



You've had too much to drink. Of course, you think you are fine. Your friends try to stop you, but you won't listen. You stumble into your car and can barely turn on the ignition. You manage to get the car halfway down the road before your vision goes hazy. As you drift into the other lane you see a white light coming at you and then pass out. You wake up outside of your car. Lights are everywhere and an officer is questioning you. That white light was another car, being driven by a 18 year old girl coming home from work. You are uninjured. She is dead, leaving behind family and friends who will never get to say goodbye or tell her they love her.

With a similar story happening every 31 minutes, Team T.O.M., formed by Mercy Leaders, has set out to convince others not to drive while under the influence of alcohol and illegal drugs. During the week of November 17th, the group will hold various activities and a presentation

## Team T.O.M. hosts Driving Impairment Week

by Aaron Capps

Throughout the week of Nov. 15 to Nov. 22, there was a table in Cosgrave outside the Cafeteria where students can sign a strip of paper that will be made into a chain link. Students were asked to sign a red one if you or someone you know has been affected by drunk driving. Or sign a white strip to pledge to not drink and drive. Also throughout the week, there was a car on campus that people can sign to pledge to not drink and drive.

The presentation occurred on Tuesday at 7:00 P.M. Four guest speakers were present: a State Farm representative, a person from the Pennsylvania State Police Department, the Dis-

trict Attorney or his assistant, and someone from MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving). There were some refreshments and a raffle as well. Earlier, at 2:30 P.M., there was also a press conference. During the entire day of Tuesday, there was a memorabilia trailer on campus.

Students were able to learn more about how to help others not drink and drive, to share and hear stories about driving under the influence.

## 'Tis the Season: Mountie Madness Kicks off Basketball Season

by Caitlin Wilkinson

The Health and Physical Fitness Center was the place to be on campus Tuesday, November 11th. The men's and women's basketball teams participated in an extravaganza that included games, prizes, and performances by the cheerleading squad, dance team, and step team. Men's head basketball coach Lance Loya hosted the event.

The evening's festivities began with the Lady Mounties' scrimmage, led by an introduction of the coaches and players. The team, led by Coach Brian Gennett, consists of nine freshmen, two sophomores, two juniors, and two seniors. The team divided into two smaller teams and played a scrimmage game; the final score was 29-22.

The cheerleaders followed the Lady Mounties scrimmage with a special performance. The cheerleaders preceded arguably the most anticipated event of the night: the introduction of the men's basketball team. The men's basketball team was introduced, with special recognition to junior Richard McNutt for being voted the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference 2008-09 Pre-Season Player of the Year. The men's basketball team also competed in a scrimmage game; the final score was 37-31.

The scrimmages were not the only thing students came out to see; Coach Loya mediated the "Wheel of Destiny," a game wheel in which students could spin to win different privileges, such as the chance to polka with a basketball player, which ultimately led to prizes. After several students won prizes from the game, the step-team, Absolute Attitude, performed for the first time at a game this season. Other games played at the evening's festivities included Three Point Shoot-Out and the Slam Dunk Contest. For the Three Point Shoot-Out, Mount Aloysius College students could vote for which basketball players would score the highest by placing a ticket in the appropriate cans. A ticket was drawn from the winning can, and the lucky ticketholder won a trip to New York City.

For the Slam Dunk Contest, Ben Murray, Brian Collins, Harold Clark, and Tyrone Lowery had to impress special guest judges with their slam dunks. After four rounds, and just as with the Three Point Shoot-Out, a winner was picked from the winning can for a chance to win \$10,000. Unfortunately, no one was lucky enough to win the cash prize. The contests were separated by a performance from the dance team.

## Colleges Against Cancer Benefit

by Camette Hoberner

The Mount Aloysius College softball and women's basketball teams hosted a benefit on Friday, November 14th. All proceeds of the day went to the families of Kaylee Keagy and Whitney Gierdroc, whose parents are battling cancer. The first event of the benefit was held in the Cosgrave student center from 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. Students were given the opportunity to throw a pie in the face of a professor or staff member. The professors and staff members who participated were Dr. Merrilee Anderson, Dr. Penny O'Connor, Anne Volk, Richard Mishler, Dr. Tammy Russell, Dr. Tim Koneval, Ryan Smith, Brianna Baker, and Luke Dombrowsky. Students were to pay \$1.00 to toss a pie.

