



Charity Basketball Game
February 13 & 5:30 P.M.
7:30 P.M.

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ALERT





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The Schoolcraft
Connection

VOLUME 26 ISSUE 09

We Pursue Excellence

February 4, 2013






Stage set for new
Fine Arts Program

New transfer degree creates opportunity in art, english and music

Photos by Chris Kovacs

Creative students at Schoolcraft can now focus on perfecting their craft while earning a valuable Associates in Fine Arts degree.

BY ALYS DOLAN
EDITOR IN CHIEF

With so many exciting degrees available at Schoolcraft, the College now welcomes the latest addition to its curriculum, which will significantly benefit students. The Associates in Fine Arts (AFA) allows students to leave Schoolcraft with a focus in the field of performing arts or fine arts. The AFA applies to all students looking to major in creative writing, art, music or humanities. The degree is “transfer-friendly,” and gives students the chance to perfect their craft for their future career.

“The Associates of Fine Arts degree provides official recognition of the completion of course work within the fine arts disciplines,” informed Sara Olson, an Art professor on campus. “Although it was just established last year, it has been enthusiastically embraced by the students and faculty of the Art Department. I believe that the AFA is a great motivator for students to be proactive and disciplined in their selection of, and performance in, the art courses they select.” Specifically for a student looking to major in Art and Design, this degree will help build the skills that are needed to fully prepare them to go on to a four year university.

“I am pleased that Schoolcraft offers the AFA degree in music, art and creative writing,” stated Dr. Steve Dolgin, an English Instructor at the College. “The nature of creative writing courses requires students to interact with written texts, both in their construction and revision. Arguably, the cognitive demands made in these courses are, rather than counterproductive with regard to the goals of other reading and writing courses in the English curriculum, productive and even necessary to a well-rounded experience with the literary arts.” Any student looking to gain their degree geared toward writing will profit immensely from the new degree program because it enables them to become an author, publisher, editor or anything in the field of writing that they desire.

“Music is one of the three strands within the Associate's in Fine Arts degree,” Dr. Barton Polot, the Chair of the Music Department, said regarding the AFA. “Up until now, we've really never had something we could call a music major at Schoolcraft. If a student came and they were interested in pursuing music as a career, particularly if they thought they might want to transfer, the general degrees put them on a really wrong track. They

end up not taking private instruction on their principle instrument; they don't play in an ensemble. By the time they think they might want to transfer to a university, they've got a year of two to make up things just to be ready for an audition for a university music program. So now with an Associate of Fine Arts degree, there's plenty of flexibility molded around the things they want to do, that they'd like to do, but we can also advise them on the things that they need to do in order to be prepared for completion of a degree as a music major.” Thus the AFA gives students the tools to build their education to how they see fit. Students are now in charge of shaping your career path and education in the Fine Arts field grants this to students.

“Other community colleges offer specific programs for students seeking a degree with an art focus,” added Cheryl Hawkins, the Dean of Arts and Sciences. “Many of these programs do not consider general transferability, but rather offer applied experience with a limited option for articulated transferability. As the Schoolcraft AFA is “transfer friendly,” it would allow for greater flexibility for



CONTACT US
sceditor@schoolcraft.edu
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Rick Snyder addresses Michigan Press Association

Governor speaks at annual legislative luncheon in Grand Rapids

By Alys Dolan
Editor in Chief

The Michigan Press Association Annual Conference was held at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids Jan. 25 and 26 and featured a familiar face as its keynote speaker for its luncheon. A room full of eager listeners welcomed Governor Rick Snyder as he discussed the triumphs of the past year and spoke on the number of improvements he hopes to make in Michigan. This was Snyder's third time speaking at the event, which featured topics including the environmental status of Michigan's Great Lakes, the aftermath of the right-to-work bill and where he believes Detroit is headed.

Snyder urged everyone to mark Feb. 7 on his or her calendars, as he will be unveiling the big budget plans; he dubbed this as "budget day." With the nation's economy facing even tougher days ahead, the news will put all Michiganders on pins and needles.

Although Michigan is facing a tough time in the job market, Snyder reminded everyone about the website launched last year, mitalent.org. The website is dedicated to matching qualified employees to local jobs suited for their skill sets. Michigan's unemployment is just under nine percent and the governor shook his head and stated, "Unemployment is still too high in Michigan." Snyder discussed how unemployment is not only is it a problem in our state but all over the nation. "I believe we have a broken system in our country, not just in Michigan, but our country needs to match the supply and demand of talent. And what I'm excited about is using that as a starting point, the summit, to say let's lead the country and be the very best place of matching supply and demand of talent, because that will create tens of thousands of jobs and significantly improve our unemployment," Snyder said. He emphasized that this will not happen overnight, but that our state has to stay diligent and continue working to eliminate the problem.

Education and the future of jobs was another topic addressed. Snyder went on to describe an education summit for the future of jobs and education. He explained that education is there as a tool to build the



PHOTO BY MANDY GETSCHMAN

Governor Snyder used the legislative luncheon as a chance to address key issues for young people in Michigan.

next set of leaders and to train people for the challenges of a career. "My view of the education system is [to] do two main goals: prepare people for a career/ get them connected to a career and the second one is self enrichment, just create that opportunity for us to always be better and to learn and grow. I'm a nerd and I believe in it," Snyder said.

The governor was asked about how the right-to-work bill, which recently passed, will weigh on the future of those looking for jobs in Michigan. He clarified that there is much confusion on the bill, but the bottom line is many of the jobs people are seeking now should be in the private sector and this bill will not come into play. The bill is between workers and the unions, he called it "the freedom-to-choose" law, and he believes will result in more job openings for those looking.

Another question addressed was about the dangerously low water levels of the Great Lakes and how it will impact the state. He stated that they were looking into the issue and are seeking to resolve it. The harbors need a long-term fix and the issue's relevancy may carry on beyond just this coming year. The concerns are growing and our legislation is working toward addressing this prominent matter.

The governor also touched on the status of Detroit. A

member of the audience asked about how the changes going on in the city will affect the state, not just the surrounding cities. Snyder responded with hope that the future looks bright for Motown. He thanked the City Council and Mayor Dave Bing for the work they have done to improve the city, but he and everyone know that the city has more work ahead and should have been done long ago. His response was to grow the city again and welcome the changes being made to expand the community. Snyder explained that he is waiting on a review report that will look at the progress the city has made as well as the long-term liabilities of the city to decide if immediate action is needed.

