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A stockingful of holiday diversions

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The Schoolcraft Connection

VOLUME 26 ISSUE 07

We Print News, Not Lies

December 3, 2012

A SENSE OF SPIRIT



Despite losses, basketball teams' fundraiser lifts spirits

BY ABDALLAH CHIRAZI
SPORTS EDITOR

The Student Activities office and the Athletics department teamed up to sponsor the Spirit Night fundraiser on Wednesday, Nov. 28, 2012.

Both the Schoolcraft Men's and Women's Basketball teams took on Kellogg Community College in a thrilling doubleheader in the Physical Education Building on the college's main campus.

The event was created to raise funds for Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Metropolitan Detroit. The decision to sponsor this specific organization was essentially an easy choice. Their mission is simple: to provide children facing adversity with safe, strong and enduring relationships to ultimately change lives for the better. Their vision is well defined, to help children achieve success in life – attending great schools and living in strong communities forever.

Commemorative t-shirts and admission were priced for \$5 to help support the cause. The event also featured exciting entertainment for all those in attendance. Fans enjoyed music by DJ Jason George of United Productions, half-time performances by the Schoolcraft Dance Team, Schoolcraft Beat Boys and Azavier Robinson's Michael Jackson Tribute. In addition, during the game, Fuze drinks were given at no cost and popcorn was sold for 50 cents, along with door prizes.

Ocelots Fizzle

The Women's basketball team kicked off this eventful night. Fans piled in to watch their Lady Ocelots (2-4) take on the Kellogg Bruins (2-2).

The Ocelots were at a disadvantage right before tipoff with a short bench, only having an active roster of six players. This would prove to be detrimental, as Schoolcraft fell 57-43.

As the first half got underway, the Ocelots were struggling to generate any offense, scoring five points in ten minutes. Down 13-9 with 8:25 to go, center Ajai Meeks helped power the Ocelots to a 25-20 lead heading into halftime.

Meeks scored 11 points and had seven rebounds at the end of the first half.

The stats were hard to digest, as both teams shot below 30 percent from the field- a combined 16-60 shooting.

The second half proved to be an offensive struggle as well for both teams. With roughly ten minutes remaining, Schoolcraft's Courtney Dyer drained a 3-point shot for the Ocelots, to tie the game at 34-34 giving the Ocelots an opportunity to pull ahead.

Without much relief from having a short bench, Schoolcraft seemed drained both physically and mentally. They had no answer for a team that had a full thirteen player rotation. Bruins Janeesa Jamieron scored a quick five points to put Kellogg up 42-34 with 7:55 left to play. Unfortunately, Schoolcraft never recovered.

"As far as the team we are not playing together the best we can", said Dyer. "We have to work on our individual attitudes and come together and play hard. As far as having a six-player rotation, we are not tired. We are in shape and have to get things together."

Lady Ocelot Game Notables:

Schoolcraft College had a roster that had six players rotating. Three Ocelots played all 40 minutes (Courtney Dyer, Ajai Meeks and Brittany Longhini). Not one Kellogg player played over 30 minutes.

In Addition, special guest coach Patricia Donohue-Ebach, Manager of Schoolcraft College Fitness Center, coached the Ocelots.

Broken Spirits

Shortly after the Lady Ocelots suffered a disappointing loss, fans were treated to the second game of the double-header featuring the Men's Basketball team. Despite a valiant effort by the team, Schoolcraft (3-3) slipped against Kellogg (3-5) by the final score of 83-78.

In the first half, the Bruins



PHOTOS BY ANDREW KIELYKA

(Above) Sophomore Richmond Jackson struggles against the Bruin defenders.



(Left) Sophomore Courtney Dyer whips past a Kellogg player as she races down the court.



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Counting on the trustees

November election results in changes to board leadership

BY MIRANDA ANDERSON
STAFF WRITER

During this past November election, voters went to the polls to select the next Schoolcraft Trustees, among other elected officials. The race for the position was crowded, with eight candidates running for a spot on the board. There were both two- and six-year terms up for grabs. The result of the election were two new trustees, Terry Gilligan and Gretchen Alaniz, and one incumbent, Eric Stempien, being elected.

Terry Gilligan, a parent of a Schoolcraft student, was elected for the two year partial term which ends in 2014. Gilligan received 39,256 votes. His experience includes service on the Insurance Trust Fund board and the Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee. "I, personally, would like to see if I can make an impact on some of the frustrations that my son and our family share," Gilligan said, regarding his concerns for the College, "like how a lot of the classes will fill up in five or ten minutes at the midnight registration deadline. If there is that much demand for those classes to be run, then why aren't we running more classes?" Gilligan also said, "I look forward to representing all of the students and all of the hardworking men and women that work in and around Schoolcraft College."

Elected to the full, six-year term positions were Gretchen Alaniz and Eric Stempien. Alaniz came in second behind Stempien's 28,066 votes with 27,218 votes. Alaniz is a graduate of Central Michigan University and a senior manager at TRW Automotive. She also has experience as a member of the Livonia Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. She is now able to fulfill her goal of balancing representation on the board. "I want to bring industry and college together along with the community so that they can start to have frequent and direct dialogues about the needs of each [...]" Alaniz stated. Alaniz also noted that she wants to provide students with the opportunity to get internships and mentors.

Eric Stempien, the incumbent, was serving the remaining term of former board member Patricia Watson who retired in June 2012. Stempien's background is in law and finance. He is an attorney with 14 years of experience. Stempien also serves as General Counsel for an independent emergency transport service called Superior Ambulance Service. Both of Stempien's parents, Jeanne and Gregory, had served on the Schoolcraft's Board of Trustees. Eric Stempien's main concern for students of Schoolcraft is funding and tuition. He noted that Schoolcraft is funded by property taxes and tuition. "Property taxes are dropping so the state funding is dropping [and that means] the only other place to get funding is tuition. And that puts the biggest burden on the backs of the students, which is a very unfortunate circumstance," Stempien noted.

With the election over, the Board of Trustees are ready to go back to work. While they work behind the scenes to establish policies for the school, they also welcome their two new members Terry Gilligan and Gretchen Alaniz as well as incumbent Eric Stempien, who will get to serve full-term as a Schoolcraft trustee. Terms begin January 1 for newly elected Trustees Alaniz, Gilligan, and Stempien. At the Board's January 23 organizational meeting, new trustee members will be officially sworn in and officers will be elected.



RT @umich CEO of Twitter speaks

Dick Costolo talks Twitter at the University of Michigan

By **RAMON RAZO**
NEWS EDITOR

In just a few short years, Twitter has changed the way we communicate on the Internet. On Nov. 16, Twitter head executive and CEO Dick Costolo spoke at the University of Michigan Ann Arbor. Costolo (who is also a 1985 U of M grad) took time to talk about the major role Twitter plays in the social media landscape, as well as its future.

Costolo referred to Twitter as “the pulse of the planet,” as reported by *sourcenewspaper.com*. He began his speech by discussing how Twitter is sort of a modern day version of an agora. While most will recognize agora as the root word for “agoraphobia,” the word’s literal Greek translation is “a gathering place.” It was a place where people would gather to share information, much like Twitter does in the social networking world. He referred to Twitter as a global, digital agora. “During these unplanned events, like hurricanes, people start to think of it more primarily as a way to communicate. And again, the multiple perspectives only help, in that regard.”

Costolo said that the way in which we share information on Twitter allows for a method of communication that is untainted by biased news broadcasters and outlets. “We, once again, get an unfiltered perspective in what’s happening,” Costolo told the 1,000-plus attendees.

He also discussed during his presentation the 140 character limit used by Twitter. Costolo said that the character limit has stayed due to two reasons.

“One,” he said, “it makes it easier for everybody to tweet without having to feel like ‘Ah, I don’t have time to write a paragraph about this thing I’m seeing right now.’” Costolo said that, for the second reason, “part of it is there’s this poetry in the constraint of 140 characters that’s really remarkable and magical and we don’t know why it is so we’re not going to change it.” Anyone familiar with social networking will be all too familiar with the degree some can go to when voicing their opinions in a public forum, even going as far as to use all 500 characters of a Youtube comment. Twitter does away with this excessiveness and opens up opportunity for true discussion. “There’s all these fascinating changes when the playing field is completely level and everyone speaks with the same volume and the same access,” Costolo said.

Costolo also took the opportunity to make a major announcement. Costolo reported, according to *pressandguide.com*, that by the end of the year, users will be able to download their entire Twitter log. He said that even though he’d like to make a push towards this, the software engineers in charge of actually rebuilding the Twitter software and database weren’t too crazy about him making this announcement as they “don’t necessarily agree it will be done by the end of the year, but we’ll just keep having that argument and see where we end up at the year end.” The announcement, while premature it may be, was met with applause and cheer.



In other news

By **RAMON RAZO**
NEWS EDITOR

National News...

Back in September, Juan Darwin Martinze, 25, was found in a store parking lot after reporting to the authorities that he had been kidnapped by a couple of men. According to a spokesperson for the San Joaquin County Sheriff’s Office in California, the man had called his girlfriend, as well as local authorities, to inform them that he had been bound, gagged and taken to a storage shed, where he was told they were going to kill him. He was kept alive but they cleaned him out of \$1,500, as well as his yet-to-be-cashed paycheck. Here is where the plot thickens. Detectives later uncovered that he had, in fact, been gambling the previous day, playing high stakes Texas Hold ‘em. He managed to gamble away all his funds, including his paycheck. He reportedly claimed he lied because he thought his girlfriend would beat him. He also may or may not have told authorities he was pickpocketed at the casino in order to cover up the lie. He also may or may not be really dumb.

Broken Nation News...

In other news, as with all elections, there are winners, there are losers and there are sore losers. Sore loserism has been taken to a new level with several states boldly signing petitions in an attempt to, in fact, secede from the United States. When it was first announced, the very notion seemed like a knee-jerk reaction by some right-wing voters who simply could not stomach the idea of another four years under President Obama’s rule. After all, with headlines such as “Secession petitions filed in 20 states,” featured in the oh-so-journalistically-credible Yahoo! News, the response is likely to be, “But that’s probably just a fringe few, right? No one can be that outraged, can they?” It turns out they can.

Louisiana was the first to sign the petition, less than 24 hours after Obama won his re-election. 22 other states have followed suit. One has to take into consideration the oblong positioning of the secession-ready states, which would create for some awkward post-separation cross-country drives, kind of like when you end up at a stop light next to that person you delivered a crude hand gesture to, moments before. Strangely enough, some of them even include states that

voted for Obama – go figure. The petitions have been signed through the website “We the People,” which is actually a section of *whitehouse.gov*.

However, some have argued that the idea is not too farfetched. Those in favor of abandoning their rights as United States citizens try and cite the 10th Amendment, arguing that it allows for secession. For the less “Amendmentally” astute, it reads, “The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people.” This means that since an act such as a secession is not covered in the Constitution that gives individual states the authority to leave if they so choose. It’s also worth noting that this isn’t the first time that states, angered at unfavorable election results, have tried to secede (i.e. Civil War).

But wait, what was that thing about losing rights? Yeah, it looks like that might be a minor detail in regards to the whole secession things. We’ll see how this thing plays out.

Clown News ... wait, what?

They say the best medicine is laughter. It’s unclear how it cures the common cold or an amputation, but heck, if that disease is racism,

it’s worth a shot, right? In North Carolina, a Neo-Nazi group called the National Socialist Movement (NSM) held an anti-immigration rally. The group is very prominent and excels in attention-grabbing displays of white power, with a whopping 50 folks showing up to support their “cause.”

Then the clowns appeared. Overpowering their numbers by five to one, the protestor protestors (or “anti-protestors,” or maybe even “nega-protestors”) countered the hatred with humor, such as a man dressed as a court jester toting a sign, “Hate speech? Surely you jest!” Get it? It’s a pun! Other folks displayed signs that read, “History called: They want their racism back!” Get it? It’s an overused meme! Other nega-protestors held up pictures of the Pillsbury Dough Boy and shouted “white flour” in response to the NSM’s chanting of “white power.” While this hopefully taught these neo-hotsy-totsy-Nazis their lessons, it undoubtedly will only help in resurfacing the age-old grudge that has splintered itself between the clown culture and racism. Can’t we all just get along?

Campus Crime



Compiled by Josiah Thomas
Staff Writer

Disorderly Conduct

On Wednesday, Oct. 31 at 7:10 p.m., a young man with a red baseball cap, black jacket, white shirt and blue jeans was reported for breaking a wine bottle around the pool table in the Lower Waterman. According to one of the witnesses, the suspect had pulled the bottle from his coat and dropped it. The subject was identified and sent for student discipline.

Friday, Nov. 9 a student tried twice to get a full refund on a textbook. In the first incident, he offered \$20 to a clerk if she would give him a full refund for the book, but the clerk told the student they could not do that. He proceeded to give her and the manager a hard time about it. In the second incident, the store clerk informed the student, again, that he could not get a full refund for the book. The student became upset and lost his temper, after which he was confronted by the store manager and two Campus Security Police officers who told the student to make a complaint through Maxient, an online conduct manager for receiving collegiate incident reports via the Internet. The subject received a number to call the VP office, and he left the store without further incident.

Monday, Nov. 5, two males were seen fighting over a video game in the gaming area in the Lower Waterman at around 2:49 p.m. The incident was reported to the Student Activity Office who called Security. Both suspects left the area as Campus Security arrived.

Attempted Assault

At the Radcliff Center on Tuesday, Nov. 6 at 10:25 a.m., a heated argument in a classroom occurred between two students. One became so enraged that she began to use profane language. The other student rose up and had to be physically restrained from moving toward the other. After the situation calmed down, they were both permitted to come back to class.

Two days later, the students were met by a Campus Security Police officer after class was dismissed. In their written statements, it was discovered that the incident happened when one of them asked a question. The other became upset with the instructor for not disciplining the inquiring student.

Leaving the Scene of a Property Damage Incident

On Friday, Nov. 2, a Ford Focus parked in south lot was struck by an unknown vehicle. Damage was found on the Focus' left front wheel area, with a small dent and scrape, but no paint transfer. Damage appeared to come from the suspect's car door. The incident was beyond the visibility of security cameras.

Malicious Destruction of Property

A clerk in the Radcliff Center snack store filed a report on Wednesday, Oct. 31 at 11:30 a.m., stating that he had found a punctured energy drink in one of the coolers on three different occasions. Each time, he found inch-long slices in the sides of the cans. All these instances of vandalism have occurred at the start of his shift.

The next day, Nov. 1, at 2:00 p.m., four energy drink cans were found damaged in the Radcliff Center snack store. Three were found smashed against the ground while the other looked like it had been cut open. All four of the damaged cans had been hidden in the back of the cooler. The clerk had stacked the cans the previous day, but did not notice any damaged cans at the time.

Santa spent?



Snagging seasonal jobs is on many college students' wish lists

BY MONTGOMERY JONES
STAFF WRITER

With days like Black Friday and the day after Christmas being some of the busiest days in retail, many department stores could use all of the help they can get. Seasonal jobs are temporary jobs that employers offer based on the season. For example, working at Cedar Point in the summer or making campaign phone calls prior to the election are two examples of different types of seasonal jobs. Seasonal jobs tend to work really well for college students because often the seasons coincide with their scholastic downtime.

Big retailers such as Meijer, Target, Kohl's and Macy's look for that extra help during the winter break and leading up to the holidays. Websites like snagajob.com and simplyhired.com make it easy to know who is hiring. To find what businesses are hiring seasonal help, simply put your zip code into the website and you get a list of seasonal jobs in that area. In the Livonia area, Michael's Arts and Crafts, Target and Jet's Pizza are all examples of businesses that are currently hiring. Many stores in shopping malls across America are looking for an additional help with the increase in holiday shoppers.

Companies often benefit from seasonal help and sometimes retain their workers after the season is over. It's nice for the employee because the selection is plentiful, there's good money involved, and employees get to see if you like the job. Student Ehimare Arhebamen said "I'm always looking for a job. I wouldn't mind a seasonal job because I could always use more money."

The prospect of a seasonal position has many benefits, especially when it comes to extra cash

for Christmas shopping. Student Anthony Tippy said, "A seasonal job would be cool because there is so much stuff to buy around Christmas [and] I would hope they would keep me around."

When it comes to seasonal positions, there's always a chance that, if a seasonal employee performs well enough, that the employer will opt to keep them employed in the long run. Former Schoolcraft student Becca Ward was hired at Kohl's in Canton last year and is still currently employed there. Rachel Javery, a Human Resource Manager with Comcast, recommends that you meet as many people as possible at your new job and build relationships with the management so that prior to leaving for the season you can ask about working there in the future. This will relieve stress for the employee as well as the employer so it's a win/win for everyone.

Snagajob.com and websites similar to this also gives helpful advice as to how you can get hired. "Smile till your face hurts," states the website. "A positive attitude is the number one thing seasonal hiring managers look for." It also advises to be flexible with your hours, an aspect that can greatly benefit students with changing schedules. It also notes to apply at many different places aside from retail chains, like warehouses and restaurants.

Good paying jobs for college students are hard to come by. Paying for festive expensive gifts during the holidays only adds a burden to the pocket book. A seasonal job not only offers students a chance to gain some professional experience but also allows students make some extra bucks during the holiday season.



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

Check out Page 22

Holiday Safety Tips

COMPILED BY RAMON RAZO
NEWS EDITOR

With the holidays upon us, Steve Kaufman, Chief of the Schoolcraft College Campus Security Police, was kind enough to provide some useful safety tips. Keep these in mind in the coming weeks for a safe, enjoyable holiday season.