The MAC softball and women's basketball teams also hosted a dance in the gym from 9:00 P.M. to 12:00 A.M. The dance featured a DJ, prizes, and refreshments. Attendees were encouraged to wear black and white, as the theme of the day was "Black Out Cancer." The cost to attend was \$2.00 per person. The dance was to feature a dance-off, but very few people signed up to compete.

## Veterans' Day

by Kayla Plazek

Every November, Veterans' Day is celebrated for the veterans who served in a war or died during a war. Veteran's Day was originally celebrated on November 11th, but now is celebrated on the weekday closest to November 11th if it follows on a weekend.

Every year, there are parades held for the public that honor the veterans. Certain stores even offer veterans a discount on items on Veterans' Day. Veterans' Day gives the veterans the glory that they deserve for serving our country and risking their lives for others. When this holiday rolls around each year, please maintain a moment of silence for those brave souls that went out into battle, for those brave souls who fought for our country and did not survive.

Honor their memory and cherish their courage.



# Vox Nova Concert a Major Success

by Caitlin Wilkinson



Vox Nova, directed by Nancy Way, held a concert on Thursday, November 13th in Our Lady of Mercy Chapel. The choral group sang pieces from Broadway musicals such as *Anything Goes*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Chicago*, and *Les Misérables*. Soloists for the night included Amy Cortright, Kitty MacLean, Owen P. Standley, Matt Stoyanoff, and special guest performer Jonathan O'Harrow.


Jonathan O'Harrow has performed on stage and with several choral groups for almost twenty-five years. He has performed in musicals such as *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Annie*, and *The Secret Garden*. He currently is employed as the Webmaster for Penn State Altoona. Dur-

ing the concert, he performed nine songs, including "Moonshine Lullaby" from *Annie Get Your Gun*, "Mister Cellophane" from *Chicago*, and a song that he himself wrote, "Bring on the Girls," which is a compilation of several numbers from various Broadway musicals.

Vox Nova sang several crowd-pleasing pieces, which incited an overwhelming response from the audience, including a standing ovation at the conclusion of the concert. "It was the largest [audience] we have seen in a long time and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves," said sophomore Vox Nova member Caitlin Nilan. "And we loved it too!"



**The Belltower**



The Belltower is the Mount Aloysius College student newspaper, published by the English and Fine Arts Department.

**Copy Editor**  
Caitlin Wilkinson  
Matthew Serre

**Photographer**  
Bernie Mac

**Publications Design**  
Owen P. Standley

**Staff Writers**

Aaron Capps	Chelsea Lawler
Angelo DeBona	Kayla Plazek
AmberHamryszak	Matthew Serre
Camette Hoberney	Caitlin Wilkinson

**Special Thanks**  
Jackie Gutshall

**Advisor**  
Dr. Barbara J. Cook

## MEET DR. NATALIE

### VANBREUKELEN

by Amber Hamryszak

The newest addition to the General Science and Biology departments at Mount Aloysius College is Dr. Natalie VanBreukelen. Dr. VanBreukelen is currently teaching Anatomy and Physiology, Independent Research, and Genetics along with Animal Physiology next semester.

**Q:** Where were you born and where did you grow up?

**A:** I was born in Eastern Long Island, NY and grew up there.

**Q:** What college did you attend and what did you major in? Did you know what you wanted to major in from the beginning? Any further education?

**A:** I attended CW Post College in Brooksville, NY and majored in Biology with a concentration in Pre-dentistry. I received my Master's degree in Biology with a concentration in Behavior Ecology at CW Post. I obtained my PhD. from Lehigh University in Bethlehem, PA in Integrative Biology.

**Q:** What do you enjoy most in your career?

**A:** Working with students and doing research with students.

**Q:** What/who has been your inspiration to attend college and continue on in your career?

**A:** My mom; she attended college and was a Nurse's Aid. She went back to school and got her LPN then RN and she is now a Nurse Practitioner.

**Q:** Why did you decide to become a professor? And why Mount Aloysius?

**A:** I was in grad school for 9 years and worked as a teaching assistant and really enjoyed the interaction with students versus just the research setting. Mount Aloysius was what I was looking for, a small, liberal arts college.

**Q:** What is your favorite thing about the school?

**A:** The one on one time with the students; I get to know each student and they get to know me.

**Q:** What do you like most about the Science programs?

**A:** I like that the Biology program is growing and the new courses are being added and developed.

**Q:** Do you have any favorite activities or past times?

**A:** Scuba Diving and Geocaching; geocache is a GPS based treasure hunt where you use GPS to track and find treasures all over the world.

