



Zac Hanson still
MMMBopping

Hanson is
back with a
new album

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ARTS & CULTURE

Women Fourth in the Nation

WolfPack women struggle early, then find their groove to claim fourth place



DEVIN ABSHERE / CLARION

Alyssa Schiele charges for the basket against Holyoke College at the National Division III Tournament in Utica, NY.

CHARLES KURTH
Clarion Sports Editor

On Mar. 12, the women's basketball team traveled to Utica, NY to take part in the NJCAA National Tournament, finding themselves amidst the best teams in the country. While the competition was intense, one thing became clear; this year's women's team, when playing their best basketball, can compete with any team in the nation. And although no one involved with this organization would ever look for an excuse, it's worth noting that the style of basketball played out east is completely different than that of Midwest basketball. In a nutshell, the game is more physical, a lot more physical. That detracts from squads that excel on the defensive end of the court, such as MATC. While the players ended up adjusting rather well, the difference in the style of play was inescapable.

Although things didn't start out the way the WolfPack Women would have liked, they did shake the prime-time jitters that plagued them in the first game to go on and play their style of basketball for the duration of the tournament. MATC won the final two games of the National Tournament to bring home a fourth place banner and proudly stake their claim as one of the elite programs in the country.

MATC 48, Brookdale CC 63

Playing in a National Tournament on any level can be a bit intimidating for any team, much less one that features nine freshmen out of a 14 player roster. The MATC Women's basketball team seemed to be only a shell of themselves in a 48-63 loss to Brookdale Community College in the first round of the NJCAA National Tournament. Perhaps it was nerves that got the best of the MATC Women in the opening round, or maybe it was the overall inexperience of tournament play; only two of the women on the roster even made it to their state tournament in high school. Whatever the reason, it was a loss that stung. No loss ever feels good, but this one was particularly difficult to absorb, especially considering the way that it happened.

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SPORTS

MATC Softball season underway



Team goes 4-2 on their
spring trip

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home grown author series

Nathan Comp, MATC Alumni & freelance writer

Seeking the truth: 'What happened to Amos?'

DANIEL RORTVEDT
Arts & Culture Editor

Amos Mortier was at a crossroads in his life. Friends described him as a quiet but friendly man. He worked downtown at the Den and Shakti, frequented the Willy Street Co-op and attended classes at Madison Area Technical College with an interest in organic farming. His mother says music has been a part of Amos' life for a very long time and he loved all kinds of music.

Amos was 27 when he vanished from his rental home in Fitchburg. Since his disappearance, former MATC student Nathan Comp has become passionate

about the case. The Madison freelance writer has since written several articles regarding Mortier's disappearance and is in the process of completing a book on the topic. Details surrounding the initial disappearance are still unclear.

Investigators do know that Amos last used his cell phone around 1:20 p.m. on Nov. 8, 2004. On the 14th, two friends stopped by his house out of concern.

Inside the house, both his turntables were on, and they were to the ends of the albums so the needle was scratching on the paper circles. The mixer was also on and the cross fader set as if he were in the



Nathan Comp is writing a book about the disappearance of Amos Mortier.

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THE CLARION

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OFFTHE SHELF

MATC library news by Renee Anhalt

Just what the doctor ordered



SXC.HU

April is Stress Awareness Month. It's also National Poetry Month. This happy coincidence gives us an opportunity to showcase two areas of the MATC Libraries' collections. It also allows us to highlight an aspect of poetry it might not have occurred to you to explore – the power of poetry to relieve stress. With a long, cold winter just loosening its grip, a looming income tax deadline, rising gas prices and the pressures of school, work and family, it's not surprising that we sometimes feel the need to escape.

Poetry, whether we're writing, reading or listening to it, can provide just the lift we need, offering both an expressive outlet and a mental escape from everyday aggravations. Next time you feel overwhelmed and long to "get away from it all," try letting Whitman, Frost or Dickinson help you through the rough times.

