



# Mustang Express

Online Edition

Western Wyoming Community College

Oct. 28, 2010

## Upcoming Events

### Fri. Oct. 29

- Children's Center Costume Parade 10 a.m.
- Intersquad Wrestling Match, 6 p.m., Rushmore Gym
- Halloween Dance 9 p.m., Atrium

### Sat. Oct. 30

- Kids Pumpkin Patch Walk, 5-7 p.m., Aspen Mountain Hall
- Gateway to Nightmares Haunted House, 9 p.m. to midnight, Aspen

### Mon. Nov. 1

- Saxophone & Piano Concert, 7 p.m., Room 1003

### Tues. Nov. 2

- Chris Carter Freakout Artist, 7 p.m.

### Weds. Nov. 3

- "You are what you eat: The politics of food," 2-3 p.m., Room 1403

### Thurs. Nov. 4

- Talent Show, 7 p.m., Aspen
- "Helping friends/students with distress," Noon, Room 1406

## Mustang Staff

- Katie Glennemeier (Editor)
- LeeAnn Fleetwood
- Shelby Rosser
- Temitope Osin
- Sarah DeGraw
- Jose T. Valdez
- Katie Rodgers
- Luke Nielson
- Torey Hafford
- Zach Gunyan
- Advisor: Kathy Gilbert

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SPRING!**

## Only for the enthusiastic A closer look at the Art Department

By LEE ANN FLEETWOOD



After talking with Florence McEwin, head of Western Wyoming Community College's art department, one can see that she is passionate about her job, and about art. She describes art as a "dialogue between the artist and her work" and that it isn't necessary for others to "get it" as that is not the primary goal.

McEwin has been the head of the art department for "a long time" and laughs to remember how the department has changed and some of the students that have come through the doors. Her program consists of students taking on such courses as ceramics, visual arts, photography and 2D art. She claims there is homework on par with any math class and that it's not a cake walk to get through, as many students have erroneously thought when signing up for the class.

By the end of her program, every student will have an art portfolio showing work done in each of those disciplines and a 2 year foundation that will set them up for future study at any university.

When asked about talent and does she feel there are students that just don't have the right skills for the job, she answered that, "Art takes enthusiasm, not necessarily talent as talent is subjective, just like art." She said that if a student is not enthusiastic about art then he or she needs to find another career. She is always willing to stick with the student as long as the student is willing to put in the effort and shows real desire to learn.

Most know there is an art gallery at WWCC, right across from the reception desk area. Many talented artists have dis-

played their efforts on those walls. No matter the taste in art, eventually everyone will see something they like as McEwin is constantly on the lookout for different styles of art and artists. She said she wants to show the community of Rock Springs and surrounding areas that there are many, many different techniques and styles to art and she hopes to broaden the knowledge and inspire people to see beyond the usual.

Currently the works of Ricki Klagges, the chairman of the University of Wyoming's Department of Art, are on display through Nov. 19 with other artists' displays scheduled throughout the semester.

McEwin said she finds new artists during her extensive travels and makes it a point to get in touch with them as soon as possible to set up a showing. She is always excited when they are as enthusiastic about her idea as she is. Bringing outstanding talent to WWCC is always on her mind and demands a great deal of scheduling and preparation.

One more interesting thing about the art gallery displays: Quite a few classes on campus offer extra credit just for going down and looking at the display and writing some thoughts about them.



Photos by Katie Glennemeier

# Student sleuths

## Solving life's murder mysteries in costume



Photos by Luke Nielson

By LUKE NIELSON

Students dressed up in their scariest, funniest and most scandalous costumes this past Wednesday as they attended the Resident Housing Association (RHA) costume party at Western Wyoming Community College.

Aspen Mountain Hall was decked out in spooky Halloween decorations and a feast of free food, including a chocolate fountain.

While the guests of this haunted event were socializing, some of WWCC's theater students entertained the guests by performing a murder mystery skit.

Six people were all involved in the skit. Miss Black was in charge, and the rest were her friends. It was a social event to talk about diamonds.

During this social gathering, Miss Black was murdered. As the plot unraveled, the diamonds were stolen and the mystery of who killed Miss Black was getting even more suspenseful.

