

The story of survival and sacrifice that has taken the world by storm

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Connection



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Story
Fall

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A leader recognized

Schoolcraft President to receive Shirley B. Gordon Award

BY LEAH ESSLINGER STAFF WRITER On April 13, Dr. Conway Jeffress, President of Schoolcraft College, will receive the Shirley B. Gordon Award for outstanding contributions to the Schoolcraft's Phi Theta Kappa chapter and the college as a whole. Since Dr. Jeffress became President in 2001, the college has grown exponentially, both financially and academically. Whether you have noticed improvements of technology in the Biomedical building, attended the professional workshops conducted in the VistaTech Center or received friendly assistance in the Learning Assistance Center, one thing is clear: Dr. Jeffress has been very busy, indeed.

When he first stepped into the driver's seat in July of 2001, Dr. Jeffress quickly understood that with the title came opportunities to enrich the student's learning experience. "Education is increasingly about law and policy, not education and curriculum," Dr. Jeffress observed. For him, this is more than just a strong statement. Dr. Jeffress sits on several committees that further the interests of community colleges and its students. As a member of Garden City Hospital's Board of Directors, Dr. Jeffress works to bridge the gap between academics and on the job training by helping nursing students obtain internships. Of course this gives Schoolcraft students a leg up in the job market as employers continue to look for relevant experience. Indeed, providing tools to help Schoolcraft students stand out in there next venture, whether it is academic or professional, seems to be the main item on Dr. Jeffress's agenda.

One of the most exciting waves currently visible in Schoolcraft's horizon is the possibility of offering Baccalaureate certification for some of the College's programs. On Nov. 30 of last year, Dr. Jeffress was invited to address the State of Michigan Sub-Committee in Lansing on behalf of the program. Current buzz suggests that the Nursing and Culinary Arts programs will be the first to receive four-year accreditation. However, the issue is still being discussed at the state level, and nothing is certain at



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Dr. Jeffress, who will be receiving the Shirley B. Gordon Award, is only one of eight college presidents and CEOs nationwide to receive this honor.

this time. Regardless of what happens, Dr. Jeffress feels that any Schoolcraft program can and should acquire highest levels of accreditation available. "I would like all of our programs to be recognized by third parties as having excellence," Dr. Jeffress said.

For the academically-driven among us, it may be worth noting that scholarship agreements exist between Schoolcraft College and Wayne State University. While attending a Schoolcraft Scholars dinner, Dr. Jeffress recalled that, "Two students on either side of me said they were interested in attending Wayne State University, and I said, 'Well, I can help you.'" Specifically, he wanted to be sure that high-achieving students would be treated well, that their credits would transfer and the financial support would be there.

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More troubles for students



Michiganders seeking higher education to see less funding from feds

BY RAMON RAZO
NEWS EDITOR

Just when one thought student financial woes couldn't get any heftier, the feds step in. State university leaders are up in arms yet again. Federally funded assistance will once again be cut, for both Michigan and Alabama. This time, our state will see cuts of \$4.2 million for the state's 15 public universities.

These cuts come from a long standing failure for the state to comply with adequate funding for schools. As covered previously by the Schoolcraft Connection (Feb. 10, issue 10, "Michigan Tuition") President Obama has made the amount of federal funding towards public universities an issue he brought up during his State of the Union Address and while speaking at the University of Michigan in late January. "It's not enough for us to increase student aid," said the President during his State of the Union Address. "We can't just keep subsidizing skyrocketing tuition;

we'll run out of money. States also need to do their part, by making higher education a higher priority in their budgets. And colleges and universities have to do their part by working to keep costs down."

This whole trimming back of funds has been going on for a while. In 2011 alone, public universities saw 15 percent cuts, dropping the higher education budget from \$1.9 billion in 2001 to \$1.4 billion this year. As reported in Mlive.com, Mike Boulos, executive director of the Presidents Council, State University of Michigan, points out the gradual cutting of funds has been happening for the better part of a decade.

Gov. Rick Snyder has said that he will attempt to replace \$2 million of the \$4.2 million lost with state funds. A spokesperson for Snyder, Ken Silfren, said that while the governor is interested in federal funding for higher education, more attention is being paid to balancing the budget and other financial priorities.

A poster for the Earth Day Fair 2012. At the top, it says "Earth Day Fair 2012" in a large, dark font. Below the text is a 3D illustration of a bright green tree frog with orange eyes and feet, sitting on a small globe of the Earth. The globe is tilted and shows green continents and blue oceans. The words "Cool Creatures" are written in a blue, cursive font along the right side of the globe. At the bottom left, the words "Hot Planet" are written in a red, cursive font. In the bottom right corner, the event details are listed: "Tuesday, April 10, 2012, 12 noon - 4 p.m., VisTaTech Center". At the bottom left, there are two logos: "STUDENT ACTIVITIES OFFICE" and "Schoolcraft College". At the bottom right, there is a line of text: "For more information contact the Student Activities Office at 734-462-4422".

Friday
Night
Rentals

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Campus Crime

Compiled by Tierney Smith
Staff Writer

Assault

On Feb. 20, around 9:40 a.m., a disturbance in the lower Waterman section of the VisTaTech Building was reported. Two students, a male and female, were in a confrontation before another student stepped in to separate them, after which campus security arrived.

When the officer spoke to one of the students, the student stated that he was talking about the other student and her boyfriend's sexual relationship in a joking manner. The female student said that she was embarrassed and didn't tell the other student to stop. The student doing the mocking claims that the other student, who was playing pool at the time, threw down the pool stick, picked up a pool ball and threw it at him. He ducked and the ball missed him. The female student then picked up another ball and threw it. It missed as well. She claims that she had no intentions of hitting him with the ball. Afterward, the student ran up to her and grabbed her neck and another student got in between them. She continued to yell at the other student until Campus Security Police was contacted.

Unattended children

On Feb. 20 at 9:55 a.m., a female reported to two campus security officers that there were three unattended children in a parked vehicle in the west parking lot of the Radcliff Center.

One of the officers went to

the parking lot and saw a small child sticking her head out the window of a Chevy. As the officer got closer, the child rolled up the window. Security attempted to talk to the three children in the vehicle but they would not unlock the door or roll down the window. The officer observed that the Chevy had keys in the ignition and the motor was turned off.

The oldest child called their mother on a cell phone and the mother arrived five minutes later. Upon questioning the mother, the officer saw that there were not enough car seats for all three of the children and the mother could not provide the proper registration or proof of insurance for the car. The mother also identified the children as being seven-months old, four-years old and nine-years old. Garden City police were called and an officer arrived and ran a check on the mother. Afterwards, the officer informed campus security that the woman was free to go.

Domestic violence

On Feb. 29, a radio from the campus switchboard came in and reported that two people were arguing at the PE building. Campus security waved down the female driver who claimed her son was yelling at her and wouldn't leave the vehicle. Security had the son get out of the Chrysler, stand on the sidewalk and show them his driver's license.

When asked what happened, the son stated that when he got out of

the car to attend class, he banged on the trunk for her to open it. He claims that his mother then backed the vehicle up and almost bumped into him. For fear of his mother leaving him there with no way to get back home, the son pounded on the passenger door of the car and got back inside. He then said his mother threatened to leave him there and return home to let him fend for himself and find his own ride home.

When asked, the mother said that she ordered her son out of the car and he refused. She stated that she was afraid to drive home with him in the car because he might grab the steering wheel and cause an accident while she drove.

They both claimed to have been arguing most of that day. The mother said she would no longer take the same class as her son and would switch to a different class. She was also planning on asking him to move out of her house and stated she wouldn't be driving him to his classes any longer.

Threatening communication

Campus Security became aware of a threatening Twitter post on Feb. 29. The message said "So if anyone blows up Schoolcraft College just know it was me, I just found out they lied and said I couldn't transfer when I could..." The student who posted this comment has been contacted and agreed to be questioned. This report is being investigated further.

The Connection would like to make an apology

In issue 11 of the Schoolcraft Connection, in an article titled "Ever upward opportunities" it was reported that the "University of Michigan and Wayne State University will soon stop offering these degrees," referring to BSN degrees (Bachelors in Science and Nursing).

The Connection, particularly News Editor Ramon Razo and Dr. James Ryan (Executive Director of Development and Governmental Relations at Schoolcraft College) would like to apologize for this inaccurate information.

The story should have more accurately stated that these universities will no longer be offering RN (registered nursing) to BSN programs. In a nutshell, this means that students (for example, one who graduated from Schoolcraft with a registered nursing degree) would still be able to transfer to University of Michigan or Wayne State University, but their RN degrees would then be put towards the advanced degree programs now offered by these schools, as opposed to simply BSN.

Once again, the Connection would like to like to apologize for this inaccurate information.



WANT TO KNOW WHERE TO FIND
THE COOLEST BEATS AROUND
TOWN THIS MONTH?

Check out Page 20



JEFFRESS

continued from PAGE 1

Dr. Jeffress said that leadership positions call for acute listening skills. "But more than that," he continued, "you need to be able to discern what is a value because you can be overcome with information." It is, perhaps, his ability to understand underlying values that sets him apart from so many in high leadership roles. The Shirley B. Gordon Award is given only to

eight college presidents and CEOs nationwide who show great support and offer resources for their students. "That's a very satisfying award when you see what it stands for and what the people who have it do," remarked Dr. Jeffress. What is his recipe for success? Apart from excellent listening skills, any person hoping to acquire high leadership positions "must be willing to take in the unexpected and you need to be able to nurture a network of support."

In our news

BY RAMON RAZO
NEWS EDITOR

Planetary news

Who hasn't heard of the impending annihilation the Mayans predicted a hundred years ago? If you haven't, then you must be living under a rock bigger than the one poised to hit Earth next year.

Actually, that's not accurate. Asteroid 2012 DA14 will, in fact, pass safely by our home planet by about 0.000181 AU (Astronomical Units). In everyday terms, that's about 17,000 miles, or around 2 1/2 times the diameter of the Earth. In astronomical terms it's a relatively close call, but nevertheless far enough away that we needn't be worried.

Doomsday speculators went crazy all over the Internet, mainly due to how closely the asteroid's arrival was to the infamous Mayan doomsday. However, a little-known organization called NASA says we have nothing to worry about. For now.

It's worth noting that asteroids do collide with the Earth from time to time and the experts at NASA do want us to be wary of the possibility of a huge asteroid colliding with Earth someday, like the one that wiped out the dinosaurs 65 million years ago. With that in mind, sleep tight, boys and girls.

National news

When it comes to coffee, there's no name more prevalent than Starbucks. One cannot go far without discovering one of their over-17,000 worldwide locations. Needless to say, the franchise is doing well. But you know what would help expand their business even more? Alcohol.

Starbucks began selling alcohol out of one of its Seattle locations (the franchise's base of operation) back in October of 2010. By the end of this year, over 20 locations in Chicago, Atlanta and California will be selling beer and wine as well.

Every location that will sell alcohol has been chosen for their larger seating capacity than regular sites and not every franchise will be granted an alcohol license. And in case you were wondering, the answer is yes - at \$5 a bottle for beer and upwards of \$7 for a glass of wine, it's just as expensive as you'd expect from Starbucks.

Local news

Farmington Hills - As the age-old saying goes, "truth is stranger than fiction." But the case of "Project M," real life attempted to emulate fiction in a scenario that almost got out of control.

Young Michael Vasovski was granted permission by his father to hold a party for himself and about 30 of his closest friends. But thanks to good old social media and Craigslist, the event almost spiraled out of control. Almost.

The party began trending on Twitter, garnering attention from people all over the country. Thousands and thousands of wannabe party goers planned on attending the party, an event that the Farmington Hills Police would not have been prepared for. The teens were going to base the party plans on the new film "Project X," which is about a high school party that goes horribly wrong, involving situations with flamethrowers, SWAT teams, ecstasy and lawn gnomes.

DJ Puddin' of 98.7 the Amp tipped police off the potentially disastrous party.

Michael's dad says he doesn't plan on punishing his son because, thankfully, nothing happened. He did, however, offer up a good, stern reprimand to his son and probably a couple of shame-on-you's.

Vincent Who?



Producer and co-director Curtis Chin (featured in the documentary) will host a Q&A Session following the film.

In 1982, at the height of anti-Japanese sentiment, Vincent Chin was murdered in Detroit by two white autoworkers who said, “it’s because of you motherf—s that we’re out of work.” When the judge fined the killers a mere \$3,000 and three years of probation, Asian Americans around the country galvanized to form a real community and movement. Through interviews with the key players at the time, as well as a whole new generation of activists, this film explores the history of the case, as well as other important touchstones in Asian American history including the Chinese Exclusion, Japanese Internment, the 1992 LA Riots, the recent murders of Joseph Ileto and Cha Vang and post 9/11 racial profiling. “Vincent Who?” asks how far Asian Americans have come since then and how far we have yet to go.

April 5, 2012

Noon – 2:00 pm

VisTaTech Room 550

“Vincent Who?” won the 2009 Media Award from the National Association for Multicultural Education and was a finalist for the American Librarians Association Notable DVDs of 2010.



For more info, contact
Student Activities Office
734.462.4422

We are grateful for the generous support of the Schoolcraft College Foundation.



Earth Day Fair 2012

Celebrating our Planet's Biodiversity
 April 10, 2012 ■ VisTaTech Center ■ 12- 4 p.m.

Schedule of Events

12:00 pm – 4:00 pm

- Welcome and kick off – student poem recital
- Community Partners meet & greet (*DiPonio*)
- Tree sapling giveaway (*DiPonio*)
- Raffle drawings approximately every 30 minutes (*DiPonio*)
- Student Poster Scholarship Competition Judging (*Main Street concourse*)
- Student Visual Arts Competition voting (*Main Street concourse & hallway*)
- Ecological Footprint Quiz
- Electric Vehicles on display (*VisTaTech North and South entrances*)

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

- Keynote Presentation:
 Marty Essen, *Around the World in 90 Minutes* (*VisTaTech Presentation Room, VT 550*)

2:30 pm – 4:00 pm

- Marty Essen Meet & Greet and book signing (*VisTaTech Presentation Room, VT 550*)
- Continuation of Earth Day Fair with Community Partners



2012 Earth Day Community Partners

Audubon Society
 Barnes and Noble
 Bee Keepers Club
 Detroit Zoo
 Electric Car Club
 Friends of the Rouge

Greening of Detroit
 Grow Town
 Huron River Watershed Council
 Michigan Electric Vehicle Show (MEVS)
 MSU Toll Gate Education Center

REI
 Sierra Club
 Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy
 Transportation Riders United
 Wayne County Recycling Program

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.
- The First Amendment to the Constitution



LIKE THE TRUTH, BUT BETTER

By JONATHAN KING

EDITOR IN CHIEF

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Imagine you walk into a casino, wander over to the roulette wheel, and place all of your money on black. You wager your entire life's savings on a single spin of the wheel. The ball goes 'round and 'round, eventually plinking down into one slot ... a red number. You've lost everything. "Oh well," you think, "that's the luck of the draw. It was a 50/50 chance."

But would you feel better or worse if you knew that it wasn't chance, that the table was rigged and the casino decided it was time for you to lose your life's savings? Would that provide you any comfort? Would it soften the blow?

"Everything happens for a reason" is a common platitude of the theist and the general optimist. It's designed as a non-explanatory explanation to the immense question of human suffering. But more than anything else, it's a phrase designed to comfort those who find it difficult to see a loving deity in such an ostensibly unloving, cruel and unjust world.