Schoolcraft College is an extremely safe place to be, and the possibility of something happening is remote. However, with any property open to the public, the potential for crime is always there, whether on Campus property or whether you are in a mall or office building parking lot, and even going to and from your home to your car. These tips from Officer Kaufman will help keep you safe no matter where you are:

Be Aware

Awareness is important in all aspects of our life. You can learn a lot by watching. [...] When walking out to your car, especially now that it gets dark early, don't be looking at your phone checking email, text messaging, etc. Walk and turn your head, scanning for potential trouble.

Take two seconds to look around before entering the parking lot. Take another two seconds to look around before unlocking your car and getting in. Lock your doors immediately after getting in.

Recognize Behavior

Is it normal or is it unusual behavior? Key in on non-verbal signs, signals [or] cues when approached by someone.

Trust Your Instincts

We all have a sixth sense/instinct. Don't ignore your instincts as it is your most important safety asset. Although it may not be apparent at the time, signals from your "sixth" sense are always based on something. Security is everyone's business. If you see something, say something. There are 12,000

eyes on campus and we need all of them to help keep the campus safe.

Avoid

Avoid potentially dangerous situations. It's much easier to avoid trouble than to get out of trouble. Make sure your car interior lights are set to go on when the door is opened/unlocked. This allows you to see in the car before getting in and allows you to be seen by passers-by if trouble begins.

Report

Who will you call? How will you call? Make a cell phone hotkey to CSP number 734-462-4424. [This allows you, in case of an emergency, to just] press one key in an emergency, not ten.

Additionally, the National Domestic Preparedness Coalition prepared a slew of tips regarding safety for people planning on traveling during the upcoming holidays.

They advise to not let your plans be known on social networking sites like Facebook or Twitter. For example, it's not a good idea to tweet something like, "Spending the weekend up north." This can give intruders a heads up of your house' vacancy. They also advise that you routinely check your voicemail so it doesn't fill up, for this too can be an indicator as to your absence.

They also suggest not having any mail or packages delivered to your house while you're away, and to also have a vehicle parked outside your house to give the appearance of someone at the residence at all times. Lastly, let your most trusted family members know your travel plans.

Follow these simple tips and you can look forward to a safe, sound holiday break.



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For more information, contact the Student Activities Office at 734-462-4422.

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- The First Amendment to the Constitution

HUMANITY'S CRITIC



By **JONATHAN KING**

EDITOR IN CHIEF

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Cnut and the cannabis tide

Last month, Colorado and Washington historically voted to legalize marijuana for recreational use, thus ending a 75 year prohibition on the substance. Excellent news, one would think, for the stoners of America (as well as the manufacturers of cheesy snacks). Well, not quite.

Federal law still deems marijuana illegal, classifying it as a dangerous drug. (Although there are droves of scientists, doctors and users that would cite that as unfounded.) President Obama has publicly spoken out against legalizing marijuana, in his stoic, King Cnut-ian fashion. But why? Why would this "president of change" stand in front of this clearly forward-moving revolution?

It's not as if this is the movement of a marginal minority. Over 83 million Americans – a quarter of the population – admit to having smoked marijuana at least once in their lives. (Oddly enough, despite my long hair and collection of Pink Floyd records, I am not one of them.) The list is long, diverse and storied, including celebrities, athletes and, most notably, the president of the United States. More on that later.

The legalization movement is building steam in unprecedented ways, with states like Maine and Iowa preparing to follow Washington and Colorado, in what could lead to a domino effect across

the nation. It's predicted that if the east coast follows in the west's footsteps, it could lead to over 10 states joining the legalization parade in the following few years. Why hold back the inevitable collapse?

Let's say popular opinion is meaningless. Why would the president of a nation in debt pass the chance to turn a money sink into a source of revenue? The state of Washington estimates \$532 million in yearly revenue from licensed marijuana retailers. If you multiply that by 50 states and remove the cost of keeping hundreds of thousands of drug offenders in prison (at the cost of up to \$60,000 per year, per prisoner) then suddenly this monetary black hole becomes a noticeable dent on the unsinkable iceberg that is our national debt.

Maybe Obama has other ways of balancing the budget, like a magic bag from which infinite money can be produced. Why would the president give up the chance to lead by his own example? President Obama smoked marijuana as a teenager, decided it was the wrong path for him and learned from his mis-

takes without the need for police intervention. Why do the rest of us not deserve that opportunity? Furthermore, Obama has firsthand experience of how easy it is for a young person to have their opportunities crushed by the prison system. As an intelligent person, he must understand that if he had been arrested for drug offenses, he would not be president today. How a person in his position of power can not take this into account is unfathomable.

Hopefully, during the next four years, Obama will gain the spinal fortitude necessary to end this prohibition at the federal level, and realize that these 83 million pot-smoking Americans – of which he was one – are not to be treated as criminals. Remember, if you do not have the right to put whatever you want into your own body you are not truly free.

Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good high.

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The Schoolcraft Connection is the award-winning, student-run newspaper published semi-monthly as an educational experience by the students of Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia, Michigan, 48152-2696. The editorial offices of The Schoolcraft Connection are located in the Student Activities Office on the lower level of the Waterman Campus Center, 734-462-4422.

The Schoolcraft Connection is a member of the Michigan Community College Press Association, the Colombia Scholastic Press Association, College Media Advisers, the Student Press Law Center, Community College Journalism Association and the Society of Professional Journalists.

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DRAMATIC MONOLOGUES



By Alys Dolan

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR
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Santy Claws is coming to town

'Tis the season to be jolly and deck the halls with wreaths and holly and along with this joyous season comes the exciting tradition of gift giving. Every year folks rush out to find the best present for loved family members, close friends and the big boss. Many parents shower their children with unnecessary luxury items that will get tossed aside after a few moments of enjoyment. A number of parents even find it appropriate to wrap up a fluffy baby animal, such as a puppy or kitten, in an attempt to create the best holiday memory their young toddler will ever experience.

These presents are often times not thought out and lead heartache and trouble. Little Lucy will unwrap the cutest little furry friend on Christmas morning and she will snuggle the little bundle until she grows bored with it. Then the little pup will be left to its own devices, which could mean the destructive mischief that young baby critters get into. Parents will get upset with little Sparky for tearing up a shoe or for nipping at their little girl and the first thing to go is the helpless animal.

After the gift-giving season has ended these animals flood local shelters where they are piled into cages with other unwanted or abandoned pets. They are left there until some kind soul adopts them, for many animals that can take months and others are left there forever. The heart-breaking truth is that these puppies and kittens sit in cages pawing and begging to go home, to a forever home.

Most shelters are unable to care for them and the Christmas present that little Lucy played with for a week is sadly euthanized because the family did not think the gift through. Before purchasing an animal be aware that the creature requires care and is not something that can be set down and left unattended. They require food, water, walks and vet visits which can be time consuming and expensive. Pets need a responsible parent and they are absolutely dependent on their owners for basic needs.

If the puppy or kitten idea has been properly discussed and worked into the family budget then, perhaps, adopting a slightly used dog or cat would make the best addition to the family. Shelters usually offer pet adoption specials on weekends and especially during the holiday season, so your family could make the difference in an amazing animal's life. What if your family's perfect "Fido" is sitting in a cage at the Humane Society just waiting to be taken to a warm and loving home? These animals are in desperate need of proper care and homes, so instead of getting the littlest puppy or smallest kitten from a pet store chain, look into adoption from a local shelter. This is the season for giving and there is no better gift than the perfect forever home for some animal in need.



TRUST ME, I'M A JOURNALIST

By Ramon Razo

NEWS EDITOR
misterrazo@gmail.com

Giving thanks (for Obama)

After clamoring and clawing at each other over who we want to take our money and blow up other countries, we can now head into a cycle of seasons about reflection, joy and thankfulness. And speaking of reflecting, after mulling over how bitter a lot of people are toward the election process, it really looks selfish on their part to not respect it. We do, in fact, seem to take being thankful, in and of itself, for granted. Do you realize how good we have it here? Do you realize that simply being able to demonize our elected officials is why we have it so good?

Well, it is. And here's why.

While Obama might not be the ideal pick for president (even for

a lot of Democrats/sell-outs), few seem to realize just how great it is for us to even have a say in the formation of the ruling bodies. Do you know what North Korea, Zimbabwe and Cuba all have in common? They don't have our freedoms. Heck, Libya doesn't even *have* a proper government right now. In Pakistan, you can get thrown in jail for daring to talk ill about Islam or the government and their current Prime Minister, Raja Pervaj Ashraf, is trying to get an international law banning "hate speech" (one of the most wretched, vague and damaging words ever invented by whiny, unintelligent individuals) against Islam. Furthermore, while many are frustrated at how America deals with issues like gay marriage and equality for woman, just remember that in Mauritania, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Iran, homosexuality is punishable by death and the practice of genital mutilation toward woman is still rampant in countries like Libya and even in the UK. Let's keep things in perspective.

Furthermore, in case you missed it, Israel has been bombing the day-lights out of Gaza. This little corner of the newspaper won't try and take sides in this conflict as it doesn't necessarily pertain to this topic. (But let's get one thing straight: What *should* the response of a country be when a militant group launches rockets at its citizens simply because it hates their guts? Food for thought.) Contrast that to the peace we have experience everyday in American. We have bad things happen, sure. Really bad

things. We have incidents like the Aurora shooting. But what we don't have is civil war. We don't have Canada bombing us due to religious zeal. And we don't have leaders that are actively trying to destroy us. These things are crucial to remember. Few of us will ever truly understand the fear and anguish many who live in the Middle East endure on a daily basis and we must keep that in mind.

But just as the Israelis don't let it halt their way of life, we should never let ourselves, lulled into feelings of tranquility, be guilt-tripped into thinking this is wrong. Above all, we are the wealthiest, healthiest (at least in terms of clean drinking water, medical availability, etc.), and safest of countries in the world. We should relish this but, above all, take advantage of it. Use freedoms to speak out against that which angers us but do it with respect and within confines of the law. Be the best that you can be, and improve your social status. Show the world you're better than handouts. While we can never have true equality, we have a system set up where we have all been given an equal playing field. That's something to be thankful for.

So as this year comes to a close and we count our blessings and the remaining dollars in our checking account, let's not forget what we are. We are a powerful and privileged nation, free from fear of continuous gun fire in our streets and economic collapse (for now, at least). And that's something we should all be thankful for.



A MUSING MAMA

By Brianne Radke

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR
bri_rad@hotmail.com

Keep the Christ in Christmas

'Tis the season of hustle and bustle. Many are already buzzing with the excitement of scoring the perfect gifts for loved ones, attending holiday parties and adorning our homes with all things glittery, shiny and twinkling. This also happens to be the time of year when those who are not enjoying the goodwill of the season band together against the religious themes in which much of the Christmas holiday is so deeply entrenched. All objective people should find this kind of outrage to be unsettling.

A frustrated group in Santa Monica,

Ca., has successfully thwarted a long-held community tradition. For 59 years, local churches have filled the public Palisades Park with elaborate nativity scenes. No longer is this the case. Last year, the opposing group participated in the event by posting anti-Jesus signage throughout the park, often right alongside the manglers and Magi. Public officials have now banned the presentation, which attracts thousands of local visitors and tourists to the area, in an effort to wash their hands of the ensuing argument. What a miserable result.

Year after year, parade planners, holiday decorating committees and even poor Charlie Brown find themselves in the middle of this sticky "Xmas" mess. Schoolteachers are trained to use religion-neutral terminology. Even among friends, "Happy Holidays!" is oft preferred over "Merry Christmas!" Instead of appreciating this Christian belief system for what it is – a template for a charitable and kind existence – we avoid it, tiptoeing around jargon and understating sentiment. What damage could possibly be done in a sincere and appropriately termed wish?

The Christmas holiday means different things to different people. Over hundreds of years, that which is a celebration of the Christ Child's birth for many has morphed into such a mash-up of cultural and religious

components that it can be enjoyed by all. Perhaps this is partly why it is the most popular holiday worldwide. Its prominence might also be attributed to the fact that, although it is not experiencing such rapid growth as other world religions and even "no religion," Christianity, in all of its forms, is the most widely practiced religion on earth, and its numbers are still increasing, according to Pew Research.

Here's the thing, at most, these stories and symbols incite reverence within those who subscribe to a particular faith. At the very least, they are pieces of one of the most popular bits of global folklore. In either case, they harm no one and, in any case, exposure to such elements in a public arena should spark meaningful conversation. To attempt to run such forms of expression underground is an attack on basic freedom. An effort to snuff out the seasonal joy of an entire population of believers represents the pervasive hate and intolerance that humanity would be better off without. Keeping Christ in Christmas should only keep the door open for equality among persons.

Wishing my fellow Ocelots a wonderful Winter Solstice, Soyal, Boxing Day, Pancha Ganapati, Kwanzaa, Chanukah, Christmas and December! And in the new year, I wish each of you peace.

OCELOT OPINIONS

Compiled & Photos by
Mathew Schwedt

"What is your favorite holiday memory and why?"



Sean Hyde

Major: Environmental Science

"Family dinner at Thanksgiving in North Carolina."



Mallory Dec

Major: Management/Marketing

"Making a gingerbread house every year with my family and decorating the Christmas tree."



Elizabeth Sarlauskas

Major: Child Development

"Having dinner with my family."



Marlon Brezinsky

Major: Business

"Christmas day - opening gifts with my family and attending Christmas parties."



Brandon Bilicki

Major: Business

"Christmas Day a few years back, my parents surprised me with a puppy."



Lindsay Fleming

Major: Education/Child Care

"Any of them with my entire family - mostly Halloween."



Rebecca Miller

Major: Culinary Arts

"Decorating Christmas cookies."



Brad Peliz

Major: Education

"Christmas Day - Nintendo 64. Need I say more?"



MANAGEABLE MISCHIEF

By Molly Martin

CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

mollyfaye29@yahoo.com

Planes, trains and automobiles

As the holidays draw near, everyone is figuring out their plans and deciding whether there will be family coming in or if there is travelling to be done. The question becomes how will we get there? Throughout time many new ways of travel have become available to the human race such as the automobile, plane, and various modes of transportation. However, there is the old traditions of travel as well, such as trains.

Nowadays people are highly impatient and feel the need to get everywhere as instantaneously and efficiently as possible. One option is taking the bus, even though one never knows how packed it is going to be. But be cautious on endeavors with this mode of transportation. In a 2009 study, approximately 221 bus crashes occurred that were fatal and 15 out of 19 times, the driver was at fault. So this makes everyone wonder, is there a better option?

Driving yourself is one way to go and can be relaxing, no matter how long or how short a drive may be. Speeding through the enchanting scenery while on the trip is also a plus but it still is not the fastest way to get places. It is also not the safest. In the same article mentioned above, it is said that public transportation is much safer than driving your own vehicle. In another report, it is said that about 806 accidents were fatal in 2009 making bus travel that much safer. With all of the terrible weather surrounding the holiday season, you have to wonder, once more, is there a better option?

Enter the airplane. Planes are the fastest mode of travel, taking someone from Michigan to Tennessee in less than two hours as opposed to a thirteen-hour trip by automobile. It is highly efficient and can get you anywhere there's an airport. Although it's a costly option, booking in advance can lead to significant deals on travel costs.

Planes are safe, the odds of being on an airline flight resulting in at least one fatality, for the top 30 airlines is 1 in 11.4 million. The security, is a little overwhelming at times and the airport can be hard to navigate through but, when you need to get somewhere and you can't be bothered with noisy and hectic traffic or bad weather, taking a plane is the safe bet.

No matter where or why families travel this season be cautious when deciding on how to get to the destination. The stress of the season can result in haphazard decisions but safe travel should not be one of them. There are many different ways to travel but make sure you make it a safe one this season. Happy Holidays!



WE ARE ALL WITNESSES

By Abdallah Chirazi

SPORTS EDITOR

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Sweet feet!

If you happen to catch a glimpse of Sam Gordon prepare to witness only flashes and blurs as her golden hair drifts in the wind. What makes Gordon so extraordinary isn't necessarily her talents but where she's able to showcase them, entering uncharted territory, making the gridiron her personal playground.

Somewhere in the Salt Lake City region is an all-boy football league that happens to be dominated by a nine-year-old girl. She puts on the hottest football peewee show in the country, electrifying audiences in attendance and those who happen to get a glance of her in the cyber world.

She holds unprecedented video-game-like stats, averaging around 35 touchdowns, nearly 2000 yards rushing on 232 carries. This offensive juggernaut nicknamed "Sweet Feet," also plays defense, tallying 65 tackles.

Although Gordon has opened a loophole for female athletes to break through the gender barrier and play in a predominantly all-male sport, we need to freeze time and consider the ramifications of allowing her to continue in the upcoming stages of her life. Who's to say Gordon, or any woman, can't shine at the next level?

What Gordon has been able to accomplish thus far is something we should embrace and marvel at for the moment. But should we allow women to play football?

Metaphorically speaking, she's a big fish in a small pond, and it's delightful to watch as she imposes her physical presence, sprint-

ing, cutting and weaving her way through her flimsy competition. But what happens when you put a big fish in the ocean? I'm assuming the survival rate just significantly decreased. There will come a day when Gordon will be outmatched and males will impose their will on her. Then what will we think? How enjoyable will it look then? Better yet, how will the male be perceived?

It's too risky, plain and simple. This is a case of numbers and physics. Numbers don't lie. Since the history of time there have been zero women playing a football contact position at the collegiate and pro level. In the interest of fairness, Gordon's aspiration isn't foreseen in the game of football but ultimately in soccer. Her success just happens to trigger a very intriguing debate.

Biology tells us that man is naturally at an advantage in terms of physicality - stronger, faster and bigger. Understand that this isn't referring to skill, determination or overall work ethic because women have all the capabilities to compete with men.