Not everyone was welcoming to Snyder however. Inside, editors, publishers and lawmakers welcomed the governor warmly to the conference, but certain groups were not so hospitable outside. Many labor, women's rights and environmental groups protested around the perimeter of the hotel. Even though Snyder believes that the "freedom-to-choose" bill will be successful those outside the hotel did not agree. The protestors were fervent as they paced the entrance with signs depicting the governor as a rat and liar. The energetic protestors called out that "Tricky Ricky's got to go." Chants and the sounds of beating drums could be heard for blocks.



PHOTOS BY MANDY GETSCHMAN

Spirited critics of Rick Snyder's policies braved the bitter Grand Rapids cold to make sure the governor heard their statements.





New faces, same mission

Newly elected Board of Trustee members sworn in

BY **RAMON RAZO**
MANAGING EDITOR

On the evening of Jan. 23, the current College trustees, along with Schoolcraft President Dr. Conway Jeffress, welcomed two new faces to the Board of Trustees. Newly elected Board members were Gretchen Alaniz and Terry Gilligan. Re-elected Trustee Eric Stempien was not present due to being out of state for business.

The meeting began with the swearing in of Alaniz by Livonia City Councilman Brandon Kritzman. Alaniz is serving a full term of six years. She is a senior manager at TRW Automotive and

has experience with the Livonia Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

Terry Gilligan was sworn in by Senator Glenn Anderson. Senator Anderson represents Michiganders in the areas of Garden City, Westland, Redford Township and Livonia. Gilligan will be serving a partial two year term, and is also the parent of a student here at the College. His educational background includes graduating from HFCC as well as experience with the Insurance Trust Fund and the political action committee.

The Board of Trustees is a comprised of a group of seven members, elected by the voters of Schoolcraft

College District who serve for six-year terms. The authority of the Board of Trustees is established by the state legislature through the Community College Act. The Board is the policy-making body for the College.

Open to the public, the scheduled meetings of the Board of Trustees of the Schoolcraft College District are held at 7 p.m. once a month, in the Administration Center Conference Room. For further information regarding these meetings call 734-462-4418.

The Schoolcraft Connection would like to wish the three trustees well in their continuing work towards a better Schoolcraft.

leading up to it and ending in issue 700, Spider-man gets into several tussles with his foe, Doctor Octopus. It's a long, complicated tale, but the long and short of it is Doc Ock, whose own body was dying, takes over Peter's body and manages to completely erase his mind from existence. That's it. No more Peter Parker.

Oh, sure, the newly bodied Otto Octavius still has Parker's memories. Seeing what Peter has gone through in his life motivates him to become "a better Spider-man...a superior Spider-man." But the damage is done. This is almost as shocking as that time when Peter sold his marriage to Satan or the time when it turned out he was molested. Fans of the web-head just can't catch a break.

Recently, in the "Ultimate" line of comics (which are a line of books that told all the Marvel characters stories from the beginning with modern twists), Peter Parker was killed trying to save both Captain American and his Aunt May. He died a hero's death and it was a touching story. In his place, Miles Morales took up the Spider-mantle. The shift bothered some fans, but the quality of the storytelling endured. Comic fans still had adult Peter in the regular 616 world, right? (The number is used when referring to the storylines that don't feature zombie Hulk or Peter killing Mary Jane with his radioactive lovelomaking. No joke – that actually happened.)

Well, now Marvel is set to divide fans all over again with "Superior Spider-man." In the books

Fugitives! Just like he is now! He also released a film called "Star Whackers" back in 2011. If this is some sort of elaborate publicity stunt (much like the one Joaquin Phoenix did for the film "In Still Here"), the two had better come clean fast. Either that, or keep running. Whichever they prefer.

Comic News

Everybody loves the good-ol' wall-crawler, Spider-man. He's got a cool costume, awesome superpowers and can get around New York City better than the subway. His alter ego, Peter Parker, is also well loved due to how people can relate to him with his awkwardness, his day-to-day issues, his nobility and morality.

hopes of being shielded by the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, but Randy was denied refugee status due to his vandalism charges. Evi, whose father is Canadian, was allowed to stay, but her husband would have to find solace in another country. However, it would later be revealed the whole reason the two had fled to Canada was not because of their run-in with the law, although that was part of it. The real reason was because the two of them were trying to outrun what they described as "star whackers," an Illuminati-style group that Quaid claims killed off both David Carradine and Heath Ledger.

Want to know something even wackier? Quaid actually has done musical work with a group called Randy Quaid and the Fugitives. The

In other news

BY **RAMON RAZO**
MANAGING EDITOR

Quaid News

The continuing saga of actor Randy Quaid is something to take note of. For those who haven't been keeping up on current events, shame on you. Currently, Quaid and his wife Evi have been on the run from the feds after they were kicked out of a house they didn't own anymore, even though they claimed they still did. On top of that, they caused about \$5,000 worth of vandalism damage. The Quaid's then fled to Canada in



Campus Crime

Compiled by Josiah Thomas
Staff Writer

Campus Crime Alert:

On January 30, 2013 at approximately 6:20 p.m. a female student in the lower level of Waterman struck up an acquaintance with a male, who invited her to walk with him to his car. When they arrived at his vehicle, he tried to kiss her. She told him to stop, but he then forced himself on her and started to kiss her neck. The female student continued to tell him no and that she had to leave. The suspect then offered her a ride back to VisTaTech, which she declined, and he eventually left the parking lot. The student then returned to the Waterman Center and told her friends about the incident. Campus Security Police was then contacted. The suspect has not been located. Suspect is described as a white male, 22-23 years old, approximately 6 ft. tall, 200 lbs., clean shaven, and has short brown hair. His vehicle is described as a black automobile similar to the Avenger. The car was filled with soccer balls and had cleats in the back seat. Anyone with additional information should contact Campus Security immediately.

Disorderly Person

Nov. 29, 2012. 10:05 a.m. A man and his female companion went to the financial aid office to see if he qualified for aid. When he was informed that his GPA was too low to qualify, he became upset and kicked open the office door as he left. The subject then exited the west main entrance of the McDowell Center, kicking the sliding doors with enough force to knock them off the tracks. No significant damage was inflicted on the doors. The male was reported to be around 6 feet, 4 inches, 30 years old, sporting short brown hair and a beard. His female companion was said to be around 20 years old. Both of them were last seen in a four-door Toyota pickup.

Threat

Dec. 4, 2012. 10:50 a.m. One student overheard another student saying they were going to physically assault a third student. When security arrived to confront the student who was reported to have made the threat, they denied making any threatening statements, and stated that they were speaking out of anger. The officer told them that if a similar incident happened, the student in question would be arrested and prosecuted.