Green Eyes, a guest at this social event, was then confronted about acting suspicious, so Big Boy Blue, another guest with a bad temper but a watchful eye then searched her and found that she was the

one who stole the diamonds from Miss Yellow.

Yellow was then acting extremely suspicious and Big Boy Blue ended up shooting her. After Yellow was shot, they found the gun that had killed Miss Black in Yellow's dress, so she was the murderer.

After the murder mystery skit, prizes for the costume contests were awarded including best couple to Briquel Erickson and Brindi McGinnis, scariest couple to Camden Mourer and Krista Atwood, funniest to Parker Mortensen and overall best costume to Joshua Smith.



Costume contest winner for overall best costume is Joshua Smith.



Costume contest winners for best couple are Briquel Erickson and Brindi McGinnis.



Costume contest winners for scariest couple are Krista Atwood and Camden Mourer.



Other excellent costumes.

# A blast from the past

## WWCC makes love not war tie-dyeing for alcohol awareness

By SARAH DEGRAW

As students swarmed the Rocky Mountain Commons, a table full of different colored dyes quickly filled with students dipping and dyeing. For alcohol awareness week, a 15-year tradition, tie-dyeing shirts brought a large crowd.

Free shirts were given to the students as they came to join the fun. Many sat on the floor and stairs as they tied rubber bands around the white t-shirts, some making more than one. If they did not have the size needed, people were encouraged to bring their own items to tie-dye. In one case, a student even volunteered to make a shirt for a little boy.

Those not tying gathered around the large buckets of dye, blue gloves protecting their hands from staining. As they scurried from bucket to bucket, laughter filled the air.

“I just dyed my shirt brown, and I hate brown,” one girl exclaimed while dyeing her shirt.

Ripping a glove in half while trying to put it on, another girl laughed as she said, “I guess I can’t use this one.”

Those in charge constantly watched the plastic-covered floors with mops in hand to prevent spills from spreading to the carpet. At some points, there were so many people gathered around the tables that they had

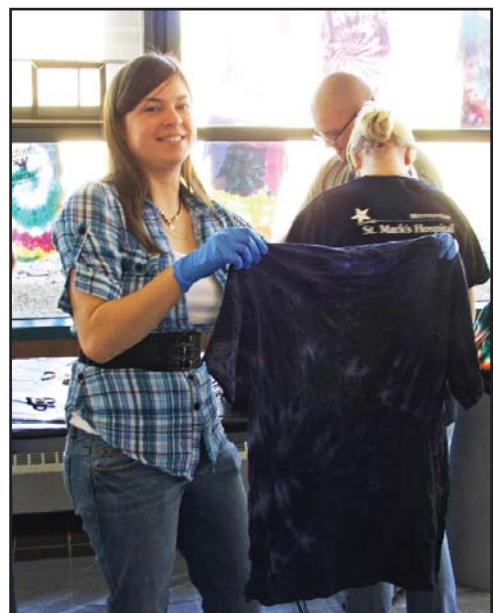
to maneuver themselves between multiple people in a kind of dance.

People hung their creations on ropes on the outside of the building, lining the glass windows. With each new shirt, the rope slowly filled with a colorful assortment of various sizes of shirts. Others walked around and admired theirs and others’ creations.

The people who went couldn’t help but have a blast as they made their own style of shirts. Talking and laughing with friends made the experiences more enjoyable for everyone while they attended the drug awareness activity.



**The most important part of tie-dyeing is putting the rubber bands on tight and in nice patterns.**



**Student Megan Stout displays her finished work of wearable art.**

Photos by Sarah DeGraw



**Students got groovy with swirls and spirals of color and then hung their creations to dry. It was all in the name of alcohol awareness.**

## Mustang Op/Ed

# Transitions: Working through empty-nest as a student

BY LEEANN FLEETWOOD

From the moment of our conception, we start experiencing transitions from one phase of life to another. We transition from the womb to life on the outside; from childhood to adulthood and then to old age, from good health to bad health and the list goes on.

For every transition we experience, we learn something new about ourselves. As youngsters we covet being older, but then when we are older we pine for our youth.

When we are in good health, we try to not think about the “what if’s” of bad health and then when we do fall ill, we look back and play the “if only” game. If only I had taken better care of myself.