A variety of poetry resources, from Chaucer's "Canterbury Tales: Fifteen Tales" and "The General Prologue to The Ode Less Travelled: Unlocking the Poet Within" can be found in the collections of the six MATC campus libraries. You can browse the 808 (writing) and 811-821 (reading) sections or search our online resources from the MATC Library homepage. Use the Library's Research Guides to locate websites and databases related to English.

The MATC library staff has made your search for electronic resources as stress-free as possible by selecting reputable web sites and subject-specific databases, organized and available at the click of a mouse. Web sites like Project

Bartleby (www.bartleby.com) are there for all of your poetry and literary needs, and LitFinder, one of the libraries' many subscription databases, offers more than 125,000 full-text poems for your stress-free reading enjoyment.

Of course, poetic stress-relief is not your only option. The MATC Libraries offer a wide array of guides, self-help manuals, and videos to soothe frazzled nerves. Books like "Stress Management: Strategies for Emotional Fitness" can be found in the 155 section of the library. If you're looking for a more natural, holistic approach to stress management, check the 613-616 area for titles like "Lifetime Physical Fitness and Wellness: A Personalized Program" and "Yoganap: Restorative Poses for Deep Relaxation."

If the very idea of finding the time to physically visit the library itself is causing you stress, use the libraries' electronic resources and manage your stress online. All you need is a computer with an internet connection and your MATC username and password.

The Health Information Research Guide offers a number of links to useful web sites and electronic databases. MayoClinic.com provides current tips for a healthy lifestyle. Health-related databases such as Health Reference Center provide information on a variety of topics, from fitness to handling stress in the workplace.

So take a deep breath. Relax in the knowledge that when it comes to managing stress, the MATC Libraries have just what the doctor ordered. Stress-free, hassle-free and free for the asking.

ONCAMPUS

Campus Activities

MATC's 'Counseling Life Skills Series'

MATC's Counseling Services will host the Counseling Life Skills Series of workshops in Truax, Room 141A unless otherwise noted. Counseling services are free and available to all current or prospective students. Brief personal counseling is limited to currently enrolled students.

Dislocated Worker Workshop
Apr. 7 & 14, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Financial Management
Apr. 10, 11 a.m. - noon

Counseling Services will also host a "Counseling Awareness" Counselor Chat in the Truax cafeteria on Apr. 7 and 8 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

ACR Career Planning Workshops

Not sure what career you want? What four-year school to attend? What major would fit? In this workshop, Advising and Career Resources will introduce you to the Internet tool WISCareers that can help you find the answers to all of these questions. Careers, research schools, review assessments, and more will be explored in Truax, Room 159AA.

Apr. 3, 3 - 4:30 p.m.
Apr. 7, 4:30 - 7 p.m.
Apr. 14, 4:30 - 6 p.m.

Yahara Journal Art Show

The Yahara Journal is sponsoring an Art Show at the Truax Library. The show will run through April 30. For more information, contact Doug Kirchberg at (608) 246-6576 or by email at dkirchberg@matcmadison.edu.

Comedian Roy Wood Jr.



On Apr. 10 at 11:30 a.m., the Program and Activity Council presents comedian Roy Wood Jr. in the Truax cafeteria. For more information on the comedian, visit his website at www.roywoodjr.com.

PAC is also hosting a **Psychic Fair** with free 15 minute readings on April 16 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Truax Student Lounge.