Dec. 17, 2012. 4:15 p.m. An officer was contacted concerning a threatening text message that a female student had received. In the text, they had threatened to come to the student's house and harm them.

However, the student stated that she did not feel threatened by the person who made it. Two days later, she reported that she had texted the person in question and eventually made peace.

Larceny

Dec. 7, 2012. 8:30-11 a.m. A male student had several items stolen from his vehicle. His debit card, driver's license, an Amazon credit card and his laptop were stolen from his unzipped backpack inside of his red 2002 GMC Jimmy. He had left the vehicle unlocked, and found no damage on the vehicle.

Verbal Argument

Dec. 12 2012, 9:55 a.m. A call was dispatched concerning two students in a heated verbal argument which nearly resulted in physical violence. Witnesses reported it being over a vehicle not being returned to its owner. Officers advised that both of the students stay away from each other.

Creepy behavior

Nov. 27, 2012. An instructor reported that a male student had asked her out, as well as asking them to engage in lewd behavior. After repeatedly refusing the student's advances, the student called the instructor an offensive name. She also reported that the student had also sent numerous offensive text messages and conducted himself inappropriately in class.

Students should be aware of changes in software

By **RAMON RAZO**
MANAGING EDITOR

It is a new semester, and with a new semester brings about a lot of changes. Textbooks (regrettably) go out of date, students schedules must be reorganized, and now with the implementation of Blackboard Learn, students' online learning has received substantial renovations.

What is Blackboard Learn?

In a nutshell, Blackboard Learn is really just the next, newest version of Blackboard. "Like all upgrades to technology/software, sometimes the changes are bigger than others," said Cheri Holman, Associate Dean of Distance Learning. "A similar example would be Microsoft Office. Sometimes users can barely tell the changes while at other times the changes are more noticeable."

Blackboard Learn features some new aspects that both students and instructors will find useful. The new system includes features like journals, blogs and wikis. Holman

also noted that the new Blackboard is very much like a social media site, like Facebook or Twitter, designed to help build stronger learning environments. Holman also pointed out that students will be able to navigate their courses easier and more efficiently. "I am positively impressed," said Professor Arthur Lindenberg, a creative writing/English instructor at the College. He spoke well of the new system and how it now allows instructors to easily go from what faculty sees to what students see. "The grading facility is easier to use, as is the enrollment control." This simply means that when a student drops a course, it allows for easier removal of the student from the class roster.

During the fall semester, the College was unable to get all online classes moved from the Blackboard 8 (the older system) onto the Blackboard Learn system. Due to this, some students may have some online classes on both systems for the winter 2013 semester. Students taking OE/OE, hybrid or traditional classes that are using Blackboard are already on Blackboard Learn. Holman says the plan is to have all courses on Blackboard Learn by spring of 2013.

Getting the word out

However, not all students are aware of the move to the new system. Worst still, some students are not aware of how to login to the new Blackboard. "So far the biggest [issue we've had] with Blackboard Learn is user failure to read the directions on the login screen regarding their username and password," Holman informed. "The username is the same from the older version of Blackboard to this version but the password is not."

Holman stressed that the main reason as to why students are likely unaware is because not all of them are utilizing their Schoolcraft email accounts yet. "For most courses using Blackboard Learn," said Holman, "the Schoolcraft email address is what was loaded into the course." Before the utilization of SC Mail, whatever email students had previously provided was the email that was notified. "Therefore, it is very important that students log-in to their Schoolcraft email as announcements and information may have already been sent to them at this email address through Blackboard." Once students activate their SC Mail, they will discover that their mail, Blackboard Learn and campus wireless all share the same username and password. It's always nice to keep things simple.

The more you know...

To access SC Mail, go to schoolcraft.edu/email and follow the instruction. (It is recommended that you go to WebAdvisor and make your SC Mail primary.)

Select the Student E-mail Sign-In link on the left to log in to your email.

The login for your SC Mail will be the same as it was for Blackboard Learn.

The username will be your first initial and your student number.

The password is your first name, first letter capitalized, followed by your student number. Example: Michael0012345 (not Mike0012345)

It is advised that you change your password after logging in.

To avoid having to check several different email addresses, you can forward your SC Mail to another email address by following the directions provided. (See E-mail User Guide link for directions.)

FINE ARTS

continued from **PAGE 1**

students as well as opportunities for a wider group of options for articulations."

Students looking to gain a full understanding of their dream career in the fine arts field should take advantage of the amazing opportunity that Schoolcraft offers. Schoolcraft's AFA program will aid students going on for their Bachelor's in Fine Arts (BFA) at any four-year university of their choosing. The newly featured AFA opens doors for

any who are seeking a degree in music, art or humanities, and will improve opportunities for students to grow on campus.

Anyone looking for more information can look on the Schoolcraft website. It details how the program was established to meet the desires of students hoping to attain their degree in art, music and creative writing. The AFA allows students to explore a world created through their own passion and imagination. The newest add-on to the program will change a student's experience here and for the future, and help them realize their potential and their dreams.

