wares. From 1998 to 2003. Daly, serving as a much cooler version of Ryan Seacrest, presided over the interactive video countdown show as it grew into a colossal hit.

Alas, Daly left to take command of his own late-night talk show on NBC. In



Carson Daly



Britney Spears

the years since his departure, “TRL,” under an ever-changing roster of hosts, gradually lost much of its relevance and its audience. And now MTV is pulling the plug on the show, but not before a glitzy farewell special Sunday night.

Scheduled to perform are Beyonce, 50 Cent, the Backstreet Boys and Fall Out Boy. Other big names have promised to drop by and reminisce. Daly will return to mark the send-off, along with current “TRL” host Damien Fahey.

“I’m expecting a party-like atmosphere,” Daly says. “For me, it’s going to be like going to my high school reunion.”

A party-like atmosphere is what “TRL” was all about during Daly’s reign. After modest beginnings, the show

blew up big right about the time boy bands and pop princesses became all the rage. And “TRL” became the place where stars were born.

“We had so many lightning bolts going off at the same time,” Daly says. “It was the perfect storm.”

Never mind that critics often blasted “TRL” for its blatant commercialism, or that the deadpan Daly was skewered on *Saturday Night Live* as being a “tool.” For many young Americans, “TRL” was a can’t-miss daily dose of madness.

How crazy did it get? Appearances by big acts such as the Backstreet Boys or Eminem would turn Times Square into a giant mosh pit.

“Thousands of kids showed up, and we would lit-

erally shut down the crossroads of the world,” Daly says. “I’d get calls from angry people because it took them two hours to get home.”

Among Daly’s most memorable “TRL” moments is the day in 2001 when Mariah Carey burst onto the set unannounced, wearing a baggy T-shirt and pushing an ice cream cart. She began hugging fans and babbling about how this was her “therapy session.”

“It was very weird, but I just went with it,” Daly says.

A much more somber moment occurred only three days after the terrorist attacks of 9-11, when “TRL” was one of the first television shows to resume production.

“At first we were thinking that we absolutely wouldn’t go back that early — that television just isn’t important right now,” he says. “But we also realized we were a comforting place for young people. There was no screaming and yelling. We became more of a counseling session. We opened the phone lines and talked. It was kind of cathartic.”

FEATURES

Bringing Art to the Cultural Desert

By Amanda Davis
Gazette Contributor

Gloucester County should be a cultural hotbed.

It takes only twenty-five minutes to reach the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Walnut Street Theatre and the galleries on Second Street; it is a two-hour train ride to the Met, the MoMA, Broadway, and the National Gallery of Art, an hour up Route 295 to the Grounds for Sculpture or the New Jersey State Museum, or a short trip, within Gloucester County itself, to the Heritage Glass Museum or Wheaton



Dr. Ross Beitzel receives the Paul Aiken Encore Award

Village.

One would imagine then, that the students of Gloucester County College are denizens of a great artistic community, having been exposed to a rich variety of arts and history-- but ask Dr. Ross Beitzel, founder and curator of the art gallery at GCC, and long time art-educator, and he will attest to the contrary.

"If I have an Art Appreciation class, and I ask all of my students, 'How many of you have been to Wildwood?', every hand goes up. If I ask them, 'How many of you have been to the Metropolitan Museum in New York, or the Philadelphia Museum of Art?', I might get one or two hands," he said.

It is just such a phenomenon - that of the "uncultured" student - that Dr. Beitzel seeks to

address. Indeed, as a professor and gallery curator, he has many venues through which to do so; he recognizes, though, that it is his role in the classroom that allows him to most directly impact students-- to give, through instruction and criticism, his love and knowledge of the arts.

It is hard to sum up the depth of that knowledge, to condense Beitzel's experiences and considerable achievements. Besides earning both his undergraduate and graduate degrees in Art Education at Glassboro State College (he later complet-

ed his doctoral work, in the psychology of human behavior and educational leadership, at Fairleigh Dickinson University), he also studied choreography, and was once a member of Dance Masters of America -- a testament to the scope of his artistic interests.