A 5 foot, 4 inch female weighing 130 pounds would calculate to have a 22.3 BMI (body mass index)

- this would be the ideal weight for a female athlete. Compare to NFL linebacker Ray Lewis who, when attempting to bull rush another athlete, generates 500 pounds of force - 300 less than the standardized batting ram used to take down a solid wooden door. Now imagine those two elements meeting in a head-on collision.

Gordon's ability to dominate at particularly young age against the opposite gender will translate differently at the next level. Add to that the psychological implications of initiating harm to a woman in today's society. The thought of unintentionally endorsing or associating with violence towards women is morally unjustified, even if it's in the form of sports.

We as humans evolve and develop throughout time. We just haven't reached the phase where women can conquer the gridiron consistently. Just don't tell Samantha Gordon that. She may come to the realization that football is indeed a man's sport, but in her mind she sits atop the football world with her sweet feet dangling.

In our opinion ...

Regeneration does wonders for the body

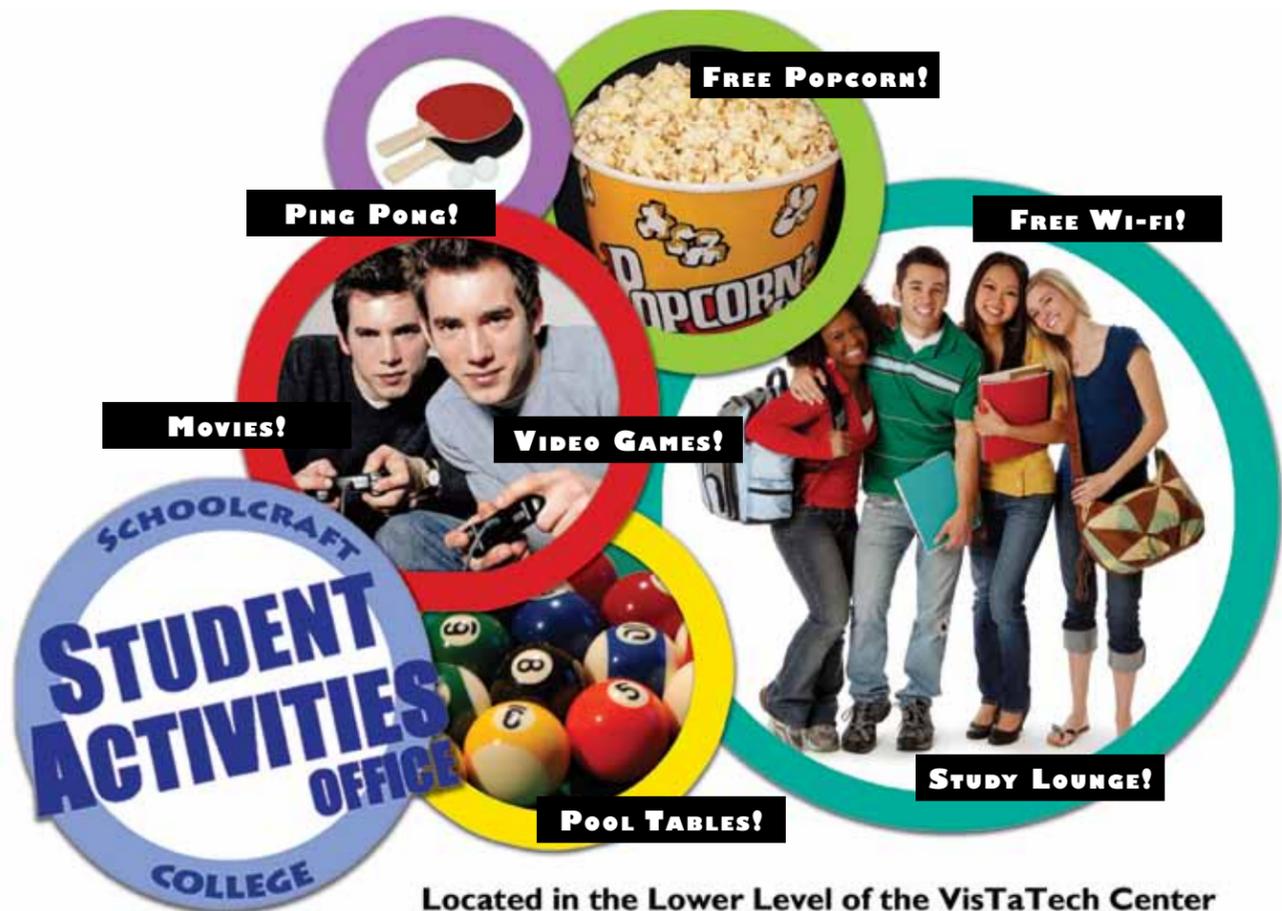
BY THE CONNECTION EDITORIAL STAFF

In this joyous time of year comes the most blessed of all things, Christmas break. This is a gift from colleges everywhere that allows students to take a much-needed vacation from all the brain-numbing studies, which causes minds to fizzle out. During this break our staff urges students to take full advantage of the time off.

The semester has no doubt caused many to feel the effects of stress. Muscle tightness, rapid and intense heart beats and many sleepless nights are some of the major problems that accompany stress. In most instances it is not possible to take time away to relieve the body of the tension, so most slowly descend into madness. Now that break is nearly upon us, remember some helpful ways to regain your sanity such as exercising, meditation, taking naps, getting a massage, practicing yoga and/or taking a long vacation. These are sure-fire ways to aid a person in curing the ravenous disease of scholastic stress.

Other ways to relieve the symptoms are to take time away and take care of yourself. Do things that make you happy and leave feelings of tranquility and harmony in the wake of the activity. It is so easy to care about everything and everyone else around you and let your needs fall to the wayside. However, with nearly four weeks of glorious break ahead of the ever-patient college student there is plenty of opportunity to give the gift of "you" to yourself.

The next semester begins again on Jan. 12, 2013, which is plenty of time to create a new you for the New Year. Walk out of the doors of the College with the intent to restore life and walk back in the doors with the intent to use that restoration to create something great in the next semester. Happy Holidays from our family to yours and get some rest Ocelots – You deserve it.



Located in the Lower Level of the VisTaTech Center

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Sabrina Keyes and Brad Wilson study for final exams in the Bradner Library.

PHOTO BY URMILA BILGI

The key to a successful finals week

Exam-A-Rama Fall 2012

CLASS	DATE	ROOM	TIME
Math 45	Friday, 12/7/12	L119	12 - 4pm
Math 47	Thursday, 12/6/12	L119	8pm - 12am
Math 53	Thursday, 12/6/12		8pm - 12am
Math 53	Friday, 12/7/12	L119	12 - 4pm
Math 101	Saturday, 12/8/12	L119	12 - 4pm
Math 111	Friday, 12/7/12	L119	12 - 4pm
Math 113	Thursday, 12/6/12		8pm - 12am
Math 113	Saturday, 12/8/12	L119	12 - 4pm
Math 119	Thursday, 12/6/12	L119	8pm - 12am
Math 122	Saturday, 12/8/12	L119	12 - 4pm
Math 128	Saturday, 12/8/12	L119	12 - 4pm
Math 129	Friday, 12/7/12	L119	12 - 4pm
Calc & Physics	Thursday, 12/6/12	L119	8pm - 12am
Chemistry	Thursday, 12/6/12	L119	8pm - 12am
Accounting	Saturday, 12/8/12	L119	12 - 4pm
Biology	Friday, 12/7/12	L119	12 - 4pm

Plan Ahead!

<Please bring your own review packet, we do not have extra copies>

<Reviews begin promptly at start time>

<Limited tutoring during final exam week>

Please check in at the LAC front desk for room assignment.

Check in begins 30 minutes prior to exam reviews.

For more information, please call 734-462-4436.

Midnight Madness and Exam-A-Rama provide essential help for students

By **JOSH YORK**
STAFF WRITER

Students are looking forward to the end of the semester which is fast approaching. And yet we all face the same, daunting obstacle of finals looming ahead – the only thing standing between us and winter break. Finals can add copious stress to what should be an exhilarating time of year, primarily because students forget academic concepts learned early in the semester, or are simply not the best test-takers. If you are someone who is stressing about finals, even in the slightest degree, do not fear! Help is coming soon!

The Learning Assistance Center (LAC) is hosting their annual Exam-A-Rama on Thursday through Saturday, Dec. 6-8. The event will be held in the LAC in the Bradner Library. The event will feature some of the College's finest tutors to help students complete review packets and study guides that will help them prepare for success on their final exams. In addition to reviewing class material, they will also be discussing helpful test-taking techniques. Specific study sessions for a wide range of subjects, including math, biology, physics, chemistry and accounting will be offered. There will also be free popcorn provided, thanks to the Student Activities Office.

The LAC used to be closed for the entire week of finals until, one year, tutor program coordinator, Terri Lamb came up with the idea of running an exam review. The first couple of review sessions only drew three or four people, but the event has now grown to serving more than 200 students in the span of three days.

When asked about the benefits of Exam-A-Rama to students, Lamb said, "For one, we help students practice for finals. We reinforce the concepts that students struggle with and some they may have forgotten about. We clarify understanding and ask tough questions, like, 'Why? What's the next step and how does this relate to what you've done before?' We try to make sure the students are prepared for their final exams, by working through their review with them, helping them realize their strengths and what they still need to work on. We strive to make difficult concepts more clear, emphasizing the importance of reading carefully, following directions in their review packets and on their final exam!"

There are three four-hour sessions during the event. The specific subjects and times are as follows: Math course levels: 47, 53, 113, 119, Calc, Physics and Accounting on Thursday Dec. 6, from 8 p.m. until midnight; Math courses levels: 45, 53, 111, 129 and Biology on Friday Dec. 7, from noon until 4 p.m.; and Math course levels: 101, 113, 122, 128 and Accounting on Saturday, Dec. 8, from noon until 4 p.m. For further information, you can call the LAC at 734-462-4436, stop by while on campus, or visit them on the web at www.schoolcraft.edu/lac.

The review program has grown tremendously, but also students give it a 98 percent satisfaction rating, proving just how helpful participation really can be. So if you're desperate to get caught up in a class before your final exam, or if you could just use a little bit of a refresher to ease your mind, stop by the Exam-A-Rama. You and your grades will be thankful you did!



Phi Theta Kappa Induction

PTK welcomes new members to a bright future

BY MARIA CIELITO ROBLES
STAFF WRITER

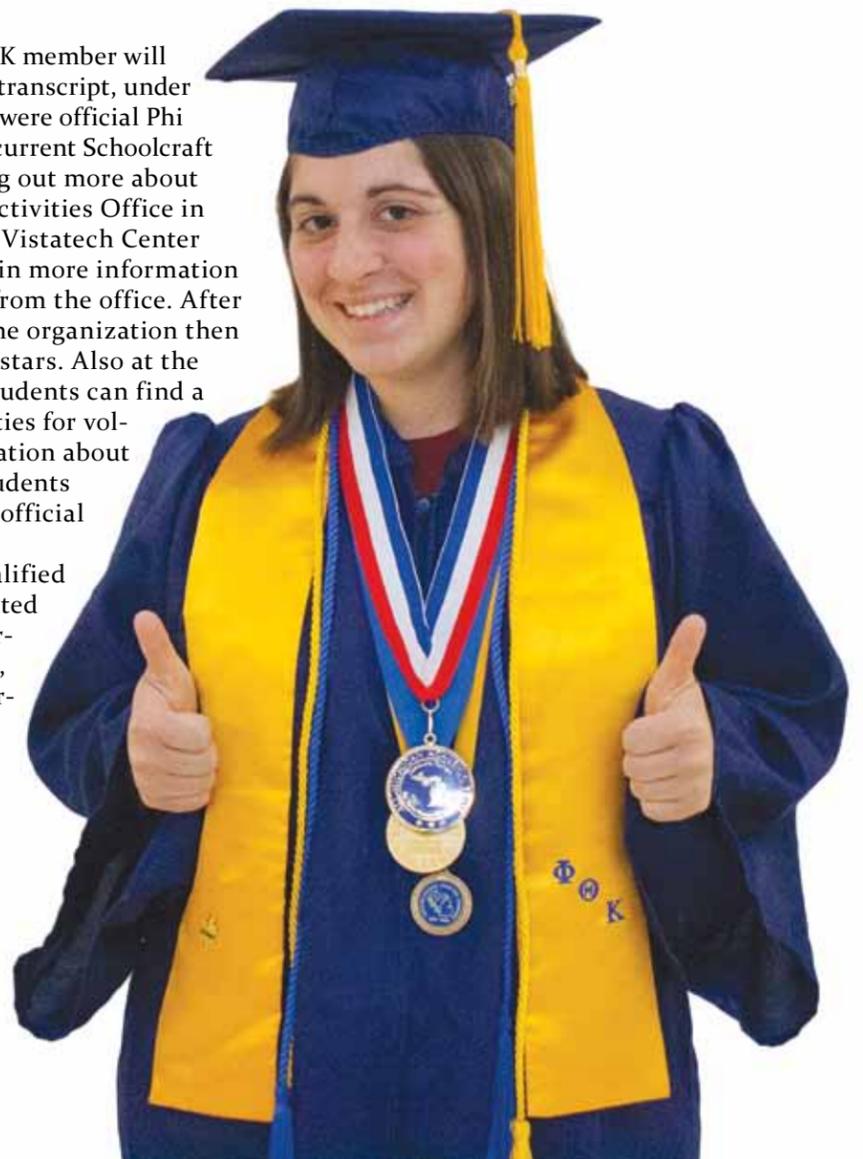
Schoolcraft Community College recognizes another batch of students to be inducted into Phi Theta Kappa. This is an international honors society for community college students. Every school year, the Schoolcraft PTK chapter holds two induction ceremonies for students who have met the requirements. General requirements for interested students include being a full time student with a cumulative GPA of 3.5, and earning volunteering "stars." Through volunteering and participating in school functions, the students can earn their six stars. One star is equivalent to four hours of service. After earning six stars and paying the membership fee, the student is then eligible to attend the induction ceremony.

The informal induction ceremony for this school year will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 5 from 7-8:30 p.m. The formal induction ceremony is held at the end of the winter semester. While anyone who meets the general GPA and student status requirement is allowed to fill out a PTK application, only those who have completed the volunteering requirements and paid the dues are officially inducted.

After being inducted, the new member will receive a membership number. This number can be used to log into PTK.org and collegefish.org, which contain scholarship opportunities exclusively for

PTK members. Also, each PTK member will have on their official college transcript, under the Honors listing, that they were official Phi Theta Kappa members. Any current Schoolcraft student interested in finding out more about PTK can visit the Student Activities Office in the Lower Waterman of the Vistatech Center building. Students can obtain more information and pick up an application from the office. After turning in an application, the organization then keeps track of the student's stars. Also at the Student Activities Office, students can find a list of PTK event opportunities for volunteering. For more information about the overall organization, students can visit www.PTK.org, the official website of Phi Theta Kappa.

The time has come for qualified members who have contributed at least six stars of volunteering to be inducted. However, it is not too late for any interested current, full-time Schoolcraft students to join this internationally recognized organization and take part in all of the many opportunities it provides.



The informal induction ceremony for this school year will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 5 from 7-8:30 p.m.

Diary of an immigrant

BY URMILA BILGI
ASSISTANT LAYOUT EDITOR

I was extremely excited about my admission to Eastern Michigan University to pursue Children's Literature. Instantly after that, I started working on the formalities, in order of their overwhelming nature - student visa, registering for courses and housing. Luckily, a week before the classes could start, the student visa approval was at my door step. "Sometimes, prayers work!" so said my diary.

After choosing the courses, the next biggest issue was commuting and sharing the only car we had. After a lot of contemplation, I moved to an apartment in Ypsilanti. For budget reasons, I shared the apartment with five other girls from Southern part of India.

And just like that the new routine began.

I explored everything on campus! I fell in love with the library. I loved the idea of libraries from other universities connected to each other, that allowed you to access almost any book.

Apart from the library, the Student Center caught my attention. It had a piano, comfortable chairs, computer labs, water fountains, food and coffee shops. The facilities on campus were impeccable. Almost all the buildings were equipped with state of the art facilities.

Everything looked so good that it actually made me extremely conscious of my surroundings. I wiped off the water fountain every time I drank water from it, and then I double-checked to make sure I did so.

Honestly, even today in globalized India, all these facilities are not easily available. I remember while pursuing my research for the final project, I couldn't check out most of the books. Photocopying, being expensive, wasn't an option. Finally, to serve the purpose, I took digital photos of the pages.

During my course in mass communication, our computer lab had just one Apple computer and one PC with Final Cut Pro software for editing. Apart from that a few other computers and cameras completed our lab. The best thing about the student life in India was that I never thought of it as inconvenience. In fact, some of the best time, work and ideas

were contributed because of this system. Today, while I was standing in the lap of luxury I thought of all my friends, and how it would be if I had them over here.

And with that I began my hunt for friends. My potential targets were my roommates. Soon I discovered that they came from a different India than I did. Nothing was common between us; they didn't listen to Bollywood music, neither watched Hindi or English films, we didn't speak the same language and they were not comfortable to speak with me in Hindi or English and their food was too spicy for me. It didn't look good for me.

I also tried to make friends from my own community. A whole new story began there. I realized that most of them were engineers and doctors, and had a certain thinking pattern. Sometimes, I secretly suspected that I studied something much more interesting and that must have made them a little jealous. They often asked a lot of questions about my field of study - Children's Literature. When the debates heated up, they often told me, "Sometimes the tower is just a tower from the fairy tales, not a 'phallic' tower!" "Making friends never seem so difficult," I wrote in my diary.

As I started settling down in school, assignments started pouring in. To add to my disappointments, my teacher told me that she needed to speak to me about my assignment. Later, she told me that I used too many passive sentences, which didn't bring out the meaning clearly. I had given up hope on my grade when she told me that she was going to extend my deadline, and help me write clearly.