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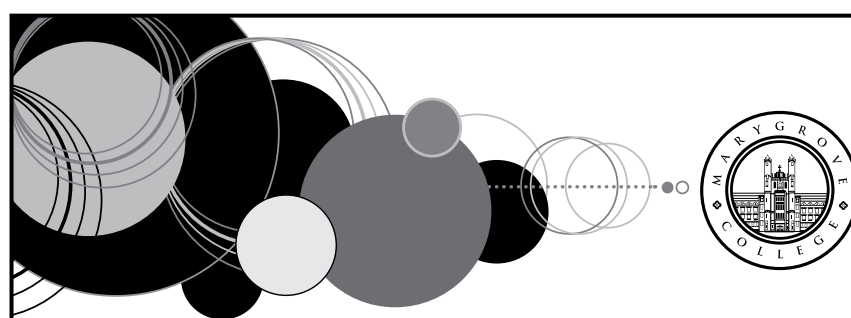
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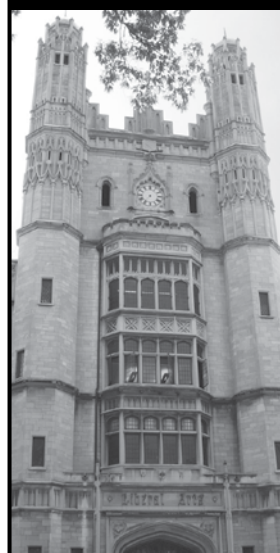
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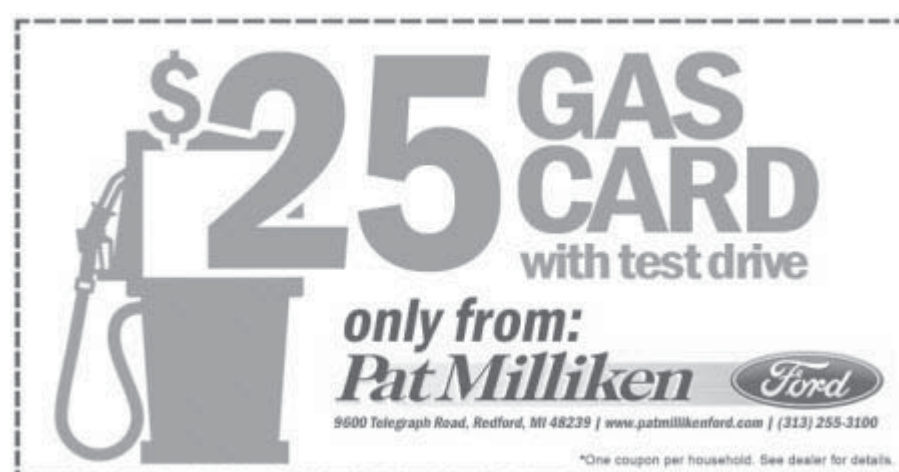
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| 2. A UFO was recovered at Roswell | 7. Apollo Moon Landing was a hoax |
| 3. The assassination of John F. Kennedy | 8. Pearl Harbor was allowed to happen |
| 4. Global Warming is a fraud | 9. The Third Secret of Fatima |
| 5. Princess Diana was murdered by the Royal Family | 10. The Philadelphia Experiment |

Global Roundtables is made possible by a grant from the Schoolcraft College Foundation

* <http://listverse.com/2007/08/21/top-10-conspiracy-theories/>

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Formula for excellence

Professors Kerr and Mellnick recognized for exemplary teaching

BY JASON WOOLERY
STAFF WRITER

The National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development has been around since 1978 and has “emphasized the importance of teaching and leadership excellence in institutions of higher education.” The NISOD awards ceremony is an annual International Conference on Teaching and Leadership Excellence where the Institute awards teachers every year. This year two of Schoolcraft’s own received this exciting honor and recognition.

Professors Sandra Kerr and Gerard Mellnick were recently honored with the 2012 NISOD award for their exemplary teaching.

Professor Sandra Kerr

Professor Kerr has a personal academic history that students at Schoolcraft can relate to, as she too was once a student at Schoolcraft herself. In the mid '80s, Professor Kerr earned her Associates degree from Schoolcraft. She got a taste for teaching when she worked as a tutor and a faculty facilitator in the Learning Assistance Center. After completing her education at Schoolcraft, she transferred to University of Michigan where she earned a Bachelor’s in Science in Aerospace Engineering.

Upon graduating with her Bachelor’s degree, Kerr decided to pursue a Master’s degree in Mechanical Engineering. It was at this point that she decided that this field was not the right fit for her. She switched programs and completed her Master’s in Mathematics from Wayne State University in the early 90’s. After earning her Master’s, Kerr returned to Schoolcraft and was assigned to an algebra class where she began her teaching career. After three years of teaching part-time, Kerr was rewarded a full-time teaching position to teach mathematics.

For those who struggle or are seeking in advice in math, Professor Kerr has some great insight to offer her students. “Be persistent,” Kerr advises. “Get help from many resources. We are fortunate to have the Learning Assistance Center with Terri Lamb [Faculty Facilitator and Mathematics Learning Support Specialist at the LAC] to help students. We are also fortunate to live in a time where we have YouTube videos explaining math.” Professor Kerr went on to say, “It really comes down to making a commitment to get better at it. Some students benefit from being in a study group. Others work better alone. By trying different things, students will find what works for them. We want students to be independent learners, so it is important for them to learn what works for them individually.”

Make sure that when looking for classes next semester that you keep



Professors Gerard Mellnick and Sandra Kerr are always available to help students learn how to solve problems and further their learning in mathematics.

in mind Professor Kerr. From the Schoolcraft Connection, we thank Professor Kerr for your contribution to Schoolcraft College and to its students.

Professor Gerard Mellnick

Professor Mellnick works tirelessly with his students to ensure they gain a full understanding of the subject. He teaches a diverse range of classes from Intro to Business to Beginning Investments, both in the traditional classroom and online environment.

Like Kerr, Mellnick is no stranger to the community college environment. This beloved business professor started his college career at Henry Ford Community College, where he earned an Associate’s degree. After earning his Bachelor’s degree he began a full-time career while pursuing a Masters of Business Administration in Finance at Wayne State University.

The “fork in the road” that led to his teaching career came during his employment as CFO of a building trades association. During this time, Fern Feenstra (former Dean of Business and Technology of Schoolcraft College) suggested that Mellnick join the Accounting Advisory Committee at Schoolcraft. Mellnick accepted the role and shortly after was given opportunity to teach in the Accounting department on a part-time basis, which led to him taking a full-time position with the college in the years to come. Mellnick is also responsible for developing certain curriculums at Schoolcraft, the Business Ethics class being one his major contributions.

“In addition to my teaching experience, my background includes public



accounting, management consulting, and a CFO position,” Mellnick said. “Also, I have operated my own CPA (Certified Public Accountant) practice for over 25 years. In each of these areas, I have always been involved in some type of training as the teacher, so I decided to pursue it on a part-time basis and after seven years, it turned into a full-time position.”

He has some useful advice when it comes to financial investments. “The topic of investing is only one component of an overall financial plan,” Mellnick stated. “Students should understand that these funds are different from savings. The amount invested will likely change over time and hopefully increase, but it could also decrease. This is normal. Also, it does not take much to get started. Having a consistent approach over time and the

reinvestment of dividends could result in a successful investment program.” Mellnick has an instructional video on YouTube for any seeking additional information on this subject.

Any students looking to gain a full and inspiring understanding of the world of Business should register for one of Professor Mellnick’s classes. Our campus strives for excellence and through hard-working teachers such as Mellnick and Kerr reflect that. Thanks to their efforts and the efforts of other teachers on campus students at Schoolcraft College leave feeling prepared and ready to take on the world. Congratulations to the both of them for their impressive award, and a big thank you for their contributions to the College.