He has worked in high-end floral design, held a part-time position as a ballroom dancing instructor and employed an interest in international cultures as a travel agent.

Beitzel, having taught art for over thirty years, is heavily involved with the Art Educators of New Jersey, formerly the organization's president, and currently, treasurer; his enthusiasm and commitment earned him the "Governor's Award", a state recognition given through the AENJ, and gave him-- just last month-- the title of

"Distinguished Fellow".

His accolades are numerous and impressive, and he is humble, but laments, "If only they didn't give them all at once," -- joking about the fact that he has received so many in this year alone, including the "Paul Aiken Encore Award" from the Gloucester County Cultural and Heritage Commission, and of course, the honor of having the GCC art gallery dedicated to him.

To really engage him though, ask about art: he enthused, with charming animation, about the Grounds For Sculpture in Hamilton, encouraging me to visit the site, saying, "The landscaping is magnificent, and it's beautiful...now that the leaves are changing, and the berries are coloring up it's the perfect time to go."

He also recommended the "fascinating" Philadelphia mural tours, and he referred to "Billy Elliot", which he recently saw on Broadway, as "fabulous" no less than three times; he so enjoyed it that he was willing to overlook the staggering ticket price to see it a second time, divulging "It's so alive, and the people are so talented-- I am willing to pay the price to see it again!"

While many art teachers long to be artists by trade (those who can't do, teach), Beitzel embraces his interest in creating art-- he takes many classes and attends at least five workshops a year (he says that he recently has been getting involved with glass)-- but he doesn't harbor any embittered ambitions, aptly likening working on his own art outside of class to working on math projects.

"If you're teaching math all day, you don't want to do math projects for fun," he said.

He has a spirited - youthful - curiosity about art, and visits other museums for the sake of his own education.

"If I find a piece in a museum that I don't understand, I want to find out why the museum put that in there-- what is it

about that piece?" he said.

Perhaps by engaging in his own role as a student of art, Beitzel acknowledges that people can be intimidated by art, and so, is intent on helping them understand it. In his classes, he rewards effort, before talent, and rather uniquely among art teachers, requires painting and drawing students to produce their own still life set-ups, which, in allowing students to create compositions that are entirely their own, demands that the students consider all aspects of a composition, such as light, color and form-- essential to understanding and appreciating art.

Given his own passion for art, what he wants most though, is for his students to gain a greater appreciation for art and culture.

If he is disappointed by the disinterest and naivete that plagues so many GCC students, he is nonetheless sympathetic. Raised in Woodbury, and a longtime resident of Deptford, he is aware of the cultural emptiness of southern New Jersey.

"Do we have a major museum in Gloucester County? What goes on from a cultural point of view? Very little," he said.

There admittedly is little to compel students to investigate the local cultural sites (and on this point, he does not necessarily fault the students, saying, "It's such a sad indictment of the parents.") besides close proximity, so he offers extra credit, or as he calls it, "cultural blackmail", to encourage students to visit museums, galleries and the workshops he hosts through the AENJ.

He also offers his love of art through his position as curator of the GCC art gallery, describing his job as "bringing artwork to the cultural desert."

In fact, Dr. Beitzel is the sole founder of the gallery, having thought of the idea for one 30 years ago after noticing the empty 40-foot long showcase in the College Center.

See "Beitzel" Page 8

How Stuff Works: The Answers

By Marshall Brain
HowStuffWorks.com (MCT)

For tens of millions of Americans, the word "headache" has one response: Aspirin. Aspirin is good for relieving headaches, muscle pain, joint pain and so on. Aspirin can cut down on inflammation and reduce fever as well. Tens of millions of Americans also take aspirin every day as a way of guarding against heart attacks and strokes.

How can aspirin do all these different things? And how does aspirin actually locate the pain and eliminate it? Let's find out.