Of course, even with the news

The comfort of chance

bombarding you with horror stories day in and day out, it's hard to truly appreciate the harsh injustice of the world until you experience tragedy for yourself.

On Jan. 23, 1998, my father died of a stroke. He was 38. I was 8. That moment marked a violent shift in my life, in the way I would experience the world. I'm sure the phrase "everything happens for a reason," or some variation thereof (probably its ever-present cousin "God works in mysterious ways"), was shuffled around several times during that period. But for me, it did nothing but reignite the question burning in my mind: "What possible reason could that be?" It should be noted that, for the most part, I wasn't angry - I was just puzzled. What was the motive behind this act of apparent negligence on the part of an all-powerful, omnipresent creator? Where was the benefit? What was the positive impact?

From a religious perspective, it made even less sense. Being raised as the grandson of a Protestant pastor, I've heard many a story of how God miraculously intervened to save the pious and the righteous - people like my father. This man was more than a devout Christian; he was a theological professor and pastor. He taught the Christian credos in the classroom and on the pulpit. He was integral to converting some people to Christianity. I'm sure if he survived he would have converted more. He might have even converted me. What could this man possibly have done to be denied such succor in his time of greatest need?

Over the course of about four years, from my late teens to early twenties, I began voraciously studying science, philosophy, history and theology in an attempt to arrive at my own conclusions of belief, independent of my upbringing. The end result of this venture was a gradual shift from Christian to theist to deist to agnostic to atheist. During this time I experienced a great deal of emotions and personal epiphanies. One of the most profound and unexpected moments was the realization that one of the greatest conundrums of my life had inadvertently been solved. I had found the reason for my father's death: chance. Pure, unbiased chance.

It was a beautiful, cathartic revelation. The idea that there needn't be a reason, that there was no one to blame, that this was an incidence of misfortune and not intent, and that there is no celestial dictator calling the shots on life, death, misery and happiness - just chance. Chance operates on a set of rigid probabilistic laws and favors no one for their actions or incantations or what they had for breakfast. Chance is neither active nor negligent, neither benevolent nor malicious. Chance is random by nature, not capricious by choice. Chance is simply fair.

Some may see it as odd that I find solace in this thought, that horrible things can just happen and that's that. It's an idea that seems cold on the face, especially to a believer. I understand how others find comfort in the idea that they're being perpetually watched over by a divine father figure and how,

for some, it might be the only world view that allows them cope with life.

I just can't make peace with that scenario because for every act of grace there's the alternative. To think of my mother sitting by a hospital bed praying while her husband takes his final breath and all the while an all-powerful being watches silently from above, holding back the curing touch he could so easily administer. Where is the comfort? Why would the knowledge that this was intentional negligence help? If it was a doctor holding back life-saving medication for no apparent reason, there would be a furor. No reason that doctor could give for his actions would be acceptable; no reason *should* be acceptable.

I can understand why "everything happens for a reason" might bring someone comfort but I don't think it should. I find no consolation in the concept of a being who creates a species capable of empathy and expects them to sit back while their fellow humans are swept away in countless tragedies. There should never be a reason for a child to die of bone cancer before their 10th birthday or for a city to be devastated by a natural disaster. If these atrocities are just by-products of a universe that wishes us neither good fortune nor ill will, I can handle that. I can live in a universe ruled by chance, where there's no biases, no special treatment, no blessings and no curses. If you can't handle that, it's your prerogative but just know you've got a lot of reconciliation ahead of you. I wish you the best of luck.

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Letters to the Editor are welcomed and will be printed as written except in the case of obscenities, libelous information or personal attack. We reserve the right to edit for length. Letters must be signed to be considered for publication, though names may be withheld at the discretion of the Editorial Board.

Send letters to: The Schoolcraft Connection, 18600 Haggerty Rd, Livonia, Michigan, 48152-2696.

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LET'S BROADEN
OUR MINDS

By **RAMON RAZO**
NEWS EDITOR
misterrazo@gmail.com

A life defined
by heroism

Trends have come and gone and aspects of my life have been altered, accumulating in who I am today. But one constant in my life has been the presence of heroic, mythological American icons. You probably know them more colloquially as superheroes. In some form or another, they taught me to fight for truth, take responsibility and, most important, never be afraid to do what's right.

My very first memory of any sort of superhero has got to be the seminal '90s "Batman" animated series. I knew that I was watching something that was very "grown up" and that stands true today.

I remember parents being upset about the violence used in Batman and other shows like Power Rangers. What I saw was a character devoting his life and resources to making sure that what happened to him never has to happen anyone ever again, not the violent vigilante parents claimed he was. Batman has very clear definitions of what is right and wrong, and a very strong moral code. That resonates with me to this day.

Batman has continued to be an icon in my life, as he is the easily one of the coolest and most captivating characters in fiction. But, surprisingly, in recent years the Man of Steel has taken the helm of my

favorite superhero. Well, tied with Spider-Man, but that's another story.

For anyone who knows me, it might be surprising to find out that I was not always such an avid fan of the Last Son of Krypton. I used to downright detest him. But then (surprisingly, the lackluster) "Superman Returns" came to cinemas and I started getting into the mythology, the awe-inspiring nature of a single man with the literal weight of the world on his shoulders. As Stan Lee said best in the fantastic A&E documentary about Superman, what is most enticing about the character is how an ordinary, unassuming man could really be, deep down inside, a superhero. As a young man who sometimes struggles with self-worth and what it means to be a "man," the notion of an alter ego of might and respect is something to dream about. Actually becoming a person people can always trust to stand for truth and justice is something one can truly strive for.

And if I can be so honest, Clark Kent's profession as a reporter was one of the chief reasons I wanted to pursue a career in journalism. To some, it might seem childish to derive inspiration from fictional characters but it is really no different than looking up to a sports star, someone paid to do what they love.

In recent years, my notions of right and wrong have come under fire. In a world that's constantly being rewritten, sometimes for better, other times for worse, it can be darn near impossible to hang on to one's morals, or harder still to determine what's actually worth fighting for. As with the Keane song, "I'm getting old and I need something to rely on." And what I choose to rely on are the legends and myths of my childhood. Characters who have evolved throughout the years to reach their peak in the 21st century. Maybe I won't ever be a billion dollar crime fighter. I will likely never be faster than a speeding bullet. However, I can take inspiration from these characters to be the best person I can.

(and when I say a few, I mean millions)? On the other side of the newly minted coin is a player's loyalty to a fanbase. Is it right for a player to simply drop a team in pursuit of a higher efficiency of success elsewhere?

Recently, Dwight Howard was threatening to explore the free-agent market. Howard, who has played for the Orlando Magic since being drafted first overall in 2004, has repeatedly led his team into the postseason, and has even made it to the Finals, but has yet to win a championship. Now, because of this lack of success and bedazzling ring power on Howard's barren hand, there were talks of him departing from Orlando to another city with higher hopes of a championship. Faced with the possibility of losing Howard for nothing, the Magic threatened to move the center at the trade deadline. A compromise was reached and Howard signed agreed to stay with the team for another season delaying a decision for 12 months.

Throughout the ordeal, Orlando fans were trapped in the middle.

Had Dwight gone through with this move, it could've be labeled as

KEEP
IN
MIND

By **KIM POMA**
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR
kpmail7@yahoo.com

Dear Sir or Ma'am

Dear Instructors everywhere,

Several issues back, I disclosed a letter to all of you, listing off the do's and don'ts of a teacher/student relationship. It was mainly things that really annoyed students and specifics teachers should avoid at all costs. Well, it's a brand new semester with new annoyances, newer issues and a brand new letter.

For starters, do all your students the biggest favor and actually teach the class they signed up for. I'm all for new age learning and radical approaches because, yeah, sometimes they work exceptionally well. But give your students a chance to either drop the class or never sign up for it at all. There are reasons people take the classes they do for majors, degrees and interests. It's not fair to lure them in on the promise of an English class and then end up treating it like a history or computer class. Also, this isn't free – we're paying for these classes so we should get exactly what we spend our money on.

PowerPoint presentations are your friend to an extent. There is nothing a student loves more than their teacher lecturing with a slideshow, especially the ones with the pretty pictures and colorful backgrounds. But slap on a PowerPoint with nothing but drab colors in the background? Don't get me wrong, there should be facts and notes and whatnots on them. But if you don't jazz them up, your students will be falling asleep before you know it. Also, don't make them 30 or 40 slides long. There's something called an attention span and not everyone's is that long. Especially teenagers. (I would know, I was one.)

Finally, be passionate about what you're teaching! We don't want to sit at the tables as you drone on and on (and on and on and on) about a subject that you obviously don't care about. I'd rather have a ten-hour class with a teacher who really cares about their subject and shows it than a half-hour class with a teacher who's there only for the paycheck. When you care, we care. When my instructor is excited about what they're telling me, I get excited. When my teacher is eager to actually teach, I am more than eager to learn.

Instructors, I feel these tidbits could really help you. Of course, I am but a mere student with access to a newspaper editorial where I can happily spew my opinions but, really, you should take my points into consideration. Honestly, what can it hurt? It might even help.

Sincerely,
Students everywhere.

EDGERUNNER
Racquetball Tournament
Friday, April 13th
Starts at 1pm
with a BBQ lunch to follow
Sign up as a double or single and we'll place you on a team
For more information contact the SAC at 754-462-4422
Or find Edgerunner Skiclub on facebook
Or email us at edgerunnerskiclub@yahoo.com

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

selfish. The guy started in Orlando almost a decade ago and has done nothing but win a few all-star nominations and defensive awards. Yet this all will be forgotten by fans if Howard opts to chase a championship ring in another city.

Let's flip the script and take a look at the other side. What about the players who are moved with no say in the matter? How come those organizations don't feel as much as the players do when making decisions such as these? For instance, take Peyton Manning's situation. Manning is arguably one of the greatest QB's in NFL history. For the past 13 years Manning has been the face of the Indianapolis Colts franchise, a four-time MVP, a six-time AFC Player of the Year and an 11-time Pro Bowl competitor just to name a few of his many, many accolades. However, when the elite arm of Manning was sidelined for a season due to a neck injury, Colts

ownership quickly discarded the former champion as they completely ignored a decade of success.

So, yeah, it's a business and the priority is profit. For players, championships are lifelong dreams and big-time contracts can allow a player to take care of his family for a lifetime. So, again, yeah, it's a business.

But where's the respect?

Not for each other but from players and organizations toward the fans. It's not necessary to keep the team winning, but it would only help foster fan loyalty. Loyalty from the millions of people who stand in long lines, dressed in the paraphernalia of their favorite clubs and players in diehard support of their hometown team. It's supposed to be all about the fan power. And that is something that players and organizations should really keep in mind. Sports loyalty isn't about the player and team, it's always been about the fans.

PEAKE
PERFORMANCE

By **DANIEL PEAKE**
SPORTS EDITOR
Dap2k92@gmail.com

Logistics
vs. Loyalty

In recent media we've become in many ways addicted to the athlete-administration controversy that fills the sports entertainment world. Just a couple of examples are LeBron James' departure from Cleveland or Tim Tebow's release by the Broncos. Obviously, a sports franchise is a business through and through. However, is it right to simply drop a loyal player and teammate for a few extra bucks



OCELOT OPINIONS

Compiled & Photos by
Chris Kovacs

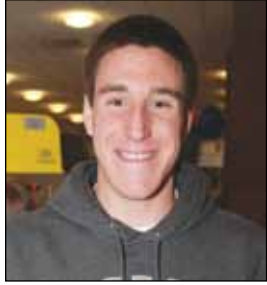
"What is your favorite part of the Multicultural Fair?"



"My favorite part is participating in it and telling people about Macedonia."

Samantha Maksimovic

Major: Nursing



"I loved the music. It really got me movin'!"

Angelo Dorazio

Major: Finance



"My favorite part was the different foods."

Ashley Saraceno

Major: Undeclared



"I like the food."

Darshak Patel

Major: Undeclared



"Learning about different cultures, eating good food, and becoming more of a global citizen."

Holly Bunzeluk

Major: Undeclared



"My favorite part was finding similarities in cultures."

James Wilson

Major: Social Work



"My favorite part was the Coins for Change table."

Mona Charara

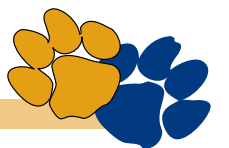
Major: Undeclared



"I liked the different demonstrations and dances."

Quin Oliver

Major: Audio Engineer



KICKING & SCREAMING



By Ian Gallagher

MANAGING EDITOR

irpgallagher@gmail.com

On class, bro

Whether we like it or not, America is a classed society, with class determined by financial, social and educational factors. However, unlike other classed societies, America's common culture is filtered through the lower classes rather than the upper. This makes America unique, as well as altering the way that our physical and gender dynamics function in different areas of society – the reason why people wear t-shirts more than top hats. "Jersey Shore" is the ideal example of these dynamics and a symptom of the continuation – and even glorification – of the extreme ends of behavior for both sexes. This behavior manifests in the importance placed on physical characteristics and displays.

The lower, less educated classes use physical characteristics for power as well as to determine social position and status – think gym, tanning, laundry. This has allowed them to carry on the archaic sexual dynamics. Because, much like in other societies and ages, the lower classes hold longer onto the antiquated ideas that the upper classes have largely dropped out of use. For the upper classes, knowledge, income and career status determine power. This leads to a less sexually hierarchi-

cal society, at least within the above-average subset.

This suggests that the higher one's income or education, the lower the emphasis is on physical displays. The reason may be tied to the job types of each group. The lower educated group would have to depend more on the selling of their labor, or doing stupid things on TV, and would thus tend to have jobs that are more physical – fist pumping is hard work. On the other hand, the more educated group would work less with their hands, working in environments where typing may be the most strenuous physical activity other than climbing stairs. This would lead to this group placing less of an emphasis on physical displays and more on mental skills. This is not to say that the members of the better educated group shun physical activity or fitness, merely that the group places more emphasis on non-physical characteristics, although they still have been known to wear Ed Hardy.

However, in this age of instant mass communication and up-to-the-minute Snookie updates, culture must be accessible to a large audience, the bulk of which is not college educated, meaning that the lowest common denominator rule applies. This common culture is adopted by many people across the lines of class and level of educational attainment, leading to the "Jerseyfication" of America. (Perhaps "Jerseyfication" is the wrong term, "Jersey Shore-izing" would be more respectful to the denizens of New Jersey.) "Jersey Shore-izing" is really just the latest manifestation of the millennia-old masculine male, feminine female, peacock-esque manner of behavior for which both sexes are equally at fault for the objectification of the other, as well as themselves. Now excuse me – I have to go tan, bro.

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With



The Schoolcraft
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KYLA MARSHALL'S WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY'S CLASS OF '13, TRANSFER STUDENT
ELEMENTARY EDUCATION MAJOR

SMART TRANSFER PLAN

"I love the community on campus. It made it extremely easy to transition and get involved."

— Kyla Marshall

Kyla found just the right fit in a four-year university.

Helpful professors, an inviting campus community and a smooth transition made Kyla's choice easy: Western Michigan University. When someone at her community college mentioned Western's excellent education program, she investigated and developed a smart plan: finish her core classes, then transfer to WMU. With accessible professors freely giving help and guidance, Kyla knows she made the right decision. She already feels ready to work.

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That Time I ... Clowned around

By MANDY
GETSCHMAN
LAYOUT & DESIGN EDITOR



"It's almost over," soothed the nurse as she guided the needle further into my arm. "We're using the teeniest butterfly needle," said the other nurse, "and everyone knows that butterflies never hurt anyone." "That needle looked nothing like a butterfly. It's going to hurt me."