Red alert

Red Cross brings mobile blood bank to campus; seeks donations

By MOLLY MARTIN
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

Every two seconds someone receives a unit of blood. The need is constant. It is the Red Cross's mission to meet that need.

Once again, the Red Cross and Schoolcraft College have partnered to host a blood drive on the main campus. Students, staff, faculty and community members are encouraged to donate blood. The blood drive will be a two day event and take place on Feb. 5, from 9 a.m. till 7:30 p.m., and Feb. 6, from 10 a.m. till 4 p.m. in the Lower Waterman Wing of the VistaTech Center. There currently is a critical shortage of blood across the nation prompting call for donors. Everyone is welcomed to join one another in the cause to help those in need.

If you are on a tight schedule, feel free to make an appointment by calling the Student Activities Office to at 734-462-4422. Walk-in donations will be welcomed as well. Save the date and roll up your sleeve and give the gift of blood Feb. 5 and 6. The need for blood is constant and it is a tremendous aid for those in need. The Red Cross and Schoolcraft encourage everyone to take a few moments to make a difference.

Schoolcraft College Blood Drive

Feb. 5, from 9 a.m. till 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 6, from 10 a.m. till 4 p.m.

Lower Waterman Wing of VisTaTech

Blood Donors Must:

Be healthy

Be at least 17 years old in most states, or 16 years old with parental consent if allowed by state law

Weigh at least 110 lbs. Additional weight requirements apply for donors 18 years old and younger and all high school donors

If you plan on donating, here are a few tips for making your donation successful.

Before arriving, make sure you eat and drink plenty of water.

Be sure to relax. While it's easy to be intimidated by the needle, just keep in mind this is going to a great cause

After donating make sure you allow for plenty of time to recover. Some may experience dizziness and this is perfectly normal.



Secrets of the Quill

By PETE HELMS
WRITING FELLOW

Q: Many of my instructors lecture me on having good grammar. If I can communicate well with my friends and family without commas or periods, then why are grammar and punctuation such a big deal?

A: If you find yourself asking "what's the point," you're not alone. Text messaging, internet messaging, Facebook—all of these modern communications tools have led to a decrease in grammar and punctuation use. After all, if you are limited to getting an idea out in 140 characters or less in a tweet, why waste the spaces on commas or complete words? Typing "LOL" never hurt anyone. Besides, other than English teachers and grammar hawks, no one really cares, right?

Wrong. Grammar plays an important but subtle role in how we communicate. Unfortunately, in a world of shrinking school budgets and increasing class sizes, few educators have the time to explain all of the grammar rules thoroughly, let alone why grammar is important. Grammar plays a number of critical roles: it shapes how we speak and how we convey meaning, and it serves as a reflection of who we are.

Grammar, taken as a whole, helps us make sense of what we want to say and turns our thoughts into something that other people will understand. Imagine for a moment that there was no grammar, nothing at all. Talk like Yoda, you could. Yoda you like talk could. Do you see how, once we eliminate basic

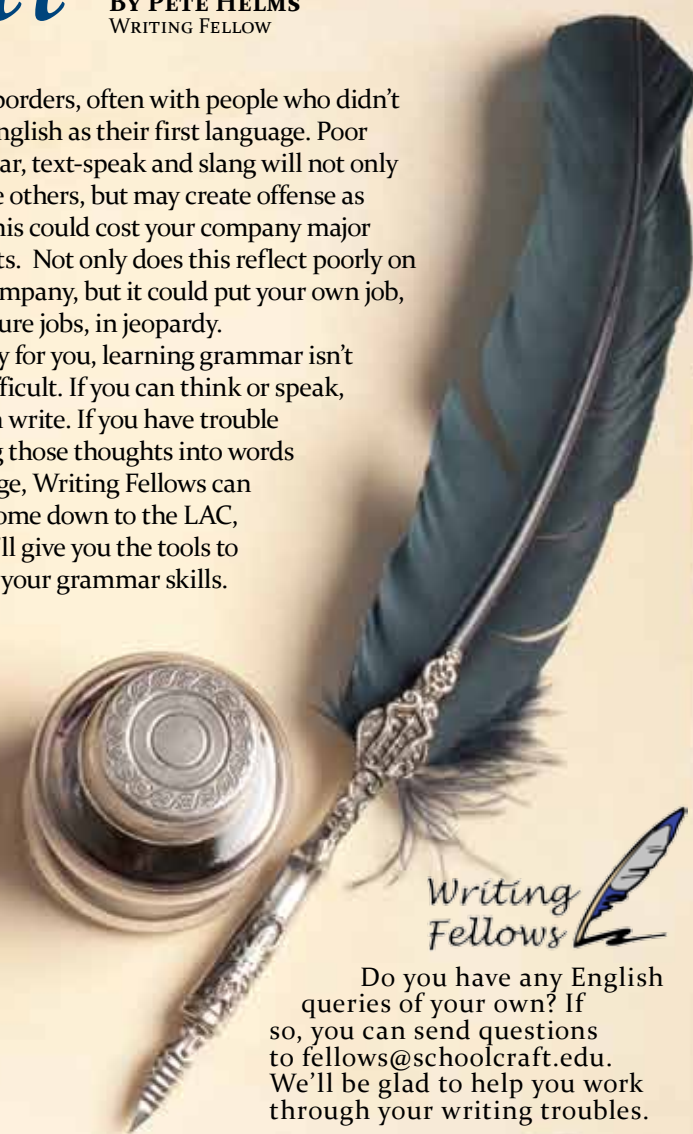
grammar, the previous sentences don't really mean anything? Grammar dictates where we put words in a sentence and even what kind of words we can use. Punctuation helps to establish rhythm, so that as you read these words, your brain will automatically "hear" my voice in your head.

Grammar, like any learned skill, takes practice to master. However, with the widespread use of text messaging, researchers S. Shyam Sundar and Drew P. Cingel at the Penn State University Media Effects Research Lab have found that more and more young people fail to understand basic grammar. This can translate to a loss of understanding between younger and older generations. One famous joke commonly found on the Internet highlights this lack of understanding; it's the difference between "Let's eat Grandma" and "Let's eat, Grandma." These sorts of grammar quirks aren't just limited to jokes; they have everyday impacts, too. Every day, life-altering legal decisions are made based on the clarity of grammar and word choices – from lawsuits to interpretation of the Constitution.

This brings us to the final and most concrete reason for the significance of grammar. People are looking at the way you write and speak. Poor or confusing grammar can kill careers. With the world shrinking and English serving as a global business language, it will only become more common for employees at various levels to communicate

across borders, often with people who didn't learn English as their first language. Poor grammar, text-speak and slang will not only confuse others, but may create offense as well. This could cost your company major accounts. Not only does this reflect poorly on your company, but it could put your own job, and future jobs, in jeopardy.

