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A MONUMENTAL ELECTION

BY SAM MOORE



Image courtesy Google images

When CNN projected Obama would win the election on Tuesday, phrases like “Oh snap,” “This is crazy,” and “Yea, son!” quickly filled the MCPC TV Lounge. On the screen, festive crowds from Kogelo, Kenya, were shown dancing in the streets, raising tree limbs and chairs above their heads.

“[This is] the first election I got to vote in too,” said Jason James. “I’m going to tell my grandkids about this...This is monumental.” “What I really love is the image of the crowd,” added Kyle House. “So many people on the TV are crying” remarked another student.

By the time McCain got to the platform, there were 10 students in the room. It went silent as he began his first remarks.

“We have come to the end of a long journey,” McCain said. “The American people have spoken and they have spoken clearly.”

During his speech, crowd members in Phoenix booed when McCain mentioned Obama’s name and victory.

“I hate people” was one half-joking lounge comment made in response to the booing on screen.

But when McCain finished, people generally felt he had done an honorable job conceding the race. “That one [speech] was great,” said a student.

When Obama finally took the stage, there were fourteen of us crammed in the lounge. Again, the room went quiet, and four people started taking pictures of the television.

All of us sat and watched a historic speech, and Cody Wanner recorded it on his cellular. “Change has come to America,” Obama said while the crowd supplied some “yes we cans” from time to time.

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TOP TEN BREAKFAST STOPS IN PHILADELPHIA:

1. MORNING GLORY
(735 S 10TH)
2. CARMAN’S COUNTRY KITCHEN
(1301 S 11TH ST)
3. SABRINA’S CAFÉ
(910 CHRISTIAN ST)
4. HONEY’S SIT N’ EAT
(800 N 4TH ST)
5. DUTCH EATING PLACE
(1136 ARCH ST)
6. WHITE DOG CAFÉ
(3420 SANSOM ST)
7. MELROSE DINER
(1501 SNYDER AVE)
8. MARATHON GRILL
(121 S 16TH ST)
9. LITTLE PETE’S
(219 S 17TH STREET)
10. FITZWATER CAFÉ
(728 S 7TH ST)

HARVEST PARTY HUMBUG BY ELIZABETH COON

MCPC held its annual Harvest Party on Monday October, 27th. We had Immersion Weekend on Halloween night, so the Harvest Party was held early. It was kind of fun. The table was covered in pumpkins and candies with a whiny karaoke machine in the front of the room. Stu-

dents arrived in various costumes: pirates, gypsies, goddesses, soldiers and sailors. A few made me laugh, but I don’t really remember who. There was this swimmer guy named Phelps with paper clips and a gold yogurt lid around his neck. Who dresses up as a swimmer for Halloween? Lame.

And there was this really elderly man and his wife who looked a bit like SAB co-chair, Christian Imbesi and MCPC student, Krista Hamlen. I had never seen them before, but maybe they just like going to random parties with people

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Author Elizabeth Coon. Image courtesy Cody Miller

ELECTION

Obama's speech made sure to emphasize the difficult road ahead. But he also made sure to highlight the one promise that brought tears to so many Americans' eyes that night: a new puppy for daughters Sasha and Malia "that is coming with us to the White House."



RECENT STUDENT PHOTOS

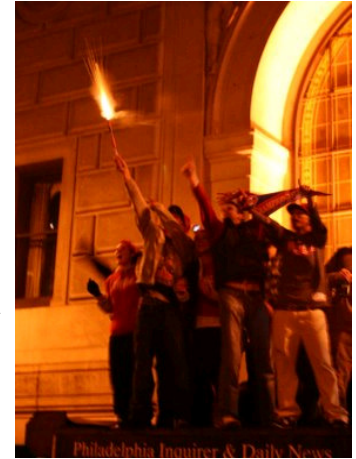
Left: MCPC student ride bikes towards Center City after Phillies win.



Bottom Left: Fans climb statues and hydrants as thousands crowd into Center City.

Right: Celebratory fans climb a bus terminal with sparklers and flares.

Images courtesy R. Cody Wanner and Kyle House.



If you would like to see more photos, please send your pictures to sb1338@messiah.edu

WORLD SERIES CHAMPS!

BY R. CODY WANNER



Ryan Wilson and Jason James enjoy the game. Image courtesy R. Cody Wanner.

On Monday October 27, 2008, my roommate, Jason James, Ryan Wilson (MCPC's Community Life Director), and I headed off to see the final game of the World Series. After taking the subway, we walked to the "Fox and Hound" on the corner of Locust and 15th. We turned the corner and saw a massive crowd of people stuck to the only two doors entering the sports bar. Our hopes of watching the what-could-be-historical moment in a familiar place faded. We relocated to Philadelphia's Comcast building, sitting in its lobby with about seventy five other people.