To start with, we should take a look at pain in the human body. Let's say you stub your toe hard on a piece of furniture. It is going to hurt, but why does it hurt? Inside your toe there are nerve endings specifically designed to sense pain, and there is an amazing little chemical chain reaction that sets off the pain signal.

Here's what happens. When you stub your toe, you damage some of the cells in your toe. Damaged cells release a chemical known as COX-2. The COX-2 is able to speed up the creation of another chemical, called prostaglandins. The prostaglandins do two things. First, they bind to the pain nerve endings, so the pain nerves in your stubbed toe start transmitting pain messages to the brain. The prostaglandins also cause inflammation. By opening up capillary walls, the prostaglandins let in more plasma, making your toe swell.

Pain is a complex thing involving many different chemicals. But if you want to cut way back on the pain signal getting to your brain, you would eliminate the prostaglandins. This would also eliminate a lot of the swelling. The way to cut down on the prostaglandins is to eliminate the COX-2. And that is what aspirin does.

Aspirin is also known by its chemical name, acetylsalicylic acid. It turns out that acetylsalicylic acid is just the right shape to get into the middle of a COX-2 molecule and gum it up. Once it is gummed up, the COX-2 can't produce prostaglandins, and both the swelling and the perception of pain go down.

Now you can better understand how aspirin is working. When you take aspirin, the acetylsalicylic acid molecules in the pill enter your blood stream. Those molecules flow all through your body. And they are going to bind to any COX-2 molecules they find. It just happens that anywhere with pain will have COX-2 floating around, and all of it gets gummed up. The pain goes away.

(c) 2008, How Stuff Works Inc.

Spirit of giving needed in tough economic times

Canned and boxed holiday trimmings such as stuffing, pie crust and filling, gravy, vegetables, instantmashed potatoes and cranberry sauce will help families in need enjoy their holidays a little more.

Everyday items including cheese foods, soups and sauces, condiments, whole grains, paper products, cleaning supplies, diapers and infant formula in plastic containers are also needed.

The Volunteer Center of Gloucester County and Gloucester County College's Equal Opportunity Fund, Student Government Association and Phi Theta Kappa requesting donations for their Annual Holiday Food Drive on the

College's campus to benefit the South Jersey Food Bank.

Members of the community are encouraged to participate by dropping off food items at the campus or by organizing donation sites at their places of work.

"I heard recently that food banks in other parts of the state have had to close early because they ran out of food. We are doing everything we can to make sure this doesn't happen in Gloucester County," said Volunteer Center Executive Director Susan Dixon.

"Our goal is to extend the drive beyond the campus and into the community."

The South Jersey Food Bank is a non-profit hunger-relief

organization that serves Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, and Salem counties. Each week they help more than 18,000 citizens find their next meal and annually link 4 million pounds of food with 340 charitable food providers, such as food pantries, soup kitchens and emergency shelters.

"In tough economic times like today, it's a privilege to be able to help and support the Volunteer Center and the South Jersey Food Bank's mission to feed the hungry," said Student Government President Angie Pachini.

Donated items can be taken to several drop-off sites located throughout the campus or at the

Volunteer Center located in the Instructional Center in room 425, Monday through Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. until December 18. Please call (856) 415-9084 in advance to ensure that someone is there to receive your donation.

Food drive organizers are asking members of the community to promote a food drive at work, in your neighborhood, with a social or civic organization or with family and friends to help even when the holidays are over.

To find out more information, contact the Volunteer Center at 856-415-9084 or visit www.gloucestercountyvolunteers.org.

EDITORIALS

Congress and the New Socialism in America

By Dylan Beatty

GCC Contributor

There is a new breeze of hypocrisy blowing in Washington, D.C. this autumn. As Americans, we have all heard about Congress's implementation of the "Wall Street bailout" legislation.

Most of us have also heard seemingly inaccurate accusations of "socialism" creeping into the American political structure, as well. However, these two issues never seem to be addressed in the same conversation. If the "bailout" bill passed in Congress, the rhetorical declarations of President Elect Obama and the desperate accusations of McCain are all placed next to one another and analyzed, the unbiased observer would have to conclude that there is a storm of hypocrisy blowing in Washington, D.C. that would make Richard Nixon blush.

