



NEWS

AMOS MORTIER

It's been over two years and former MATC student is still missing

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Curtains rise for student plays

■ AMY KNAPP
Clarion Editor in Chief

Last spring, MATC students interested in the performing arts gathered at Red Robin to discuss their goals for a program and respond directly to student-initiated projects. This spring, those students and many others will see their hard work and planning come to light.

The stage lights will shine on May 4 when MATC Performing Arts presents an evening of student productions. Three plays will be presented. The plays are the winning entries from the Performing Arts-sponsored playwriting contest held in the fall. They are all 10-minute plays.

"We received seven submissions and selected three winners," said company manager Lauri Brenning.

The contest was open to all members of the MATC community. Two of the winning plays were written by students, and one was written by a faculty member.

"One hundred percent of the production is students," said Brenning. "Directors, managers, techs, actors – everybody, all students."

Although only the three winning plays are getting a full production, all the playwrights had an opportunity to have a staged reading before a professional audience.

In a staged reading, actors read from a script; some staged readings involve full stage movement and sets, while others are simply actors on chairs, using their voices and faces to bring the play to life. At the staged reading, all the playwrights were given feedback so that they might improve their scripts.

"We workshopped all the plays in order to assist students in the revision process," Brenning said, noting that MATC's playwriting

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NONTRADITIONAL STUDENT SERIES JANINA FELBINGER



PHOTO PROVIDED TO THE CLARION

Janina Felbinger, right, and her husband pose with one of Madison's art cows. Janina literally fell in love when she took a spill on her bike in Door County. Her concerned neighbor later became her husband.

Door County job gave her a whole new world

■ ANDREW KASPER
Clarion Staff Writer

I first met Janina Felbinger at the bus stop. It was the first day of school and we were the only two at the stop. She was blonde and slender, one of the prettiest girls I'd ever seen. We stood awkwardly next to each other until I said, "Hi, how are you?" I don't remember her answer because all I could hear was her Russian accent. It was like something right out of a James Bond movie.

Janina's family had emigrated from Russia to Estonia and now she had come to America.

Later in the year, when we had gotten to know each other better, she teased me, "You Americans say 'hi' to people on the street that you don't know and ask 'how are you.'"

She wasn't used to people being so outgoing.

She explained, "Estonians are cold, they never show emotions or talk to strangers. Russians are more outgoing than Estonians but nothing like Americans."

She talked about Russians and Estonians like they were make believe people in a make believe place, a place far away from her reality. I asked her where she put herself.

"Somewhere in the middle," she answered, with that same distance in her voice.

Three times a week my alarm would go off at 7:00 a.m. for school, and the pretty foreign girl at the bus stop was one of the only reasons I ever made it to class. Some days I would make it to the bus stop early, other days late but she showed up every day with Stalin-like punctuality. In fact, the only time she didn't make it on the bus was

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Tragedy makes campus safety a topic of discussion

■ AMY KNAPP
Clarion Editor in Chief

Following the deadliest school shooting in U.S. history, many people at MATC are concerned about safety on their own campus.

MATC's security office recommends that in the event of an emergency, students should first get themselves to safety, call 911 (or 9-911 if

calling from a campus phone), then call campus security (243-4357).

If a campus lockdown is needed, a public announcement will be made over the PA system with specific instructions on what to do. Follow those instructions for your safety and the safety of others.

"There is the ability to utilize a lockdown process," said Cynthia Eghbalian, MATC's

campus safety and security manager. "Specific response depends on the situation."

The security office maintains close, ongoing contact with local law enforcement, and Madison police officers are often on MATC's Madison campuses, said David Hooker, the college's chief security officer.

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Celebrate! Cinco de Mayo



JUDY WALGREN / MCT

Alejandra Lopez, (center), and Ruben Soto (left) of Ballet Folksorico Alegre dance the Jarabe Tapatio during Cinco de Mayo festivities at Red Bird Mall in Dallas, Texas. MATC will hold its celebration on May 5 in the Mitby Theater.

MATC club to mark traditional Mexican holiday on May 5

AMY KNAPP
Clarion Editor in Chief

Cinco de Mayo is a Mexican national holiday. It is not, however, Mexican Independence Day, as many Americans believe. Rather, it is a celebration of the day in 1852 when Mestizo and Zapotec Indians defeated the French army in the Battle of Puebla.

This May 5, MATC student group Club HOLA, in association with Orgullo Latino and the Educational Programming Board, is holding a collaborative, community Cinco de Mayo celebration in the Mitby Theater.