As the innings began to tick away, the weather worsened, until finally the umpires deemed the game postponed. We walked from the building to the train station upset that our excitement hadn't been able to find some closure that night. Then again we were freezing walking only two blocks, glad our beloved Philliess didn't have to play in that.

Two days later, fellow MCPC students, Brandon Gosnell, Brad Mensch and I rode bikes to Center City to see the final three innings. By the time we were settled in the Comcast building, the score was already 4 to 3 Phillies. Everyone watched in excitement.

Finally it was the top of the ninth inning, and the Phillies still had a lead of one run. This meant that all Philadelphia had to do was get three outs to win the whole series. The last pitch was made, the batter swung and missed. As quickly as that, the Phillies were World Series champions!

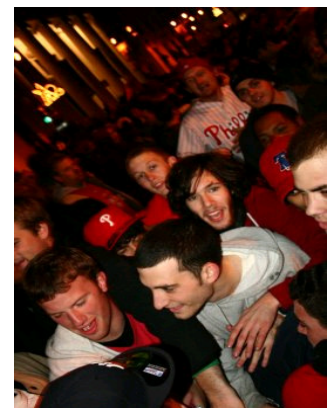
But if the Phillies were World Series champions, what does that make the people of the city of Philadelphia? Raging, insane, destructive, rioting masses?

As we left the Comcast building, people starting to flood the streets. Nothing was quite as impressive as the miles-long parade of teens, young adults and the occasional middle-aged fan galloping down Broad Street.

What assaulted my senses from that point on can only be described as mayhem. People flipping huge planting pots with trees planted in them. Philadelphians climbing up the sides of buildings, onto news stands, up light post and over traffic lights. Everyone seemed to think it would be great to tear down the World Series flags that lined the streets on poles. And as each flag would fall the crowd below it would grab and claw and do anything to get their hands on a piece. Fire works were shot off in the middle of the streets, emerging right from within the crowds and explod-

ing- spanning from sky scraper to sky scraper.

The day after the celebration I saw a candid "YouTube" video of a drunken person standing atop a traffic light while beer bottles were thrown at him. He took one to the head and got a little wobbly, only to have a huge forty ounce bottle knock him totally off balance. He finally fell fifteen feet into the crowd. I'm not sure what was more impressive: the Phillies well earned and long awaited victory, or some Philadelphians' idea of celebration.



Fans flood streets after Phillies win. Image courtesy R. Cody Wanner

OUT IN LEFT FIELD W/ ELIZABETH THOMPSON

A CODE OF THE WHAT
WHAT? (DON'T CALL IT
THAT!)

Amidst a flurry of emotions and false alarms, Elijah Anderson, author of common reading *Code of the Street*, arrived at Philadelphia Campus on Hallow's night. Well, maybe the emotions were just a wide range of reactions and expectations and the false alarm was a well-played Harvest Party costume, but tensions were still on the rise as Dr. Anderson's presence neared. Halloween night seemed an ironic choice for this specter of our varied interpretations, criticisms, and opinions to appear. Students had been mulling over Anderson's work and were prepared to engage him and his ethnography over the course of Immersion Weekend. We agreed that Dr. Anderson had left a number of gaps and loopholes in his study, and we were prepared to ask him

about topics such as terminology, government infrastructure, religious and ethnic diversity, gender issues, stereotypes, and efforts that we as readers and students could make to help in the rejuvenation of the Germantown Avenue neighborhoods discussed.

As we soon found out, regardless of how many questions we asked, answers to our queries during the weekend were barely addressed and not brought to any sort of logical fruition. Despite how frustrating this was, students were able to remain gracious and respectful during Friday night's session, as well as their focus groups the following day. They continued to ask thought-provoking questions, begging answers that continued to remain elusive.

Even with this let-down, I was impressed with MCPC's professors and staff throughout the weekend. Giving students the opportunity to engage Dr. Anderson one-on-one allowed them to approach the common text in a more personalized and effective manner. The follow-up facilitated by Dr.

Peterson during Monday's community gathering was immensely needed and timely. The open arena to share reactions and thoughts of our experience with Dr. Anderson was imperative into seeing the collective conscience that came out of the weekend's interactions.

We all agree that Anderson's visit was a definite learning experience. Even though expectations for the weekend were not met, Dr. Anderson's stories and reflections on issues were definitely helpful in understanding the perspective in which he wrote his text and the ramifications of economic shifts over the past century. Anderson is to be praised for his contribution in drawing needed attention to the socio-economic conditions of the inner city.