During the recent race for the presidency, John McCain and Vice Presidential candidate Sarah Palin both implicitly and explicitly accused Barack Obama's economic policies as being a form of socialism. Now, this is undoubtedly a blatant scare tactic disseminated in a society that still has memories of "red scares" and "red conspiracies" during the Cold War. "McCarthyism" instilled fear amongst Americans, creating a climate conducive for massive military expenditures at the expense of terrified taxpayers.

The populace was encouraged to stay vigilant in their crusade against "red conspirators" living in their neighborhoods. So when McCain makes accusations implying that Obama's economic policies are "socialist" and explicitly associating Obama with "European Socialists", old folks across America stock up on guns

and bolt their doors (there are reports of increased gun sales in America, in response to a Democrat being elected president. Last night on a radio talk show, there was an 82 year old woman who planned on buying her first gun). McCain can scream socialist until he turns blue. This does not detract from the fact that he personally voted for a piece of legislation which "spread the wealth" from tax payers to the elites of our society.

Obama advocated "change" in highly rhetorical statements to a diversity of audiences across America during his presidential campaign. He is a masterful orator who is very capable of stirring the emotions of folks that have felt alienated from the political spectrum since the conception of this nation. Many of the folks affected by Obama's words remember the 1960's, remember the idealism of that decade, and remember the disappointment when the 1970's rolled in, ending hopes of furthering social equality.

Obama, at times rather convincingly, asserts that his presidency will be marked by a profound change from the way politics have been carried out in the past. Now these declarations are all great and dandy, but it is a fact that Obama voted aye for a piece of legislation which is quite congruent with a socialist theory of economics. This piece of legislation is a mutated version of the traditional sense of socialism, however. The Bailout bill facilitated a massive transfer of wealth from the working folks of America to the coffers of the rich in America.

This Bailout bill is a rather unsettling new development in our nation's evolution. Traditionally, socialism is thought to be an economic doctrine which seeks to



utilize the federal government to interfere in the economic sphere of a country and distribute the products of labor more evenly among the people. Now the bailout bill has the characteristics of government interference economically, but in a disturbing twist, takes tax payers money and reallocates it to the elites of society. In other words, this Bailout bill is a reverse form of socialism: Socialism for the rich.

John McCain's alleged economic philosophy is diametrically opposed to the bailout bill's stipulation that the federal government should tamper with economic business in America. He went as far as saying that he would "freeze" all government spending because "government spending was out of control" if he were elected president. This is the same man who voted aye for the federal government

to spend \$700 billion in favor of the elites of our society. Obama claims to be for the people and advocates change. However, he voted to take \$700 billion from the working folks of America and hand it to those responsible for this economic crisis looming on the horizon.

McCain's accusations of socialism are like O.J. Simpson making accusations of homicide. Obama's claims of change are like Bill Clinton declaring that he is a celibate. Unfortunately, McCain and Obama are not alone in this support of socialism for the rich. Congress reached a majority consensus and passed the bill which is a stinging slap in the face to the working folks of America. While human beings are being evicted from their homes across America in this chilly month of November, the rich of this nation enjoy their new found inheritance.

For Christmas this year, it's all about managing expectations

By Mike Cassidy

San Jose Mercury News

(MCT)

If America's mass-marketing machine has taught us anything, it's that it's never too early to start thinking about Christmas.

I've been hard at work on it for weeks. Hard at work convincing my family that this is the year for Christmas Lite. You know, Christmas without the trappings. Christmas without the gifts and the tree, the standing rib roast and the nice wine.

It's time to rediscover the true meaning of Christmas. Or at least, it's time to rediscover how to remain solvent through the holiday season as the world economy crashes around us.

I'm serious.

Job security is a fantasy. The stock and housing markets are a wreck. Kmart is pushing layaway as the best way to save for gifts of sweatpants and Cheez Whiz.