**Q:** What is one thing you learned as a college student that you would want others to know?

**A:** I did a semester abroad in Costa Rica and I found that you never stop learning. Although learning in the classroom is important, sometime the most valuable lessons are learned outside of the classroom.

## Coming Together for the Holidays with a Lesson from a Novel by Kayla Plazek

Thanksgiving is a time for bonding and sharing memories with the loved ones for which you care. Readers observe such bonding and caring in the novel *Digging to America* by Anne Tyler.

In the novel, an American family, the Donaldsons, and an Iranian family, the Yazdans both adopt a baby Korean girl. At an airport, the families meet and become friends because of the commonality that they now share. In time, the two families learn so much of each other's cultures that they become accustomed to them. Eventually, the two smaller families from different cultures grow to be one huge family.

This novel inherently ties in with the holiday of Thanksgiving because different cultures and religions come together to share joyful memories, becoming one.

# Film Review: *Let the Right One In*

by Chelsea Lawler

In the world of motion pictures, few things can be harder than manufacturing a unique vampire film. The subject matter has been used to no end; yet, for some reason, vampire films continue to be produced, more so derivative than unique. However, some filmmakers are quite lucky and succeed in making a brilliant, morose vampire film. No, I am not writing of the much anticipated release of the vampire film *Twilight*; rather, I write of the Swedish indie gem that is *Let the Right One In* (*Låt den rätte komma in*).

Adapted and tailored from John Ajvide Lindqvist's novel of the same name, the magnificent film was directed by Tomas Alfredson. With typical vampire films, the viewer observes horrid, conventional shots of a succubus piercing its fangs into a victim's neck while crying out to the pale moonlight. Hello! No, no, no! I want to see something different and unconventional; *Let the Right One In* absolutely delivers in these departments! *Let the Right One In* is a serious and bleakly styled vampire film; I would even compare it to F.W. Murnau's infamous film *Nosferatu* due to the similar significance and style of the film.

As the film begins, the viewer is introduced to a twelve year old boy named Oskar (Kåre Hedebrant), who lives an introverted life-style in the desolate suburbs of Sweden in the

1980s. Constantly bullied by a trio of miscreants, Oskar also deals with his parents' failed marriage. The young boys who torment Oskar are quite vicious, yet Oskar does nothing to fight back. He daydreams, however, of violently retaliating against the trio. Throughout the film, the viewer observes that Oskar does not really have any friends at all; he is very much a loner. However, one fateful day he meets a unique girl named Eli (Lina Leandersson) that moves into his apartment complex. Eli is quite distant in regard to her social demeanor and she rarely appears during the daylight hours. She only comes outside in the evening, clad in paper-thin shirts and pants, wearing no shoes, to speak to Oskar. She never complains of the severe cold, which is quite unusual to Oskar. She and Oskar begin to form an exceptionally strong bond and she encourages him to muster up the courage to face the bullies at school.

Oskar tries to gain insight into Eli's life, asking her about her age. Eli responds by saying that she is twelve and has been twelve for an incredibly long time. As the film progresses, Oskar grows more and more suspicious of Eli's nature. He discovers that she is indeed a vampire and that the man who everyone assumed to be her father is actually her human caretaker. He is quite clumsy, yet he is responsible for keeping

her veiled as well as satiated with a large supply of blood. Unfortunately for both caretaker and vampire, the thirst for blood in this tight-knit community cannot go unnoticed for long periods of time.

As the relationship between Oskar and Eli blossoms, her victims' bodies begin to surface. Eli must be incredibly careful, but what will she do with herself when her helper is discovered? And what is Oskar to do when his new found buoyancy against the school bullies leads to violence from the leader's elder brother? Well, dear readers, you will have to watch and find out!

*Let the Right One In* is laden with shocking and hauntingly beautiful imagery. There are moments that are truly mesmerizing; you will carry certain scenes with you long after the final frame. Instead of concerning himself with blood and gore, both of which are handled tastefully in the film, the director is more focused on the maturing relationship between its two young leads. With magnificent performances from both young characters, this film is a true masterpiece. *Let the Right One In* is an exceptional film and receives the highest possible recommendation from yours truly.