After the week of social issues followed by my first-academic-assignment-debacle, I wanted to just pack my bags and go back home. As I was walking back to my apartment in my misery, I met a young Indian woman. She mentioned to me that she was studying nursing. She also told me that she is a mother of a 3-year-old, who lives with her husband and mother-in-law in New Jersey and hopefully she can soon transfer to a university closer to her family. The minute I heard that I knew I needed to keep fighting!

That evening while having dinner, I asked one of my roommates to teach me how to ask for somebody's name in their language. When I tried to speak their language, it led to many more conversations and a couple of laughs too. Later in the night, I re-worked on my assignment. "Challenge accepted!" I signed off in my diary.

Students take the stage

Music Department students showcase their talents

By Alys Dolan
MANAGING EDITOR

This fall, music students entered the semester in the hopes of transforming their voices and talents into something extraordinary. Students who enter the voice classes under the direction of Dr. Linda Meehan work diligently on a song to perform during the student recital to conclude each semester. "The students do have a chance to perform in the applied performance classes nearly every week in front of their classmates, but performing in a public recital is a different kind of experience. All that they have practiced throughout the semester in class is brought to the recital. It is a celebration of all they have learned in their applied lessons as well." On Dec. 12 at noon students of Dr. Meehan's applied voice classes will take the stage for this celebration in F530 of the Forum Building.

The recital was established in 2008 and was combined with the students in the applied instrumental performance classes. The two class recitals have united for a more diverse showcase of music students' talents. Dr. Fred Moss teaches the instrumental class that will be featured in the recital, as well.

The recital is a wonderful opportunity for spectators, family and friends to see the amazing progress students from both the Instrumental and Voice classes have made over the course of the semester. Jordan White, a student of the Music 133 class, said "I am really excited for our upcoming recital because I get to show my family and friends what my voice can do and the progress I have made over the last semester." The event is free and open to the public and gives audiences a taste of what students at Schoolcraft College are capable of accomplishing.

"I am really excited for the recital because I've never done this. And I'm really excited to get dressed up and sing to people so they can see to what I can do," stated an excited Jihan Hakkani, another Music 133 student. Students are taught proper concert performance techniques during their time in music classes such as Music 133 and Music 135. This gives students a chance to step outside of their comfort zone and do something unique to other classes.

"I am looking excited to my first recital of my life, which has been a long one," joked Diane Luty. Although some students have never stepped foot on a stage before others are comfortable with the performance aspect, but not the techniques involved. Robby Bristol, a student of Music 133, is a veteran of the stage but not of the teachings. He said, "I'm kind of stoked because I love performing... it's going to be really cool because its not new but it is new because every performance is a new experience."

"The student recital is a fantastic way for applied voice and instrumental students to get experience performing in front of an audience. The Student Recital has become a very special experience, and students look forward to inviting their friends, other students, and family," said Meehan. Meehan encourages those who appreciate music to attend the many other performances the Music Department hosts during the course of the year, such as the Woodwind Synthesizer and Jazz ensemble concerts. For more information about this concert and other events and programs sponsored by the Music Department at Schoolcraft College visit www.schoolcraft.edu/music.



Secrets of the Quill

By Ramon Razo
NEWS EDITOR

Q. I am interested in pursuing a career in writing, but I don't know how to start. Furthermore, I'm constantly running into mental roadblocks when it comes to fine-tuning my craft. It's hard to lock down really solid ideas. How can I rectify this?

A. Ask the most successful writers in the business, and they will tell you the same thing: write. Just write. Regardless of whether you think it is good or not, doing something is better than doing nothing at all.

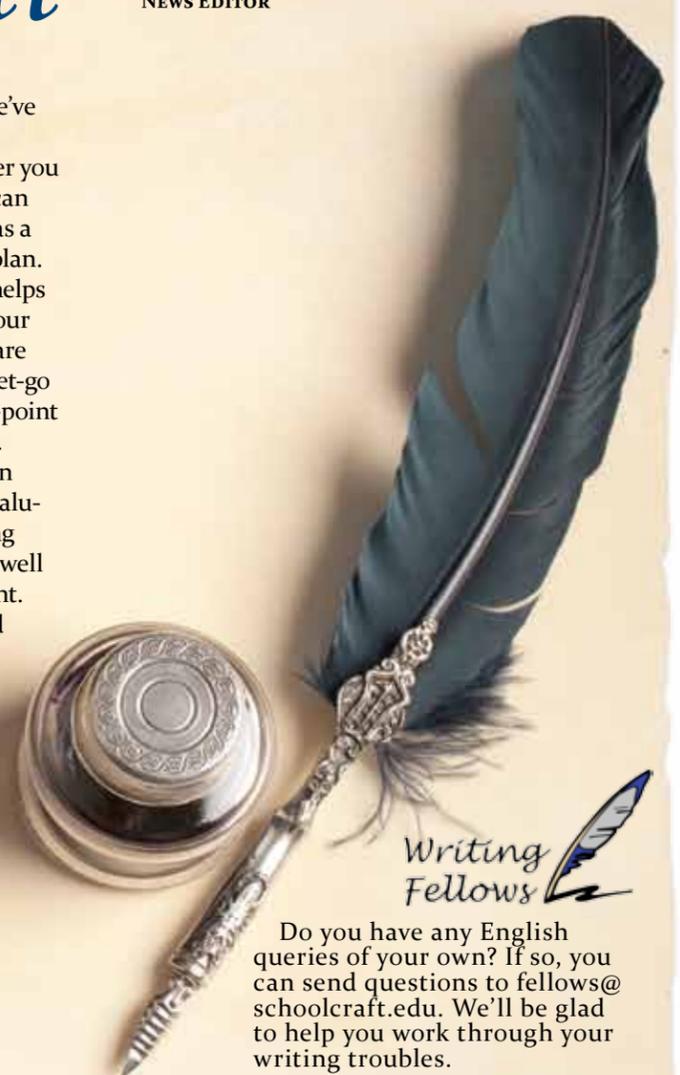
Stephen King, a man who needs no introduction, says that he writes 2000 words a day – regardless of the circumstances. He advises that any good writer should plan to "read and write four to six hours a day," cautioning that if you cannot manage to find time to do this, "you can't expect to become a good writer." Whether it is tossing together a movie review, structuring your big novel or even simply updating your blog, keeping the words flowing is akin to taking a whetstone to a blade. This practice will only sharpen your skills.

Dedication is another major contributing factor to success. Neil Gaiman, another renowned fiction writer, published a list of eight rules for writing in the UK's "The Guardian." Number one is simply "write," but he also encourages those aspiring to "finish what you're writing. Whatever you have to do to finish it, finish it." That is one of the most important aspects of creating any great piece of work – sticking to it.

Having an outline is also important. While we've all constructed the prerequisite outline for our college papers, working from an outline can offer you far more than five points of your final grade. It can help you craft better work. Think of an outline as a game plan, or a plan of attack. The key word is plan. An outline helps you know where you go next, helps you keep your thoughts in order and can help your writing avoid redundancy. While some writers are capable of organizing their thoughts from the get-go and have no need for an outline, jotting a three-point outline down on scrap paper never hurt anyone.

Also, in the case of anyone interested in fiction writing, keeping a notebook of story ideas is invaluable. Sometimes that well rounded, wisecracking character might not work in your short story as well as that subplot about the planet of couches might. Even if it's just a list of cool sounding names and made-up technologies, you'll thank yourself later for a little foresight.

When it comes right down to it, the most important aspect of becoming a good writer is willpower. This knowledge will not magically morph you into a Rowlings or a Hemingway, but most often, the secret to success is pulling yourself up by your bootstraps. Not everyone will become a great writer, but great writing can come from anyone. It is up to each and every individual to invest time and energy into their creative process.



Writing
Fellows

Do you have any English queries of your own? If so, you can send questions to fellows@schoolcraft.edu. We'll be glad to help you work through your writing troubles.

What's your problem?

New online reporting system works to build a better campus

By **MOLLY MARTIN**
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

Communicate. Act. Respond. Educate. These are four words the College hopes students become familiar with. Schoolcraft has initiated a new online program called SC Cares, which aims to help keep Schoolcraft a safe and secure environment for all. This program gives students the chance to report incidents and fill out a form concerning a situation or a student they feel may be a threat to others. Rochelle Schaffrath, the Director of Student Relations, stated that the program was created to, "provide a central location for students, faculty and staff to provide feedback, make reports, alert the administration to problems or potential problems, and file complaints. SC Cares also provides resources such as policies and procedures and information on our processes."

The program has seen increases in incident reports due to the convenience of it now being online. All incident reports are completely confidential so that the student does not have to deal with the fear of someone finding out it was them who filed the report. If you ever come upon an emergency incident, do not hesitate to call 734-462-4424 or 911 if need be. The program also encourages students to report criminal activity, suspicious happenings and other concerning behavior that could be threatening to the student body, faculty and visitors. When informed about the program, sophomore Chris Duncan, said, "I think it is

pretty cool that people are working together to make students like myself feel safe."

Students who need help academically or personally are more than welcome to contact the counseling office at 734-462-4429 to schedule an appointment. Phi Theta Kappa has helped spread the word for Schoolcraft Cares along with help from the Student Activities Board. Phi Theta Kappa Vice President of Leadership, Charlie Harrison noted, "We want to raise awareness for SC Cares. Students need to know that we have this to protect them and make Schoolcraft College a safe environment." If anyone needs additional aid in order to build a successful future, contact the counseling office, which is a fantastic resource to make students feel comfortable and ready to take on anything.

Students should know that if anything is ever troubling them while on the campus, the resources to help in any situation are abundant, whether an incident needs to be reported or help is needed on a personal or academic issue. Sabrina Keyes, a second year student at the college, said, "I am glad to see people taking an initiative to make other's lives easier." Schoolcraft does indeed care, so don't be afraid to ask for help. If there is any need for assistance or further information on the program visit www.schoolcraft.edu/sccares. "The College cares about students and their concerns; we hope the program name, SC Cares, reflects our commitment to students," said Schaffrath.

WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?

HERE IS YOUR CHANCE TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK THAT WILL HELP US, HELP YOU

SC Cares
www.schoolcraft.edu/sccares

The online reporting system allows for the following:

- 1) Students and faculty can report incidents of concern or behaviors that require further investigation.
- 2) Academic complaints are processed following the appeals procedure for academic matters.
- 3) Reporting non-emergency information to Campus Security Police regarding safety-related issues, potential crimes, etc.

www.schoolcraft.edu/sccares

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Artist Profile

Andrew Morawski

Basic Drawing/ Art 105
with Professor Bacon

"I am a 34 year-old iron worker. Art is something I've always cared for, whether sound or aesthetic. Drawing on the other hand is something I haven't done on a regular basis since I was about 10. Some current favorites are Seldom Hunt, John Baizley, Jacob Bannon, Coop, Ryan Lee, Don Van Vilet and Frank Gehry."

Campus Events



Connection Meeting
Monday
4 p.m.

GSA Meeting
Wednesday
12 p.m.

Ski Trip Meeting
Dec. 4
7 p.m.

PTK Informal Initiation
Dec. 5
7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Santa Breakfast
Dec. 15
10 a.m.- 12 p.m.
VisTa Tech
Diponio Room

Student Activities Board Meeting
Wednesday
2 p.m.

Jazz Festival
Dec. 17
7:30 p.m.
VisTa Tech
Diponio Room

Empty bowl Luncheon
Dec. 4
11 a.m.- 3 p.m.
Wilson Room

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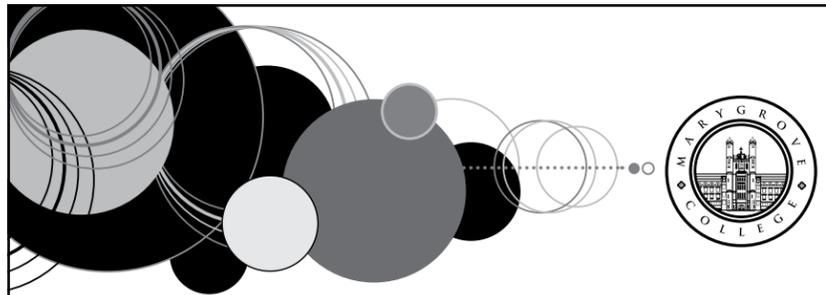
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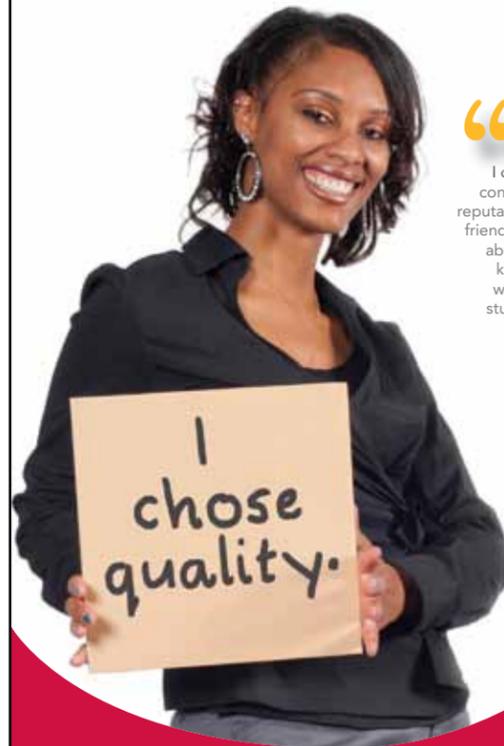
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Culinary

celebrations

Student-operated restaurant highlights award-winning program

By **ALYS DOLAN**
MANAGING EDITOR

The season for warm comfort food and smells of holiday delights has begun. There is no better way to celebrate the scrumptious ingredients of the season than by visiting Schoolcraft College Culinary Department's student-operated restaurant, American Harvest. This restaurant is unique to all others in the area because students operate the entire dining service. From the food preparation to serving the dishes to patrons of the restaurant, the culinary student chefs and wait staff do it all.

Under the direction of eight award-winning chefs, both first-year and second-year culinary students are trained to make every dish, from the elaborate pastry desserts to the delectable soups.

Start your morning off right

On Wednesday through Friday mornings from 8:30-9:30 a.m., the American Harvest serves an elaborate breakfast buffet with a wide array of choices for any palette. The first-year students are assigned the buffet prep which begins promptly at 6 a.m. According to Culinary Department Chair and Certified Executive Chef Shawn Loving, "It is a strolling buffet, which is sort of an action station style breakfast. Where you actually mingle into the kitchen and actually get your food from the students preparing it at that moment."

Gourmet Lunches

Tuesday through Friday, the American Harvest is open for what is often called "the best school lunch program around." The menu changes daily for each meal. Each item on the menu is selected with the utmost care and interest to appeal to the customer's senses and to develop the students' skills. "We feature four or five entrees every day Tuesday through Friday," Chef Loving explained. "One focal point being soup and then four entrees, and each of those entrees have a particular category about them – one might be roasting, one might be poaching fish – so that we are hitting the elements of the curriculum. [...] Every reason behind our makeup is achieving the curriculum." Seatings for lunch are at 11:45 a.m., 12 p.m. and 12:15 p.m. Reservations are recommended.

Dinner from around the World

Thursdays and Friday evenings the American Harvest is trans-

formed into an international dining facility featuring international cuisines. Students prepare an exquisite buffet of worldwide foods with each week featuring a different theme. Loving stated, "For dinner Thursdays and Fridays it is open to the public and is a beautiful buffet of international cuisines. [The buffet features] cuisines from Asian to Middle Eastern to Indian to European, and is a collection of the cultures." The dinner buffet is an exciting taste of what the students here at Schoolcraft have been diligently working on in their courses.

On one occasion the culinary department welcomed the Churchill hockey team and the boys celebrated their efforts with a standing ovation. Allison Zwarka, a high school student and hopeful future chef, delighted over the dinner and beamed, "Everything was just good – everything I tried was really delicious tasting."

Passion and Dedication

"They [the students] start at 6:30 [a.m.] and by 11:30 [a.m.] they have the lunch courses. Our operation opens here around 6 [a.m.] and done around 10 p.m. everyday," Loving explained. The work that goes into these meals and buffets is truly amazing. These students are working tirelessly to supply the best experience possible for those choosing to dine at American Harvest.

The students are given five weeks of training in a classroom setting with a practical exam to measure how the students are absorbing the teachings, and then they are put into the restaurant setting where their skills are really put to the test. Loving detailed that, "Every five weeks we change rotations and get new students. [...] It is a two-year process, so four semesters; we don't operate in the summer, so it's fall-winter, fall-winter."

With the shifting of the weather comes the opportunity to use ingredients that are in season. "Ingredients change a great deal based on the season, e.g. butternut squash and pumpkins and cranberries. So those types of things warrant and make us change to feature pumpkin pie in October, [...] things that represent that time of the year we work with." Chef Loving conveyed. Although the meals may feature dishes outside the realm of normal for this season, the chefs at American Harvest enjoy working with the flavors of autumn and winter.

Jenae Conley, a second year student, had this to say about her time working under the direction of the chefs here on campus: "It's been a great experience. It can be tough, but it's definitely worth it. I can say that the learning experience expands far and beyond from what you can expect in a little cookbook. They are not afraid to see students do better than they expect. [...] It's a real life experience."

Master Chef Jeffrey Gabriel teaches classes for young middle school and high school students looking to develop their culinary skills during the summer. He invited nine of his best students, out of a class of 150, to dine in the restaurant with him. Allison Zwarka has taken Chef Gabriel's class before and praised the teachings, as she noted, "I have made a lot of different things here, and I have made them all at home for dinner." Jordyn Wolf, a middle school student from Birmingham, said her favorite dish she recalled making was the ratatouille.