What a stupid name for a scary needle! Having been born with an extremely rare bone disease, I was used to pain. I knew what to expect. Even at a young age, I had spent more time in hospitals than most elderly people.

"But it's all done," said the nurse. And whaddya know, it was! The worst part was over and I hadn't even noticed it. That brief moment I was pondering the comic aspect of naming a needle after a gentle, fluttering creature had distracted me from noticing any pain at all. Distraction, what a concept!

The celebrated speaker, activist, medical doctor and clown, Hunter "Patch" Adams, has devoted his life's work to the theory that pain and suffering can be curtailed through even the simplest acts of love. Similar to the movie based on his life, Patch Adams founded a free clinic he dubbed "Gesundheit!" (Gesundheit means "good health"). In the decades since it was built, the clinic has used the previously-neglected healing techniques of compassion, creativity and silliness to treat patients. With these in practice, the doctors are able to treat the patient, not the disease.

In addition to his work with Gesundheit! Institute, Patch Adams has led hundreds



of others to spread that compassion and silliness across the globe. Through his Gesundheit Global Outreach program, volunteers get together and, dressed as clowns, visit areas where poverty and suffering have created an urgent need for a good dose of silliness. In places with the most devastating circumstances, these volunteers wear that big, shiny nose as a red badge of courage, putting aside their own concerns to lighten the hearts of the patients. In cases where there is little that modern medicine can do to help, the clowns offer a different kind of help.

"If I can distract a screaming child injured in a war zone, for even a moment, then for that moment their pain is gone," said Patch during his Jan. 20 speech at UM Dearborn.

Even here in Michigan the power of a few clowns can make a difference. Led by Lance Slatton, a pre-med student at the University of Michigan, a group of big-hearted volunteers have gotten together to spread Patch's brand of compassion to people within the Oakwood Health System.

Inspired by Patch's lecture and fueled by my own inability to resist such an exciting opportunity, I decided to try my hand at clowning around with the rest of them. I knew that it would be a challenge.

Aside from when I am around my closest friends, I tend to have a fairly composed demeanor. Dressing up and becoming the center of attention is so far out of my own comfort zone that few friends and coworkers would believe I took up the challenge.

I searched my basement for remnants of old Halloween costumes and bought a foam red nose from the party supply store. Seeing all the bright colors in my outfit almost made me sad that I could never get away with wearing

such gaudiness anywhere else. Luckily, when I met up with the rest of the group, my attire was no longer out of place.

The location was a Generational Daycare Center that watches over anyone who cannot always watch out for themselves. When our small band of clowns entered the room, we were warmly greeted ... with a scream of terror. However, it soon became apparent that only one little fella was experiencing a bout of coulrophobia as the rest of the children and adults watched with interest to see what we were going to do next.

Clowning really wasn't as difficult as I'd anticipated. Some wise individual had thought to arm each clown with a valuable tool: a bottle of bubbles. The little ones and adults alike couldn't resist such an exciting phenomenon as watching bubbles pop when you poke them. It was a riot - I danced with the kids, sang songs with the grownups and watched them all become just as silly as I was. I had no worries about looking like a fool because I was intent only on generating as many grins as possible.

The experience was magical. Seeing even one genuine smile fuels my energy for the rest of the day. That is why we need systems of spreading cheer in place at hospitals and in communities everywhere. I really appreciate the time these volunteers spend at figuring out what it would take to make a patient smile. Clowning is an invaluable resource in how it thoughtfully disrupts the monotony of life with silliness and play, increasing the quality of life. In nursing homes especially, where neglect and monotony often cause residents to devalue their own lives, a simple dose of cheer could do the work of the most potent antidepressant. Volunteers should be available at every center to spread the silliness and love that could ultimately change the world.



(Above) Medical student Lance Slatton entertains the residents with bunch of colorful bubbles.

(Right) SC student Mandy Getschman lets a little one try (unsuccessfully) to blow bubbles for her friend.



Hungry

for an interview

The Connection sits down with a lucky contest winner

By **KIM POMA**
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

Have you ever wondered what it would be

like to walk down the red carpet and experience the glitz and glamour of the premiere of a major blockbuster? One of Schoolcraft's own students and Connection staff writer, Montgomery Jones, got the once in a lifetime opportunity to travel to the City of Angels and work the premiere of the Hunger Games. In LA, she channeled her own Ryan Seacrest and was able to talk to the cast of the movie. This is. Montgomery's experience rubbing shoulders with some of the fastest rising stars in Hollywood:

Connection: How did you win this?

Montgomery: I saw a competition on all the Hunger Games blog sites, saying they were looking for correspondents and I made a video saying why I was a big fan.

C: How did you find out that you won?

M: The producer called me and told me to make another video to say why I would make a good representative for the Wendy Williams show. Then they called me and told me I was going to New York to see if I won.

C: And what happened then?

M: They said I was top ten but they lied and it was me and this other girl. And there were a lot of interns around, who we thought were part of the competition but they weren't, they tricked us to make our reactions more genuine.

C: Where did you go for the premiere?

M: The Nokia Theater in Los Angeles. We had drivers and 5 star hotels.

C: What was your first impression when you got there?

A: It was really overwhelming, there were a lot of people. And because I walked on the red carpet, people assumed I was in the movie. They wanted me to sign stuff and were asking what tribute I was.

Q: Did you have to dress up?

A: Yes. There was a glam squad and stylists. I had to do make-up for over an hour and a half.

Q: Who did you get to talk to on the carpet?

A: Jennifer Lawrence, Gary Ross (the director), Josh Hutcherson. Liam Hemsworth walked by us but we didn't get to talk to him. Pretty much all the people in the Games!

Q: Who did you do the interview for?

A: The Wendy Williams show

Q: What happened after the premiere?

A: We did a quick segment about the movie and people came up to talk to us because they saw the microphones. We went to the after-party. There were a lot of "hoity-toity" people there. It was exciting. I was just people watching! Sylvester Stallone and his family, the youngest Kardashians sisters, and I talked to Darren Criss from Glee! He was so nice.

Q: What was your best experience of the night?

A: Meeting Gary Ross. I called him a God because his movies are always perfect. Oh and Jack Quaid was so attractive I told him I was Team Marvel because that's who he plays.

Q: Who were you most excited to meet?

A: Jennifer Lawrence and Gary Ross!

Our faithful reporter did not have the opportunity to meet the brains behind the book series, Suzanne Collins. The author did not walk the red carpet nor did she really show her face. But nothing could ruin the experience for her. To see Jones' entire interview, go to youtube.com and search Wendy Williams Hunger Games premiere.



(above) Montgomery Jones prepares to start the black carpet interviews.

(right) The winning contestants pose with Mike Freeman, the producer of the Wendy Williams' segment.



Elizabeth Banks (Effie Trinket) admires the wig model of her famous hairdo.



(below) The glam squad makeup artist works her magic.

On the set of Wendy Williams show, Montgomery and Kara receive the news that they won a trip to the Hollywood premiere of The Hunger Games.



Around the World in 300 minutes

Schoolcraft's best Multicultural Fair yet

BY KIM POMA & IAN GALLAGHER
CONNECTION EDITORS

Only at Schoolcraft can someone walk from Canada to Mexico, by way of India, without breaking a sweat. This year's Multicultural Fair sparkled with new entertainment and fun. Around the DiPonio room, different booths were set up, each one representing a different country. Volunteers stood behind with fliers, free samples and friendly smiles. The fair was packed from beginning to end. Well over 3,000 people attended, making this the most attended Multicultural Fair ever according to Josselyn Moore, an anthropology and sociology professor who helped organize the fair.

There was more food than ever, between the national booths and participating restaurants handing out delicious dishes. Noodles & Company, Heritage Bakery and Trader Joe's were among them. With tables set up around the stage, it tuned into lunch and a show. About every twenty minutes to a half-hour, a new performance of some kind was put on for all to see. The cutest act by far was when the kindergarten class from the Children's Center wowed the audience with their adorable vocals and sign-language skills.

The event is always enjoyable for students. "It's fun and interesting and you get to experience all the cultures," said first year student Deanna White. "It's a really good idea," added Eric Hopkins, a fellow student in his first year for his second degree, "and it lets us show off our own cultures and partake in others." Students came from around the area to participate, including numerous high schools and some from Henry Ford Community College.

There were a number of different modes of entertainment: door prizes as you walked in, surveys for the opportunity to win even more and yoga and meditation stations to help one achieve ultimate relaxation. One of the most popular events was the free 10-minute massages, and the six massage chairs set up were full for the whole event. Radio station 96.3 WDVD was on campus from noon to 2 p.m., and there was even free Henna painting. The Native American portrait gallery, new to this year's fair, was a resounding success. "Music and Dance of India" made its Multicultural Fair debut. The performers were from local high schools and they "did a wonderful job," said Prof. Moore, who was "excited about getting high school students involved [in the fair]."

Of course none of it could have been possible without the lovely campus co-sponsors: Continuing Education, Counseling, Duplication Degree Center, Student Activities Office, Transitions Center, PTK Honor Society, Schoolcraft College Foundation, Media Services and Liberal Arts Division. The Multicultural Event is always outstanding. It's a great and interesting opportunity to learn more about a country that you never even thought of and it's always a nice way to spend an afternoon.

Brainstorming is already underway for next year's Multicultural Fair, and there are rumors of a possible fall event. "We just encourage more students to get involved," said Laura Leshok, International Coordinator. So if you know a lot about or plan to visit another country, think about representing it at next year's fair. For information about getting involved, contact Laura Leshok at lleshok@schoolcraft.edu or 734-462-4400 ext. 5203.



What have you done for your planet lately?



Earth Day fair is about awareness

BY ROSE HAIDER
STAFF WRITER

Earth Day is coming up and Schoolcraft College is holding their annual Earth Day Fair. The event will have its usual environmentally-friendly vendors who give students and members of the community the opportunity to help out with the Earth's predicament and volunteer to make a difference. The vendors will be coming from the Detroit Zoo, REA, Rouge River Project and more. There will be free trees handed out and tests that show whether or not you're helping or harming our planet along with ways you can help out and still comfortably live your life.

As a bonus to the excitement, Martin Essen is coming to Schoolcraft to speak. The man who has no fear, even from the most venomous of arachnids, will be speaking from 1:00-2:30 p.m. in the VisTaTech Center. This is one speaker you don't want to miss as his demonstra-

tions are as entertaining as they are informative. "I've watched his shows before and it's creepy but fascinating. He puts bugs on his face!" said Shandra Hugus, a Schoolcraft student anticipating the April event.

This year also brings with it opportunities that were not featured in Earth Day celebrations as the committee for the fair now offers a scholarship and two segments to have a try at. Professor Fruth, one of the committee members in charge of the art segment, said, "This is the first year they offer a scholarship directed toward the arts." In previous years there was only one segment in the Earth Day competition, the scientific poster entry, but this year the second segment appeals not only to science-loving students but ones who are artistic as well.

The pieces will be judged by originality, aesthetic quality and detail. The judging for the art segment is especially exciting as the judges are College students. The pieces will be selected by the committee then presented for the



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MARTY ESSEN

Adventurer Martin Essen will be on campus to spread environmental awareness this Earth Day.

public to give their opinion on which piece affected them the most, giving students all the more reason to attend the event. The Earth Day event will be taking place in the VisTaTech Center on Tuesday, April 10, so don't forget to stop by and do a little something for your planet!

Professor spotlight To Africa and back with Jessica Worden-Ballard

BY ISHPREET KAUR
STAFF WRITER

Does anyone ever really know their instructors? Do students ever sit and wonder what their professors lives have been like, what they have done and where they have been? The lives of some instructors may be more exciting and interesting than you might suspect. It's time to pull back the curtains and find out about one such professor whose work has taken her across the world and back again.

Professor Jessica Worden-Ballard was raised by a single parent but she managed to receive a degree in anthropology as well as in social work. During her high school years, she accompanied her mother, a photo-writer, to Africa. Their trip was to help support a humanitarian aid program called World Vision, which tackles the cause of poverty by working with communities worldwide to reach their full potential.

Her journey to Africa began as she visited Nairobi, the capital of Kenya, where she lived during her freshman and sophomore years of high school.

From there, she went on to visit Tanzania, where she spent her junior and senior years. But her journey did not end there. During graduate school, she studied at Oxford University in the United Kingdom as well as the University of Michigan. As a graduate student, she studied the impact war has on the mental health of children in Uganda. The research explained the negative effects that could harm the developing minds of the young children as a result of the hostile environment. Unfortunately, as the war rose up again, she was unable complete her research but the experience was definitely a transformative and valuable learning venture for her.

Professor Worden-Ballard was asked what inspired her to teach anthropology, and her response was simple and concise. "I teach anthropology because it explains the elements of multiculturalism, which encourages us to see things from other people's perspective, as the world moves closer together."

Her passion to being an educator

distinguishes her from other faculty members as she continues to learn and develop her teaching style and techniques. Teaching anthropology allows her to share her experiences as well as learn from her students. She enjoys being an instructor at a community college, rather than a larger institute, because of the smaller environment which allows her to better connect with her students. Moreover, she strongly feels that "education is a responsibility as much as it is a right."

Despite the fact that Professor Worden-Ballard has spent numerous years living in the U.S., she still yearns to go back to Africa where her life adventure began all those years ago. Her brother, a biologist, still resides in Africa with his family. If ever in the future an opportunity strikes, she would not hesitate to experience the adventurous life again.



Campus Corner

BY KIM POMA
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

On April 5, the VisTaTech Center will be showing a documentary about Vincent Chin, a man who was murdered in Detroit back in 1982. The killers were only given a \$3000 fine and three years of probation. Titled "Vincent Who?," the movie is comprised of interviews with key players at the time, as well as a whole new generation of activists. It explores the history of the case as well as many other important touchstones in Asian American history. "Vincent Who?" asks how far Asian Americans have come and how far they still have to go. The movie will be shown in room VT550.

On Friday, April 6, Schoolcraft Mathematics instructor, Zhi Hu, will be talking to students about the different career possibilities for actuaries, the certification process to become an actuary and her personal experience in the field. Hu has worked as an actuary for many years. She is currently employed at Aon Cooperation, where she specializes in risk analysis, advising other companies on financial questions involved in managing their employees' health and human resources. The event will be from 4-5 p.m. in the Biomedical Technology Center, room 300. It is free and open to the public.

On April 11, Schoolcraft will be graced by the presence of Twesigye Jackson Kaguri. Author of the novel "A School for My Village," Kaguri will be speaking about human rights at 11:30 a.m. in the DiPonio room located in the VisTaTech building. The book, which has shown up on several English class requirement lists, is the stirring story behind the Nyaka AIDS Orphans Project. Weaving together tales from his youth with the enormously inspiring account of the remarkable challenges and triumphs of the school, Kaguri shows how someone with a modest idea is capable of monumental results.

On Friday, April 13, the Edgerunner Ski and Snowboard club will be hosting a racquetball tournament. The event will be from 1-3 p.m. with a BBQ afterwards. Everyone is welcomed to sign up in the Student Activities Office, and can do so as singles or doubles with a friend. Singles signing up will be placed on a team. For any more information regarding the event, just contact the Student Activities Office at 734-462-4422 or email the Edgerunners at edgerunnerski-club@yahoo.com. You can also find the club on Facebook keyword Edgerunner Ski Club. Don't be afraid to stop by and sign up!