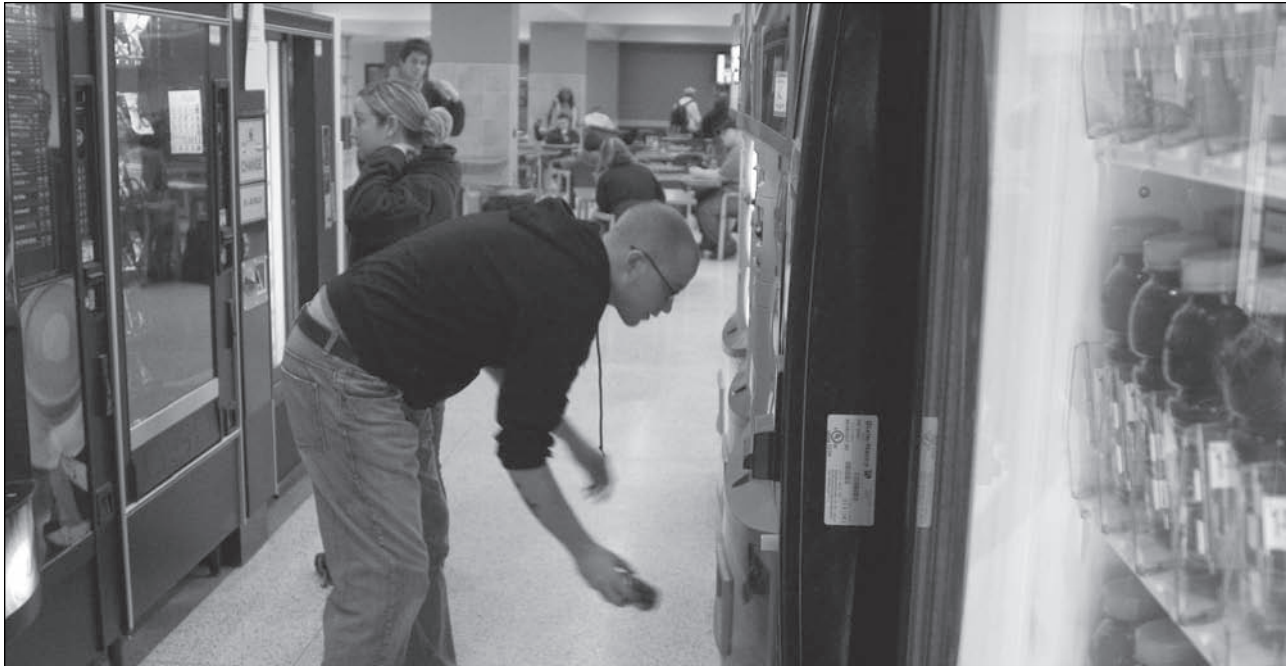


SXC.HU

ABOUTTOWN

A snapshot from in and around the Ivory Tower

Cafeteria renovations



DEVIN ABSHERE / CLARION

Student's replenish their ever-so thirsty taste buds in the newly renovated cafeteria.

LINDSEY HINKEL
Clarion Managing Editor

Truax campus just got onto "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition." No, wait. That was all school-funded renovations. The complete cafeteria makeover includes new and improved seating for lunching students, flat screen televisions and

a little vending nook. But they aren't done yet!

When the renovations are completed this summer, the college will have shelled out a total of \$118,000 from the school's enterprise funds for the project. The improvements include improved seating, flat screen televisions to entertain students between classes and the new vending area, complete with microwaves and

condiment dispensers on the other side. The new microwave area, as well as the new trash receptacles and drinking fountains, now complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Before the renovations are finished, students may see more changes, including more energy efficient lighting around the school and improved seating on the second floor foyer.

Come out and take a study break at the Asian Cultural Expo!

ART PAUL SCHLOSSER
Clarion Staff Writer

So you're sitting at your desk and you just can't figure out that math problem, or this English literature reading is just getting to be so annoying. Maybe you should take a study break? Well you say you've tried TV already, but don't waste your time watching moldy oldie reruns – take a study break at the Asian Cultural Expo instead! Yes, I said the Asian Cultural Expo, and *now* you're asking me if you couldn't even afford to go to Florida during spring break, how will you afford to go to Asia?

Well, if you can't afford to go to Asia, let Asia come to you. On April 9, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Truax Cafeteria take a study break and come experience music, dance and artwork from Cambodian, Chinese, Filipino, Hmong, Indian, Indonesian, Nepalese, Tibetan and Vietnamese cultures.