"Community dance groups have been invited to participate," said student organizer Antonio Morales-Lopez. "There will be mariachis and folkloric dancing. We're going to have food, but we don't know for sure what we're gonna have. Horchata, maybe pan dulce."

Morales-Lopez said the goal of the celebration is to educate the community about the historic significance of the holiday and high-

light Mexican culture, especially its music and dance.

"A lot of Americans celebrate Cinco de Mayo without knowing what it's about. They just think of Corona," Morales-Lopez said. "In the U.S., much like St. Patrick's Day, Cinco de Mayo is observed by many Americans regardless of ethnic origin."

Morales-Lopez has been planning the celebration for months. "It's gonna be awesome," he said.

The celebration will be held in the Mitby Theater on Saturday, May 5 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$1 for children 7 to 12 and \$2 for students. Children 6 and under are admitted free.

El Cinco de Mayo es una celebracion nacional en Mexico que generalmente tambien se celebra en los Estados Unidos de America. Se conmemora la victoria de las de las fuerzas mexicanas sobre las fuerzas francesas, conocida como la Batalla de Puebla o 5 de mayo, 1862. Muchas comunidades en los Estados Unidos tienen eventos y celebraciones especiales donde reflejan la cultura mexicana, especialmente en su comida, musica y bailes regionales.

Case of missing student still a puzzle

RACHEL MCNEILL
Clarion Graphic Designer

On Nov. 8, 2004, MATC student Amos Mortier left MATC for the last time. Amos was attending classes in botany and ecology in hopes of transferring to a university. After missing a dinner date and phone calls, some worried friends stopped by his home on Lacy Road in Fitchburg hoping to find him but found it deserted. Inside, they found his turntable playing the end of his favorite album and a hammer and nails sitting out next to almost-hung pictures for the bare walls. After tracking down Amos' mother, a missing person search began.

Mortier is still missing, over two years later, and his April 28 birthday will pass again without him. Despite many leads and possible sightings, including one at Bonnaroo 2005 in Tennessee by nurses stating he may have had amnesia, this man appears to have vanished. His dog, Gnosis, wandered to his neighbors shortly after he disappeared. Some theories on his disappearance are that he chased Gnosis, who

has a tendency to bolt when off his leash, and possibly was struck by a car or fell and was hurt. His friends and mother say that he would never leave Gnosis behind; Amos took him everywhere with him.

The Fitchburg police department went so far as to say that it was a murder investigation but failed to show any evidence beyond suspicion of that idea. Recently the case was turned over to the U.S. Attorney's Office. Mortier's mother thinks that with this change there will be progress in finding some answers. In the past, she felt as if the Fitchburg Police were too secretive about their investigation to be able to put together the pieces of the puzzle that are missing from the story.

"The hardest part about the investigation has been getting people to come forward and tell us what they know" Mortier's mother said. "Some people think that what they remember from that time is insignificant, but every detail is important."

During the investigation, they've uncovered numerous clues, but the minor details



PROVIDED TO THE CLARION

MATC student Amos Mortier has been missing since Nov. 8, 2004.

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Awareness, support can help women

BETH SCHNEIR
Clarion Staff Writer

Sexual assaults occur across race, class, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age and mental ability. This problem has occurred throughout history, but awareness and prevention efforts have only been established within the last half a century.

According to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, women-only Take Back the Night protest marches began in the 1970s in response to the violence women encountered as they walked the streets at night.

Over time, sexual assault awareness activities expanded to include the issue of sexual violence against men and men's participation in ending sexual violence.

Sexual Assault Awareness week was designated as one week in April in the late 1980s in San Francisco. Advocacy expanded over time and by April 2001, Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) was observed nationally. A teal ribbon is used to denote the SAAM efforts.

Victims can transcend the devastation that a Sexual Assault causes in their life. If you or another Sexual Assault victim is an MATC student, you can contact the counseling staff for initial support.

Counseling Services may be accessed through the Student Development Center (SDC) in Room 159AA at the Truax campus. Regular Business hours for the Center are Monday-Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or by phone at (608) 246-6076.

Upcoming SAAM events for April include a Gender Discussion, Survivor Empowerment Show and Condom Crawl at UW Madison on April 19. A Day of Reflection/Candlelight Vigil for Healing will be held at St. Mary's Hospital Chapel on April 26. The Hancock Center is offering an Open House & Book Showcase on April 27.

All events are free except for the Chimera self-defense class. Self-defense classes are offered in English and Spanish, for more details, go to DaneCountyRCC.org.