Lucky for you, learning grammar isn't that difficult. If you can think or speak, you can write. If you have trouble turning those thoughts into words on a page, Writing Fellows can help. Come down to the LAC, and we'll give you the tools to perfect your grammar skills.



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.

Idlewild: The Black Eden

presented by Bridging Barriers • Unity in Diversity

Classes are welcome
and encouraged!

MSU Museum's traveling exhibit,
"Welcome to Idlewild: The Black
Eden of Michigan," will be on
display in Lower Waterman from
January 16–February 15, 9am–7pm.

Idlewild
EST'D 1912

These opportunities are possible
by a generous grant from the
Schoolcraft College Foundation.

Join us every Wednesday from 12-1pm
in the Lower Waterman Wing
Conference Room C

GAY STRAIGHT ALLIANCE

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

LIGHT'S, CAMERAS, ACTION!

THE SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE VIDEO PRODUCTION CLUB IS LOOKING FOR YOU!

Help us video tape Schoolcraft's Pink Zone game on **Wednesday, February 13, 2013.**

Women's Game is at **5:30 p.m.** followed by the Men's Game at **7:30 p.m.**

No experience necessary. We will train.

Meet up at the Physical Education Building in the main gym at 4 p.m.



For more information contact, Jeanne at (734) 462-5559 or the Student Activities Office at (734) 762-4422.

PinkZone

Campus Events



Blood Drive

Feb. 5
9 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Lower Waterman

Blood Drive

Feb. 6
9 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Lower Waterman

Guest Speaker Rochelle Schaffrath

Feb. 6
11 a.m. - noon
Lower Waterman

Ping Pong Tournament

Feb. 12
4 - 10 p.m.
\$5 entry fee, **Cash Prizes**
Lower Waterman

Pink Zone

Fundraising Event
Feb. 13
5:30 p.m.
Athletic Building

Campus and Community Fair

Feb. 14
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Speed Dating

Feb. 14
5 - 7 p.m.
Lower Waterman

SC Cares Dance Featuring DJ Brendan

Feb. 14
7 - 11 p.m.
Lower Waterman

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



TRUST ME, I'M
A JOURNALIST

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

Humanity first

Let's not get off on the wrong foot. I love animals. I gush over cats and I adore dogs, especially when I see one being a good and obedient pal. (*He's such a good boy. Yes, he is!*) None of my words are to invalidate the love of a pet as I have seen close friends show real grief over their death. We all get a little pouty when we see the puppy-dog-eyed puppy dogs and the sad little kitties on those animal adoption commercials accompanied by Ms. McLachlan's beautiful vocals.

While that's a natural response, we should probably be showing more concern for groups like Compassion International, Samaritan's Purse or charities that stay within our species. While it might be a hard pill to swallow for the animal lover, we first and foremost have an obligation to humanity because, well, we're humans.

God gave us dominion over the beast of the land, the birds of the air, the fish of the sea, etc. We are not to squander this gift, as we are to be good stewards of our resources. However, we eat animals, we use them for warmth and there should be no shame in that. Animals do the same thing and they don't give it a second thought. (I should know. I talk to animals.)

If you don't buy all that wizard-from-space God stuff, that's cool, I guess, but the fact remains and it's more scientific than anything that our species life and well-being should get top-billing. Dr. Tom Williamson, who runs a blog called "The Skeptic Canary," has some compelling arguments for human superiority. "The concept of free will is one that has taxed

philosophers for millennia, but it is clear that we are not automations like most animals are," Dr. Williamson explains. He points to humanity's imagination, intelligence, cognition and potential as reasons for our evolutionary dominance. When was the last time a whale questioned its self-worth or the meaning of its existence? (Dolphins are a different story. I should know. I talk to animals.)

The folks at PETA sicken me with their militant and zealous methods. And for what? So that we stop animal testing? Animal abuse and cruelty are wrong for sure and indicative of further issues with an individual. But we're not talking about wonton suffering and anguish. We're talking about operating on (sorry to be blunt) lesser life-forms in order to make the quality of our future and of our children better. If a human fetus is to be seen as "less of a human," an animal is even less so. We need to *evolve* past this foolish notion that somehow animals deserve the rights and moral respect we do. They don't. They eat their own poop.

How much more good could we do for starving children and folks suffering from disease if we redistributed our efforts and resources to impoverished countries, advances in medicine and inner city programs? I have no idea but it's a direction we'd be better off moving toward.

At the end of the day, we all share the same fate. Regardless of whether or not there is a God, gods, Flying Spaghetti Monster or we were developed on Magrathea, we all return to the dust of the ground; no exceptions. But we are doing our species a serious disservice by trying to appease our simian, canine and porcine friends while trying to do good for our fellow man. Hold your animal friends close. Shower them with affection. Just don't expect all other homo sapiens to give their lives and livelihoods for the seals, eagles, tigers and whatever. As Dr. Williamson concludes in what he calls "The Short Explanation," we did go to the moon after all. When pigs can fly to the moon, I'll consider giving them equal rights.

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College

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DRAMATIC
MONOLOGUES



By **ALYS DOLAN**
EDITOR IN CHIEF
alysmarie91@gmail.com

As you wish

Society stresses that it is only just and correct for humans to join in holy matrimony with doves flying, church bells ringing and a choir of angels singing us off into a happily ever after. Just like the movies. Young men are told to romance the girl of their dreams with songs and elaborate acts like writing their beloved's name in the sky. Young women are instructed to wait for their knight in shining armor to climb up the fire escape and rescue them from a life of wandering the streets of Hollywood Boulevard. Cut to the end and roll the credits because this scene won't play.

Movies and media paint this romanticized image of true love. The truth is that love is real, painful and requires more than kissing and making up. Girls get the idea in their mind that men should go to war for them in the name of love, write songs describing their beauty and even take them away to far-off places. News flash: You don't need a man to make you happy. We have all the capabilities for rescuing ourselves. Accepting the fact that you are

your own independent person is the first step to finding the truth in love.

Just because a man doesn't slide down a flagpole and hire the school marching band to play as he serenades you doesn't mean it is the end of the world. It means you have watched "10 Things I Hate About You" a few too many times and need to come back to earth. Do not set this outrageous bar for love – it only sets you up for disappointment and puts unrealistic expectations on the poor soul looking to win your heart. The moment females accept that the movies are just that, movies, is the moment we begin to seek genuine happiness.