There will also be speakers, food, drink and people in authentic Asian cultural dress, so write it on your calendar and plan to be there. Put away that checkbook for the next flight to Asia! Because Asia is being brought to you by the MATC Asian American Student Association.



SXC.HU

INTHECLUBS

Everything Student Life

UCG to hold Respect Month in April

JENNIFER BENNETT
United Common Ground

For all of you not too familiar with United Common Ground we are a student-led organization that brings awareness of things like social issues, diversity and multiculturalism to the campus and community through educational events.

Our group is dedicated to educating and uniting students from all different walks of life. In April UCG is doing a Respect month.

This month will consist of dif-

ferent educational events such as speakers, cultural performances, demonstrations and interactive activities, all based around a common theme of respect.

Humane Society Drive

STACY HASKELL
Vet Tech Student

The United States Humane Society estimates that six to eight million animals are dropped at a humane society every year and three to four million animals of them are euthanized because these shelters don't have the resources to care for all the needy animals (www.hsus.org). This semester the Veterinary Technician Program is taking donations for the Rock, Sauk and Adams County Humane Societies that are in desperate need of donations.

Donations can be dropped off in the bins by the veterinary technician hallway, which is on the first floor across from the childcare center. Specific items that are most needed include no clump cat litter, white computer paper, paper towel, bleach, liquid laundry soap, dish soap, toys, garbage bags and topical flea treatment such as Frontline or Revolution. Food and treats are also needed but please don't bring any open bags since we cannot use them. In addition to donations these shelters are all in need of volunteers for dog walking as well as countless fundraising events happening all year.

For more information please contact these shelters: Wendy (608-356-2520) at the Sauk County Humane Society, Sue (608-752-2255) at the Rock County Humane Society or Mary Ann (608-339-0420) at the Adams County Humane Society.

These humane societies and the Veterinary Technician Programs work closely together to increase Veterinary Technician student experience in working with animals, as well as to place them in loving, deserving homes. With combined efforts we try to find every animal a loving home, but in addition we also want to help these shelters take care of the animals they care for until they can find a home for them. All of these items donated, as well as time volunteered will be greatly appreciated by the recipients as we all work to make Wisconsin and Madison a better, more caring community.

AREAEVENTS

Madison area events

Silent Auction

Donations are now being accepted for a silent art auction to benefit Augusta Victoria Hospital in East Jerusalem. Donations from MATC students will be accepted through Apr. 6. They are accepting donations of all kinds of 2D and 3D art, fabric art, woodworking, glass working, weaving, quilting, and whatever! A donation form can be downloaded at www.oliveolive.org. All funds generated from the auction go to the hospital. The silent Auction will run from Mar. 30 through Apr. 27.

Monroe Street Art Auction

The Monroe Street Fine Arts Center (2526 Monroe Street) invites you to their second annual art auction on Apr. 12 from 7:30 until 10 p.m. There will be fun, food, live music and the chance to bid on works of art. Over 30 local artists have donated paintings, prints, jewelry and sculpture for this fundraising event. This is your chance to purchase art for a great cause; silent and live auctions continue until 9:30 p.m. Admission of \$30 includes wine, beer and nonalcoholic beverages, hors d'oeuvres and a festive evening to support this nonprofit arts center. Space is limited at this over-21 event; advance reservations are suggested. Contact the center at (608) 232-1510 or visit www.msfac.org for more information.

INSIDEIRAQ

Bob Keith explores conflict in Middle East on the ground

"It never ceases to amaze me that nothing goes right here, and then I am equally amazed they always squeak themselves out of a jam."

BOB KEITH

Cool Dadio Media

EDITOR'S NOTE: Bob Keith is an independent journalist from Janesville. He traveled to Iraq to bring a humanistic look at the Iraq culture. Keith was a writer for The Clarion until 2001. Additional entries are posted on the Janesville Gazette website.

Feb. 27 (Dahuk, Iraq)

The ride to Dahuk cost \$5. I share the ride with a couple of businessmen and a Peshmerga soldier.