Foundation Scholarship Reception

Schoolcraft gives recognition to its donors and recipients

BY ANNA JONES
STAFF WRITER

The Foundation Scholarship Reception was a wonderful success. The scholarships were presented during a ceremony to show appreciation and give recognition to all those who donated to the school. Wayne Glass, Director of Grants at Schoolcraft College, explained how the purpose of the event was to give recognition to recipients of scholarships and but also to the donors who gave the gifts of educational assistance. On the day of the presentation, the DiPonio Room was packed with recipients and donors. Steve Smith, a scholarship donator, said, "You supported the college and I like to give back to the college for support."

The goal for this event is to "break down the walls" so that students can come together to help support the school. There



PHOTO BY GARRET DARIAN-TOTH
Scholarship winner Heidi Herman speaks to the crowd of donors at the reception.

are all kinds of scholarships, including some to help students achieve their goals in their field and some that are required for them financially. Deena Ideh, a dietitian major, received a Christopher's Money Scholarship: a scholarship for nontraditional students returning to school for another career. The whole reception was very inspiring and touching.

Reginald Best said, "We may think the donations given to this school don't make a difference, but it does for those who receive them." Making a difference may be hard, but is very rewarding.

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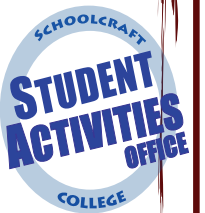
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Club Events



Compiled by Kim Poma • Campus Life Editor

Asian Student Association

The ASA presents Visakhi, a Sikh festival of music and dancing held annually to commemorate the founding of Khalsa. Tickets are \$5 and include pizza and soft drinks. The sales will benefit Coins to Change. This event will be held on April 6 from 7 p.m. until midnight in the Lower Waterman wing of VisTaTech.

Billiard and Table Tennis Club

Do you like to shoot pool or play table tennis? Then this club is for you! Bring a friend and come join us as we just hang out and play. Be sure to keep an eye out for information about our upcoming tournaments.

Christian Challenge

Do you want to enrich the quality of your overall college experience ethically, morally, and spiritually by challenging yourself to explore God's word? Then come to our meetings every Thursday at noon.

Beats and Music Faction

Want to make progress in personal musical talent? Then stop by the Beats and Music Faction meetings. During meetings you'll meet, teach,

and learn, as well as give and receive constructive criticism with those who share the passion of music.

Campus Crusade

Are you interested in learning more about your faith and want to grow spiritually? Then join the Campus Crusade during their meetings every Tuesday at 11 a.m. and Wednesday at 12 pm. in the Lower Waterman.

Eccentric Movie Club

Join SC's Eccentric Movie Club for some of the most odd, puzzling and just plain crazy movies out there. Each session is Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12-6 p.m. Schedules of movies can be provided upon request. Movies are watched in the Lower Waterman of the VisTaTech Center.

Gay/Straight Alliance

The Gay/Straight Alliance is a social connection for equality-minded individuals who want to create a safe environment to help change, support, and educate our world one step at a time. Meetings are held on Wednesdays at 12 p.m.

Otaku Anime Japanese Animation Club

The Otaku Anime Japanese Animation Club provides an opportunity for viewing and discussion of Japanese Animation. Their next meetings will be April 14 and April 28 from 5 to 10 p.m. in the Lower Waterman.

Math and Physics Club

We want you to come ask us math and physics problems as you meet new people who love math and

improve your problem solving skills. Meetings will be held every Friday at 10 a.m. in the Biomedical Tech Center, Rm. 300.

Photography Club

Photography Club provides a welcoming environment for graphically inclined hobbyists, graphic designers, and students majoring in artistic fields.

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

The PTK meetings will be on Mondays from 12-1 p.m. and Wednesdays from 7-8 p.m.

PTK/ Biggby Coffee Fundraiser

Help raise money for Phi Theta Kappa by purchasing our specialty mug. It includes several coupons, including one for a free beverage. The mugs are available for sale now in the Student Activities Office for \$8. They are refillable at the new Biggby location in Livonia at the intersection of 7 Mile and Farmington Roads for \$1.25.

Pizza Kit Fundraiser

Pizza kits will be delivered on April 4. Kits can be picked up between the hours of noon and 5 p.m.

Sports and Recreation Club

The Sports and Recreation Club is a new addition to the Schoolcraft Campus' clubs. They hold open play of any sport every Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the PE Bldg. For more information on joining either the club or one of the tournaments you may contact Ryan Marshall

through: SCC.Sport.Recreation@gmail.com.

The Schoolcraft Connection

Want to further your skills in writing, editing, photography and design? Then join the award-winning Schoolcraft Connection, a student-run newspaper. Staff meetings are every Monday at 4 p.m. in the Lower Waterman of the VisTaTech Center.

Student Activities Board

Want to get involved on campus? Then come and see how with the Student Activities Board. General meetings are Thursdays at 4 p.m. in the Lower Waterman of the VisTaTech Center. The Student Activities Board provides students and the college community with a variety of programs and activities that are educational, service-oriented, have entertainment value and provide a social environment where students can meet a diverse group of new people.

Table Top Club

Come and join the Table Top Club every Monday 4 to 10 p.m. or Thursday from 12-10 p.m. The Table Top Club is Schoolcraft's premier location for game players alike. Play a variety of games ranging from Dungeon and Dragons to Solitaire. Students shall learn to develop personal friendships and leadership.

For more information

To learn more on any of these clubs, stop by the Student Activities Office or give us a call at 734-462-4422.

Campus Life Calendar

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---------------------------|---|---|--|--|--|---|
| 1 | 2 Spring and Summer Registration Walk-In Begins | 3 Using Reference Tools 12:00-1:00pm Library 110 | 4 Fractional Rationals 3:00-4:20 pm MC110 | 5 Film Presentaion: Vincent Who? 12:00-2:00 pm VisTaTech RM 550 | 6 Visakhi music & dance party 7:00 p.m. to midnight Waterman Wing | 7 Bunny Breakfast Dinner Theater 10:00 am-12:00 pm DiPonio Room Tickets \$20 Child \$15 |
| 8 HAPPY EASTER! | 9 Grad Fair Livonia Campus: * 9:00 am -2:15pm Wilson room next to Henry's Food Court. | 10 Reliable Websites... OR ARE THEY? 8:15-9:15 am, Library 110 Earth Day Fair: 12:00 -4:00 pm | 11 Twesigye Jackson Kaguri visit 11:30 am-1:00 pm Diponio room VisTaTech Center | 12 Grad Fair Radcliffe Campus: * 10:00 am-12:00 pm 5:00 pm-8:00 pm | 13 2nd Annual Grande Ole Dance Party Fundraiser for College Republicans of Schoolcraft 7:00 -9:00 pm Lower Waterman room 100. Students \$3 Non-students \$10 | 14 Romeo and Juliet Theater Performance 8:00 -10:00 pm Tickets \$12 |
| 15 | 16 Grooving Graphing 1:00 -2:20 pm MC110 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 Evening Recital Series 8:00 pm-10:00 pm | 21 |

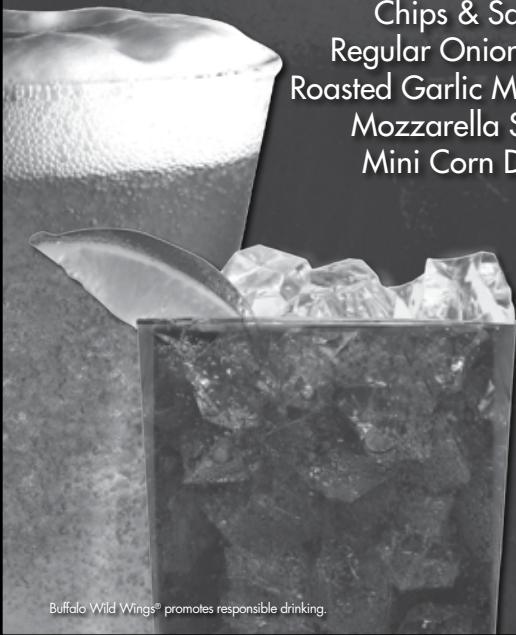
* Grad Fair provides one-stop shopping for everything a student needs to participate in Commencement Ceremonies and to celebrate this very important achievement with family and friends. Caps and gowns, announcements, thank you cards, class rings, frames, ceremony DVDs, Phi Theta Kappa regalia and more.

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HUNGER GAMES

The world will be watching

Katniss and company receive an exceptional on-screen treatment

BY RAMON RAZO
NEWS EDITOR

Expectations are always high when it comes to translating a cherished book into film. Emotions were high as ever for Suzanne Collin's book of teenagers in gladiatorial-style combat, fighting for the amusement of the ruling Capital. Anger is usually leveled at any alterations or the exemptions of certain plots and characters. The film adaptation of "The Hunger Games" doesn't fall outside of typical book-to-screen modifications, but that actually might work for it. What we get on screen is a rather engrossing and well-acted sci-fi romp with great characters and a somewhat morbid view of a future without morals.

In bringing the world of Panem to life, director Gary Ross wasn't afraid of grit. That isn't to say the film is not visually striking. The detailed designs of the weapons and gear, the obnoxious outfits of the Capital and the CGI all work well to enhance and tell Suzanne Collins' story. Ross simply chose to show things as they are: the poor, rundown districts, characters that get hurt badly and lots of violence. We see children get stabbed. We watch characters get burned and eaten alive. But it all does a good job of slapping you in the face and calling your attention to a world where no one can help the poor citizens of these 12 Districts.

Special accolades need to be leveled at Jennifer Lawrence for her performances. Being a pretty face can generate certain stigma from an audience, but Lawrence balances Katniss' fear, anger and her fight to stay alive (a fight her character took in place of her younger sister) in terrific fashion, giving a performance that might be better than her Oscar-nominated one in "Winter's Bone."

Woody Harrelson steals the show as Katniss' mentor, Haymitch. Sure, he's an alcoholic, but he has so many great scenes and is just so darn likable. The same can be said for Stanley Tucci's performance as the eccentric master of ceremonies, who interviews each of the randomly-chosen "tributes" for all of the country to see. The older cast makes up for a decent-at-best cast of youngsters, who (aside from Lawrence) are acceptable, but not exceptional – nothing truly stirring.

Also, since the film is told in a third-person as opposed to the first person narrative, this allows for a plethora of extra exposition and development. President Snow, the monarch of Panem, has a much larger role in the film, often seen talking with Seneca Crane, the Hunger Game's game master. These scenes help us understand what makes them tick.

That brings us to a minor blemish against the film. Quite simply, more could have been done in the translation process. Not enough was modified from the text to make it its own entity as opposed to just Collin's book on screen. We need something to make up for the lack of narration. We do have the game's commenters explaining what's what from time to time (such as what each genetically engineered threat is), and we actually get to see into the control room of the arena.

But there could have been more. More insight into the world. More development from the characters. Nevertheless, ultimately what we get is a very good adaptation of a very good book. So grab your bow, hide the kids and enjoy one engrossing, captivating film. And may the odds be ever in your favor.





May the odds be ever in your favor

"The Hunger Games" trilogy promises to captivate an audience

By **KIM POMA**
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

There comes a time in just about every generation that a book series takes the world by storm. It becomes the thing people talk about at school, debate almost viciously over the internet and it eventually makes its way to the big screen. Following in the footsteps of "Harry Potter" and "The Lord of the Rings" comes what is sure to be the next great hit: "The Hunger Games."

"The Hunger Games" trilogy by Suzanne Collins began back in 2008 with the release of the first book, "The Hunger Games." The story follows Katniss Everdeen, a girl living in a post-apocalyptic world where North America is known as Panem and is ruled by the Capitol. Every year, the country is forced to participate in the Hunger Games, an event where twenty-four contestants, or tributes, (two picked from every District) are put in an arena in which they fight to the death. Last boy or girl standing is the winner. It's all made worse by the fact that some of the contestants are children and that the entire country is eagerly watching.

The trilogy is amazing. Collins wrote the entire thing using a first person point of view, with Katniss narrating her life, her fear at being chosen and the horror of the Games firsthand. We, as the reader, get the entire insight to Katniss' mind that she otherwise keeps hidden from everyone around her. Collins never shies away from the violence that one would expect from this type of book. Katniss sees one fellow tribute blow up and another impaled by a spear.

Collins' imagination is a force to be reckoned with. The detail she puts into creating Katniss' world is just amazing. Her ideas behind the arenas and all the trials and tribulations the contestants must

face are exquisitely conceived. At one point in the series, Katniss deals with a creature that has been genetically programmed to look like the tributes that had already died. Collins also comes up with the lavish and ridiculous styles that the people of the Capitol wear, going as far as to dye their skin.

What's extremely refreshing about this series is that the protagonist is a female. After spending books following Harry and Frodo, it's nice to see a girl take center stage and absolutely shine. Katniss is not the damsel in distress of yesteryear fairy tales. She fights her own battles, she's extremely handy with a bow and arrow and throughout

the course of the series and eventually, she becomes the leader of a revolution.

The books aren't perfect. While "The Hunger Games" and the follow-up "Catching Fire" reign supreme, "Mockingjay" (the third and final book) lags. There are times when events are passed over with a quick narration rather than letting the reader experience them, and other times when events that could be cut down easily span to be about two or three pages. "Mockingjay" also has a feeling of being rushed through, as if Collins was just trying to finish. Also, an addition of a pesky love triangle leaves some fans with a "Did you really have to do that?" feeling.

The bottom line is that "Hunger Games" is a great trilogy and, if the recent box office smash is any indication, this won't be the last time you hear about it.



TO BARSOOM AND BEYOND!

BY COLIN HICKSON
STAFF WRITER

Edgar Rice Burroughs is best known for creating the jungle lord "Tarzan," but others also know him for creating one of the first space-themed characters, "John Carter of Mars." Since his debut in 1912, the character has been adapted in many comic strips and comic books, and also the 2009 film titled "Princess of Mars." But now the hero of the Red Planet finally gets the fame he deserves in the new Disney feature film, "John Carter."

Set in the 19th century, the film opens up oddly enough as Carter's nephew, Edgar Rice Burroughs (Daryl Sabara), is summoned to his uncle's estate, where Carter (Taylor Kitsch) has supposedly died under mysterious circumstances. Ed is then given John's journal, and from there the story unfolds.

In 1868, John, a captain of the Confederate army, is seeking a rumored cave with gold, but circumstances cause him to be accidentally transported to Mars in an astral body while his real one is placed in a form of suspended animation. Once there, John encounters creatures both fantastic and nightmarish, such as the primitive, barbarian-like Thark and the technologically-advanced people of Helium. John discovers that on Mars (or Barsoom, as the inhabitants call it), he possesses super strength, more agility than a normal Earthling and can jump impressive heights and distances. Initially, John only seeks to return to Earth and escape from Barsoom, and does not care for the affairs of its people. To this end, he recruits the help of Helium's princess, Dejah Thoris (Lynn Collins) and Sola, the daughter of the Thark leader Tars Tarkas to help him find a way back to Earth. But the machinations of the evil Therns, beings with bizarre powers and cruel intentions, force John to accept his destiny as the savior of Barsoom and put a halt to the Therns' plans.

Without a doubt, "John Carter" is one of the best films Disney has made since either "Aladdin" or "Tron: Legacy." It has intense action sequences, amazing stunt work, a complex story with interesting characters and CGI that is flawless. If Burroughs were still alive, he would no doubt applaud Disney for giving his character big screen justice.

But even though this is a Disney film, it can get pretty graphic. There are a few scenes that show decapitation, stabbings and even one of a man getting his arm lopped clean off. Still, this really is one of the best movies Disney has ever made. With life-like CGI, exhilarating action sequences, a great story and a cast that brings out the characters, "John Carter" is sure to become a classic for years to come. If you want to see a tale of heroism from a distant world, check out Disney's "John Carter."