Linda Pettersen, LCSW, a local therapist who works with women and men who have been victims of sexual assault, stated "Short-term therapy can be very effective in eliminating inappropriate shame and guilt. Once the incident is addressed with a professional, individuals can heal and

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that are missing are preventing us from connecting the dots.

Mortier's mother is asking anyone who remembers anything about Amos, or who heard from someone who heard from someone, anything, no matter how minute, to call or send an email, even if it is anonymous. If Amos Mortier is alive, possibly with amnesia or even if he is hiding from someone trying to harm him, someone needs to contact his mother. Do you remember seeing him in the hall? What was he wearing? Did you have a casual conversation with him?

MORTIER

However insignificant these things may seem, since MATC was the last place he was seen, these details are vital to the investigation.

For more information on Mortier's disappearance please visit www.findamos.com. The site has regular updates about the investigation, photos and links to past articles about his disappearance. Once on the site, you can also look at the missing person posters, and print some off to distribute. If you remember something about Mortier you may have overlooked or if you have a tip, please contact 608-347-7363 or milut@mailbag.com.



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really turn their lives around."

According to the National Center for Victims of Crime fact sheet:

- 191,670 people were raped or sexually assaulted in 2004. Of these, 97 percent were women.
- Almost three-quarters of female rape and sexual assault victims are assaulted by someone they know or are related to. Only 26 percent are sexually assaulted by strangers.
- Young people ages 16-24 are raped and sexually assaulted at rates higher than any other age group.
- Nearly 38 percent of sexual assault victims are assaulted at or near

their home, and 24% are assaulted at or near a friend's, relative's or neighbor's home.

The Dane County Rape Crisis Center offers support and information for anyone who has experienced recent or past sexual assault. Crisis intervention services are available 24/7. Contact information for the center:

Rape Crisis Center – Hope... Help... Healing, 128 E. Olin Ave., Suite 202, Madison, WI 53713. Phone: 608-251-5126; 24 hour Crisis Line: 608-251-7273 (251-RAPE). Web site: <http://www.DaneCountyRCC.org>.

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Drills on emergency response procedures are frequently conducted, and security and crime prevention tips are regularly provided, he said.

"College campuses are open and accessible environments, so, yes, this can make security challenging," Hooker said.

In addition, the college has student security officers from the Criminal Justice Law Enforcement program who do foot patrol on campus.

"Our officers are trained to notice unusual behaviors and approach individuals who appear suspicious," said Hooker. "They also are alerted to watch for any individuals who may have exhibited threatening or disturbing behavior on campus or are known to have done so off campus."

Emergency phones are located

throughout the district. There are signs with instructions on where to call for help, and every district phone should have a sticker displaying emergency phone numbers.

MATC has an emergency procedures pamphlet and an evacuation map posted in every classroom and meeting place. Notify Eghbaltia at ceghbaltia@matcmadison.edu if there is no pamphlet in any of those rooms. Procedures are also available on the MATC Web site at matcmadison.edu/facilities/facilities/emergencies.

Eghbaltia stressed the importance of individual responsibility.

"Be aware of your surroundings. Report any suspicious behavior. Everyone has a responsibility to be watchful of their own environment," she said.

PLAYS

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class, Creative Writing-Drama, was canceled this semester.

The first-place play was written by Sam O'Reilly. It's called "For the Love of" and is about two college roommates, male, "who may or may not be in love with each other," said Brenning. It stars Michael Sweet, Dale Mitchell and Mayra Linares, who is also directing.

Heidi Stowell is directing second-place winner "And Then You Woke Up," a play by English instructor Virgil Miller.

She is excited about the performance and the play, which she described as "unique." It is a conversation between a mother and a son. The son has important news.

Aimee Hatteberg plays the mother, and Sam O'Reilly plays the son.

"It's kind of oddly worded at first," said Stowell, "and then they switch."

The third-place play, "Mother's Day," was written by Marilyn Angie Davis and stars Liz Stull. Brenning is directing. The play depicts a day in the life of a busy woman.

"She wakes up with the alarm and goes to bed with her husband wanting to have sex and (it's) everything in between, like the kids, the dog, the driving, school, the store, bill-paying, dinner," said Brenning.

Brenning has a complex set in mind, and there will be a surprise, as well.

Laura Boomsma is the artistic director and stage manager for all the plays.

Brenning is excited for the opportunity to present student productions.

"We really hope this continues next year," she said. "This was the first year. We learned a lot of things. We're hoping to improve on things and continue to offer this program next year."

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