## A Cultural Celebration that Follows Christmas Chronologically, but Coincides with Christmas Conceptually

by Matthew Serre

As the semester comes to a close and the winter season approaches, students and faculty anticipate a period of rest and relaxation referred to by most as "Christmas break." Perhaps because of the heritage and religious affiliation of most students and faculty in the Mount Aloysius College community or simply because of the reputation that Christmas has received as being almost a strictly commercial holiday, "winter vacation," the general term for said period, becomes affiliated almost exclusively with the Christian holiday of Christmas. As a result, a large number of people forget that the "holiday season," another generic term for the month of December, encompasses holidays other than Christmas. One such holiday is Kwanzaa, a weeklong celebration dedicated to honoring African-American heritage.

Founded by African-American author and political activist Maulana Karenga, Kwanzaa consists of seven different days of celebration. Participants in the holiday festivities celebrate by lighting a kinara, a special type of candleholder. The kinara holds seven different candles, each of which represents one of the principles associated with the holiday. Although each principle possesses its own Swahili term, each term translates to an English term such as unity or faith. Even though its participants celebrate such ideas differently, Kwanzaa and its different components represent some of the same principles on which a number of other holidays are founded. Interestingly, because it marks more of a cultural celebration than a religious one, Kwanzaa can be celebrated in conjunction with religious holidays such as Christmas, demonstrating its viability as a tradition recognized throughout the world.

## History in the Making

by Amber Hanryszak

And the winner is: Barack Obama with 364 electoral votes to John McCain's 163. Obama received 53% of the popular vote, while McCain took 46%. Becoming the new President-Elect of the United States, Obama now faces the issues of a struggling economy and government, along with the Iraqi war and the war in Afghanistan. The newly elected president is also faced with the issue of the 255 inmates being held in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba and whether this facility should be shut down. Although he can not make any decisions on these issues until his cabinet has been established, members of Obama's team have commented that plans are being made to deal with these matters.

Monday, November 10, 2008 the Obama family traveled to their future home to meet with the Bush family. White House press secretary Dana Perino stated that the visit was constructive and that the president and the president-elect discussed both national and international issues. It has been presumed that Obama will push Congress to begin working on an economic package to provide relief to Americans before his inauguration in January of 2009.

One of the promises made by Obama has been to change the way Washington works by not accepting contributions from political action committees or lobbyists. He has taken his first step to fulfill this promise by setting new rules on how lobbyists can participate in the transition. The Obama Transition Co-Chair John Podesta publicized the first ethics rules of any transition team in history. The rules are as follows:

- Federal Lobbyists cannot contribute financially to the transition.
- Federal lobbyists are prohibited from any lobbying during their work with the transition.

- If someone has lobbied in the last 12 months, they are prohibited from working in the fields of policy on which they lobbied.
- If someone becomes a lobbyist after working on the Transition, they are prohibited from lobbying the Administration for 12 months on matters on which they worked.
- A gift ban that is aggressive in reducing the influence of special interests.

These guidelines are strict and serve as a loss in financial resources to the transition, however this allows for government facilitated individuals who are more concerned with the well being of the country and to serve the public accordingly. This is just the first step Obama has taken to restore trust in the government and many have looked at it as a good sign as to what the future may hold.

President-Elect Barack Obama will be inaugurated on January 20, 2009 in Washington D.C. "Today we begin in earnest the work of making sure that the world we leave our children is just a little bit better than the one we inhabit today." Obama said after the election results were in.



# Black Friday:

## A Shopping Tradition by Chelsea Lawler

Black Friday. True bargains wait to be plucked from the shelves of countless stores by the flocks of people who awaken during the wee hours of the day following Thanksgiving. Friday, November 28th, the official date of Black Friday, marks the beginning of the traditional Christmas shopping season. Despite the unquestionable appeal of heavily discounted products, many people still question how the infamous day of glorious bargain shopping received its name.

Black Friday derives its name from the day 1966 on which the Philadelphia Police Department witnessed massive mobs pushing to get into stores, overcrowded sidewalks, and enormous traffic jams within the center of the city. The name alludes to the day of the tremendously traumatic experience of the 1929 stock market crash, known as Black Tuesday.

Although it is not an official holiday in the United States, Black Friday is a day on which many employees choose to take off to experience for themselves the mad dash for bargains. Many retailers advertise "door buster" deals, attracting swarms of people as if they were bees searching for pollen. Typically, many stores will open much earlier than the start of their regular hours, even as early as 4 A.M.; as such,

it is quite common to see rows of people lined up and perhaps even camping out on sidewalks in hopes of grabbing a big ticket item for cheap! Televisions, digital cameras, and toys are the most popular items during the insane shopping day because they are so incredibly discounted.