I figure it's all about managing expectations. I gather my family around and explain that this year is going to be different. This year, it's home and hearth. (Well, except on Spare the Air days. Then no hearth.)

"Hey," I say. "What if we all make each other gifts? How about a plush sweater knitted from old fabric softer sheets? Or a casual bracelet made from an odd piece of rope? Or a nice rock?"

Maybe, I argue, we don't need gifts at all. "Remember the Whos, the ones down in Whoville? They had a heck of a Christmas _ holding hands and singing in the town square _ even after the Grinch jacked all their stuff."

No, in fact, my campaign isn't going well. I talk and my wonderful wife and darling daughters give me that look _ that look like I've sprouted a second head.

But I press on, taking a page from the business book. We've all watched the big-business types lay the bad news on the line. Cold, uncaring, unvarnished.

"Family, we face an incredibly challenging economic

environment," I begin. "As we head into the fourth quarter there is very little clarity. The outlook is cloudy. There is no reason to believe our cash position will improve and every reason to believe it will deteriorate. It is what it is."

Bailey, 14, and Riley, 10, sit twirling their fingers beside their temples. My wife, Alice, switches on "Dancing with the Stars."

Yet I know I'm right. And you know I'm right, too.

A recent Gallup Poll says more than a third of Americans say they plan to spend less this Christmas than they did last Christmas, and I'm determined to be among them. Only 9 percent plan to spend more. (Always nice to hear from the bailed-out bankers in the crowd.) And the rest are just fooling themselves.

Poll numbers haven't looked this bad going into the crazy-holiday-spending-frenzy since 1991. Retailers are practically quaking, worrying that the vital holiday season is going to be a big bust.

And so I kick my campaign up a notch.

"Kids? What say we skip Christmas this year, so next year it will be twice as fun?"

"No?"

I try deceit.

"Hmmm. Says here Santa got laid off."

"Daaaaaaaaaaaaaad."

And compromise.

"I've got it! What if we combine Christmas and Thanksgiving this year?"

They're winter holidays, I argue, with a lot in common: family gathering, big meal, sports on TV, religious element. "We can call it Thanksmas," I say, "and we'll spend the day reflecting on how much stuff we already have and how we really don't need anything more."

The kids counter with "Christgiving." It would recognize the role of Christ, they say. And the role of giving, or better yet, receiving.

Like Ebenezer Scrooge shivering in the night, I'm left to visualize, to imagine Christmas 2008 as it might be.

I can almost see my girls, all pajama'd and giggly on

Christmas morning. I smile warmly at Alice and hand her a small certificate.

"Hon," I coo. "You know that oil change you always wanted?"

I turn to our younger daughter. "And for you, Riley, that second round of orthodontia you've been dying for. That's right. More braces!"

"And Bailey. Look at you. In high school already. You know what I got you? A job. And the best thing? It's at 7-Eleven. They're open all night so you can go to school, get your homework done and then go to work."

Then it's down to the town square where we all join hands and sing.

(Mike Cassidy is a technology columnist for the San Jose Mercury News. Read his Loose Ends blog at blogs.mercurynews.com/Cassidy and contact him at mccassidy@mercurynews.com or (408) 920-5536.)

(c) 2008, San Jose Mercury News (San Jose, Calif.). Visit MercuryNews.com, the World Wide Web site of the Mercury News, at <http://www.mercurynews.com>. Distributed by McClatchy-Tribune Information Services.

The Gazette

The student newspaper of Gloucester County College
The Gazette is published once a month during the academic year.
All members of the community are invited to participate.

Contact info:
1400 Tanyard Road, Sewell, New Jersey 08080
856-415-5000 ext.6206 • kpatters@gccnj.edu

Faculty Advisor: Keesha Patterson
Editor in Chief: Christina Meares
Assignment Editor: Delia Mello
Staff/Contributors: Joe Evans, Amanda Davis, Dylan Beatty and Yasmin Conner.
Printer: Evergreen Press
Special Thanks: GCC Public Relations Office, GCC Office of Student Activities

THE LAST WORD

Britney?