Disney reaches for the stars with "John Carter"



Page layout by Brian Camilleri



COMPILED BY
TIERNEY SMITH
STAFF WRITER

Blue Man Group

The Blue Man group is back to give audiences a show of a lifetime. After a month of working on a new show for Universal Orlando Studios and performing in other various locations, The Blue Man Group is back on tour once more. With a new music and new concepts, this not-so-ordinary group is fun and for everyone to enjoy. They will be at the Fisher Theatre May 1 through May 13, and tickets range from \$47.95-\$120.60. For times check out the Blue Man Group website, TicketMaster.com or Fisher Theatre website.

"Beauty and the Beast"

This tale that is old as time will be brought to life as a musical this April in Detroit. "Beauty and the Beast" is a classic that families and kids of all ages can enjoy together. See the magical tale live on stage as Belle melts the heart of a handsome Prince turned into a horrid beast. This sensational musical will be on the stage until April 22 at the Fisher Theatre in Detroit. Prices are \$40.35-\$120.60.

The Fab Faux

"The Beatles" are one of the most memorable, if not the most memorable, band of the last century. With such inspiring songs and style the band has struck up several shows motivated by the legends themselves. "The Fab Faux" is a well-known and entertaining cover band that performs "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Heart Band" live, and will be at the Michigan Theatre in Ann Arbor on April 21 at 8:00 p.m. Ticket prices range between \$38.17 and \$98.30.

Once Upon A Time: Pictures That Tell Stories

One of the many exhibits that the Detroit Institute of Arts has is called "Once Upon a Time: Pictures That Tell Stories." This theme is all about drawings that tell different fables, myths and fairytales. Some of the drawings will include images from the stories written by the Grimm Brothers, "Moby Dick" and "The Picture of Dorian Gray," along with many others. This is a chance for those who love these tales to see a new light shed on the characters of yesteryear. This exhibit will last through May 13. Ticket prices for adults are \$8.00, \$6.00 for seniors, \$4.00 for youth between the ages of 6-17 and \$5.00 for college students (must have a college ID).

Motor City Comic Con

For those who love comic books, superheroes and sci-fi check out the Detroit Comic Con on May 18 through May 20 at the Suburban

Collection Showplace (the old Rock Financial Showplace) in Novi. This event gives the opportunity to meet different actors, comic book illustrators and writers. And also holds rare treasures and comics that many store do not carry. Many organizations like the 501st, Mandalorian Mercs and official "Star Wars" charity groups will make appearances as different characters, and will be available for photo opportunities and answer questions inquiring minds are dying to know. A three-day adult pass is \$50 (ages 11+), one-day adult passes are \$22 (ages 11+), child three-day passes are \$20 (ages 6-10) and child one-day passes are \$10 (ages 6-10). At-the-door passes are \$55 for adults 11 years and up for three-day passes and \$25 for one-day passes. For children ages 6-10, three-day passes are \$20 and one-day passes are \$10.

Artist profile

Hunter Kennedy

BY BRIANNE RADKE
STAFF WRITER



There is great musical talent here at the College. Hunter Kennedy is one example of a Schoolcraft student who is driven to take the pop scene by storm. He spearheaded the band Seven Story Fall (SSF) in 2002, and finds himself with a renewed sense of destiny alongside Andrew Larson and Charles Barylski. With an

upcoming album slated for release at the end of April, imminent video production in Philadelphia and handling their own promo effort, these gentlemen are quite busy these days.

Kennedy describes the music of SSF as “very mixed – we do some light pop alternative stuff and some faster paced pop punk stuff.” The band’s website names Good Charlotte, Panic at the Disco and Hit the Lights as influences. This laid-back group of guys is generating decent pop, for certain. Their first single, “Sing It Back To Me,” is radio ready with a refrain so belt-able that it is sure to create awkward spotlight moments. Their second single, “My Gift to You,” was released on March 31.

Like most bands, SSF has had its share of ups and downs. Kennedy even describes a time when he “thought about quitting just due to stress and things happening with friends and whatnot.” Then came two defining moments for SSF. Escaping a fire in his room with, according to firefighters, a mere two minutes to spare caused Kennedy to do some evaluating, especially of the company that he had been keeping. This near miss was followed by a random 4 a.m. phone call from Larson after years of not speaking due to a band break-up. Larson had woken with an urge to call Kennedy “like it was important,” and the two reconciled. Kennedy views the culmination of these events as more than mere happenstance, and it has restored his vision of pursuing his truest passion and eventually living life on tour. Of the band’s goals, he said,



“We love to play music. It’s what we want, so to make it a job is a dream.”

This roller coaster ride lends significance to the band’s name. Once, while Kennedy was vacationing in Florida, a man fell from the seventh floor of the condo in which he was staying. The man broke every bone in his body, but managed to survive. The group decided to adopt the name because “we’ve gone through so many events, tearing the band apart and coming back together. It’s a nice story to think about when you think you can’t go anymore. It definitely pushes you further.”

From the moment that he was given his first guitar at age 11, Hunter Kennedy has loved to play. He is enrolled in the business program at the College, but is on a brief sabbatical right now with his full

focus on writing music, booking shows and doing promotional work. Kennedy’s drive is admirable, and if the album is as solid as his dedication to his art, listeners are in for a real treat.

The pop aficionado should definitely give these guys a shot. Kennedy promises to “do nothing short of amazing and impress people this time around.” In addition to finding SSF’s digital music in all of the appropriate places – iTunes, Napster and Rhapsody – Kennedy invites students to “come see us play.” Future shows include appearances at the Summer Kickoff Festival in Clio, MI on June 1 and 3, a show on June 2 at High Octane Lounge in Romeo, and then at The Ritz in Warren on June 6. Interested readers can stay current on band news at www.sevenstoryfall.com.

Friday Nights at the DIA

Detroit’s famous museum offers more than just art

BY MELISSA RANKIN
STAFF WRITER

Walking through the doors of the famous Detroit Institute of Arts, the beautiful sounds of Morton Feldman’s “Triadic Memories” performed by pianist Robert Conway and the excitement of museum patrons echo through the hall. The DIA hosts free events on Friday nights, and with the price of admission spectators are provided with live music from 7 to 8:30 p.m., exciting workshops and refreshments for all. The doors are open late, until 10 p.m., so come and enjoy all this establishment has to offer.

On April 6 the Bulgarian violinist, Bella Hristova, will be performing live to entrance audiences with “Violin Sonatas” by Camille Saint-Saens and John Corigliano. Hristova is a gifted musician, who took First Prize in the 2008-2009 “Young Concert Artists International Auditions,” and is the first beneficiary of the “Helen Armstrong Violin Fellowship.” This evening would be perfect for a classy entertaining date night with a special someone, so plan ahead for this upcoming Friday night – it promises to be a special memory.

On April 13 one can take delight in the musical stylings of the 1993 Naumburg competition prize winner and recipient of the 1996-1997 Prix Opus, Yohonatan Berick, along with Pauline Martin.



Artist Diego Rivera created this masterpiece dubbed “Detroit Industry” on the North Wall of the museum in 1932-1933.

Berick, an internationally known and highly demanded soloist, teacher and chamber musician in dealings with the violin and viola. They will be performing violin and piano pieces by Ludwig Von Beethoven and Johannes Brahms. So if you are looking to have a night out with friends, feel free to browse the museum, have a bite to eat at the Riviera Court and enjoy the sounds of these two members of the Grammy-nominated band, St. Clair Trio.

Husband and wife duo, Aebersold and Neiwem, will light up the stage of the DIA on April 13. This couple from Chicago have a unique performance style, performing together on a single piano. With four hands playing music by Franz Schubert, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

and Igor Stravinsky it is bound to be an unforgettable occasion.

And for those feeling artistic, feel free to buzz by the drop-in workshop on Printmaking Illuminated Manuscripts. Illuminated manuscripts date back to the 15th century and refer to (primarily religious) texts that featured colorful and elaborately-detailed designs using gold and silver. At the workshop, you can decorate and embellish your own initials using gold foil, markers and paper as you learn more on this fascinating subject.

Join the excitement on April 27 for two special events happening at the DIA. The first is “Babaa,” a Polish underground group, playing original music containing a jazz and rock sound mixed with psychedelic beats and funk that will make everyone want to dance the night

away. Also appearing that night will be award-winning poet Terry Blackhawk reading from her latest published work, “The Light Between,” followed by a book signing. The reading starts at 6:30 p.m., and the signing will be at 8 p.m., so enjoy the powerful words of this author as she weaves her magical tales.

The Detroit Institute of Arts is located at 5200 Woodward Avenue. Admission is \$8, or \$5 for college students with a valid ID, and of course these exciting Friday events come free. This establishment is a terrific spot to visit for a night out with your friends, a family outing, a nice date for couples or just a way to gain some artistic inspiration. Come see what all the excitement is about and experience events that will leave you feeling fulfilled and cultivated.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE DIA

Alternate Frequencies



Sidewalk Chalk

"Corner Store"

Genre: Hip-hop



By BRIANNE RADKE
STAFF WRITER

In 2009, the Chicago Reader lauded Sidewalk Chalk, a group that formed at Columbia College in 2008, as "Best Local Hip Hop Artist" and it is this kind of love that made "Corner Store" possible. The production of their first full-length album is almost entirely fan-funded. It is no surprise that Sidewalk Chalk enthusiasts would invest in such a project, as the dynamic of this eight-piece group is golden.

MC K'neqta Dots (Rico Sisney) fronts the band with his clever and poetic metaphors, and jazzy songstress S-Star (Margaret Vagle) supplies a flawless velvety vibe with her elegant vocals. Charlie Coffeen commands the keys, Garrett McGinn plays bass and Tyler Berg is on drums. These three are also known as The Ephelon Trio whose hip-hop instrumentals sell out shows on their own merit. HornBreaD (Sam Trump on the trumpet and David Ben-Porat playing trombone) join the party bringing sass and spunk to an already impressive collective.

Perhaps the most exceptional component of the Sidewalk Chalk sound is the presence of Jumaane Taylor. Taylor adds a visual element to performances as a tap-dancer, but takes his role as an instrumentalist quite seriously. The sharp punctuation of taps adds imaginative percussion and a new-old-fashioned sparkle to the album.

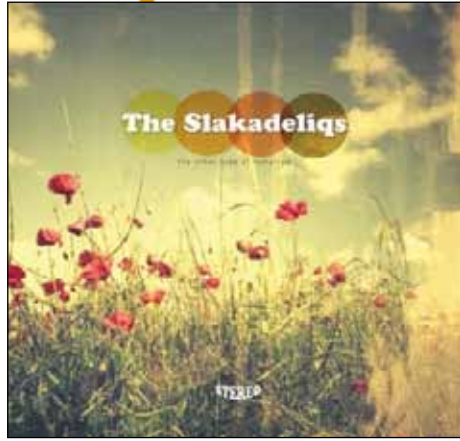
The first track of fourteen, "Birds of a Feather," sets the album off with a pleasing introduction to the band. Their humble lyrics and obvious love of the art are far removed from the ego-tripping of commercial rap. Set to a very Roots-reminiscent groove, the song is an invitation that is difficult to turn down.

From there, Sisney and Vagle take their listeners on a lyrical trip through themes of love, consequence and awareness. "Ananda" and "Satellite" are smooth and sensual, while songs like "Corner" and "Plastic" get right up in your face about the way things are. Also noteworthy is "Movement of the Mind" with its reflection upon Sam Cooke's "Change Gon' Come," the mellow track is relevant yet very mindful of the past.

From beginning to end, "Corner Store" is satiated with passion, pizzazz and serious musical genius.

Bottom Line:

This album is the best thing to emerge from hip-hop's underground scene in a while. "Corner Store" is a must listen for the lover of spoken word and jazz, and highly recommended to anyone who is thrilled by a sweet sound.



The Slakadeliqs

"The Other Side of Tomorrow"

Genre: Alternative Soul



By BRIANNE RADKE
STAFF WRITER

If summertime were a genre, "The Other Side of Tomorrow" would be a perfect sample with all of its warmth and ease. The Beatchild almost completely shelves his hip-hop identity in exchange for a unique, laid-back soundscape, with a sort of psychedelic-rock-meets-island groove. Slakah's alter ego joins forces with fellow Canadian talents like Justin Nozuka, Ebrahim and King Reign to turn out his latest, most unexpected creation.

One of the most noteworthy songs, "Keep Breathing," appears at the launch of the album. The track alternates between lyrical messages of understanding struggle set to heartfelt strums on an acoustic guitar, and a call to press on that is picked up by a compelling tempo that transitions from a driving rock beat to a punchy ska rhythm. This song showcases the mosaic of influence woven into Slakah's eclectic style, and its arrangement is impeccably punctual.

"Love Controls The Sun" is another highlight to the collection, beginning with a mellow melody iced with Nozuka's rich yet uncomplicated vocals and ending in a strident bounce. "Beneath It All" synthesizes its way through the unknown depths of the human experience, sounding a bit like a Lenny Kravitz number until King Reign and Shad enter with their philosophical spoken verse, lending the kind of stylistic shift that pulls this album apart from the pack.

"Perfect Summer Night" sounds exactly as it should. With a consistent and cheerful cadence and bright melody, it is beachy and entirely danceable. This luminous energy is elevated to its peak in "Everything For Nothing." Tanika Charles sweetens this track with her sublime vocals in this playful ditty about love in the sun.

Unfortunately a handful of tracks appear to be filler material. "Dear Lucy," "When the World Falls Apart" and "Dream On," though very easy on the ears, do not add much power to this set. However, these few are well over-shadowed by Slakah's creative aptitude that reveals itself throughout "The Other Side of Tomorrow."

Bottom Line:

"The Other Side of Tomorrow" holds perfect music for summer road trips, barbeques and days at the beach. A number of tracks on this album are necessary additions to one's spring or summer playlist. The Slakadeliqs play to such a diverse array of tastes in this project that there is truly something for everyone.



I See Stars

"Digital Renegade"

Genre: Electronicore



By CHRIS KOVACS
STAFF WRITER

Coming together in 2006 in Warren, Michigan, Devin Oliver (clean vocals, sequencer), Brent Allen (lead guitar), Jimmy Gregerson (rhythm guitar), Jeff Valentine (bass), Andrew Oliver (drums, backing vocals) and Zach Johnson (screaming vocals, synth, keyboard and programming) formed the group known as I See Stars. This band has their own way of combining the essentials of a post-hardcore pop band with electronic and pop punk characteristics to bring themselves to the forefront of the music industry. I See Stars are often seen as the pioneers and primary proprietors of this uniquely-blended subgenre, dubbed "electronicore," which has gained them a sizable following in the modern rock crowd. The group has produced many successful albums with Sumarian Records, such as "3-D" and "The End of the World Party." Their latest album is "Digital Renegade," which was released on March 13.

The album has the same feel of the band's previous work, but there are more electronica and dance elements to it as well as more usage of pop punk themes in the instrumentation. Showing at number 45 in U.S. Albums Top 100, the new album has caught the eye of the dance community with the title track "Digital Renegade" while keeping older fans entertained with songs like "Filth Friends Unite" and "N.Z.T.48."

"Digital Renegade" has brought in a wide variety of music listeners, and given the group a whole new throng of fans. With such a successful album, it'll be interesting to see how I See Stars handles the increase in popularity. The energy they put into getting the album's name out and the work done in the production of the album is enough to cause fans to expect great outcomes for the future of the band. "Digital Renegade" is a big hit and a solid showing for I See Stars – the band is definitely shutting out all other lights except those that shine on them in this digital world.