Another future chef named Zack Shouinard explained his passion for grilling and preparing gourmet barbecue. "Zack is defiantly a future chef," explained Chef Gabriel. The Culinary Department on campus strives to inspire not only the current students attending, but also all hopeful chefs of the future. Schoolcraft's chefs are driven to give students the tools they need to succeed.

Gourmet-to-go

Not only does American Harvest highlight our acclaimed culinary program but the departments also features Main Street Café, a gourmet-to-go carryout for that quick grab-and-go moments. Located right outside the restaurant it has daily specials of mouth-watering pastries, homemade soups, pastas and a variety of appetizing side dishes. The prices are out of this world and the servings are hearty enough to leave one's belly pleasantly filled. The Main Street Café is open Tuesday through Friday from 11:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.

American Harvest has received national and international honors for the students' and instructors' hard work. The restaurant features a variation of dishes that will tickle anyone's taste buds, so check out what the Culinary Arts department has to offer – you won't be disappointed.



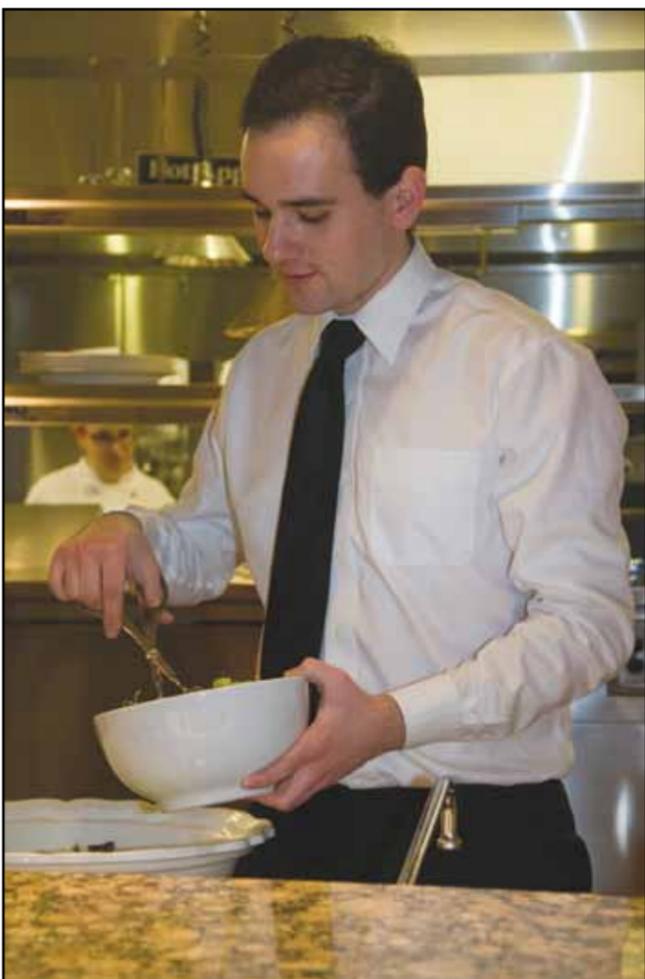
(Above) Katie Hatcher festively decorates her plate with colorful sauces during the Mexican-themed dinner.



Culinary Arts students line up to listen to their professors review their work after the lunchtime rush.



Future chefs Jordyn Wolf and Allison partake in the delights from the dessert table.



Jimmy Rashid tosses a fresh salad together for the dinner guests.



Jenae Conley helps prepare a buffet of freshly prepared entrees for the dinnertime guests.



Molly Stuart places desserts along the buffet for guests to choose from.

Hours for American Harvest
 Breakfast buffet: Wed. - Fri., 8:30 - 9:30 am
 Lunch: Tues. - Fri., seating begins at 11:45 am
 Dinner Buffet: Thurs. - Fri., seating begins at 5:30 pm

American Harvest is closed at intervals. To confirm availability or for reservations call 734-462-4488, or reserve online



Canterbury village

A trip to another time

By ALYS DOLAN
MANAGING EDITOR

The Olde World Canterbury Village, located in Lake Orion, features a vast array of adorable little shops to please even the most bitter of Christmas elves. This historic castle town extends over 21 acres with shops dedicated to antiques, Celtic relics and even tea party needs. Walking through the quaint little world allows spectators to travel back through time and into a world of classic wooden carousels, antique armor and fudge just like grandmother made.

Canterbury Village welcomes everyone to view one of the world's largest nativity scenes and proudly boasts 18 specialty shops. The farm began as a hobby for William Edmund Scripps and developed into something of a winter wonderland during the early 1900s. The stores welcome you with smiling cheery faces and feature some of the most unique pieces for any antiquer's collection.

One shop called the Enchanted Cottage welcomes all adventurers in for a spot of tea and a chance to dine with the whimsical fairies that are rumored to inhabit the village. The choices of teas and party themes are numerous and if you keep a sharp eye out for the mystical fairy doors you may be lucky enough to catch a glimpse of the magical fairies themselves.

Canterbury Village is open to the public Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and on Sunday from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. The castle awaits for all seeking an exciting adventure in the historic Olde World Canterbury Village in Lake Orion and for all those seeking delicious fudge.



Located in a quaint blue house, the Enchanted Cottage offers guests a whimsical break from the everyday with their unique and quirky tea parties.



(Above) The King's Court Castle restaurant is a beautiful and grand place for a meal with family and friends.



(Left) The Canterbury Pavilion holds a reproduction 19th-century carousel sure to delight all youngsters.



Aldridge's Always Christmas features room of colorful Christmas tree baubles and decorations, all priced to suit any holiday budget.



Friday night rentals

Christmas time is here

BY JIM McDONNELL, EMILY
PODWOISKI & CARLOS RAZO
STAFF WRITER

"It's a Wonderful Life" (1946)

"Everyone has a purpose for living" and "Be careful what you wish for" are two important lessons that George Bailey (James Stewart) learns in Frank Capra's classic, "It's a Wonderful Life." George Bailey runs the Bailey Building and Loan company, the only business in Bedford Falls that is not owned by Mr. Henry Potter (Lionel Barrymore). George has a very kind heart and goes out of his way to help everyone in the town – to the point of putting the very institution he champions into financial trouble. Faced with jail time for a mysterious money shortage, George contemplates suicide and wishes aloud that he had never been born. However, George is rescued from doing so by his guardian angel, Clarence (Henry Travers). In an effort to help George understand – despite the bleakness of his situation – how important he is to the world, Clarence decides to grant George his wish and proceeds to show him what the world would be like had he never been born.

James Stewart brilliantly plays the lead role of George Bailey and Donna Reed gives an equally excellent performance as his wife, Mary. And for the record, while viewing this film one will probably guess that Bert and Ernie from "Sesame Street" are named after the movie's cop and taxi driver, but the makers of "Sesame Street" claim that it is a mere coincidence.

This is a fantastic feel-good film and one that should be viewed in its original black-and-white format, (the colorized version seems a bit overdone). Finally, if you have never viewed this film before – a warning: have a box of tissues ready. This film is a tear-jerker.

"A Charlie Brown Christmas" (1965)

There's a little bit of Charlie Brown in all of us. Everyone has felt an overwhelming sense of insecurity at some point in their life, and most of us have experienced a sense of wonderment around Christmas time. A once annual television event, "A Charlie Brown Christmas" tackles issues of Christmas commercialism getting in the way of the true meaning of the holiday – something unusually philosophical for an animated children's special.

Feeling sad around Christmas time, Charlie Brown seeks "psychiatric help" from his friend Lucy, who suggests he should direct a Christmas pageant. As usual, Charlie Brown struggles to put everything together in a satisfactory way and feels dejected about the results until his best friend Linus gives a wonderful speech about the true meaning of Christmas. Charlie Brown overcomes his sadness and is then able to feel the true joy of the holiday season.

The mix of thematic honesty, charm and humor make this one of the best Christmas specials available. Almost 50 years old, the cartoon continues to remain relevant and adorable as it was at the time of its release in 1965 – it is absolutely timeless.

"A Christmas Story" (1983)

There is no better Christmas gift than an Official Red Ryder Carbine-Action Two-Hundred Shot Range Model Air Rifle. At least, that's what Ralphie thinks. It's the early 1940s in Hammond, Indiana, and young Ralphie Parker is preparing for the holiday that every child looks forward to all year long: Christmas. What he wants is a Red Ryder Air Rifle, but all that his parents (and everyone else imaginable) offer him is the classic response, "You'll shoot your eye out." Despite these setbacks, Ralphie uses every tactic possible to get his rifle.

Based on Jean Shepherd's novel "In God We Trust, All Others Pay Cash," this film is a hoot. It is incredibly accurate in covering every last detail on the life of a kid, from triple-dog-dares to worshipping comic book characters. Melinda Dillon and the late, great Darren McGavin play Ralphie's parents, and a young Peter Billingsley plays Ralphie, in the role that propelled him to a successful career that continues today. This film is one that is sure to become a holiday tradition for anyone who has not seen it. More recently, this film was adapted into a musical for Broadway, and was quite successful. But before you go see the play, watch the movie that inspired it.

"National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation" (1989)

All Clark W. Griswold (Chevy Chase) wants is to give his family a Christmas holiday to remember. Clark Griswold is determined to deliver the greatest Christmas his family has ever experienced but a series of unfortunate events puts a freeze on his jolly dreams.

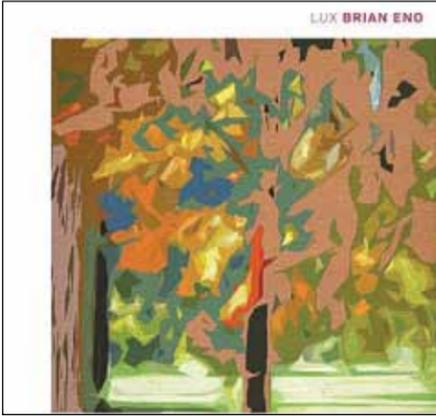
Griswold's bickering relatives are a group of characters that bring as much hilarity to the table as Chase's snarky comebacks. Pleasing his relatives takes a lot of effort and in an attempt to turn his house into a winter wonderland, Griswold plasters every inch of his house with electric string lights – 250 strands of lights to be exact, 25,000 light bulbs total. Of course, Clark decorates his house in the Griswold manner: staple gun style. After several electrical malfunctions and hysterical meltdowns, Griswold's house finally lights up his entire neighborhood, angering his snobby neighbors.

After the "success" with the string lights, Griswold's Christmas vision quickly dwindles with the surprise arrival of his dimwit brother, Eddie (Randy Quaid). Tensions rise as Eddie's stupidity frustrates Clark, but the climax of Clark's Christmas rage arrives when he discovers that he isn't really getting the bonus that he was promised by his stingy boss. Clark demands that no one will leave his household, and goes on an iconic rampage – the kind of rant that made Chase a comedic genius.

Griswold is the jerk that becomes blinded by his Christmas spirit and audiences cannot help rooting for the hopeful, delusional and hilarious nutcase that is Clark Griswold. Watch Chevy Chase go from nice to naughty and back again in this 1989 Christmas classic.



Alternate Frequencies



Brian Eno

"Lux"

Genre: Ambient



BY JONATHAN KING
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Brian Eno's impact on the world of music is simultaneously discreet and monumental. His background credits are nothing short of legendary, working with David Bowie on his "Berlin Trilogy" and producing albums such as Talking Heads' "Remain in Light" and U2's "The Joshua Tree." However, Eno is also renown as one of the principal founders of ambient music, and it is this territory that he revisits and explores on his latest studio album, "Lux."

"Lux" is composed of four tracks ("LUX 1," "LUX 2," "LUX 3" and "LUX 4"), each 18-19 minutes long. Unlike Eno's 2010 collaborative album "Small Craft on a Milk Sea," which also featured some ambient pieces but kept track lengths short, the pieces on "Lux" are allowed the breathing room they require to properly develop.

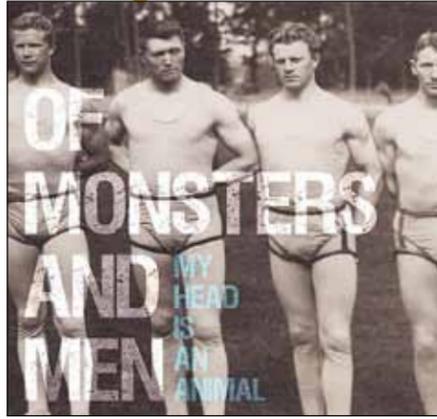
Like Eno's previous ambient albums such as "Ambient 1: Music for Airports," "Lux" stays focused on a few different textural bases, sticking with a very organic mixture of piano, strings, guitar and synths. There are no triumphant peaks or despondent valleys – just the slow shift of notes and instruments in space.

The tracks on "Lux" were originally premiered in airports and art galleries, which is the perfect context for the album. Listening to "Lux" is like staring at a painting – absorbing everything in slowly, catching little details here and there and figuring out how the piece moves you and why.

When all's said and done, "Lux" is a very pretty album. But at the same time, it's much more than that. However, what that "more" entails is very much up to the listener. For some, it might be a dream played in slow motion. For others, it might be an evening of stargazing. For others still, it could be a deep look into one's own soul and all the more reason to pick up some headphones and find out how you drift away in "Lux."

The Bottom Line:

"Lux" is both easy to ignore and easy to get completely lost in. The profundity of the tracks or the emotions or images evoked while listening will invariably differ from person to person. However, what is undeniable is that this is the work of a master artist who is comfortable on his home ground yet not afraid to explore.



Of Monsters and Men

"My Head is an Animal"

Genre: Indie Rock/Indie Folk



BY DYLAN NARDONE
STAFF WRITER

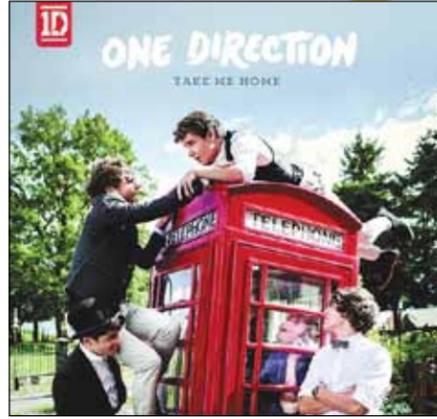
Of Monsters and Men started their run to fame by releasing the song "Little Talks." The song is a duet between the singers Nanna Bryndís Hilmarsdóttir and Ragnar "Raggi" Þórhallsson. When this song appeared on Top 20 charts in five different countries and became the number one U.S. Alternative Song, the album was deemed a sure winner. Many people who enjoyed the song "Little Talks" gave the other tracks a listen and easily fell in love. Of Monsters and Men have been compared to Mumford & Sons. This likeness has led scores of followers from Mumford & Sons over to the new sound from Of Monsters and Men.

The top songs on the album are "Mountain Sound" and "Little Talks." "Little Talks" has gained so much popularity that it is no wonder this song is the anthem of the CD. It is a love song between the two singers that has a strong meaning with many listeners. "There's an old voice in my head that's holding me back/ Well tell her that I miss our little talks/ Soon it will all be over, and buried with our past/ We used to play outside when we were young and full of life and full of love." The song is full of interplay between the vocalists, as Hilmarsdóttir focuses on dark things that hold her back, while Þórhallsson brings out the positive light on the other side of the argument.

"Mountain Sound" has been recently released as the second hit track from this album and it is provoking a positive reaction. This song is mostly sung by Þórhallsson, while Hilmarsdóttir joins in on the chorus. "Hold your horses now/ We sleep until the sun goes down/ Through the woods we ran/ Deep into the mountain sound/ Hold your horses now/ Sleep until the sun goes down/ Through the woods we ran." More notable songs are "King and Lionheart" and "Numb Bears."

The Bottom Line:

Of Monsters and Men have taken the indie rock culture by storm, and they have made a gigantic following along the way. They have managed to reach deep inside the listeners and bring out stowed-away feelings. With music similar to that of Mumford & Sons, they have reached out to a new sea of listeners. "My Head Is an Animal," the band is creating a stir in the world of music and so is the band.



One Direction

"Take Me Home"

Genre: Pop



BY MARIA CIELITO ROBLES
STAFF WRITER

The British boy band One Direction has skyrocketed to the top of the charts, sales and popularity in a short period of time. In 2009, the five boys Niall, Harry, Louis, Liam and Zayn each entered the UK X Factor TV competition as solo artists. During the bootcamp stage, Simon Cowell felt that the five lads would be stronger if they competed as a group, rather than as five individual acts – thus, the formation of One Direction.

While One Direction finished 3rd overall in the competition, Simon Cowell decided to take a chance on the rather young band and signed them with his record company, SyCo. The boys did not waste any time working on their debut album, "Up All Night." The band's first record was surprisingly successful, being recognized and even setting music records in countries that they have yet-to-visit. Now, the band has released their sophomore album, "Take Me Home."

The band members have expressed that the songs in their new release are better and more personal than their debut. Wanting to mature their sound but also stick to their original British pop roots, the members personally wrote five songs for the album.

Similarities to the band's last project can be found in tracks such as "Up All Night" from their first album and "Live While We're Young" from their second. Both stand for enjoying the fun aspect of youth. Some of the band's older songs such as "One Thing," "Taken" and "Everything About You" are similarly resembled in newer songs such as "Last First Kiss," "Kiss You" and "Rock Me." The band's first single "What Makes You Beautiful," which became the band's well-known upbeat anthem of trying to explain the aspects that make a shy girl beautiful, greatly differs from "Little Things" on their sophomore album, which contains the same concept but has a slower tempo with an acoustic sound.