The poor young men that try desperately to meet the standards set by Jack Dawson, Westley from "The Princess Bride" or anything Cary Grant did need to cut it out and move on. If the female you are courting, or trying to, won't give you the time of day due to her insane desire for a movie romance then you don't want that anyway. Is it fair for women to demand a perfect date with fireworks and champagne but then demand special privileges in the work place? The answer is no, stop being outrageous. You can't expect to be treated equally and independent and then demand men cater to every whim in your personal life.

Treat yourself with respect and others will follow. Look for a partner who respects you and challenges you to be yourself. Ditch the unrealistic dream of finding that fairytale for something that is honest and real, so give the guys a break. If you aren't expected to look like Halle Berry, Julia Roberts or Emma Stone then you shouldn't expect a guy to be anything else but himself.

CONTACT US:

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

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

Via Email: sceditor@schoolcraft.edu

SEE EMILY
WRITE

By Emily Podwoiski
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR
epodwoiski@yahoo.com

Funny girls

It seems like every few months, there is some major news story announcing, “Woah! This movie/sitcom is hilarious ... but it’s all women. Look, quick! Women being funny.” Yes, how shocking. Why do “funny girls” tend to surprise our culture as if humor is a trait that is exclusively passed down to males only? Obviously, some kind of genetic mutation must have occurred if a *girl* is actually funny.

The late Christopher Hitchens made the infamous argument in his essay about humor, entitled, “Why Women Aren’t Funny.” In his essay for “Vanity Fair,” Hitchens admits that there are decent female comedians but they happen to be “hefty or dykey or Jewish, or some combo of the three.” Right, because funny girl Mila Kunis is definitely on the hefty side and

Lucille Ball was totally all three. Hitchens also declares that women are not funny because it’s the man’s duty to make the woman laugh. He states, “Women have no corresponding need to appeal to men in this way. They already appeal to men, if you catch my drift.” With all due respect, I’m not catching his drift because we all know that “Mean Girls” (written by Tina Fey), is practically the bible of hilariousness and Rebel Wilson’s tweets cause readers to fall over with laughter. But did he seriously make the claim that women rely solely on their looks to snatch up a gentleman caller? Not only is Hitchens degrading women by stating that humor is useless to us but it’s demeaning to men as well because, according to him, even if women are funny, guys don’t care. I guarantee that Judd Apatow, producer of “Bridesmaids” and HBO’s “GIRLS,” would disagree. Men care about more than how long our legs are and how shiny our hair is. Smart men do, anyway.

“Why aren’t women funny?” isn’t the appropriate question to ask. We know women are funny (Hello: Lena Dunham, Wanda Sykes, Jennifer Lawrence, my politically incorrect 90-year-old grandmother and the list goes on). Instead, we need to ask, “Why are we shocked when we see movies like “Bridesmaids” or “Pitch Perfect?” or “Why is it still news that women can be funny?”

Maybe it has a little something

to do with how women are portrayed in film. Our society has become so accustomed to seeing over-sexualized women in film, that it really is a shock when women are cracking the jokes. Time and time again, talented actresses are cast as the boring “hot” sidekicks in the highest-grossing films. We watched Megan Fox in “Transformers” sensually fix a car engine as the camera zooms in on her abs and as her male co-star stares like a super creep. We watch the leading ladies of “Charlie’s Angels” perform a strip-tease in order to complete their mission. There is nothing wrong with women being sexual in films but it’s strange that a movie like “Blue Valentine” (which realistically portrays a woman’s sexuality) receives a NC-17 rating but when women are portrayed as over-sexualized objects, it’s PG-13. What kind of a message are 13-year-old boys receiving about women when they see them as nothing but sexy sidekicks? Movies like “Bridesmaids” and “Pitch Perfect” are slowly but surely changing the role of women in film. And sure, maybe it’s a shock to see this in movies but it’s no shock that women are capable of making you laugh out loud.

It’s a relief when we go to the theaters and watch women being goofy, gross, hysterical and above all human. Because human beings are funny, period.

WE
ARE ALL
WITNESSES

By Abdallah Chirazi
SPORTS EDITOR
chirazi26@gmail.com

Does God exist?

“Does God exist?” is perhaps the most controversial, mysterious and debatable question. Those on both sides of the argument struggle to sway those asking about this controversial idea.

Are believers in God taking an unbelievable leap of faith when supposing they are under the divine supervision of an unseen entity?

Can a nonbeliever look at the majesty and fascination of this universe and really come to the conclusion it came to be from the forces of nature?

The battle between science and faith has taken us to new heights the debate of God’s existence. Whether one believes religion is based on superstitions and fictional myths written two thousand years ago or that creation came to be by a nexus of physical interconnection. Both make compelling arguments but burden us with either false beliefs or misinterpreted evidence.

Nonbelievers have come to the conclusion that, in the absence of concrete evidence, these ideas cannot be supported. Therefore, the claim for having faith in a higher power has the same merit as believing in the existence of leprechauns.

Faith is regarded as a spiritual refuge or an excuse to evade the need to think and evaluate logical and scientific evidence. Nonbelievers find it difficult that believers act in accordance to the morals set forth by an all-powerful being in order to escape the wrath of God’s eternal hellfire. “God” is an invisible man living in the sky waiting to punish any who challenge him.

Those who accept the idea of a nonexistent deity have become solely reliant on scientific explanation. World-renowned atheist, Richard Dawkins has made this very clear by saying, “The question of whether there exists a supernatural creator, a God, is one of the most important that we have to answer. I think that it is a scientific question. My answer is no.”

If one accepts the concept of religion and that God truly is real, they will find these disputes belligerent or preposterous at best. A believer comes to the conclusion that the universe displays such an amazing and complex design so there must be a divine creator. The odds of a single, average-sized protein molecule forming by chance are so astronomically immense it gives a 1 in 10^{300} risk of happening.

A cosmological argument can also be made. That every effect has a cause, that ultimately there must be something “uncaused” in order to cause everything else in existence. The basic premise to this argument is that something caused the universe to exist and that was God.

The faithful also convey the argument of morals. We must have guidelines or commandments to obey in order to imply a higher standard of law. Since morality is said to transcend humanity, the universal rule dictates a legislator, preferably God.

We are all witnesses to everything except for the actual presence of God. Science and religion on both sides of the spectrum cannot agree with each other. Is it fair to say they are two paths of the truth?

