

News

MCCC Student Self-Publishes First Book

By Paul Dittmar

"I'm not a celebrity yet, but hopefully someday."

Daniel Burnam's words broke through the thunderous cafeteria noise in College Hall.

Dressed in a crisp brown suit that one could easily spot from across the room, the 19-year-old student recently sat down to talk about his first book, "The Warrior-Priest: Book One of the Tales of Qire-Mersnal."

Fantasy, suspense and betrayal are among the themes he explored in his story about Nedum the banished warrior.

Though its title reads like something out of medieval literature, the book is largely based on a Christian allegory.

"God gave me the idea of the story and I wanted to include him in it," Burnam said in an interview. "My book could be the first of many to bring the secular movement in fantasy literature back to the spiritual."

While the allegory is a core part of the work, it is expressed in such a way that anyone can enjoy it, he said.

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Burnam said the 289-page book took him about a year and a half to write and about two years to edit. He said he did most of the editing and paid Xlibris Publishing to put out the finished product.

What's next for Burnam? Besides working on book two in the series, titled "The Magicians," he's planning the other 66 sagas in his head.

With some luck, one of these will get picked by a major publisher. But his ultimate goal is to own a movie-making company and get his big ideas on the big screen.

"The book has a world like 'Lord of the Rings' and a theme like '[The Chronicles of] Narnia,'" he said.

Burnam may not be a celebrity yet, but there's plenty of time ahead.



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College Choir

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Helping to get that polished look was the college's Office of Student Leadership, which provided the choir with new custom polo shirts. The office also provided bus transportation for the group and their fans.

A pure combination of anticipation, excitement and nervousness filled the bus on the ride to the ballpark. There was an exchange of storytelling, laughter and candy on the way to the big performance.

A hostess for the Phillies greeted the group. The walk to the locker room was the group's absolute favorite experience.

One choir member said on the way: "Look! We just passed a celebrity baseball player talking on his cell phone!"

Following one last rehearsal session in the locker

room, the choir made its way onto the field.

Again, the same combination feeling of anticipation, excitement and nervousness was enough to fill the entire field.

Following Professor Kosciesza's every direction, and despite the echo, the choir gave a performance that was extremely well-received. The crowd was almost silent for the entire piece – even the final few notes – and gave the MCCC choir a rousing ovation.

"Probably the most fun part of the whole thing," Kosciesza said, "was when the [Phillie] Phanatic came up to the group while we were lining up to sing."

The world-famous Phanatic actually pulled his four-wheeler up behind the choir and fussed outrageously with MCCC choir member Avery Kachline.

**Assistant Professor of Music
Andrew Kosciesza
contributed to this story.**