



***DRACULA* comes alive on stage**

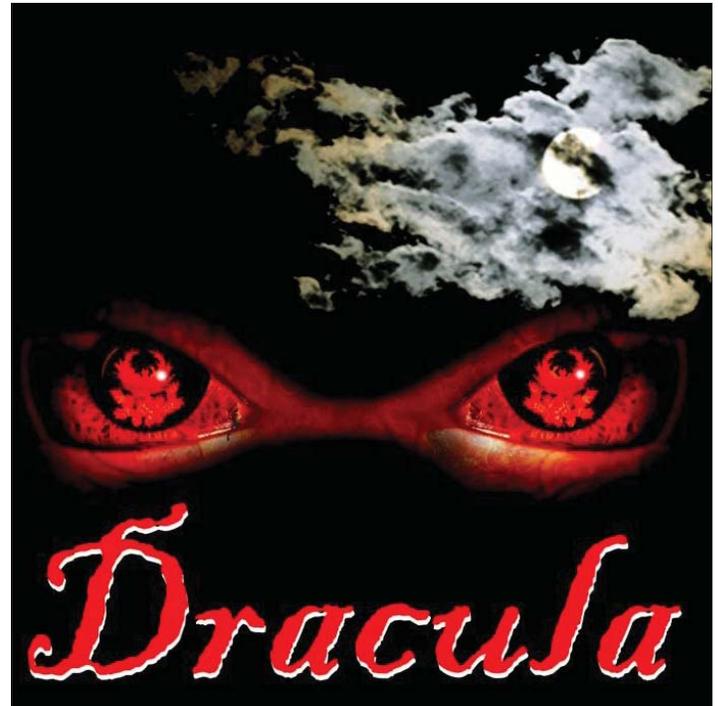
The College's Theater Program and Drama Club Production will present the stage performance of *DRACULA* on Thursday, February 28; Friday, February 29; and Saturday, March 1, in the Performing Arts Conference Center Theatre.

DRACULA will be performed at 8:00 p.m. each evening including a 10:00 a.m. matinee on Friday under the direction of Paul Cruskie. Tickets are \$5 for general admission, \$2 with any College ID, and free for those with an MVCC ID.

When originally produced on Broadway, *DRACULA* created frenzy for the supernatural and was directly responsible for the 1930s surge in gothic horror films. Eighty years later, *DRACULA* hasn't lost its power to shock and surprise, and viewers of all ages can enjoy its potpourri of bizarre characters and wonderful special effects. *DRACULA* truly is one of the most influential American plays ever written.

The vampire tale *DRACULA* is an adaptation of the acclaimed novel by Irish author Bram Stoker, published on May 18, 1897. While the original novel is composed of journal entries and letters written by several of the novel's main characters, MVCC's stage performance has been adapted

'DRACULA' Continued on Page 2



***DRACULA* helps Diederich work toward his Masters**

While audiences enjoy the stage performance of *DRACULA*, it will have a different meaning for Michael Diederich. Diederich, who is the College Theatre's Technical Assistant, is in the process of completing his Masters degree in Liberal Studies with an emphasis on Theatrical Design from Empire State College.

The creation of the stage set and props, arrangement of the lighting, and organization of the sound system for *DRACULA* are all part of Diederich's thesis. He has been working on the stage set for four weeks, putting in 10 hours a day on top of his current work schedule. With the performance only a week away, he's been putting in 12 to 15 hours the past five days.

His thesis will be graded on complete research of past productions of *DRACULA*, the drafting and renderings of the set

'Diederich' Continued on Page 2



WORKING ON DEGREE - Michael Diederich, the College's Technical Assistant - Theatre, works on the set of *DRACULA* in the Theatre. Diederich's thesis is linked to the design and creation of the play's stage set

DeJesus victorious at region indoor track championships

Diana DeJesus took first place in the 55-meter high hurdles at the Indoor Track and Field Regional Championships this past weekend at Hudson Valley Community College. DeJesus, a freshman Criminal Justice major, also won the Pentathlon and is currently ranked ninth in the NJCAA. On the heels of this performance, DeJesus was named Mohawk Valley Community College's Athlete of the Week.