The Bottom Line:

When other bands make the mistake of changing their sound in an attempt to gain a new style, they can sometimes lose the roots and foundation that their fans originally adored. Luckily, One Direction managed to overcome the difficult transition from their first to their second album, staying true to their sound. These lads are continually growing and maturing, and so is their music.



Seether

"Holding On To Strings Better Left To Fray"

Genre: Alternative Metal



BY DYLAN NARDONE
STAFF WRITER

Seether has been around for a little over a decade and fans have been pleased with their collection of songs. This album, titled "Holding On To Strings Better Left To Fray," has been said to be one of their best. Many people have had positive reactions to these songs, and this album brings back the Seether style that fans favor. Some followers and critics have gone so far as to call Seether as the new Nirvana. Whether that is true or not is up to the listener to decide. The band consists of Shaun Morgan (lead vocals and lead guitarist), Dale Stewart (bass and backup vocals) and John Humphrey (drums).

"Here and Now," a stand-out track on this album, has been buzzing around the radio waves lately. Other outstanding songs are "Pass Slowly" and "Forsaken." Each song has a similar trait, for they each have a great melody to support the lyrics.

"Forsaken" concludes the album and is a masterful ending to this great CD. "I'll never believe in you again/ I'll never forgive those things you said/ My only release is gone and dead/ I'll never forsake myself again."

"Pass Slowly" is a real tearjerker with powerful lyrics. "So pass slowly/ And carry me down/ And render me lonely/ When you're not around." The song's soft melody and touching words help create the masterpiece that is called "Holding On To Strings Better Left To Fray."

Other songs worth a listen are "Country Song" and "Down." "Country Song" is an oddly appropriate mix between alternative rock and country. It has a smooth beat to go along with the great lyrics.

The other track mentioned is "Down," a song with some solid lyrics and a strong beginning. These songs are respectable tracks that deserve a listen when the overplayed "hits" on the radio have overpowered a listener's senses.

The Bottom Line:

Seether has done it again with their latest album. It is a good contestant for their best album yet, and there is little to criticize over. The album has some golden moments and is a great addition to anyone's music collection, but Seether's sound may not be for everyone. However any fans of the bands Three Days Grace, Evanescence, Breaking Benjamin and Staind may want to look into this album.



COMPILED BY EMILY PODWOISKI
STAFF WRITER

"Faberge: the Rise and Fall," featured at The Detroit Institute of Arts

This exhibition will feature the unbelievable work of the Russian jeweler, Carl Faberge. Faberge is famous for his incredible gem-encrusted Easter eggs, each of which took him a year to carefully construct. Faberge also created miniature pendants, cane handles and other intricate pieces. This exhibition has been brought to Detroit from the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, which contains more than 200 objects by Faberge – the largest collection in the United States. The stunning exhibition will be open until Jan. 21, 2013 at The Detroit Institute of Arts on 5200 Woodward Ave. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$8 for children. For more information, call the DIA at 313-833-7900.



LEGO Architecture: Towering Ambition



Relive childhood memories at the Henry Ford Museum this season. Come see famous landmarks crafted entirely out of LEGO bricks. Spectators can see 13 different architectural dreams at the Towering Ambition exhibition, including the following iconic structures: Fallingwater, 7 South Dearborn, Chicago Spire, John Hancock Center and more. After finishing the exhibition, inspired guests may to gather to create their own nifty creations out of LEGO blocks. The exhibition is at The Henry Ford museum at 20900 Oakwood Blvd. Towering Ambition is open until Feb. 24, 2013 with daily hours of 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 313-982-6001 for more information.

"Miracle On 34th Street"

"Miracle On 34th Street" will come to life at the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts. This musical production, based on the classic 1947 Christmas flick, follows the story of Kris Kringle, who is chosen to replace the drunken Santa at Macy's department store. Kris Kringle insists that he is the genuine Saint Nick, which creates a dispute that escalates into a court case. Don't miss out on this miraculous show, brought to life by Troupe America. It



will play Dec. 7 at 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 8 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for students. Call 586-286-2095 for more information.

Ice Skating in Downtown



Grab your ice skates and head for the rink at Campus Martius Park on 800 Woodward Ave. during this jolly holiday season. A beautiful 60-foot holiday tree hovers over the people whizzing by on their ice skates. Skate rental is \$3, and the rink is open Monday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Admission is \$7 for ages 13 to 49 years, and \$6 for children 12 years and seniors age 50 and above. Call 313-963-9393 for more information.

The Killers come to EMU

The band The Killers will be visiting Michigan on Dec. 20 at EMU's Convocation Center located at 799 North Hewitt, Ypsilanti. The famous band is on their fourth major concert tour in support of their new album, "Battle Born." Many of us have grown up listening to The Killers – a band that has taken a new and bold direction towards an '80s electronic new wave sound. Tegan and Sara are scheduled to open for them. This show is sure to dazzle audiences. The show starts at 8 p.m. and tickets are on sale starting at \$32.50. Check out emutix.com for more information.



"A Christmas Carol"

The holiday classic by Charles Dickens will be coming to the Meadow Brook Theatre stage from Nov. 16 through Dec. 23 at 8 p.m. "A Christmas Carol" follows the life of Ebenezer Scrooge, a stingy man who yells "Bah, humbug!" and despises Christmas Spirit. When several ghosts visit him, Scrooge undergoes a heartwarming transformation. "A Christmas Carol" will be held at the Meadow Brook Theatre on 207 Wilson Hall. Tickets are \$17-\$40. Call 248-377-3300 for more information.



Bundle Up Michigan Coat Drive

Donate a coat and help people stay warm this winter. St. Vincent de Paul, First Catholic Federal Credit Union and Flame, Heating, Cooling, Plumbing & Electrical have all partnered up for this coat drive. The drive will be running through Dec. 28. Drop off used items at any First Catholic Federal Credit Union branch locations. They are accepting warm winter gear, including coats, snow pants and other winter accessories. Call 313-567-1910 for more information.



VS.



Elementary vs. Sherlock

BY CARLOS RAZO
STAFF WRITER

In the last three years, infamous detective Sherlock Holmes has received three noteworthy modernizations. From the hit Robert Downey Jr. films to the two recent television series, "Sherlock" and "Elementary," it appears the media is forcefully resurrecting the British private eye in an attempt to make him relevant and interesting. So far, they've all worked just fine.

"Sherlock," starring Benedict Cumberbatch as Sherlock Holmes and Martin Freeman as Dr. John Watson, is a more direct modernization, adapting many major plotlines from the books in a more "realistic" present-day setting. The audience experiences Holmes through the eyes of Dr. Watson, as we are constantly shown Holmes' incredible eye for detail and ability to pull clues from almost anything from Watson's perspective. Each episode is a very different mystery, from terrorist attacks to giant demon dogs, and each episode keeps you guessing up until their satisfying conclusion.

One of the most interesting things about the

show is how it superimposes text on screen to either show Sherlock's mental assessments or a character's text messages. It is an efficient and slightly quirky way to quickly get information across to the audience, and it works well. The length of each episode (which usually comes to around an hour and a half) adds layers of character development without affecting the pace.

"Elementary" is a bit different. In this version, Sherlock (played by Jonny Lee Miller) is an addict – a lonely introvert seeking redemption through his remarkable crime-solving abilities. Dr. Watson (Lucy Liu), notably a female character, is another tortured soul, looking to redeem herself after losing one of her medical patients. This Sherlock is much less mysterious than Cumberbatch's and far more human.

The chemistry between the two Sherlocks and the two Watsons are both obviously quite different. Benedict and Martin have a strong sense of camaraderie, almost seeming to flirt with each other at times. In the end, they both care about each other immensely, with Holmes opening up to Watson

in ways he does to no one else. Obviously Miller and Liu's relationship is much different. Their relationship is more of two troubled souls trying to help each other recover from their pasts. The only thing that disappoints about "Elementary" is that it didn't seem American enough. As it came out not even two years after "Sherlock" premiered, the biggest thing the creators could have done to differentiate it would be to make this version decidedly American, opposed to "Sherlock" which is obviously very rooted in British culture.

Each is a solid TV series, and both are interesting takes on the Sherlock Holmes story. However, in the end, "Sherlock" wins. While perhaps the longer running time adds to the effect of each episode, the mysteries are much more complex, and to the writer's credit, the ways Sherlock deduces his information often borderlines on genius. If you've seen "Sherlock" and want something like it, check out "Elementary" – it's a solid series. "Sherlock" just offers a more compelling chase, thanks to stronger performances, more nuanced storytelling and some incredible twists.

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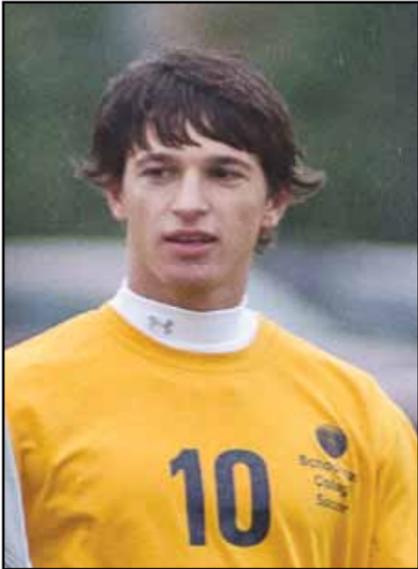


FALL HONORS SC students awarded for athletic excellence



BY ABDALLAH CHIRAZI
SPORTS EDITOR

The sports fall season is over and Schoolcraft would like to thank our coaches and student athletes for providing us great sports moments. We appreciate your hard work and thank you for representing our school with pride, respect and overall great standards. We would also like to highlight students and coaches that were recognized for their excellence by the MCCA and NJCAA. Again thank you for a hard fought season and let's continue to shape the brightest future for Schoolcraft athletes.



Ardit Dushkaj
Men's Soccer MF

All Region XII Team
All MCCA 1st Team
MCCA Player of the year
MCCA All Freshman Team
MCCA Freshman Of The Year



Adrianna Beltran
Cross Country

NJCAA Honorable Mention
All American



Layne Marinski
Cross Country

NJCAA Honorable Mention
All American



Lauren Badalamente
Women's Soccer MID

All Region XII 2nd Team
All MCCA 1st Team
Region XII All-Tournament Team



Rachel Blackney
Women's Soccer MID

MCCA All Freshman Team
MCCA Freshman Of The Year
All MCCA 1st Team
All Region XII Team



Tara Gessler
Women's Soccer GK

MCCA All Freshman Team
All MCCA 1st Team
All Region XII Team



Emily Bondar
Volleyball OH

Eastern Conference All
Freshman Team
All Eastern Conference 3rd Team



Stephanie Gibson
Volleyball OH

All Eastern Conference 3rd Team
Eastern Conference All Freshman Team

Coach of the Year

went to both

Rick Larson

Head Coach - SC Men's Soccer

&

Deepak Shiverman

Head Coach - SC Women's Soccer

Other Notables:

- DEF Adrian Tash – All Region XII Team
All MCCA 1st Team
- FWD Chris Long – All Region XII 2nd Team
All MCCA 1st Team
- MID Nate Hicklin – All MCCA Honorable Mention
- DEF Nate Lightner – All MCCA Honorable Mention
- DEF Chelsea Meador – All Region 2nd Team
All MCCA 1st Team
- DEF Rachel Eklund – All MCCA Honorable Mention
- MID Samantha Jarrett – All MCCA Honorable Mention
Region XII All-Tournament Team
- DEF Anthoula Papiouannau – All MCCA Honorable Mention
- S Nicole Kempinski – All Eastern Conference 2nd Team
- DS/L Kara Kempinski – All Eastern Conference 2nd Team
- MB Brittany Sprinkles – All Eastern Conference 3rd Team

SPIRIT NIGHT

continued from PAGE 1

and Ocelots exchanged baskets. The game witnessed six ties and five lead changes. Schoolcraft struggled on defense giving up eight fast break points. The Ocelots did manage to tie the game 35-35 with 2:35 left, but the Bruins made an offensive run and ended the half with a 44-37 lead.

Both Richmond Jackson and Terrance Coles led the Ocelots in scoring with 10 points in the first half. Schoolcraft largest lead was three and it came in the first two minutes of the game. The team also was out rebounded on the offensive glass, as Kellogg collected 15-second chance points.

The second half proved to be all Kellogg. The Ocelots would continuously cut into the lead but couldn't maintain enough offense to pull away with a comfortable lead. At the 15 minute mark, Kellogg was holding on to a 49-45 lead. The Ocelots tried hard to claw their way back but couldn't quite collect enough baskets to make a dent in the score. Kellogg never relinquished the lead and led by a game high 15 points with 2:54 remaining. As the clock ticked down, Schoolcraft made a run closing the scoring gap, but by then the deficit was too large to recover.

"We got out-worked today," said Coach Randy Henry. "I have to make them work hard. We don't play hard for 40 minutes, we play with spurts."

Sophomore Richmond Jackson (21 points and 15 rebounds) and Terrance Coles (14 points and 11 rebounds) both led the way

for Schoolcraft. Nathan Taylor (24) had a game high 25 points and 16 rebounds for Kellogg.

The Men's Basketball program rebuilt their roster from the 2011-12 season with a complete overhaul. Only one returning starter, Richmond Jackson came back from last year's squad. Inexperience is showing early on this season but Coach Henry still believes they are on track to reach their expectations.

"We are still on track to meet our expectations," stated Coach Henry. "We are going to use these ten games in preseason to find out what we got. We have guys coming right out of high school and they don't understand what it means to play for 40 minutes. It's a lot tougher then high school; they are just not realizing that right now."

Men's Basketball Game notables:

Mark Papinueau, Coordinator of Physical Education Building Services, served as the guest coach for the Men's Basketball team. Richmond Jackson, Terrance Coles, Jonathon Campbell and Zinoviy Pelekh all scored in double figures. A live broadcast of both basketball games could be seen on the Brighthouse Network on Channel 13 in the Livonia viewing area.

FAN ZONE



Sports Editor Abdallah Chirazi takes a picture with Ndamukong Suh after covering the press conference at the Grand Prix Event in Belle Isle this past summer. "I honestly had no idea that I would be covering the press conference, let alone meet Ndamukong Suh," said Chirazi. "It was a great experience for a Detroit sports fan like me."



Schoolcraft Student Deshawn Holmes runs into Calvin Johnson earlier this year when working for ESPN. "I remember talking with Calvin Johnson about his ties with Detroit Lions and the city of Detroit," said Holmes. "I told him he was part of our building process in bringing the city back."



PHOTOS BY MANDY GETSCHMANI

The halftime of each game was kept full of spirit by several energetic dance routines. The Schoolcraft Dance team and Beat Boys (accompanied by some super-talented newcomers) showed off their moves, followed by an amazing tribute to the King of Pop by 8-year-old Azavier Robinson.





Mitten state splutters

Wolverines and Spartans both have disappointing seasons

By ABDALLAH CHIRAZI
SPORTS EDITOR

The Michigan Wolverines and Michigan State Spartans both had high expectations coming into this season. Aspirations of winning a Big Ten Title, playing for a Rose Bowl and of course the ever-slim chance of capturing a national championship.

The Spartans came off an 11-3 season (7-1 Big Ten) and a win over Georgia in the Outback Bowl.

The Spartans have fallen back to mediocrity with a 6-6 record barely becoming bowl eligible. To make things worse, their four-game-winning streak over the Wolverines was snapped.

Their defense has been the most reliable element of their arsenal, lim-

iting teams from scoring. Michigan, Ohio State, Minnesota, Northwestern, Iowa and Wisconsin have scored 20 or less points against Michigan State. Yet it's their offense receiving the spotlight for their horrific play, ranking 86th in the country in total offense.

Le'Veon Bell has been solid for the Spartans giving them a security blanket on offense. He ranks second in the nation total rushing and rushed a career high 266 yards against Minnesota to secure a bowl game.

For now, the Spartans won't have a significant bowl game to look forward to but the break is still important because of the valuable practice time and chance to make some offensive adjustments. They will also be able to look ahead for next year and possible incoming recruits.

For Michigan Wolverines it's been a year of uncertainty and disappointment. They finished with an 8-4

record overall (7-2 Big Ten). With two early losses to Notre Dame and Alabama, Wolverines found themselves in an early hole.

Making things worse, in a game against Nebraska to ultimately punch a ticket for a chance to play in the Big Ten Championship, Michigan fans held their breath as quarterback Denard Robinson was clinching his arm after a big hit. He never returned to the game and the Wolverines lost to the Cornhuskers 23-9.

Michigan then had converted wide receiver Devin Gardner to take over quarterback duties for Robinson. At one point Gardner was a highly touted dual-threat QB recruited by Rich Rodriguez. Gardner played very well in four straight games.

With all championship aspirations out of reach Michigan was looking to defeat Ohio State in arguably the biggest rivalry game in college football.

They have not defeated the Buckeyes since 2000 and unfortunately will have to wait until 2013 to try to end it after losing to Ohio 26-21 on Nov. 24.

For now the Michigan Wolverines will play in a bowl this year and are looking to redeem themselves after a subpar season. The Wolverines now ranked No. 20 in the Associated Press College Football poll, will await the winner of the Big Ten Championship to determine their bowl opponents.

With both schools coming off very promising seasons last year, they surely didn't live up to expectations. With only bowl games left to play (with very little implications) both schools will look to obtain victories and look forward for next years recruiting classes. The Wolverines will bring in a top five recruiting class, while the Spartans will look to add pieces to excel the development of QB Andrew Maxwell and the offense.

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Whalers maintain lead in OHL West Division

Mistele nets first career hat trick in loss to Kingston

By DYLAN NARDONE
STAFF WRITER

In what has become a tight race in the Ontario Hockey League's West Division, the Plymouth Whalers find themselves on the top end of the standings with a current record of 13-8-3-1 as of November 29.