The Bottom Line:

Fans of I See Stars will definitely be pleased with this latest release. "Digital Renegade" cranks up the aggression while still retaining the band's signature pop punk sensibilities. You'll certainly want to give this album a listen.



Venetian Snares

"Rossz csillag alatt született"

Genre: Breakcore



By JONATHAN KING
EDITOR IN CHIEF

From the depths of Canada, electronic slight-of-hand artist Aaron Funk blasts into the ether with a potent concoction of mangled firecracker beats, orchestral strings and dark synth growls. Working under the alias Venetian Snares, Funk has been producing harsh, noisy, addictive sonic goodness since 1992. Released in 2005, Funk's baroque masterpiece "Rossz csillag alatt született" (Hungarian for "Born Under a Bad Star") remains an underground classic in the electronic universe.

Funk's modus operandi revolves around the art of beat destruction – slicing, rearranging and otherwise butchering drum loops to create a carefully-constructed percussive onslaught. Transient explosions and machine gun snare bursts punctuate the music with an unending fervency. The backdrop of this sonic blitz is a foundation of classical strings and horns, borrowed from the likes of Bartok, Stravinsky, Paganini and Prokofiev, tinged with a modicum of Hungarian folk.

"Rossz" showcases both an intense technical proficiency but also a mastery of dynamic tension. "Második Galamb" perfectly exemplifies the Vsnares dichotomy of soft and harsh. The song opens with crisp and chilly percussion backing up some mellow and mysterious flute work. Then the beats intensify and horns are introduced alongside amplified electronic instrumentation. The finale is an eardrum-haranguing attack of glitchy, freeform ballistics and crushing, distorted thumps.

"Hajnal" makes up the album's centerpiece, beginning with urgent strings that lead into a stretch of moonlight jazz. Halfway through, the strings return, leading into the familiar breakbeat barrage that takes up the final four minutes of the track. "Öngyilkos Vasárnap" is another standout track – an arrangement (or rather rearrangement) of "Gloomy Sunday," featuring sampled vocals from Billie Holiday.

There's no doubt that this is a beautiful album – probably the most elegant and poised composition ever to fall out of the drill-and-bass genre. By using non-percussive tracks to break up the intensity and add layers of atmosphere, Funk has crafted his most restrained and composed album to date. Don't get the wrong impression though – "Rossz" is still freaking insane, in the best way possible.

The Bottom Line:

The songs may be difficult, the sounds may be intense and the title may be unpronounceable but this album is one that electronica fans should not miss.



Battle of the TV musicals

BY BRIANNE RADKE
STAFF WRITER

NBC's new series "Smash" is proving to be a fast favorite with Steven Spielberg among the host of directors and a veteran cast featuring the likes of Debra Messing, Anjelica Huston and Katharine McPhee. It is no surprise that this new musical is constantly being compared to the Fox hit, "Glee." The truth is, aside from having a song at every turn, these shows have little else in common.

Fox struck gold with the inception of its critically acclaimed musical

comedy about the joys and trials of life in the halls of McKinley High. "Glee" is adored for its cloying charisma, although to say the show is adored may be understating things. "Glee's" fan base is insanely loyal, including both teens and adults, making it the network's top scripted hour this season. This hour is usually constructed around conflict. Generally, the conflict is very clearly good guy against bad guy, and the good guy tends to come out ahead, in one way or another. Despite the

fact that the show's critics find some of its subject matter to be controversial, the show adheres to a consistent moral agenda and usually includes a message to persevere, have integrity, show kindness or some similar positive theme. The cast members of "Glee," with the exception of Jane Lynch, were relatively unknown at the show's launch, which gave them more to prove than the cast "Smash" with its built-in star power.

"Smash," on the other hand, is a musical drama. The storyline is intricately woven, and rich in character development. Its themes are very adult in nature, which instantly narrows the range of appeal. However, "Smash" has plenty to attract and captivate an audience. This "musical within a musical" surrounds the birth of a Broadway production based on the legacy of Marilyn Monroe. It is a believable peek behind-the-scenes of musical theater with all of its dreams and disappointments. The writers have created a more complex web of discordance than is found within "Glee," the most obvious conflict being between the two endearing leads. From the pilot, viewers have been challenged to choose between Ivy Lynn (Megan Hilty) and Karen Cartwright (McPhee) who both vie for the role of Marilyn.

The script of "Smash" has completely different intensity than that of "Glee," requiring a composure of the actors that is entirely

unlike the screen presence of the other. Each show is phenomenally executed in its own right. The thickness of "Smash's" plot makes the story much more riveting, but the feel-good element of its musical predecessor has created a huge self-proclaimed subculture of "Gleeks".

In terms of music, it is tough to say which show comes out ahead. The music of "Smash" is largely original, with a few popular tunes thrown in, and "Glee" is notorious for intriguing and well-played mash-ups of hit songs. Both shows boast extraordinary vocal talent and choreography. Even when comparing songs that both shows have covered, there is no clear winner. Once again, both shows are equally sound.

This would certainly end in a draw, if not for one factor: staying power. The writers of "Glee" appear to be grasping for straws in terms of how to eke out more seasons as its core graduates from high school. Eyebrows have already been raised as one age discrepancy has surfaced, and many fans have expressed more interest in following the New Directions kids into college rather than seeing a change-over in the bulk of the cast. The plot of "Smash" is not only limitless in terms of character retention, but also elicits greater investment in its characters. Character investment is the stuff that sends great shows into syndication. Though not an easy call to make, "Smash" is this round's winner.

Games on the horizon

Highlights from the 2012 Game Developers Conference

BY ROSE HAIDER & MICHAEL FRUSTI
STAFF WRITER & GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

The 2012 Game Developers Conference (GDC) has finally come to a close after its week-long event at San Francisco. There weren't too many big announcements, and most of the good stuff is still under embargo and can't be shared with the general public for another week or two. Even though there was a lack a quantity, the few big names that showed up this year sure did steal the show.



"Assassin's Creed 3"

So finally, after such a long wait, the main "Assassin's Creed" franchise is back in action with the reveal of "Assassin's Creed 3." It has been announced that the setting for this new game is early America during the Revolutionary War. The recently released reveal trailer explained how this new change would affect core gameplay. It looks as if acrobatics will take place in the treetops this time around. This leads us to the next big reveal, the protagonist. The main character has been revealed to be a Native American – another unexpected twist. This leaves room for some interesting relations between both sides of the war. It was shown that our new assassin hunts both the American colonists and the British red coats.

"Halo 4"

Last year's E3 was pretty amazing. One of the biggest reveals then was that "Halo 4" was coming and was to start a new trilogy story arc. This year at GDC we learned more. The team behind the game is no longer Bungee but 343, which is comprised of members of Bungee.

343 wanted to make these new games feel entirely different to their predecessors. First off, the armor has been redesigned to be more lightweight. These new Spartans are more acrobatic than their heavier variants. Also the audio quality is a big step up and is now on par with games like the "Battlefield" series.

It was also shown that the new "Halo" games will be more story-driven and that Master Chief's

character will be explored more in depth. The game will take place four years after the events of "Halo 3" where a new threat arises for the Chief to overcome. The game showed more first-person visceral action and cinematic flair, emulating games like "Uncharted." Not much has been shown so far but this definitely looks like it's more than just "Halo 3 + 1."

As the embargo lifts, more secrets are sure to spill out to the delight of gamers the world over. So keep your eyes and ears open for more information, and stay tuned for what promises to be a banner year in gaming.



The other tale as old as time

Schoolcraft puts on a stellar performance of the Shakespeare classic

BY RAMON RAZO
NEWS EDITOR

For Shakespeare fans, or any patron of the arts, The Schoolcraft College Theater Department's production of "Romeo and Juliet" is not to be missed. The cast, led by Professor of Theatre and Drama James Hartman, is incredible. Jared Withrow as Romeo starts out very soft-spoken, but his emotions really come through in the second act. As a whole, once Mercutio dies (apologies for spoilers) the heart-breaking pain displayed is terrific. You won't find a shred of over-acting here. Also, special attention should be drawn to Joey Kulling and the rest of Romeo's cousins, as they are very enjoyable to have on stage. Elizabeth Tumminello also manages to balance being incredibly funny and incredibly emotional as the Nurse. Accolades also go out to Katherine Schooler as Juliet for a great quasi-death scene.

Professor Hartman was extremely pleased with the response the pro-

duction has been receiving. He remarked, "It is quite unusual for a Shakespearean play at a collegiate level to receive standing ovations. On March 23 and 24, the Theatre Department's performance had a few members of the audience doing just that. The performances have been getting great responses from the audience, including the acting, staging, costumes and lighting."

For those not familiar with the legendary story, it is easy to be jarred by how frivolously Romeo and Juliet fall for each other. But we are meant to fall in love with the words, the timeless prose, as the two hopeless romantics of the story do. And Withrow and Schooler do it to the best of their ability and beyond.

To purchase tickets for the April 13 and 14 performances, call the Schoolcraft College Bookstore at 734-462-4409. Tickets are \$12 (theater only)



(above) Withrow and Schooler share a dramatic onstage kiss. (below) The two young soulmates receive great counsel from the characters played by Friar and Tumminello.



Professor James Hartman has led yet another hard-working team to put on a great presentation of this classic masterwork.



PHOTOS BY MANDY GETSCHMAN

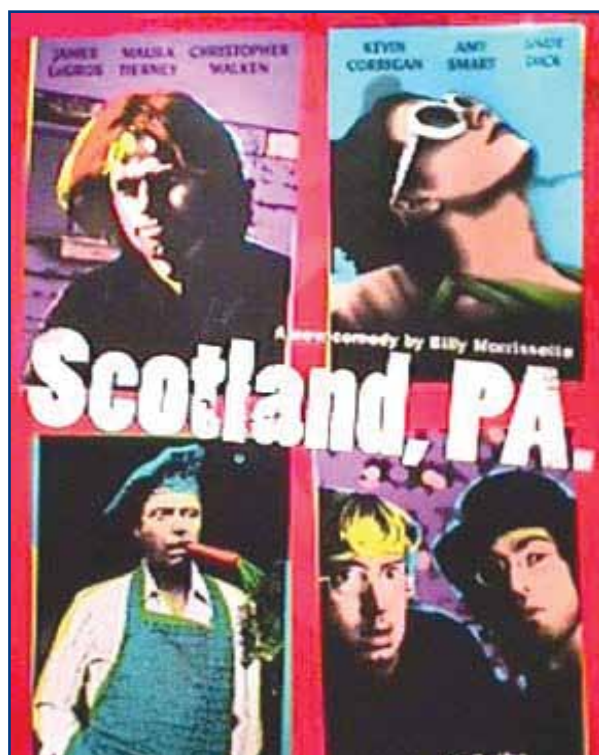
Gifted actor Jarod Withrow explodes with emotion as Romeo hears tell of his banishment from the city of Verona and his beloved Juliet.

Friday Night Rentals

ILLUSTRATION BY MANDY GETSCHMAN

21st Century Shakespeare

By TODD WALSH, TIERNEY SMITH, & ALYS DOLAN
STAFF WRITERS & A&E EDITOR

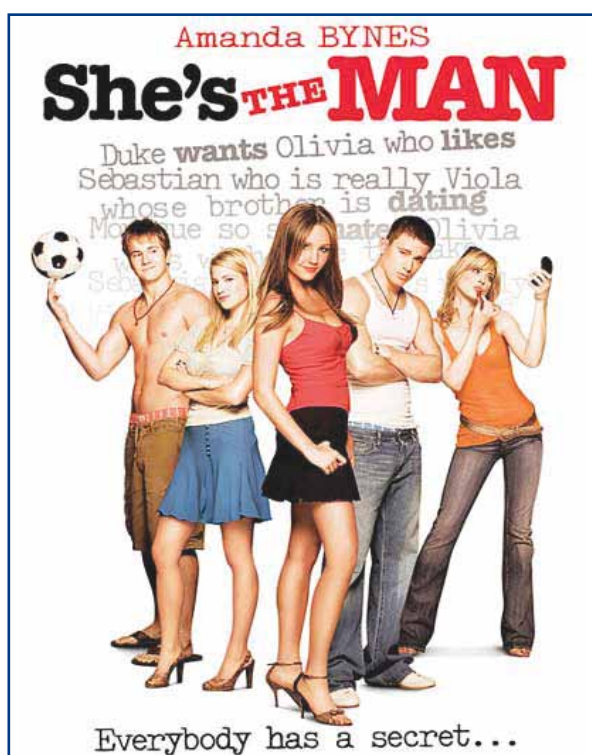


"Scotland, PA" (2001)

"Scotland, PA" is a modernized version of the Shakespeare's "Macbeth," where Macbeth takes over a fast food restaurant instead of an entire country. "Scotland, PA" is a fun and engaging film, especially if there is an understanding of the clever jokes and creative parallels between the movie and the original play. Instead of the bloodstain that causes Lady Macbeth to go crazy, it is the grease from the deep fryer, and instead of witches it is a group of doped-up fortune-telling hippies.

The film is set in the '70s, and has a more modern dialect as apposed to the Old English text of the play. One does not have to be a Shakespeare buff to enjoy this film, for the great cast and humor lead to a great time. Possibly the best part is Christopher Walken as Lt. Macduff who searches for Macbeth as a cheesy '70s cop stereotype.

The film still stays true to the original theme of the play and demonstrates how revenge, fate, manipulation and guilt can play a role in human nature. Those familiar with Shakespeare will enjoy how uniquely faithful the story is to the original, but anyone can enjoy the bizarre dark comedy of the film.



"She's the Man" (2006)

In this modern day adaption of "Twelfth Night," Shakespeare's characters Viola, Sebastian, Olivia, Andrew, Festa and many more come to life in "She's The Man" starring Amanda Bynes and Channing Tatum. Just as in the play, this romantic comedy takes place in Illyria. But instead of being an island, it is a high school where Viola (Amanda Bynes) dresses as her brother, Sebastian, after he leaves for London. During the first two weeks at Illyria as "Sebastian," she falls for Orsino (Tatum) who falls for Olivia, who falls for Sebastian, who is Viola. When her brother returns, things get confusing as they discover there are multiple "Sebastians."

"She's The Man" falls short of being a truly great comedy, but it's still a decent bubblegum movie with some laughs to be had and an "awe" or two. While the romance is cliché, what holds the viewer's attention is whether or not Viola's cover will be blown and will she end up with the man of her dreams. If you're a fan of "The Twelfth Night," give this variation a shot.



"Ten Things I Hate About You" (1999)

Take an awkward guidance counselor, a popular girl, a beefcake who thinks he is a model, a geek and the uniquely-charged outcast and you have the perfect '90s flick. "Ten Things I Hate About You" is a loosely-based film adaption of William Shakespeare's "The Taming of the Shrew." It features the late, great Heath Ledger, an adorable Julia Stiles and the recent and unexpected heartthrob Joseph Gordon-Levitt. This is a movie to be watched multiple times to catch all the clever jokes, hidden references and comedic antics of the cast.

Cameron (Gordon-Levitt) has fallen for the popular and pure Bianca (Larisa Oleynik), but the problem hits when he finds out that the dreamy Joey Donner (Andrew Keegan) is also pinning for the Stratford sister. After enlisting the aid of the fair Patrick Verona (Ledger) the cast turns Padua High upside down with humor, and a bit of musical flair. An absolute classic and one of the best scenes in movie history features Verona performing "Can't Take My Eyes Off You" on a crowded football field to the angry Cat Stratford (Stiles), as an apology. This movie is a clever adaptation of a Shakespeare play and remains timeless. The story, and characters are relatable to any person who attended high school.