BRITNEY SPEARS

“Circus” (Jive) Grade: B-plus
Don’t call it a comeback.

“Comeback” doesn’t even come close to describing what Britney Spears has done on her new album, arriving in stores Tuesday, her 27th birthday. Not only is “Circus” the best album of her career, but it could return her to the kind of massive, multiplatinum sales that she hadn’t seen since the turn of the century.

“Circus” is overflowing with smart, savvy dance pop — the kind of hits that she has hinted at in the past with “Toxic” and “I’m a Slave 4 U” — that creates the perfect escapist soundtrack for these downsized times. All these accomplishments are made that much more incredible considering how low she had sunk — personally and professionally — last year with her string of tabloid-worthy exploits and the embarrassment of her clumsy train wreck of a performance on MTV’s “Video Music Awards.”

Her last album, “Blackout,” sounded so cobbled together and half-done that many wondered if Spears would even be able to record another album. Though she worked with essentially the same producers and songwriters this time out, the results are so different that Spears herself — generally known for her choreography and packaging rather than her studio chops — must be responsible for the change.

The monster hit “Womanizer” is only the beginning of the radio-ready barrage Spears is about to throw down. The title track, written by Dr. Luke, is another sleek dance-floor filler, as is the dizzying “Mannequin.” And she has the disco-influenced “Lace and Leather,” with its scratch guitar and Chic-inspired bass line.

“Lace and Leather” is another example of the biggest surprise of “Circus” — the way that it nods to previous classics before taking the songs in a new, contemporary direction. Spears has never been one to look back in her music, but there’s a bit of Tina Turner’s “River Deep, Mountain High” on “Mmm Papi,” a bouncy little multi-culti trifle that telescopes several decades of sugary pop into a little more than three minutes.

“Kill the Lights” — which chronicles her dealings with paparazzi, or maybe one particular paparazzo ex-boyfriend, as she says, “Is that money in your pocket or are you happy to see me?” — opens with a call-and-response similar to Aretha Franklin’s “Respect.” And on the bonus track “Amnesia,” one of the album’s catchiest tracks, Spears comes over like a cross between the Ronettes and Fergie as she coos, “I get amnesia when I’m sitting next to you-oo-oo.”

It’s all part of what seems like a new direction for Spears, one that values musicianship. She tackles some ballads, both from Robbie Williams collaborator Guy Sigsworth, that accomplish their missions. “Out From Under” shows how her voice, which is still a bit limited, can carry a song, even with spare accompaniment, while “My Baby” is a bit schmaltzy, as it conveys how Spears is a loving mother now — the cornerstone of her image rehab.

In many ways, “Circus” has Spears switching musical role models. She seems determined to be more like Gwen Stefani, a hit maker who knows how to use her strengths and weaknesses, and less like Madonna, who thrives on shock value and controversy. Yet somehow, Spears has delivered the biggest shock of all — compelling reasons to reverse her cartoonlike tabloid image and take her seriously as a singer.

“Circus” is a Britney Spears album I never expected to hear — one that matters.



OR



Who to watch: Move over Brit and Be



Katy Perry, famous for her break out single “I Kissed A Girl” is Britain’s famous export.



Miley Cyrus, famous for her alter ego, Hannah Montana and dad, country swooner Billy Ray Cyrus.

Beyoncé?

“CADILLAC RECORDS” SOUNDTRACK (standard, one-disc version)
Grade: A

At last. With the “Cadillac Records” soundtrack we get to hear Beyoncé and Mos Def through the Wayback Machine.

The story of Chess Records and the 1950s Chicago blues scene follows the legends who recorded for the label, including Etta James (Beyoncé), Chuck Berry (Mos Def), “Hoochie Coochie Man” Muddy Waters (actor Jeffrey Wright comes down with a good case of the blues on his version of “I’m a Man,” among others) and Willie Dixon (Cedric the Entertainer).

This soundtrack (Columbia) is actually a two-way time machine, with a mix of classic R&B covers and current soul sounds.