Women's Basketball: The Lady Hawks clinched their fifth consecutive Mountain Valley Conference crown with a 79-49 victory over SUNY Delhi. MVCC capped off the week with a solid 84-42 win over Herkimer CCC.

Leading the Lady Hawks against SUNY Delhi were freshman guard Lauren "Gracie" Plagainos and sophomore point guard Shanai Norman with 15 points each. In the Herkimer game, sophomore forward Samantha Morgan proved too powerful with 22 points and 10 rebounds while Plagainos tallied 18 points. Norman also hit double figures with 14 points while handing out 10 assists.

Ice Hockey: Freshman goalkeeper Brian Frankel made 36 saves between the pipes, but it wasn't enough as the Hawks fell to SUNY Canton, 3-2 this past weekend. MVCC's record slips to 12-11-1 overall and 8-9-1 in Region III of the NJCAA.

Men's Basketball: Freshman guard Andrew Strittmatter set an MVCC record with 10 3-point baskets while leading the Hawks over Schenectady CCC, 109-85. Strittmatter finished with 30 points while freshman guard Pat Corbin tacked on another 27 points.

MVCC, 13-13 overall and 11-11 in Region III, wrapped up the week with a 73-60 victory over Herkimer CCC behind the scoring of sophomore forward Joel Almeida with 27 points. Corbin also tallied 17 points.

Men's Bowling: Freshman Ryan Gahan led MVCC with the high three-game series as the Hawks won the Herkimer CCC Invitational with a team score of 3,419 pins. Hudson Valley was second with 3,238 followed by Schenectady CCC with 3,198; Adirondack CC with 3,159; and Herkimer CCC with 2,891.

Gahan's top game was 254 en route to his 725 series. Freshman Mike Piraino threw a top game of 232 for a 688 series as sophomore Brett Cunningham bowled a 248 top game for a 678 series. Sophomore Jimmy Grago had a top game of 267 for a 658 series while Chris Ewen bowled 224 and 623.

Women's Bowling: Sophomore Becca Barton led MVCC to a second place finish at the Herkimer CCC Invitational with a top game of 233 and a 606 series.

The Lady Hawks had a total pin fall of 2,582 behind Hudson Valley's 2,837. Herkimer CCC was third with 2,481. Freshman Stephanie Hina had a top game of 265 for a 582 series while freshman Sara Catrombone bowled a 207 game en route to a 507 series.



DRACULA'S CASTLE - Michael Diederich installs the railing on the set of *DRACULA* in the Theatre.

DRACULA Continued from Page 1

to revolve around the six lead protagonists.

The performance tells the tale of English solicitor Jonathan Harker's journey to Count Dracula's remote castle situated in the Carpathian Mountains on the border of Transylvania and Moldavia. Harker, the representative for Peter Hawkins in a real estate transaction with Count Dracula, becomes suspicious of Dracula's nocturnal life.

Events quickly become more dubious with the introduction of the vivacious character of Lucy Westenra, who is being courted by psychiatrist, Dr. John Seward. Dr. Seward's patient Renfield is strangely connected to Dracula as he seeks to absorb the "life force" of other creatures by eating them. It is through this behavior that Renfield is able to detect Dracula's proximity.

As Lucy becomes suspiciously ill, the character of Professor Abraham Van Helsing of Amsterdam is called upon to render assistance. Van Helsing immediately recognizes the signs of a vampire on Lucy's condition. Events spiral out of control until the demise of certain characters.

Will Count Dracula continue to freely pursue his nocturnal endeavours? Can Van Helsing save Lucy from the curse of Dracula? How will Harker escape? What becomes of Dr. Seward?

Diederich Continued from Page 1

design, along with photographs of the final work. Throughout the entire process, Diederich has maintained a journal that will be at the heart of his thesis work.

Helping him to build the set has been the students from his Technical Theater class along with a half dozen part-time work studies. When completed, the set will have cost nearly \$5,200, of with much of the materials will be recycled for future stage productions.