Due to the large crowds and traffic jams, many people prefer to stay at home and shop online. I had the pleasure of speaking to a few students on campus about their Black Friday plans. Those who were questioned wished to remain anonymous, but all offered the same piece of advice: "Are you insane?! No way! I'm staying home in the comfort of my warm bed!"

Students who wish not to partake in the Black Friday festivities said that they would rather shop online than brave the giant crowds of people. However, if this is something in which you are interested and would like to brave the crowds, then I will provide you with some Black Friday strategies.

Make your Black Friday plans in advance! Perhaps it would be wise to create a list of the items for which you are looking so you do not get off track in the rush of the experience. If you and your family are hardcore Black Friday fans, then devise a plan to split up and go to

different stores. By doing so, you are taking advantage of the different promotions. Get to the store early if at all possible and get in the check out line as soon as you can. Remember to price match! This can be a great advantage if the store has a price match policy because you can save yourself extra trips to different stores.

In my research, I also saw many individuals buy the coveted item before Black Friday begins. After the item is purchased, they return the item to the store on Black Friday while immediately re-buying the same item to take advantage of the new sale price. However, this may be discouraged by some stores. Check accordingly! Remember to be safe and enjoy this wonderful day of bargain shopping. For extra tips and flyers about discounts, check out the following Websites: <http://www.blackfriday.info>, <http://www.bfads.net>, and <http://www.black-friday.net>.



## Letter from the Editors

Greetings, dearest readers,

Ever since we first addressed you, requesting your support for our endeavor "to establish *The Belltower* as a real newspaper," we have received positive feedback from both students and faculty alike; for that, we are very appreciative.

We now turn to you with another request, one that involves more than reading *The Belltower*. As we continue to improve our newspaper and work to achieve its greatest potential, we need more resources. We write not of monetary donations or anything of the sort; rather, we wish to recruit more contributors, people willing to write casually or regularly for *The Belltower*.

Our team of writers, editors, and publishers seek to expand *The Belltower* in an unprecedented manner with the arrival of the spring semester. To do so, however, we require your aid in any manner that you can provide it. Whether you simply want to write an editorial addressing some issue of importance to you or you want to contribute regularly to each issue, we need you. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, then please feel free to contact one of our staff in any way that you can, e-mail or otherwise. Until then, we thank you again graciously for your readership and bid you the best of luck with your final exams, papers, and projects. Sincerely,

The Belltower Staff

## To Write Love on Her Arms

by Camette Hoberney

Thursday, November 13th was the second annual To Write Love on Her Arms Day. To Write Love on Her Arms is a non-profit movement dedicated to presenting hope and finding help for people struggling with depression, addiction, self-injury, and suicide. To show support for those struggling with such issues, people are encouraged to write "Love" on their forearms in permanent marker.

TWLOHA began in Orlando, Florida in February of 2006 by Jamie Tworowski. Before it became an organization, TWLOHA was a short story about Tworowski spending five days with his friend Renee Yohe, who was denied entry into a drug treatment center. Yohe struggled with addiction, depression, self-injury, and attempted suicide. In addition to the story, T-shirts were printed and sold in Orlando to fund Yohe's drug treatment. A MySpace page was created to serve as a home base for the project. Bands such as Anberlin and Switchfoot shown their support and began wearing the TWLOHA T-shirts right away, and TWLOHA's MySpace page began to receive messages and comments from young people struggling with the same issues that Yohe faced.

The group's main exposure comes from musicians and bands who wear the organization's distinctive T-shirts in photographs and performances. However TWLOHA has recently gained more and more public exposure through

merchandising and social networking websites such as Facebook, MySpace and Bebo. If you would like to donate to TWLOHA or if you would like more information about the organization please visit <http://www.twloha.com>.

### BOL's EYE by Shaun Boland



"The boss is giving a PowerPoint presentation on independent problem solving this afternoon... but, first he needs you to turn on his computer."

## WE VALUE YOUR INPUT!

Would you like to have a specific teacher spotlighted in a future issue? Do you know a great local band or a talented student that should be spotlighted? Or do you just have something you want to say, if so we welcome any and all input from our readers from suggestions to letters to the editor. Please email us at [belltower@mtaloy.edu](mailto:belltower@mtaloy.edu).