The driver stopped at one point after a big hill, got out and beat the underside of the engine with a rock from the side of the road. Something was gummed up. It never ceases to amaze me that nothing goes right here, and then I am equally amazed they always squeak themselves out of a jam.

The Peshmerga are the Kurdish Region of Iraq's army. They are primarily Kurds as far as I can tell. I have noticed as I travel east their uniforms seem to change. The west Kurds and the east Kurds have fought a civil war in the not so distant past. They have now merged their two political wings into one.

The Peshmerga walk amongst the people. Their uniforms vary in color and camouflage design. They became a concern last time because the eastern Peshmerga did not understand the writing the western authorities had put in my passport.

I was detained for a bit near Halabja in the far eastern area of Northern Iraq.

As long as I continue to see the Kurdish flag I know I am in relatively safe hands. But safety is always subjective anywhere in Iraq. The flag has a distinct yellow star that is on the red, white and green horizontal strips. It

is everywhere here. The Iraqi flag is nowhere here.

When I start to see the Iraqi flag on my journeys south of here I know I am getting into an area out of the Kurd's protection. The Kurd / Iraqi border to the south does not seem static to me. It seems to be in a constant flux. You must be very careful in those middle world areas between north and south of Iraq. I have noticed a distinct rise in the number of soldiers and police on the streets of Dahuk this trip.

Their vehicles seem new and streamlined. As well, I have noticed a distinct rise in the number of newer cars that citizens drive. I saw a new Ford Mustang today.

Even though the temperatures hover around freezing, the street economy bustles in Dahuk. Areas vacant last time are built up. On the end of downtown they finished a bypass that was just a big hole in the ground last time. On the ride here we passed several 18-wheelers struggling up the steep foothills. Some were carrying bags of cement and others were carrying reinforcement rods for all the new construction.

There are workers tending to streets, garbage trucks picking up trash and workers planting trees along the roads.

I found my little hotel on Cigarette Street. The room is eight bucks a night - no heat. There are plenty of blankets and 200 TV channels. Last year the sleepy clerk did not register my name and passport number in his book. The hotel police were not happy about this and dragged me out of the room at 3 a.m. one night.

After a few cell phone calls to the border to double check on my entry into the country, I was served tea and a ciga-

rette by the plain-cloths cops. This year I walked the same clerk through the sign-in process.

In the basement of a four story building, I get my dollars exchanged. A man insisted I sit inside his cubicle and have coffee. He said in broken English he understood my interest in "seeking civilization." I did not have the heart to explain I actually look at sandwich shops and hardware stores in quasi war zones. Nonetheless, he was impressed I traveled so far to see their culture.

East of here I call the "bad lands" for travelers like me. Hardened journalists and military guys will smile. For them, up here in "the north" is a walk in the roses compared to "down south." To go east I will veer into some gray areas between the "two" Iraqs.

My experiences are quick vignettes in a greater saga. Remember, I can leave and come home when I am done, but the people I meet must carry on another day. This is their home. Also, understand I can move more freely and in safer regions than our military. I am just trying to identify some not so subtle nuances of my role here. People die not far from where I rather freely wander around and snap pictures.

There is a beer street in Dahuk. Like other Asian cities, products are grouped in streets and neighborhoods. A driver of mine veered over to the auto parts street to pick up a part. There are parts of every car on earth in every nook and cranny.

I saw the same type of streets in Viet Nam. The bad weather rolled off the mountains. I returned to my hotel a couple times and the chilly wind and rain bit into my face.

Logo in a day contest

JUSTIN EELLS

Clarion Opinion Editor

Thirteen MATC Graphic Design students participated in the "Logo In a Day" contest, sponsored by the MATC Art Club, in which students competed to design a logo to be used by Wider Circle, a new nonprofit development organization, which has done work in New Orleans and contributed to building schools in Mexico. The contest was limited to MATC art students and took place on Mar. 28. The winner received a \$25 Borders Bookshop gift card, and their logo will be used by the organization. Three employees of Wider Circle judged the contest; two MATC faculty members provided assistance, and lunch was provided by Glass Nickel Pizza and Culver's.