Mr. Diederich, 28, earned a BFA in Production Design from SUNY Fredonia. A native of Syracuse and currently living in Canastota, he has been employed by MVCC since August 2003.



Strategic Planning Committee's next meeting agenda

Draft of Strategic Planning Committee's Charter

The next meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee is scheduled for Monday, February 25, at 3:00 p.m. in Room 300 of Payne Hall on the Utica Campus and Room 209 of Plumley Complex on the Rome Campus.

The agenda is as follows:

1. Review/Approval of Agenda
2. Public Comments
3. Review/Approval of the Minutes of the January 31, 2008 Strategic Planning Committee Meeting
4. Continued Discussion of Draft Strategic Planning Committee Charter

The current draft of the SPC charter is as follows:

Purpose Statement:

The purpose of the Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) is to facilitate the strategic planning process and serve as the primary body responsible for external environmental scanning.

Charter Contact

Randy VanWagoner, President

The Strategic Planning Committee DOES:

Task: Participates in an annual fall strategic planning retreat to synthesize scanning data and identify annual college-wide initiatives to modify the strategic plan.

Action: Analyze data, conduct gap analysis, modify strategic plan.

Task: Serve as stewards of the college in the identification of priorities to enhance the college's vitality.

Action: Recommend priorities.

Task: Engage faculty, staff and students in the planning process.

Action: Engage the College

Task: Facilitate processes and develop recommendations for updating the Vision, Mission, and Values statements at the College.

Action: Facilitate and recommend updates.

Task: Ensure that appropriate communication processes are in place to keep the internal community informed of progress.

Action: Communicate.

Task: Ensure that appropriate mechanisms are in place to link planning, assessment and budgeting and report successes annually.

Action: Examine and evaluate progress on implementation.

Task: Serve as an advocate and champion for the college's strategic plan.

Action: Advocate and champion.

The Strategic Planning Committee DOES NOT:

Focus on individual departments, operational issues, or specific resource allocation.

Guiding Points

- Keep the whole College in mind
- Focus on the future
- Simplify processes
- Constantly strive to more closely align the College with community needs
- Consider conducting student focus groups to obtain student input
- Use the STEEP Model for environmental scanning to analyze social, technology, education, economic and political sectors

These meetings are open to all members of the college community, and all are invited to attend.

2008 Self-Study Report now available for review

The 2008 Self-Study for MVCC has been published and copies have been sent to the MSCHE Team.

An electronic version is accessible in Public Folders in the 2008 Self-Study Document folder. Individuals can also access the document and supporting exhibits in the folder named "2008 MVCC Self-Study" at the following link: <ftp://www.mvcc.edu/msche08/>.

Use email "User Name" and "Password" for login.

Hard copies of the Self-Study document are available for review at the Circulation Desks in both campus Libraries.

The Team visit is scheduled for March 30 through April 2, with the following tentative schedule:

Sunday, March 30: Welcoming dinner for the MSCHE Team - Attendees: Board of Trustees, Steering Committee, Executive Team, etc.

Monday, March 31: Scheduled appointments between Team Members and employees/students (As requested by the Team.)

Tuesday, April 1: Scheduled appointments between Team Members and employees/students; College Open Forum with Team Members

Wednesday, April 2: MSCHE Team Exit Presentation
More detailed schedule information will be provided as it becomes available.

**To submit information for *Communitas*,
e-mail Rich Haubert, rhaubert@mvcc.edu**

Cartoonist discusses his work and influences

Everyone has read the Sunday comics at some point in their lives. For students from the Art Department dreaming of having their work in those coveted pages, they learned firsthand what they may encounter in their quest.