The centerpiece, Beyoncé’s reading of the tragic and troubled James’ signature ballad, “At Last,” simmers as the enraptured classic did. She also kills on the still-haunting “I’d Rather Go Blind.” You could say Sasha gets fierce on the song James co-wrote and first recorded in 1968. She delivers the emotional goods on such lines as, “You see I love you so much that I don’t want to watch you leave me, baby/Most of all, I just don’t want to be free, no.”

When Chess Records wanted to move beyond R&B, into this new thing called “rock and roll,” the label signed the sound’s architect, Berry. And Brooklyn rapper-actor Mos Def does a fine job of re-creating “No Particular Place to Go” and “Nadine.” Hail! Hail! Mos Def.

“Cadillac Records” also adds some new, albeit retro-sounding soul — “6 O’Clock Blues” from Solange, the slinky “Let’s Take a Walk,” from former Tony! Toni! Tone! vocalist Raphael Saadiq and the title track from the new Mary Mary album, “The Sound.”

(Beitzel, Continued from Page 6)
“I asked the president at that time, Dr. Apex, what it was for and he told me it was for athletic trophies-- I said, ‘Over my dead body!’”

As galvanized as he was appalled, Beitzel asked for permission and support to start a gallery; it was granted, and the collection, launched with the work of local artists, has since grown to include more than 500 pieces.

The gallery boasts pieces from internationally known artists--from Germany, Japan, Vietnam-- and Beitzel aims to fill the gallery with as many mediums and styles as possible.

“I want different mediums, like prints, photographs, tapestries, silk screen, etchings, engravings, abstract, modern, impressionistic,” he lists. “I

want the students, the faculty and staff to be exposed to as wide a variety as possible.”

The process of filling the gallery, of acquiring pieces and adding to the collection, is an engrossing one, requiring him to seek out and work with artists directly, to ask them to donate pieces (though many artists and owners will come to the gallery to offer pieces), and to visit many galleries and high-end craft shows.

It also gives him reason to indulge in his love of travel, and he has journeyed through most of the continents (Asia, Central and South America, Europe, Africa).

While he cannot pick a favorite place from those he has visited, it is evidence of his love for other cultures that one of his favorite pieces in the GCC

gallery is from Saigon-- a stitchery of a landscape that appears to be a painting from even a short distance away, so fine is the work, and delicate the detail.

Most of the pieces in the gallery are two-dimensional, but it is perhaps with the college recent acquirement of an orb by local, renowned glasswork artist Paul Stankard, that stokes Beitzel’s longing for facilities that would allow the display of more three-dimensional pieces.

Of course, given that the collection currently amounts to a value of approximately \$250,000, expanding the gallery facilities may not necessarily be in the budget; after all, as Beitzel explains to artists in a self-deprecating way, “We’re poor.”

Much of the work is donated, or bought for fairly low prices -

and even a great deal of the framing is provided by the artist or owner (such as with a recent \$60,000 collection given by Marie Nathan, who paid for all of the framing); however, the limitations of the gallery’s resources only makes Beitzel’s efforts that much more outstanding.

While Dr. Beitzel’s role as curator does not primarily include planning exhibits, he would put together an exhibit of the works of Vincent van Gogh if he could, out of admiration of “his application of paint, how he handles his subject matter, what he does to make color pop out (using complementary colors),” or of Leonardo DaVinci, for his skill in drawing.

Those are great masters, for sure, and the sort of artists that people-- students-- often think of

when considering art, but Beitzel wants his students to know that there is art, elements of design and creativity, everywhere-- involved intricately and deeply in society in other forms (clothing, architecture, dishware).

“Wouldn’t a society know more about art, given that it is such an influence on us?”

The answer should be yes, and Beitzel is working to turn that question into an affirmative-- that yes, society does know more about art because it is such an influence on us-- through the instruction he gives in the classroom, and through the artwork he displays throughout the campus.

There is the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Met, the New Jersey State Museum -- and there is also the Dr. Ross Beitzel Art Gallery.