Nov. 23 – Kingston (7) at Plymouth (6)

With the traditional biggest shopping day of the year being the day after Thanksgiving, the Whalers looked to continue shopping for another "W" in the win column. The Kingston Frontenacs entered the game with a 12-10-0 record good for third place in the East Division of the OHL's Eastern Conference.

The tempo of the game was fast right from the puck drop and it didn't take long for Kingston to make a statement. Kingston struck first when Cody Alcock scored just 0:32 into the game on the teams first shot on net, his ninth goal of the season, putting Kingston up 1-0. Plymouth then went on the attack, with a goal by Matt Mistele a few minutes later at 3:39 tying the game 1-1. In the final minutes of the first period, Michael Whaley broke the tie and by scoring off a rebound at the 19:08 mark putting the Whalers up 2-1 at the end of the first period.

Plymouth continued its dominance during the second period outshooting Kingston. However, Kingston didn't let up on their intensity. Frontenacs center Darcy Greenaway tied the game up at 2-2 at the 3:40 mark. Whaler's overager, Alex Aleardi used his speed and finesse to break the tie by scoring a goal at 6:06 and followed up with another at 9:57, his 11th and 12th of the season. Aleardi also assisted on another Mistele goal at 13:14, Mistele's second of the game. This put Plymouth up 5-2 with under seven minutes to play.

The Frontenacs answered back and added two more goals to the board, both by Greenaway for his second and third of the night, completing the hat trick at 14:20 (PP) and 18:59. This made it 5-4 after two periods of play.

The third period provided a continuation of the first two period's action marked with intensity and goals. Kingston's Billy Jenkins tied the game at 5-5 just 1:40 into the period. Mistele recording his third goal of the game for his first career hat trick at 7:54 with assists by Tom Wilson and Ryan Hartman making it 6-5. Kingston replied again with a goal by Henri Ikonen followed by another goal by Billy Jenkins which proved to be the game winner making it 7-6.



PHOTOS BY MANDY GETSCHMAN

(Above) Forward Matt Mistele is swept away by his cheering teammates after scoring his second goal against the Frontenacs, assisted by Alex Aleardi at 13:14 in the second period.

Nov. 21 – Windsor (0) at Plymouth (3)

In a traditional Pre-Thanksgiving matchup, the Whalers looked to undertake rival Windsor (10-11-1-4). Whaler's right winger Tom Wilson opened up the scoring for Plymouth at 11:36 into the first period, putting Plymouth up 1-0. The Whalers didn't score again until the second period, about seven minutes in with a goal by Whaler's veteran Alex Aleardi at the 13:50 mark, making it 2-0. Rookie Zach Bratina notched the third goal of the game, his second goal of the season, at 14:44 in the second. Goaltender Matt Mahalak made 26 saves and notched his first shutout of the season.

Nov. 18 – Plymouth (3) at Ottawa (2)

The Ottawa 67's (7-18-0-2) are last place in the East Division and couldn't fight through a strong Plymouth team, falling by a score of 3-2. Ottawa's Ryan Van Stralen opened the scoring for the 67's, recording his fifth goal of the season, making it 1-0. Plymouth responded within five minutes with a goal from Rickard Rakell and followed up by a goal from Matthew Mistele. The Whalers took a 2-1 lead at the end of the first period. Ottawa's Steven Janes netted the lone goal in the second period, which the Whalers responded to with a third period goal by Ryan Hartman.



Center Forward Michael Whaley cheers after scoring a goal, thus breaking the 1-1 tie at the end of the first period.

Nov. 17 – Plymouth (2) at Belleville (3) OT

The Belleville Bulls (14-8-3-0) had to fight until the overtime period to defeat the Whalers. Alex Aleardi started the scoring in the second period. He also scored the second goal for Plymouth in the third period. Despite the loss, Alex Nedeljkovic made 25 saves in his OHL debut.

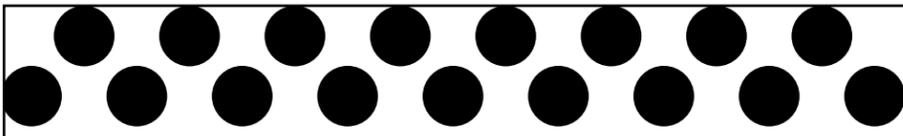
Nov. 14 – Plymouth (7) at Saginaw (8)

After a see-saw of a game, the Saginaw Spirit (11-13-2-1) prevailed over the Whalers, and grabbed a win in what was a high scoring matchup. The first goal of the game came from Saginaw's Jimmy Lodge. The first goal for Plymouth was scored by Rickard Rakell. Goalie Riley Corbin made 19 saves on 24 shots through 47 minutes, before Matt Mahalak replaced him and let in three goals.

BORED???

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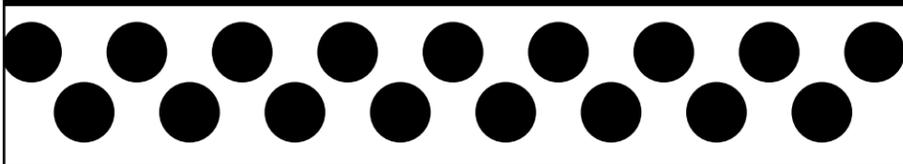
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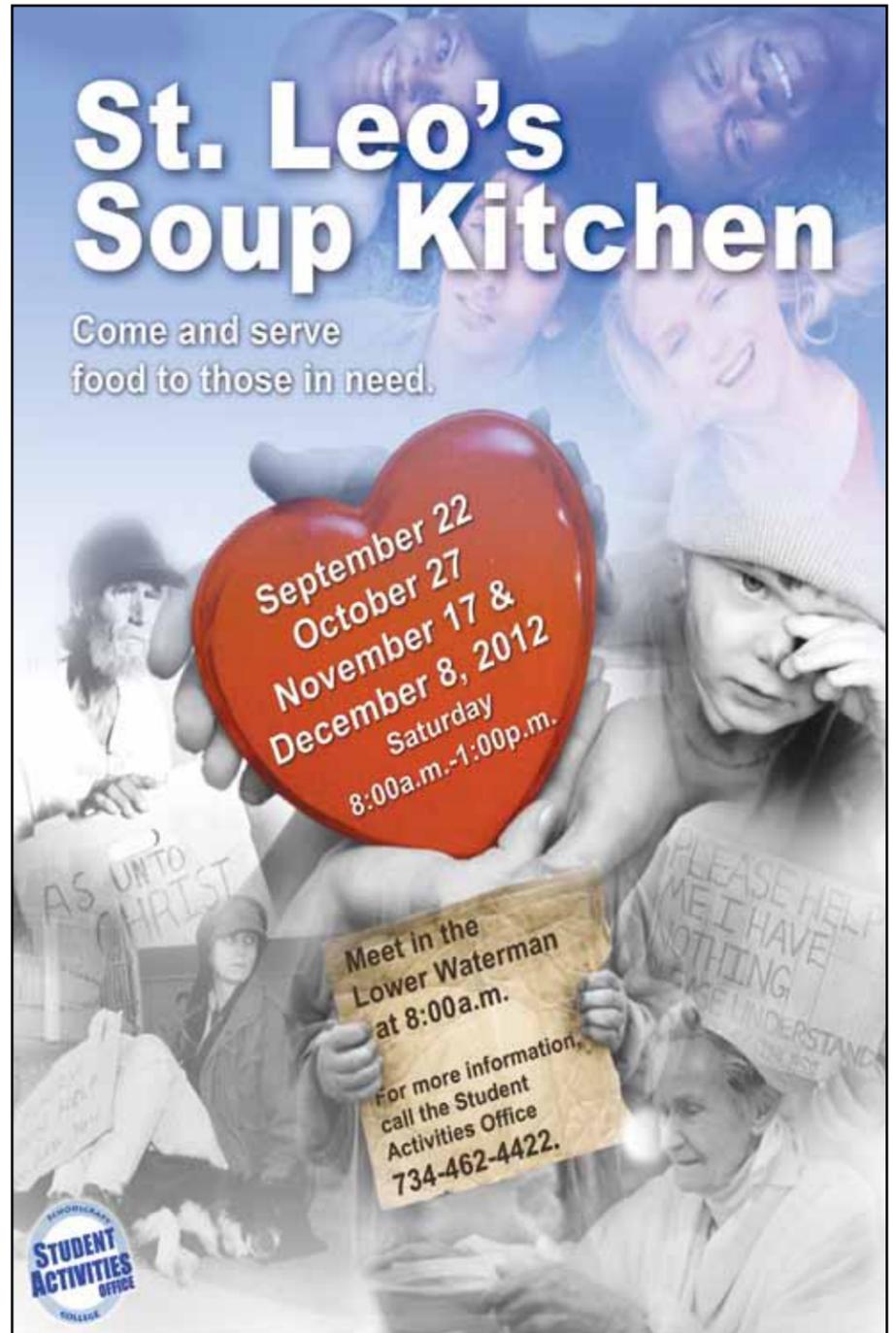
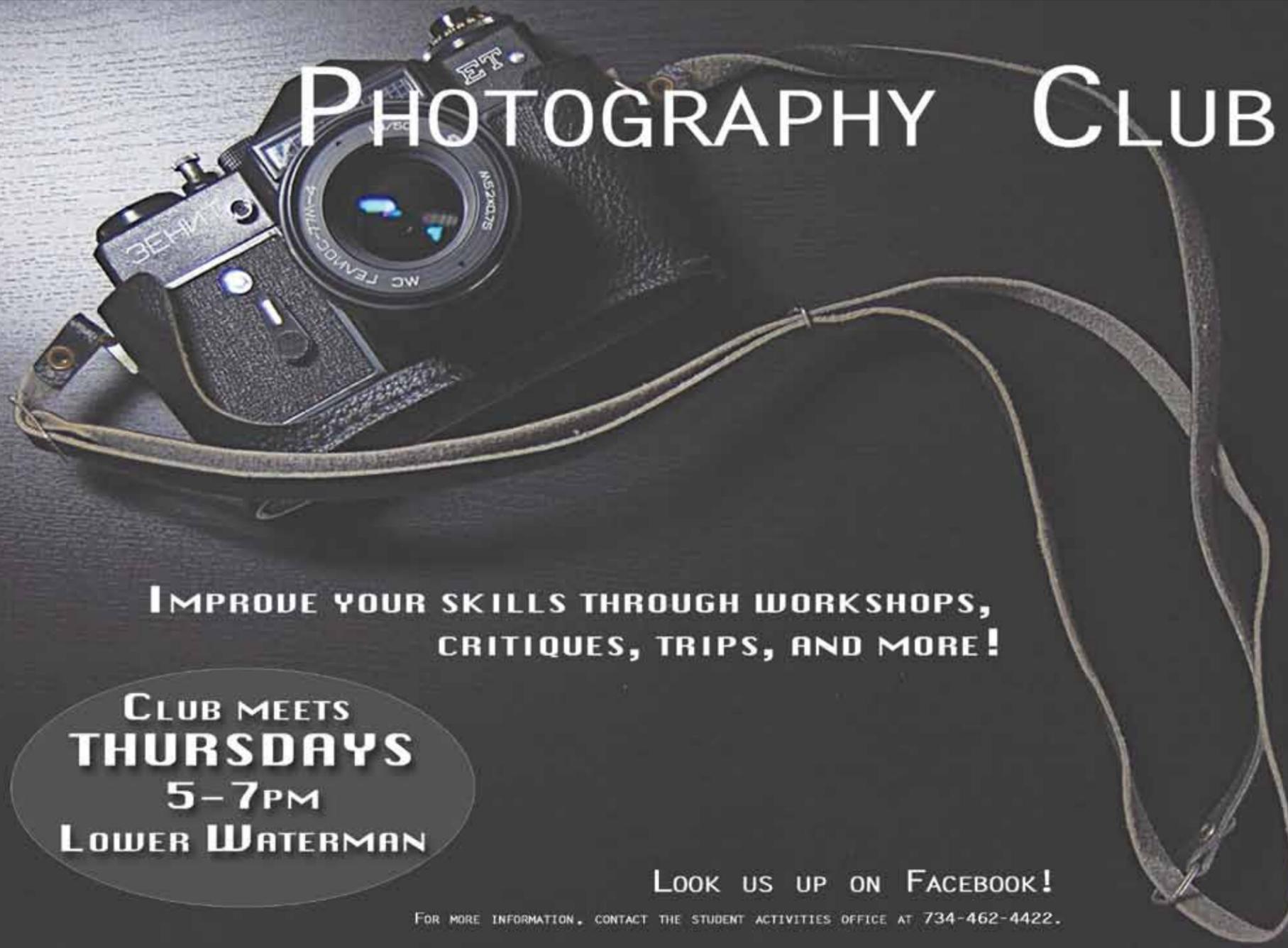
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For more information, contact the Student Activities Office at 734-462-4422.

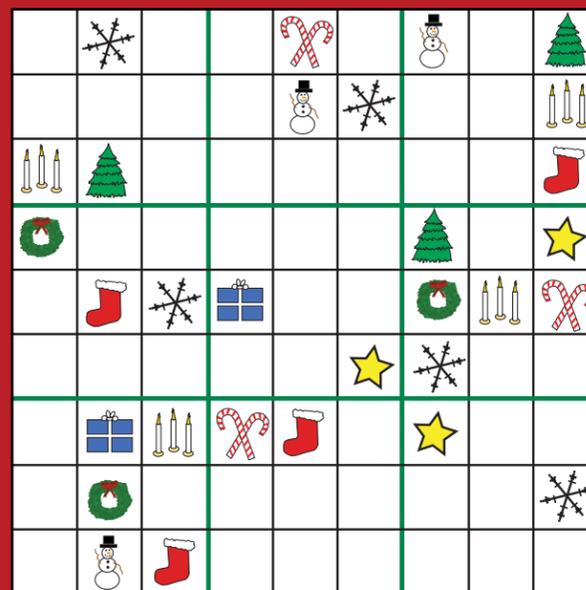
Christmas Maze

By Jonathan King



Can you make your way from the base up to the star, picking up all the ornaments along the way without going over the same path twice?

MISTLETOKU



SOLUTION PAGE 34

Politically Correct...

Honey, why does my Indian curtain says, "Made in China?"
Now, have you been getting your Christmas gifts from Pier1 China?



-By Urmila Bilgi

HOLIDAYSCOPES

By MADAME MYSTIQUE
STAFF PSYCHIC

Dasher

3/21-4/19

In recent events life has got you feeling less important and even a dime a dozen, but fear not because everyone has that special something. Do not let others get you down. Your time is coming.

Prancer

4/20-5/20

You are usually the leader of the pack and others fall in behind you. Perhaps, it is your personality, but in the next coming weeks others may challenge your leadership. Do not let others intimidate you, stick to your guns.

Dancer

5/21-6/20

Life has been simple and carefree thus far for you. The unattached attitude and lack of responsibility in your routine seems to fit you well, but be cautious for hard times are set to come. Will you be able to cope or will you crack under the pressure?

Vixen

6/21-7/22

There is something alluring to the dangerous lifestyle you lead; perhaps it is the spontaneity or the adrenaline pumping activities but regardless you live on the edge. Though you feel fulfillment from the exciting events of the day, remember that all luck runs out and lightning can strike twice.

Donner

7/23-8/22

Life has been all fine and dandy, but come this week your daily routine will be flipped upside down. Hilarity will ensue, as things seem to stand in your path as you venture onward, but this is all in good fun. Hold no grudges, and keep everything upbeat, for life is too short for frowns.

Blitzen

8/23-9/22

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

Comet

9/23-10/22

You are an important asset to your work, team, school, or class, do not let others 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.

Cupid

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.

Vixen

11/22-12/21

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

Rudolph

12/22-1/19

Many have doubted you throughout the years, and many have even tried to bring you down. However, your moment to shine will be coming in the next few weeks, show those naysayers what you are made of.