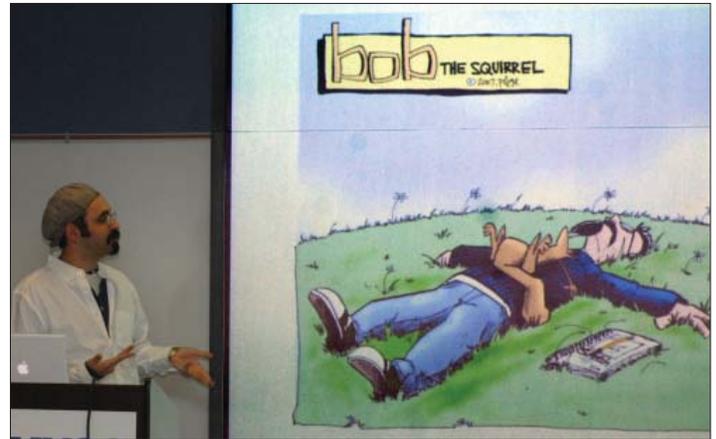
The Spring Cultural Series hosted nationally syndicated cartoonist Frank Page for a lecture that drew nearly 100 students and faculty on Tuesday on the Utica Campus. The message Mr. Page continually conveyed during his lecture was perseverance.

"I don't care who you are. After you receive that tenth or twentieth rejection letter, it's going to hurt. You have to just push yourself past the pain," said Mr. Page, who is a native of Rome (NY) and graduate of Rome Free Academy.

Mr. Page's comic strip *Bob The Squirrel* appears locally in the Rome Daily Sentinel and is found on his website, bobthesquirrel.com. His comic strips also appear in several college newspapers around the country with his big break coming in 2004 when he was signed by Universal Press Syndicate for its online Uclick.com.

Mr. Page discussed the cartoonists who influenced him, such as Bill Waterson, Robert Crumb and Keith Knight.

"You hope that everyone can see a little of themselves in the strip and characters," says Mr. Page. "When you're an artist, you have to expose yourself and learn the value of self promotion. No one else is going to do it for you."



Mr. Page discussed how the Internet has made *Bob The Squirrel* successful, exposing his strip to thousands of fans who otherwise wouldn't have known about it through newspapers alone. While many of his fans are regional, he also has a very large fan base in Italy and Luxembourg, which is tracked by the number of hits his strip on Uclick.com receives.

Mr. Page earned a BFA in Illustration, Magna Cum Laude, from Cazenovia College in 1997.

Along with his work on *Bob The Squirrel*, Mr. Page is a graphic designer and editorial cartoonist for the Rome Daily Sentinel. He was the recipient of the Best Editorial Cartoon by the Syracuse Press Club from 2000-2004, and has received awards for his cartooning by the National Newspaper Association.

In addition to his cartoon work, Page is also an accomplished painter. His 2007 one man show "Year in Paint" was met with great success.

MVCC Campus Events

Saturday, February 23

Women's Basketball at Fulton-Montgomery CC, 1:00 p.m.
Men's Basketball at Fulton-Montgomery CC, 3:00 p.m.

Monday, February 25

Chess Club, ACC 114, 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 26

TIAA-CREF Counseling Sessions, PH 104F, 9:00 a.m.
A&P hosts Schweizer Aircraft Corp, PC Auditorium, 1:30 p.m.
College Senate, PH 300, 2:30 p.m.
Relay For Life, IT 225, 5:30 p.m.
Night Hawk Café, MV Commons, 7:00 p.m.
Performance: Survey of American Jazz, PC Auditorium, 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 27

BSU Luncheon, ACC 116, 11:00 a.m.
Department Head Meeting, IT 218, 1:00 p.m.
Heart Run Walk, ACC 212, 3:30 p.m.
Yoga, ACC 116, 5:00 p.m.
College Concert Band Practice, ACC 116, 7:00 p.m.
Night Hawk Café, MV Commons, 7:00 p.m.
Art Opening: The Lyre and The Line, Small Works Gallery, 3:00 p.m.

Thursday, February 28

Morrisville College Representatives, MV Commons, 11:00 a.m.
CCED: Verizon Testing, ACC 116, 6:00 p.m.
Ballroom Dancing, MV Commons, 7:00 p.m.
Stage Play: Dracula, an MVCC Theater Program & Drama Club Production, Theatre, 8:00 p.m.

"I feel that instructors have the ability to make a difference, yet it is how they approach the task and the students. Since each student is unique with different needs and ability, it is the challenge of the instructor to help students to complete individual goals."



*Kahlil Gibran 1883-1931
Poet, philosopher, and artist*

Submitted by Dave Nackley, Art Department