A day in the life of ...

Lightning-quick Plymouth Whalers veteran

ALEX ALEARDI



PHOTOS BY MANDY GETSCHMAN

During Game 1 of the Western Conference Quarter Final, Alex Aleardi scores a short-handed goal in the second period.



BY DANIEL PEAKE
SPORTS EDITOR

The Plymouth Whalers have done a phenomenal job in the 2011-12 regular season. With a 47-18 record, a second place seat in the Ontario Hockey League's Western conference and a well deserved playoff berth, this year has been a memorable one for the Whalers organization. The season has been filled with the ups and downs, the acrobatics, the dramatics, the fights and, oh yes, the fans that make hockey the most action-packed sport on ice. Now of course it's been a team effort that allowed the Whalers to make it this far. Nonetheless, we here at the Connection thought it best to introduce the readers to a vital part in the Whalers' success this season: Whalers veteran Alex Aleardi.

This Right Wing forward, who hails from Farmington Hills, began to make his mark in the OHL in 2008. Aleardi was selected by the Kitchener Rangers in the third round (43rd overall) in the 2008 OHL Draft. Alex spent his rookie season in 2008-09 with the Kitchener Rangers, but was traded to the Belleville Bulls for the 2009 season. Finally in 2010, Alex was sent via trade

to his hometown team the Plymouth Whalers. Alex was one of the best in the league this season with 36 goals, 29 assists and 65 overall points.

How does this hockey hero function off the ice? What makes him tick? In a league filled with untapped potential, what makes this particular player so very unique?

The Connection caught up with Alex before practice to get a better understanding of his schedule.

Connection: So Alex, what's been your routine for this year?

Aleardi: Well, every day we meet up here at 10 a.m. for a morning warm up and practice. We leave for the morning, and then meet back up at 1 p.m. for another team practice. We end the day at 4 p.m. with a team workout. I usually leave out of here around 5:30 p.m.

Conn.: Do you have any special workouts or conditioning regimens?

Aleardi: Yeah, just the standard team stretch. I usually come a few hours before practice to stretch myself out a little more. A lot of times the team will play a little game of

soccer just to warm ourselves up before the team stretch.

Conn.: On game day, what mindset do you try to put yourself in?

Aleardi: Well it's my 4th year in the league now, so I pretty much have a zone now that I put myself in. I just try to keep myself in the mentality that I'm playing for the guy next to me, you know?

Conn.: Playoffs are coming up pretty fast. How confident are you?

Aleardi: Yeah, we're definitely the team to do it. We've got the full package this year. All the guys here are really tight knit, so we definitely have a chance to do something special this year.

Conn.: What are your plans for the future? Where do you want your role on the team to take you next?

Aleardi: Well, hockey is definitely my passion and I really want to make a career out of it. After this year, my goal is to hopefully move on to the NHL. The way I see it, the further your team goes, the higher the chances that someone notices you and that leads to being drafted. But as for right now I just really want to win the Memorial Cup!

Talking with Alex proved one vital point: it takes more than just an athletic presence on the ice – it takes an overall lifestyle and mentality to be the best and Aleardi, as well as the many players on the Whalers squad this year, has the potential to go far. This could indeed be the year that the Whalers take their club all the way. Remember the name Aleardi, because it is not hard to imagine that this young player is bound to be selected by an NHL team soon.

For more information about the Plymouth Whalers, check out their website at www.plymouthwhalers.com.



Schoolcraft's new shooters

Campus club features students' passion for table tennis and pool

BY DANIEL PEAKE
SPORTS EDITOR

Here at Schoolcraft, nothing is more exciting than a new club. Moreover, what's better than an extracurricular group organized solely around the love of pool? Schoolcraft College now has its own pool and table tennis club, called T²PC (Table Tennis Pool Club) ran by students for students. "It's a fun way to pass the time," said co-manager Hussein Ozier, "Most of us come down here in between classes just to hang with friends and enjoy the game."

T²PC came into being this semester after student Zachery Webber was given the responsibility of organizing the area. "Last year I was literally always down here playing table tennis. This year my goal was to help change the atmosphere down here. Last year it was completely different, and I just wanted to help make it into a fun and friendly place for all students." Webber has done a phenomenal job thus far with the up and coming club, taking the leisure equipment given to the regular students of the Lower Waterman and transforming it into

a premiere hangout for students, and even some employees.

Recently, T²PC hosted its first annual pool tournament. The competition featured a host of individuals, all with different skill levels coming together to play a memorable game of pool, with hopes of receiving not just the monetary prize but the bragging rights for a whole semester. T²PC plans to host additional tournaments at least once a semester with hopes of getting their club the publicity it needs to grow into a major contender in the well-lit list of Schoolcraft clubs and activities. That goal shouldn't be too difficult since according to Webber, "I've never seen the pool table without people playing on it".

The popularity of this young club is on the rise. Aspirations for the group include raising more money for more club events and competitions, acquiring a new pool tables and equipment along with new equipment for table tennis and even establishing scholarships for its members. Who knows ... this club could even blossom into a new Ocelots team, competing with different schools and pool teams around the collegiate circuit. Only time will tell. Nonetheless, all we can say is look out for this club on the rise. It is bound to grow into a popular trend here on the Schoolcraft campus in no time.



PHOTO BY GARRET DARIAN TOTHS

SC student Beau Banner participates in the Pool Tournament sponsored by the T²PC

Fuel the FIRE

Nutritional tips to keep you moving

BY THE FITNESS CENTER TEAM

There are multiple ways to explain how nutrition works in your body. There is the detailed outline that a Registered Dietician can provide, and then there is a flood of misinformation. The main subject to keep in mind is that if our bodies burn what we consume, we will burn calories through the day with a healthy balanced diet. For this article we'll skip the technical stuff, and just give you some food for thought.

We've all seen a fire. They all start with a small amount of the right materials to get it burning, for example, twigs, dry paper and an ignition source. Once it's started, we slowly add logs and other materials to keep it burning. But when it's time to put it out, we either let it dwindle down to a few coals or make sure there are no more big flames. We don't throw a huge log on it right when we're done. First of all, it won't burn because the fire has dwindled and second, we should have burned it when the flame was at its peak. Are our bodies any different?

Let's use a fire to explain and get a grasp of how our bodies process and burn food. When we wake up in the morning, we need to get the fire going. We don't want to start with a huge log (big meal) because we need just enough to get us going. A balance of carbohydrates,

fats, proteins and hydration is no different than twigs, dry materials and an ignition source. This proper fuel balance will start our bodies off the right way in the morning and carry us all the way through the day.

So, we have our fire started from our balanced breakfast and we want to keep the flame going as the day progresses. Now is the time to add the bigger logs (a hearty, balanced lunch containing complex carbs - breads and grains). We do this midday, because we'll be able to burn and use what we've put into our bodies as the fire is at its peak.

It's not time for another smaller log (dinner) just yet, but we need to keep the fire going until then. This is when we add just enough to keep it hot (snacks). Simple carbs (fruits) and healthy fats will provide just enough to keep us burning. When the time does come for that final log (dinner), we have to be sure it can burn out before we let the fire die down (go to bed). A light, balanced dinner filled with lean proteins and greens are just enough for that final flame.

When the fire dies down for the night, it still has some hot coals for when we want to start the fire back up in the morning (breakfast) because we fed the fire appropriately all day and it never extinguished. Using this analogy will hopefully keep you burning from that first spark to that last log.

Fueling the fire all day also ensures that you will have enough energy for your physical activity and workouts. Proper nutrition (and timing) along with a well-rounded fitness program are the ingredients to a healthy body. Visit the professionals at the brand new Schoolcraft College Fitness Center in the Physical Education building for more information on how to reach your health and fitness goals!

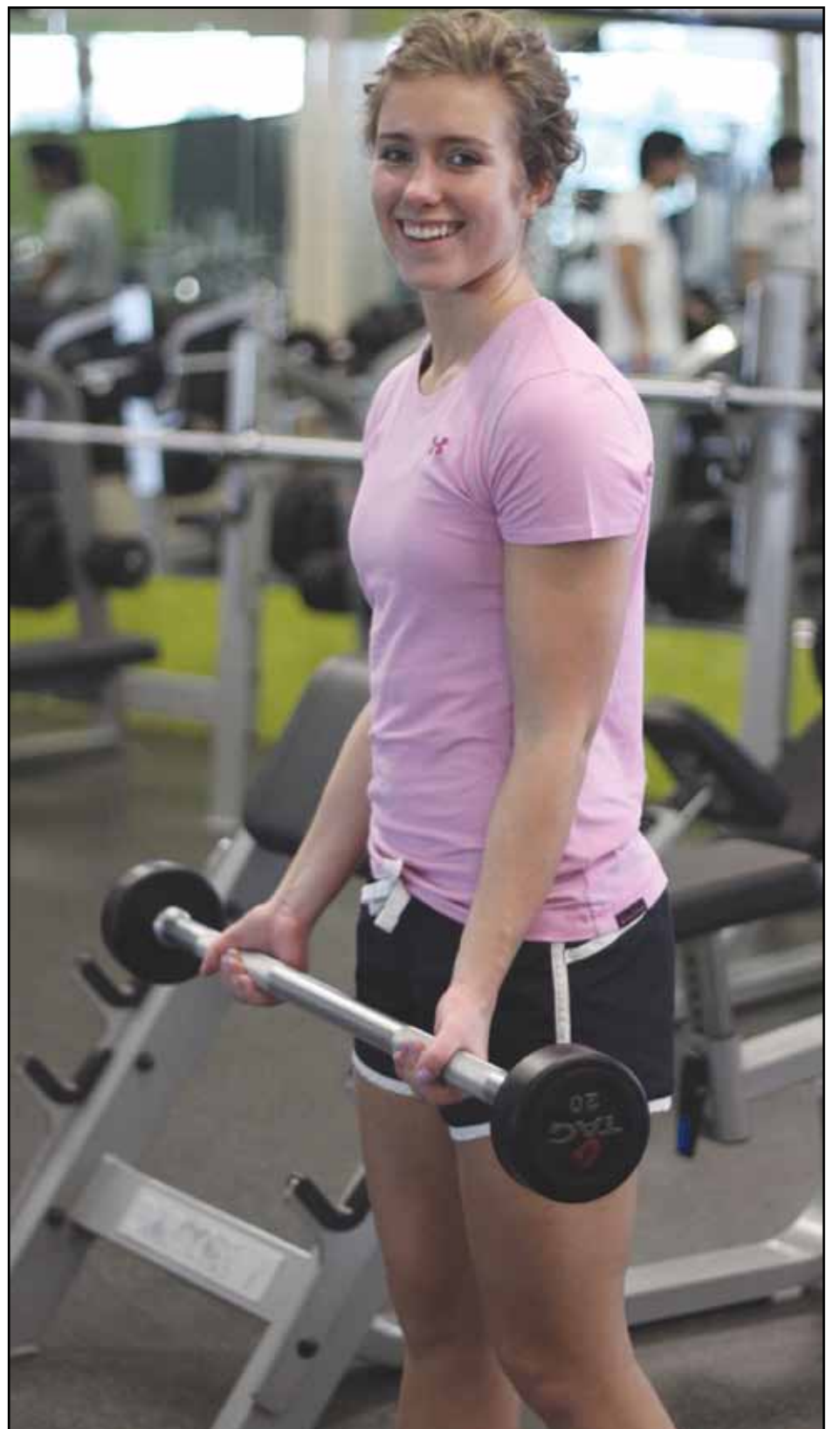


PHOTO BY GARRET DARIAN TOTHS

First-year student Nicole Molnar works out in the SC Fitness Center.

Hockeytown ready for postseason

Detroit Red Wings report

BY CHARLIE HARRISON
STAFF WRITER

The Detroit Red Wings have all but secured an NHL playoff berth, yet people can't stop getting excited for a probable long playoff run in Hockeytown. If predictions around the heart of Detroit stand true and the Red Wings make the postseason, it'll be the 21st consecutive time that they've skated into the playoffs. The Wings are a great bet to make a solid showing but how far can they go? Can they win it all this year? Will a late-season swoon lead to a first-round exit? So many questions surround the Wings this year but, with that being said, the Red Wings are poised to make a run at the championship.

Solid Footing

The Red Wings currently sit in 4th in the Western Conference. A rash of injuries to key players caused the team to stumble from the top spot in the league. Many of the injured skaters have returned but the team finds itself battling for playoff position and the opportunity for the home ice advantage in the first round. There is little cause for concern because earlier in the season, after winning the first five games, the team went on a mini slump losing six straight before finally rediscovering their winning ways.

How does a team make a statement? Winning 23 consecutive games at the Joe Louis Arena certainly helps. The 23-game streak was not only a franchise record, it was also an NHL record and one not to be taken lightly by opposing teams. If the Red Wings can move up the standings and clinch home ice throughout the playoffs, then the team's prowess at home will be a huge part of their postseason play.

Injuries will make or break a team

Captain Nicklas Lidstrom, a 19-year veteran who decided to give it one more season, has been nursing an ankle injury but was able to get back on the ice to face-off against the



PHOTO BY RENA LAVERTY

Detroit forward Henrik Zetterberg takes possession of the puck.

Carolina Hurricanes on March 24. Pavel Datsyuk had a knee injury, but made his return on for the showdown on Saturday, March 17 against the San Jose Sharks.

That game was a big one because the Sharks were outside of the playoffs looking in. Last year, the Wings made a historic run against the Sharks forcing a game seven, against all odds, just to lose and be eliminated. After two exits at the hands of the San Jose, it's something Detroit fans have not forgotten and revenge comes to mind.

Detroit has a tough road ahead

Sidney Crosby is ready to return to the ice and propel his Penguins to a deep playoff run and, if he can stay healthy, Pittsburgh is expected to be a serious contender coming out of the Eastern Conference. The New York Rangers, a team that has surged to the top of the Eastern Conference is another favorite along with the Philadelphia Flyers.

The St. Louis Blues, a Central Division rival, are

enjoying a defensively-minded approach and have adopted a playing style that is likely to propel them deep into the postseason. The Vancouver Canucks, last year's Stanley Cup finalist from the West, and the Nashville Predators also pose significant threats to the Red Wings making it to another Stanley Cup battle.

For the Red Wings, it's a long road to another parade down Woodward Avenue. How the team plays going forward will determine how the roster will look going into the future. An early playoff exit could be a sign that the roster is in need of an overhaul as the team's best players are all well into their 30s. Add in the potential loss of team captain Lidstrom and the threat of an NHL lockout looming on the horizon, fans could be a quick playoff exit away from the end of an era of incredible championship hockey.

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Detroit Tigers are poised to roar

2012 MLB Season preview

By **BILLY BLUETURTLE**
STAFF WRITER

When the Tigers were knocked out of the 2011 playoffs by the Texas Rangers, it was obvious that Detroit fans had a lot to look forward to in 2012. The bulk of the pitching rotation was under contract and entering its prime. In the field, veteran players from the 2006 World Series roster were replaced by younger players eager to earn a spot on the team. Team President and General Manager Dave Dombrowski would need only to tweak the roster to remain competitive in the American League Central Division.

Then a freak injury put designated hitter Victor Martinez on the shelf for the year and suddenly the Tigers' impressive offense was missing a key component.