Santa Claus

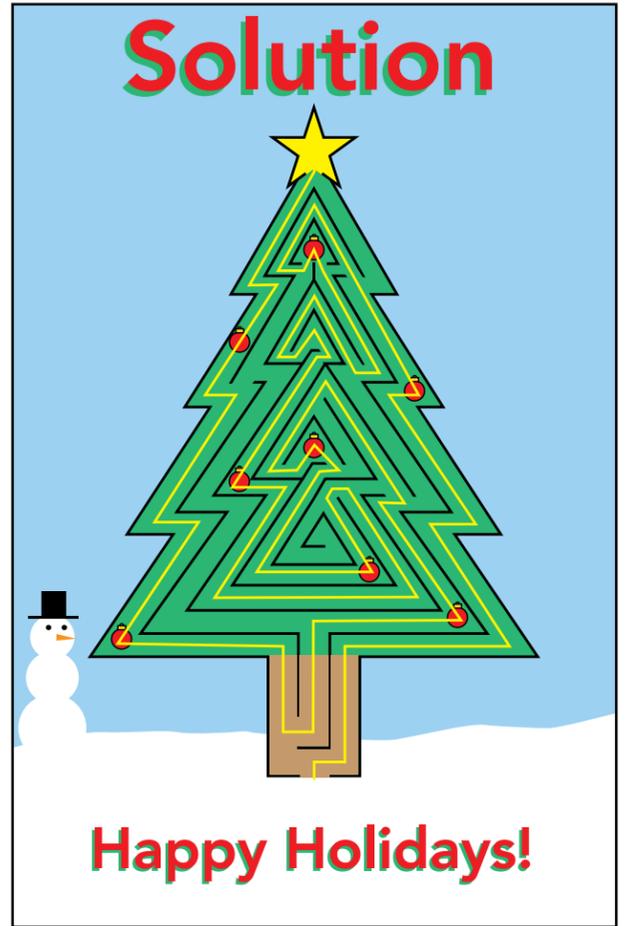
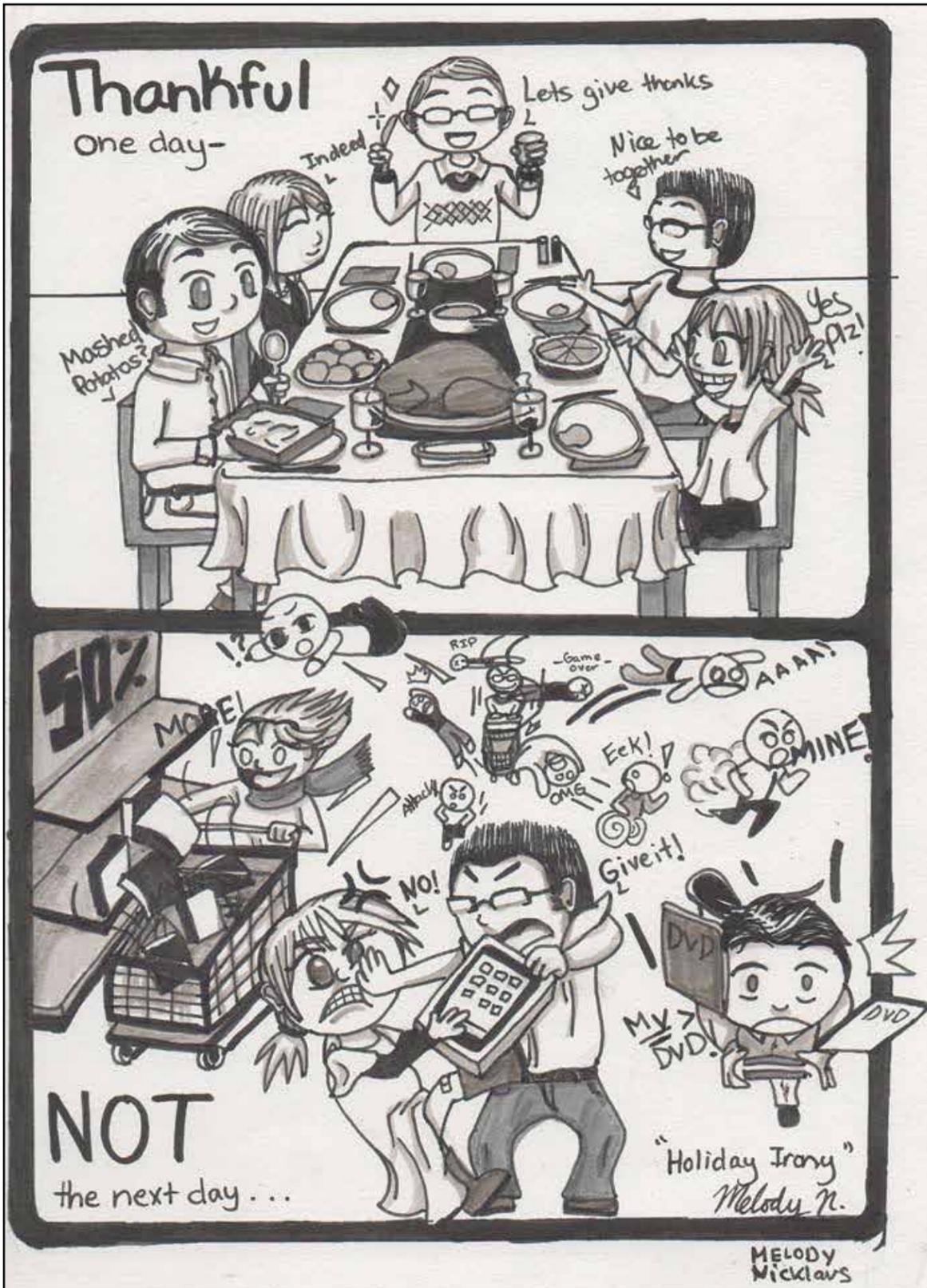
1/20-2/18

Although life has sped up in the last few weeks and it seems like the workload is never ending, hold tight. Soon your vacation time will come, so maybe it is time for that big trip you have been planning.

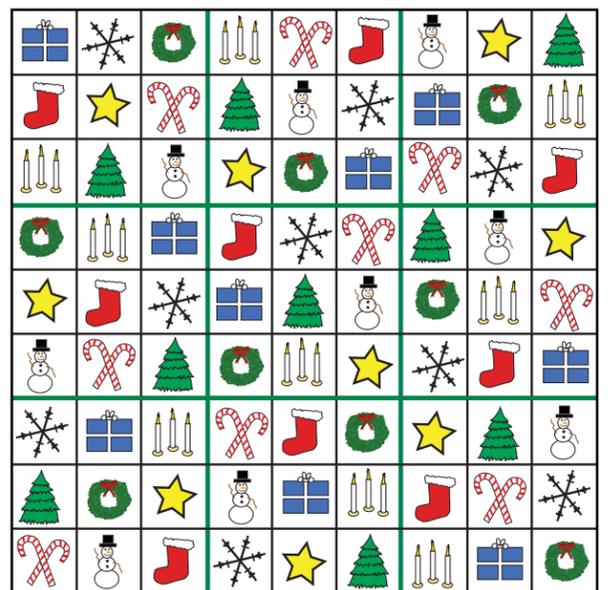
Mrs. Claus

2/19-3/20

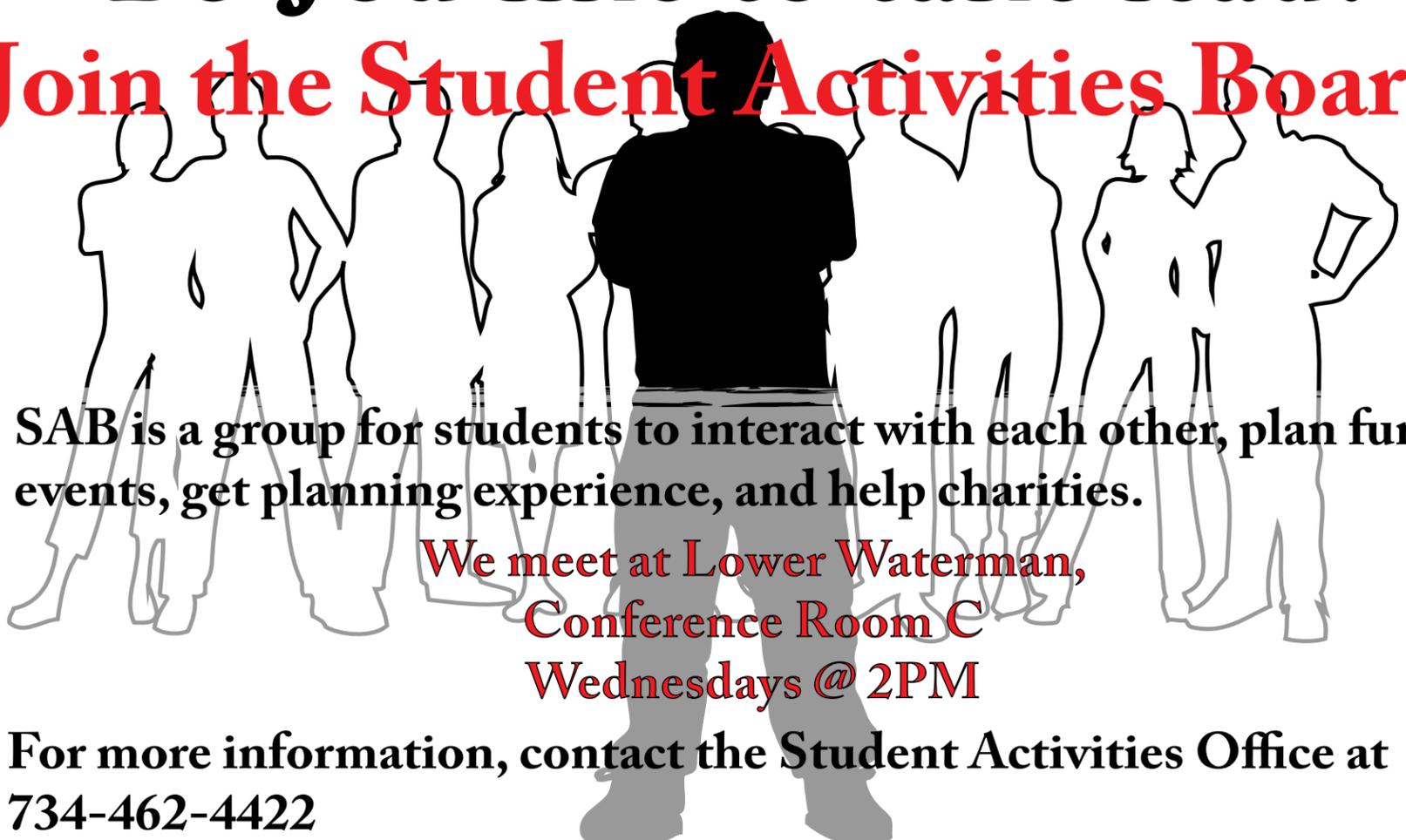
You have been the person behind the big boss all your life, and everyone has taken credit for your brilliance. No longer should you let these greatest achievements go unnoticed, stand up for yourself and your beliefs, in the end you'll win out and feel a new sense of pride.



SOLUTION Mistletoke - Page 33



Do you like to take lead? Join the Student Activities Board



SAB is a group for students to interact with each other, plan fun events, get planning experience, and help charities.

We meet at Lower Waterman,
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Wednesdays @ 2PM

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The end was near...

A history of apocalyptic predictions

By JONATHAN KING
EDITOR IN CHIEF

From Nostradamus to Leonard Nimoy, people have been spouting about the end times forever. The following are but a few of the times we as a species apparently cheated death.

Giant flood – 1524

In June of 1523, a group of London astrologers converged and calculated that the End was coming, to be initiated by a massive flood on Feb. 1, 1524. This led to some considerable hysteria, with 20,000 people abandoning their homes and fleeing the city. One industrious clergyman even built himself a fortress, stockpiling food and water. Imagine his surprise when it didn't even rain.

Doomsaying chicken – 1809

There once was a fortune teller by the name of Mary Bateman, known as "The Yorkshire Witch," who had a remarkable pet: a chicken that would lay eggs with messages written on them predicting the end of the world. These eggs, one of which foretold the second coming of Christ, caused quite a stir amongst the townsfolk. At least, until it was found that Bateman had been writing all the messages herself, and then re-inserting (ouch!) the eggs into the chicken.

Solar explosion – 1919

In 1919, the world was a-panic because of Albert Porta, a respected meteorologist at the time. Porta predicted that on Dec. 17, 1919, a planetary conjunction would occur, causing "a magnetic current that would pierce the sun, cause great explosions of flaming gas and eventually engulf the Earth." Needless to say, when Dec. 18 rolled around, everyone breathed a sigh of relief but Porta's reputation took quite a hit. He finished his career writing the weather column in the local newspaper.

The Jupiter Effect – 1982

In 1974, the astrophysicists John Gribben and Stephen Plagemann penned the book "The Jupiter Effect." This bestseller predicted that on March 10, 1982, an alignment of the planets would lead to an increased gravitational pull that could have catastrophic consequences including a massive earthquake along the San Andreas Fault. The actual "Jupiter Effect?" On March 10, the tide rose 0.04 millimeters higher than usual.

Y2K bug – 2000

Y2K: Three letters with the power to conjure up mass panic. The "Y2K bug" threatened to cripple all computer systems, making it the closest thing to a "Terminator"-style technological armageddon we humans had ever faced. Dozens of Y2K survival books were penned, including "Y2K Family Survival Guide: A Complete Action Manual for Your Y2K Lifeboat," written by Avian M. Rogers and Leonard Nimoy. Yes, even Spock is not immune to apocalyptic hysteria.

2012

It's the end of the world as we know it (maybe)

By JONATHAN KING
EDITOR IN CHIEF

12-21-12 is on the tip of everyone's tongue, and has become synonymous with any number of ill omens. People are convinced that the world is going to end this Dec. 21. (Which would be a real pity... four days before Christmas?) 2012 has become a serious pop phenomenon. A search for "2012 survival guide" on amazon.com brings up a whopping 1,325 book results – heck, there was even a horrendous John Cusack movie made about it. But what is the 2012 phenomenon about, anyway? The world's not really going to end, right? Right?

Why December 21

Dec. 21 marks the end of the Mayan Long Count Calendar, which measures time in b'ak'tuns (a Mayan unit of time equal to 144,000 days or approximately 394 years). According to Mayan creation mythology, the gods created and destroyed three worlds before creating Earth, the fourth world. According to the Long Count Calendar, the "zero date," which marks the destruction of the third world and the creation of the fourth comes to Aug. 11, 3114 B.C.

The third world lasted for 13 b'ak'tuns before being destroyed, and myth suggests the same fate could befall the Earth. In his book "The Maya," archaeologist and anthropologist Michael D. Coe wrote, "There is a suggestion ... that Armageddon would overtake the degenerate peoples of the world and all creation on the final day of the 13th [b'ak'tun]. Thus ... our present universe [would] be annihilated when the Great Cycle of the Long Count reaches completion." And so, calculating 13 b'ak'tuns past Aug. 11, 3114 B.C. leads to – you guessed it – Dec. 21, 2012. Yep, the Earth's expiration date is coming up quick.

A number of doomsayers have created their own theories as to why the

how the apocalypse will actually happen. Some believe a particular galactic alignment will occur between the Sun and the supermassive black hole Sagittarius A*, and the resulting gravitational flux will cause some kind of cataclysmic destruction on Earth.

One popular theory concerns a mysterious planet called Nibiru, also known as Planet X, which is on a collision or near-collision course with Earth. Nibiru was first conjured up in 1995 by Nancy Leider from Wisconsin, who claimed that she had been informed about the mysterious planet and its collision course with Earth via a communication device implanted in her head by grey aliens called Zetas.

Others simply think that Dec. 21 marks a "point of no return" for the environment, after which extreme environmental decline will be inevitable, unstoppable and ultimately responsible for the extinction of our species. And there are numerous other theories, including geomagnetic reversal of the Earth or an imminent supernova. Regardless of which poison you pick, it's pretty scary. However...

Why it's not going to happen

Despite the list of "celebrity believers" touted on december212012.com, including such intellectuals as Britney Spears and Lil' Wayne, most scientists agree that the 21st is going to be as uneventful as any of the other hundreds of non-cataclysms. (For a comprehensive list of failed

happened, in 1998.

NASA Senior Research Scientist Don Yeomans noted, "There apparently is a great deal of interest in celestial bodies, and their locations and trajectories at the end of the calendar year 2012. Now, I for one love a good book or movie as much as the next guy. But the stuff flying around through cyberspace, TV and the movies is not based on science."

So enjoy yourself this Dec. 21. Have some fun with friends and enjoy the fact that life continues to march forward. (At least until the sun swells and envelops the planet... but hey, that's not for another 4.5 billion years.)



Surviving 2012 Post-Apocalypse Tips Goodbye and good luck

By JONATHAN KING
FRIGHTENED EXPERT

Well, friends, this is it. Our last communication before the big day hits. Oh sure, some NASA scientists have said there's nothing to worry about. (As if we'd trust the guys who faked a whole moon landing.) Anyway, they'll be laughing on the other side of their faces once Dec. 21 hits! (Quite literally too, if mutation occurs.)

We'll leave you with some final tips and tricks as doomsday approaches.

1. Start selling all the junk you've been collecting for years that doesn't really help you in any way, and use the money to stock up on food and gasoline. After the apocalypse, a can of creamed corn is going to be worth a heck of a lot more to you than 1,000 collectible Slurpee cups.

2. Consider taking up a few more religions. In the case of a worldwide disaster, it's always good to hedge your bets.

3. For the week leading up to Dec. 21, eat nothing but butter. This will fatten you up and make you nice and juicy, so in the event you are eaten by the Mayan feathered serpent god Quetzalcoatl, at least you'll be tasty.

4. Realistically, if the apocalypse hits, you're not gonna survive. Yes, this is called "Surviving 2012" and we've tried to remain positive, but come on – Planet X? You think you're going to live through our planet being hit by another planet?

So, really, the ultimate apocalypse tip is to make the most of life while you still have the chance. Have fun. Call your mother. Make your friend a sandwich. Help someone less fortunate than you. Create something wonderful. Do great things now so that they don't turn into regrets when everything goes nuclear or the aliens invade.

Good night and good luck, friends.

world will end in December, and used the Mayan calendar as a confirmation that the planets are truly aligned against Earth's favor. Which brings us to...

How we're all going to die

While many people are convinced that the end of the world is upon us, there isn't a consensus on



'Tis the season of skating



Campus Martius is hosting its ninth year of tree lighting in Detroit. Along with viewing the festive decoration, attendees are also able to enjoy ice skating, food at the Arctic Zone and explore downtown to their hearts delight. If you are worried you will pass the event, don't fret, because all you have to do is look for the giant Christmas tree and the many ecstatic people skating out in the winter air.

The skating rink is open for children and adults of all ages. You can skate in the daytime or go in the evening and skate under the glow of the many bright lights and decorations. Whatever time you go, all attending can be seen enjoying the atmosphere set by family and friends whizzing around the rink and, occasionally, falling on their butts.

The cost is \$7 for normal admission and \$6 for children 12 and younger as well as seniors 50 and older. The rink also provides skates for a \$3 rental fee, sharpening for \$10 and a shoe check for those with their own skates for \$2. So don't miss out on this time to enjoy one of the most delightful attractions offered in Detroit this winter!

Campus Martius: 800 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, Michigan
Rink hours Nov. 16 through Dec. 31, 2012:
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