Overall, I am refreshed following MCPC's interaction with Dr. Anderson. Students and faculty are recognizing the issues evident in the ethnographic method of *Code of the Street*. MCPC's environment is one

that addresses these observations as a community and furthers discussion that goes beyond pointing fingers or complaining of unmet expectations into actual interaction with the subjects at hand. Rather than being complacent in the ways that studies were carried out in the past, students and faculty at Philadelphia Campus are focusing on new methods of ethnography, discussion, and activism in order to go beyond the negative implications of stereotypes and generalizations.

Our time with Dr. Anderson signaled of a changing of the guard, a moment where the interpretive scholarship of the past no longer fits into the present. This weekend showed that those at Messiah College Philadelphia Campus are at the forefront of this change.

FAIR TRADE BY PETER CORNING

When you hear the words "fair trade", what do you think? You may imagine bartering with a merchant in a noisy bazaar for a fair price, or perhaps your initial reaction is to confuse it with the similar sounding but vastly different policy of the WTO, "free trade." Odds are that your first reaction has some-

thing to do with coffee, which is not surprising considering the trend in recent years to push fair trade coffee as a way to market to an ever increasing "hip" and culturally aware niche market.

At its core, the fair trade label signifies a product that was purchased for fair, competitive, livable wages from farmers who would traditionally be paid well below market value for their coffee

beans. The movement endorses social and environmental standards that must be maintained in exchange for the higher price. For example, most fair trade coffee is also certified *organic*.

Although the financial drawbacks to purchasing more expensive beans are obvious, especially for a struggling small business owner in this sinking economy, the clearly higher qual-

ity of the product and the general sense of well being that comes with raising the living standards of a poor farmer make the effort worth while.

When it comes to a mega corporation like Starbucks, fair trade becomes a label used to market the business's social advocacy and environmental awareness, rather than a viable attempt

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FAIR TRADE

to improve the living conditions of a huge cross-section of farmers in developing countries. In all fairness, if Starbucks committed to buying nothing but fair trade beans, there wouldn't be enough to meet their demand. This fact does not excuse how hard it is to find a cup of fair trade coffee at any given Starbucks, especially considering how much money they have spent on marketing their globally aware image.

An alternative is local, independent coffee shops, that have committed to selling nothing but fair trade beans and chocolates. There are many such shops in the Philadelphia region. I personally work at one myself (Joe Coffee Bar, 1100 Walnut St.).

I would encourage you, my readers, to think about the global reverberations your morning fix may have the next time you grab a cup of coffee. Instead, support a local business and global equality by spending the extra time it may take to hunt down some fair trade coffee. Trust me, you won't regret it.

Visit <http://www.independentscoffee.com> for more information on local businesses that support fair trade, or surf over to <http://blip.tv/file/1425655> to see Joe talk about the issues himself.

HARVEST HUMBUG

they don't know. Christian sang a rousing rendition of "New York, New York" on the karaoke machine, which seemed to be a hit.

Me, I just decided to wear "normal" clothes, because stuff like parties and hanging out with friends doesn't really get me excited. People seemed disappointed, so I just told them I was pretty apathetic about dressing up and Halloween. They tried to understand in between wailing versions of 50 Cent and Backstreet Boys. People get too into this stuff. I mean, wearing your friends' tight jeans and a wig, while singing karaoke may seem "cute", but it's a lot of effort for an hour long party.

Someone thought students Justin Johnson, Cody Miller, Christian Imbesi and Krista Hamlen wore clever costumes, and should win prizes.

Overall the food was okay. Pumpkin carving was too messy and people just threw seeds at each other after personal projects were finished. There was some candy on the table, but pumpkin goo covered the leftovers. Oh well. It's not like candy is a big part of Halloween or anything.

**We Know YOU Have
Things to Say!**

Make it So!

**Contact Sarah Bowman at
sb1338@messiah.edu**

OVERHEARD IN THE CITY:

"You can be joyous; you cannot be a jackass. That kind of idiotic, destructive behavior will not be accepted in the city of Philadelphia."

-Philadelphia's Mayor Nutter in response to the destruction caused after the Phillies won the 2008 World Series.

"...I'm telling y'all what I'm going to do. I'm going for Barack Obama, that's what I'm doing. This is one of the most important elections of our lives. Rosa Parks sat so Martin could walk. Martin walked so Obama could run. Obama's running so we all can fly. Let's get fly tonight..."

-Music artist Jay-Z at N. Broad Streets' "Promote the Vote Block Party". He joined Mary J. Blige, P-Diddy and other celebrities in encouraging Temple students to vote for Obama on November 4th.



Harvest Party Fun! Images courtesy Cody Miller