The students taking part in the contest were "enthused," says MATC Art Club president, Abbey Laufenberg, as this was an opportunity to get their art seen and contribute to a good cause.

Laufenberg came up with the idea when she saw how many "American Idol" style contest shows were on TV and thought a graphic design contest of the same format would be a good idea. With the enthusiasm expressed by the art students who participated in this endeavor, it looks as though she might be on to something.



JUSTIN EELLS / CLARION

WHAT HAPPENED? Continued from page 1

middle of a mix. Gnosis was eventually found sitting on a neighbor's steps a few doors down. Mortier's car and truck were still parked in the driveway.

Since that afternoon, the missing-persons case has taken a series of twists and turns, none of which has led to determining the whereabouts of Mortier. The mystery surrounding the case is no less mysterious nearly three and a half years later, and investigators aren't talking.

The problem with doing research for the book is analogous to the investigation itself - people are reluctant to talk. "I've talked with many of his close friends," Comp said. "A lot of people don't want to talk because they're afraid things will come back at them."

Since Fitchburg police took the case in 2004, what began as a missing persons search has become anything but. *The Isthmus* reported on July 22, 2005 that secret John Doe hearings focused on the evidence of a drug conspiracy involving several of Mortier's friends and acquaintances.

Little more was heard about the case until a judge unsealed 18 of the search warrants carried out over two years ago. The documents are riddled with misspelled names, misidentified witnesses, mistaken dates and other misstatements

of key points throughout the documents.

"It is not a pretty picture; they mucked up the entire investigation. They had to do it their way and keep everything a secret... well, that's not how you find people," his mother Margie said in response to the documents.

"Law enforcement sees this case as a stepping stone [to prosecuting an international marijuana distribution ring]," Comp said. "Many of Amos' friends have been unfairly targeted. Is it fair to target people because you think they know something?"

Margie admits that she gets completely unraveled about all that has and has not been done to find Amos. "I can be matter of fact about the evidence when I need to be the 'investigator', but when I am just mom," she said, "I get really scared and really sad."

She believes that the police haven't been able to do anything because they shut out everyone who knew his habits and went off to begin, without their help, focusing on the drug investigation rather than actually finding her son.

Throughout September 2007, subpoenas were issued to several of Amos's friends. Comp said Amos was a private guy, "He had a lot of close friends who had never met each other." Recently,

92.1 The Mic host Lee Rayburn spoke with Comp about the investigation and the upcoming book. When asked if the drug theory had any merit, Comp said, "In three years, law enforcement has found no real evidence of this."

The drug theory is just one of many surrounding the disappearance of Amos Mortier, and Comp personally does not subscribe to one theory in particular. His book will provide an in-depth discussion of several different theories. Comp explains the purpose of the book as threefold. First, the book aims to humanize Amos and set things right. "I've talked to a lot of people in doing research for the book," Comp said, "and not one person has said anything bad about Amos... Not one."

Second, Comp wishes to provide an accurate record of events for Amos' family and friends. Four years after his disappearance, questions linger, and they have very few concrete details to hold onto. Finally, Comp aims to describe the course the investigation has taken. "Law enforcement latches onto these theories, and it's a sad picture what the detectives have left in their wake," Comp said. "Do police work, but be respectful of people."

Due to the volume of research mate-



FINDAMOS.COM

Amos Mortier with his dog Gnosis. Mortier has been missing since 2004.

rial and the contacts he has had to make in writing the book, Comp has hired an intern to help with his administrative duties. Research for the book is finished, Comp said, and the writing process should be complete by the end of Summer 2008. A podcast of the interview on 92.1 and more information about the disappearance and investigation is available at findamos.com.

Anyone who may have spoke to Amos on Monday, Nov. 8, 2004, is asked to contact Margie at milut@mailbag.com or (608) 347-7363, no matter where or what time of that day.