Before panic could set in, Tigers owner Mike Ilitch opened up his checkbook and doled out a \$216 million contract to free agent first baseman Prince Fielder. While baseball experts are skeptical of the long-

term wisdom of a nine-year deal for a 275-pound 27-year-old player, it's an undeniable offensive upgrade for 2012.

Departures are always an important aspect of whether a team improves or falls back to the pack. In this case, the organization might experience addition by subtraction through the exit of oft-injured Carlos Guillen and Magglio Ordonez, along with maddeningly inconsistent Brad Penny. Though all three players enjoyed careers with all-star accolades, they were shells of their former selves for the last two campaigns. Even mediocre replacements will offer manager Jim Leyland increased flexibility.

Around the diamond, Fielder will be the only new face with many familiar players taking on more prominent roles. Catcher Alex Avila will return to his place behind the plate with spot rests thanks to the return of former Tiger Gerald Laird. Fielder will be a fixture at first base, Jhonny Peralta returns to short stop and Miguel Cabrera makes the move across the diamond to third base. Second base remains a question mark, Brandon Inge attempts to hang on to a major league job as he battles Ryan Rayburn for

the starting position. In the outfield, Brennan Boesch and Austin Jackson are guaranteed spots, but the remaining positions will see a platoon of some combination of Delmon Young, Andy Dirks and Don Kelly.

While the offense promises to be impressive, the defense could be a season-long nightmare of historic proportions. Neither Cabrera nor Fielder are fleet of foot and Peralta's best defensive days are definitely behind him. The 34-year-old Inge and his reconstructed knees might be the best option on an infield of defensive butchers.

On the mound, the Tigers seem positioned for success. The rotation of Max Scherzer, Doug Fister, Rick Porcello and Cy Young/AL MVP-winner Justin Verlander has as much potential as any in the American League. Considering how little the departed Penny brought to the fifth spot in the rotation, it's hard to believe a journeyman or minor league replacement could do much worse.

While it's unlikely the bullpen will be as dominant as last year – Jose Valverde's perfect run of closing games will be nearly impossible to replicate – there were no significant personnel losses and bullpen arms are

one thing that can be easily replaced during the season.

Within the division, the Minnesota Twins and Chicago White Sox both seem to be in rebuilding mode (though one or the other is sure to provide surprising mettle) while the Cleveland Indians will be doing what they can to stay out of the AL cellar. That leaves the up-and-coming Kansas City Royals as the one team in the Central that boast as much talent as the Tigers. Of course, that talent is raw and likely a year or two away from maturing into a real threat.

That leaves the Tigers organization with a unique window of opportunity. While winning in the postseason is a matter of getting hot at the right time (see the 2006 and 2011 St. Louis Cardinals), no team has ever won the World Series without making the playoffs. Winning the division title is the only way to guarantee a postseason berth. With their four division rivals each looking to find their own way, Leyland's team is in the best position to win in the foreseeable future. For that reason, 2012 promises to be an exciting season for the Detroit Tigers and their fans.

PHOTO BY MANDY GETSCHMAN



Plymouth Whaler Tom Wilson smiles as he faces off against Guelph during game 1 of the playoffs.

Man the harpoons! Playoffs in Plymouth

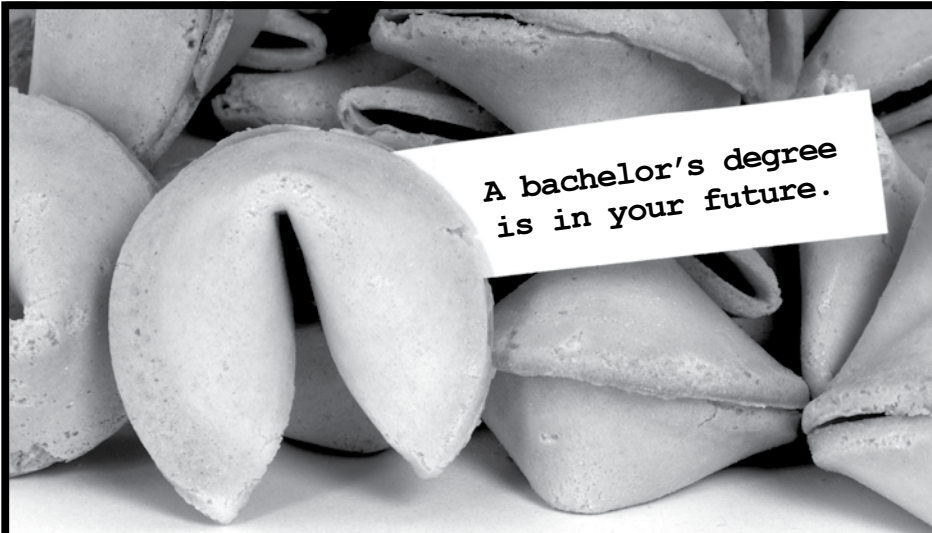
By **DANIEL PEAKE**
SPORTS EDITOR

The time has come again, ladies and gents: playoff time in the Ontario Hockey League! The only thing better than OHL postseason play is seeing your home team duke it out for the Memorial cup. This year, once again, the Plymouth Whalers are in a hard-fought battle for a successful playoff run. During the regular season, the Whalers pulled off a great winning record, compiling a solid 47-18 record two games. This means they are only two points behind the number one ranked London Knights.

Led by players like Stefan Noesen and Austin Levi, the Whalers proved themselves once again to be a formidable opponent in the Western conference. Last year, the Whalers ended their playoff run shy of an OHL championship. But this year things look much more positive for the red-hot Whalers. Starting off their 2012 playoff tenure, the Whalers are paired with the number 7 ranked Guelph Storm. This series is sure to be a down-to-the-wire match-up, but this writer predicts an earlier playoff victory for our Whalers. All in all, this year's OHL playoff is bound to be one that keeps the audience on the edge of their seats. Stay tuned to see just how proud the Plymouth whalers makes us late in this 2012 postseason.

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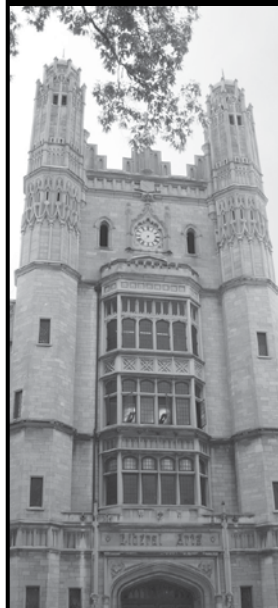
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Puzzle by Chris Kovacs

Don't forget to check what is happening on campus in the Campus Life section! See page 10



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SOLUTION PAGE 34

Student LEADERSHIP Record

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FACIAL HAIR-OSCOPES

By MADAME MYSTIQUE
STAFF PSYCHIC

Mountain Man

3/21-4/19

Your life has seemed like a hot frizzy mess due to the increase in temperatures not only outside, but also inside the office or school. Try not to let those with hot tempers keep you on edge, instead keep their attention on something else. Things will work out to your advantage when you learn to manage your enemy.

Burnsides

4/20-5/20

You seem to stand out of a crowd and cause many curious looks whenever you go out, but do not let the skeptics keep you from marching to the beat of your own drum.

Circle Beard

5/21-6/20

If life seems a bit on the dull side as of the last few weeks, try spicing it up a bit and get a new routine going. A new workout, go to the bar, or even morning coffee treat could lead to a totally new outlook on life.

Van Dyke

6/21-7/22

You may have noticed that your style and home seems a bit dated. Might I suggest working in some more modern pieces to your décor or wardrobe to shed a new light on your outlook of life. It will do wonders for your attitude.

Handlebar

7/23-8/22

You are a strength and an asset to your work, team, school, or class. Do not let others try to bring you down. Although it may seem like you come on strong, your intentions are good and your ideas are clever, so stay true to yourself.

Full Beard

8/23-9/22

When you walk into a room you are the only thing people notice because of your authoritative presence. Although many may fear you, like the hyenas feared Mufasa, keep a tight hand, but be gracious to those underneath you.

Balbo

9/23-10/22

You seem to go unnoticed by your peers, and life seems very dull at the moment. Keep your chin up and keep working hard toward your goals, and one day your hard work will be rewarded.

Dali

10/23-11/21

Your elegance and sophistication is expressed in anything you touch. Remember to keep this consistent and you will always be remembered for your class and style.

The Amish

11/22-12/21

You are charged with being out dated and stiff, so shake things up a bit and show those naysayers that you have got a rock and roll edge to you! Mix things up a bit at the office, school, or with that special someone to show people you are not a stick in the mud.

Mutton Chops

12/22-1/19

Lay low for a while, for it seems like you have gotten yourself into some sticky situations. Instead of proclaiming your, ever so important, opinion, hold back and be less abrasive, you do not want to scare of potential mates.

Manicured Scruff

1/20-2/18

Although you are well tailored and proper, try to be more approachable; you tend to rub people the wrong way. Try to tone down your "me" talk and you may catch more flies with honey, rather than vinegar, or so they say.

The Door Knocker

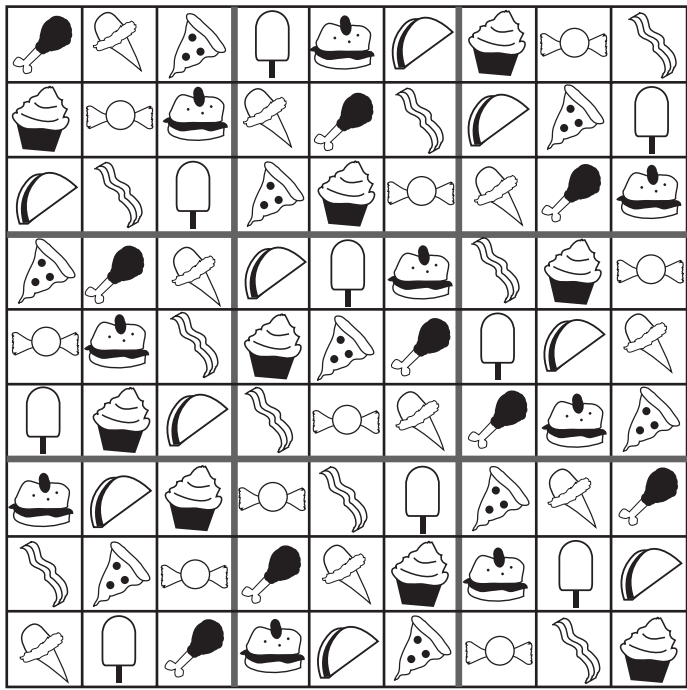
2/19-3/20

You are very energetic and upbeat, and you can strike up a conversation with anyone out there, but be careful whom you let into your life. There are always enemies lurking in the shadows that try to ruin your fun.

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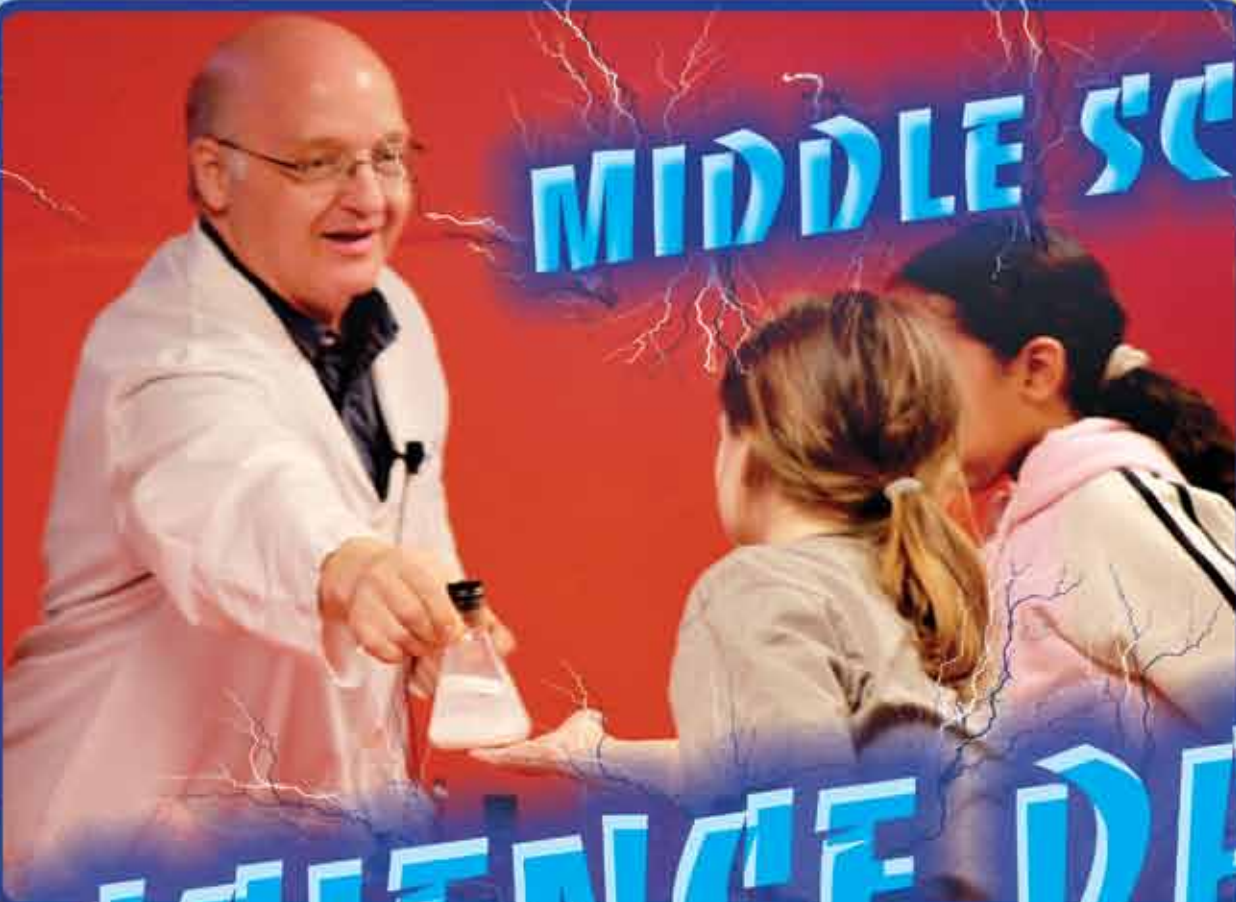


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MIDDLE SCHOOL



Professor Micheal Waldyke of the Department of Chemistry lets two middle school students guess what kind of reaction the chemical will have.

SCIENCE DAY

By CHRISTOPHER KOVACS

Middle school students were invited to attend Schoolcraft College's Science Day. While students were in the Lower Waterman, they were joined by Professor Paul Holody's presentation on how objects spin in "Welcome to the Spin Zone." Professor Christopher Wood, with his Schoolcraft College assistants Ashley Testorelli and Jeremy Villa, brought the students miniature homopolar motors to build and keep, while testing the knowledge of the students on motors and electromagnets. "Dramatic Reactions" was lead by Professor Micheal Waldyke and his Schoolcraft College assistant Ashi Arora, in which the middle school visitors had the chance to do some of the experiments that Professor Waldyke does with his students. Following the presentations was the chance for visitors to talk with the professors and interact in multiple hands-on stations like "What Floats Your Boat?" led by Schoolcraft's Eliada Ziraj and Professor Micheal Waldyke's "Frozen Bubbles."



Student assistant Ashi Arora sets up the catalyzed chemical reaction for Professor Waldyke.



Professor Waldyke working through the Catalyzed chemical reaction.

Jacob Barrentt spins with weights to illustrate rotational inertia.



Ashi Arora implodes a pop can with only a burner and a bit of chemicals.