Transitions are sometimes slow and barely noticeable and others are lightning fast and leave one out of breath and trying to make sense of what just happened.

We don’t always see them coming. We might even think we are prepared for one when it does happen but find out later we had no clue. Some things just can’t be prepared for.

I have experienced many transitions in my life, too many to mention here, but suffice it to say this latest one is really hitting me where it hurts.

I am what is referred to as a non-traditional student; an older adult who has returned to or is attending college for the first time after a long period of time away from an educational institution.

For the past year, I have been juggling various roles that I must play in order to fulfill my dream to have a degree and better my life. I have been a full time employee at night, a full time college student during the day, and a full time mother for 23 years.

Somewhere in there I find some time to sleep, I think. It has been hectic and stressful, and some days I wonder why I’m giving myself stress on purpose.

I’ve heard various rumors that it will eventually be worth it. Right now, it’s still too early to tell.

All of this stress has been compounded by the fact that my own children are reaching an age where they are looking to the horizon and wondering what’s on the other side.

I have heard about the empty-nest transition but nothing has prepared me for the truly empty feeling that results as one by one my chicks tries his wings and heads for the sun. The fact that those maternal strings seem so easily cut after all the pain I have gladly suffered to keep them tied securely leaves me feeling lost and somewhat useless.

I’m sure that many of the students attending college now are experiencing this new transition of being away from home for the first time. Many of you probably looked forward to this new phase in your life and thus packed your bags and closed the door behind you without thinking too hard about the consequences—about the ones you left behind.

Every new phase in your life leaves a ripple effect and those around you feel it in their own way.

It is the cycle of life that a mother nurtures and cares for her children and prepares them for the big world outside her heart. She does what she can to ensure they have the skills they need and at least a basic understanding of how the world works.

She tries to teach them people don’t al-

ways play nice and being hurt is going to happen. Then she teaches them how to deal with that hurt.

She spends every waking moment of her life trying to improve the lives of her children and giving them a safe haven from the world and all its dangers.

She does this without thought of reward or the losses she has endured in order for them to prosper.

Then suddenly she looks around and finds her nest is empty, or nearly so, and all that she has left are the echoing voices of her children in every room of the house and the always-present pain of being a mother in her heart.

If you are somebody’s child, and you know you are, stop and think for a moment about how your latest transition may have affected those closest to you.

As you face each new challenge and reach for the future with open arms, take a moment to think about the two open arms that are now empty, waiting patiently for you to remember her and come back and fill them again.

She would never stop you from living your life, but she still wants to be a part of it.

Have you called your mother today? Have you given her a hug lately (if you can)? Have you stopped to think of her, knowing full well that she has never stopped thinking of you?

Transitions are never easy for those concerned but a heartfelt call home or an unexpected hug certainly soothes an aching heart.

People tell me there is a light at the end of this particular tunnel. That may well be true but for now, it’s still pitch black.

## More than one way to ruin your student body

By TOREY HAFFORD

This semester there have been some encounters with students and drugs.

Being part of the student body, I think the punishment for finding drugs on school grounds should be worse than it is now. Students don’t realize what drugs can do to them or how much they can get in trouble for using drugs or even having them in their possession. I can’t seem to come up with an answer as to why students put themselves in the position to do something really stupid that puts not only their life on the line, but also their career and schooling. Why would a student do something that would

stay with them for a really long time and make everything in their future harder?

Drugs and alcohol are more in use at this time of year and most likely will get worse during the spring.

Whether it is seen or heard about, I believe that it should be reported to security immediately so they can take care of it the way it should be taken care of. I find it disrespectful for students to break the rules when the school is a safe and drug-free environment. Students sign an agreement saying they agree to not use drugs or any alcohol on campus and then get caught by their stupid

actions. I think it serves them right for their stupidity. It shouldn’t be hard to just come here and go to class and do what you came here to do in the first place.

It would be helpful if students weren’t afraid that they would get hurt if they told anyone about what they know. It would help the students feel safe. Students might find it wrong to say something if they see anything or know about that is illegal, but in all reality it’s not wrong. It’s the perfect thing to do.

The student body should reach out to security and help keep this school safe.

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