We know science is modest. It knows what it knows and doesn’t know what it can’t prove. It continues to advance and revise itself. Faith knows what is taught in religious text that guides humanity to God, and assures that God will keep his promises. No matter where your loyalty lies in this great debate, one thing is certain: it is impossible for man to demonstrate the existence of God for now.

MANAGEABLE
MISCHIEF

By Molly Martin
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR
mollyfaye29@yahoo.com

Take off to Mars

Since Earth was created, humans have wondered what exists in the great black abyss filled with shiny sparkles that are believed to be the great kings of the past. In recent years, studies have been conducted to unearth the mysteries of our universe such as what secrets are held by our neighboring planet, Mars. The United States started their exploration of this planet in 1997, after discovering elements that could lead to it harboring Earth’s future generations. A newly created program, “Mars One,” is looking to go where men have long dreamed to go: to explore and establish a new world beyond our planet. The capabilities of humans are boundless and our desire to expand our knowledge is never to be quenched.

In 1997, NASA decided to send robotic creations called “rovers”

to Mars. Sojourner was the first rover to be rocketed to Mars on July 4 of that year. It was the first successful landing on Mars, but, unfortunately, communication was lost on Sept. 27, 1997. It took the program another six years before their next successful launch on June 10, 2003. NASA celebrated the champion landing with the Spirit Mars Exploration Rover. However, this landing proved to be complex after the Spirit’s wheels became trapped in sand. The Spirit now sits on Mars as a permanent scientific monument, void of communication capabilities. Fascination continued into the exploration of the planet and on July 7, 2003 the Opportunity Mars Exploration Rover was successfully launched. It is still functioning as of today along with its sibling rover, Curiosity, which landed in August of 2012.

Through all of these space expeditions, it has raised the possibility that Mars will be able support biological life. Mars One was established in 2011 by a group of scientists who wanted to create an environment to sustain life on another planet. The criteria is stringent for those who desire to embark on this unprecedented adventure, which include strict regulations on age, health condition, education and the mental stability of its pioneers. The plan begins with hand-picked astronauts sometime in 2013. Those selected must complete a 10-year

training period that will prepare them for all possible atmospheric conditions on Mars in 2023, similar to how the famous Apollo missions began, this experience will take a physical and mental toll on the brave space explorers, (It won’t be as easy as the makers of “Armageddon” made it out to be.)

These pioneer men and women will leave behind their families in the hope of reaching legendary status by becoming the first to land and live on Mars. This trip has a one-way ticket; there is little expectation the explorers will be able to return home due to the loss of muscle growth. Their bodies will lose so much strength that Earth’s gravity would crush them upon their return.

Our willingness to sacrifice everything we have known and loved for the greater exploration of this wide universe is truly remarkable. Much like how Columbus and his crew risked their lives in order to validate that the modern world of 1492 was much larger than anyone could possibly imagine, our world continues to carry on that passion. Humans are thirsty to solve the unknown entities that have fascinated us for so long. The map of our third rock from the sun is complete but that still isn’t enough for us. We keep driving to the ends of not just the world but the universe for discovery and knowledge.

HUMANITY'S
CRITIC

By JONATHAN KING
ONLINE CONTENT EDITOR
kinetikai@hotmail.com

The right to not believe

I am an atheist. I do not believe in a God or gods. So what, right? Well, that simple statement places me in a minority. And being a part of that minority has led to me losing and alienating friends, being told I'm an idiot and that I'm going to burn in Hell and other such neighborly sentimentalities. Although I suppose I should count my blessings (pardon the expression) that I live in the United States, as there are at least seven nations that would skip the niceties and execute me for speaking out as a nonbeliever.

On Dec. 10, 2012, the International Humanist and Ethical Union (IHEU) published "Freedom of Thought 2012: A Global Report on Discrimination Against Humanists, Atheists and the Nonreligious," which catalogued discriminatory laws and acts across over 50 countries. As the report states, "There

are laws that deny atheists' right to exist, curtail their freedom of belief and expression, revoke their right to citizenship, restrict their right to marry, [...] obstruct their access to public education, prohibit them from holding public office, prevent them from working for the state, criminalize their criticism of religion and execute them for leaving the religion of their parents."

Religious persecution is a storied trope and is even built into the history of our country's founding (although rather disingenuously). However, the idea of persecuting a lack of belief is rarely voiced despite its very real prominence in the modern world.

In some Islamic nations such as Mauritania, non-Muslims are not allowed citizenship and apostasy is punishable by death. In Bangladesh, Egypt and Indonesia, blasphemy laws prevent the publication of atheistic or humanistic literature. Blasphemy laws also exist in Europe, preventing speech that might insult or defame religion in numerous countries including Austria, Germany and Ireland. And in Greece, in September 2012, 27-year-old Phillipos Loizos was arrested on charges of posting "malicious blasphemy and religious insult on the known social networking site, Facebook," after his creation of a page for "Elder Pastitsios the Pastafarian," a spoof on the Greek-Orthodox monk Elder Paisios. (Pastitsio is a baked pasta dish. Tasty, tasty blasphemy!)

And the United States – the good ol' "In God we trust" U.S. of A. – is far from free of this intolerance. According to the North Carolina constitution, "The following persons shall be disqualified for office: First, any person who shall deny the being of Almighty God." And NC isn't alone – six other

states have constitutional mandates that prohibit nonbelievers from taking office. (Whether these are enforced is uncertain, however the laws still remain on the books.) Arkansas added the cherry on top by including that anyone who denies God (that's the Christian God, not just any god) will be seen as unfit to testify as a witness in court. The IHEU report also notes, "A 2006 law in Kentucky requires the state Office of Homeland Security to post plaques acknowledging that 'Almighty God' has been integral to keeping the state safe. The penalty for breaking this law is up to 12 months in prison."

President Obama stated in 2010, "This is America. And our commitment to religious freedom must be unshakeable. The principle that people of all faiths are welcome in this country and that they will not be treated differently by their government is essential to who we are." And yet, I still feel strangely left out. It's extremely difficult to feel like your country isn't rallying behind you when our country's motto is a faith-based declaration and politicians ends every speech with "God bless America," for fear that doing otherwise will result in an insufferable backlash.

We've progressed as a nation and as a species but we still have a long way to go. True freedom of religious or nonreligious expression is a dream for many people across the globe and even in this freest of countries acceptance is not absolute. The right to not believe should be inalienable. Everyone is a nonbeliever, whether you don't believe in Yahweh, Allah, Mithras, Ra, Ishkur, Zeus, Thor or all of the above. As the writer Steven Roberts noted, "I contend that we are both atheists. I just believe in one fewer god than you do."

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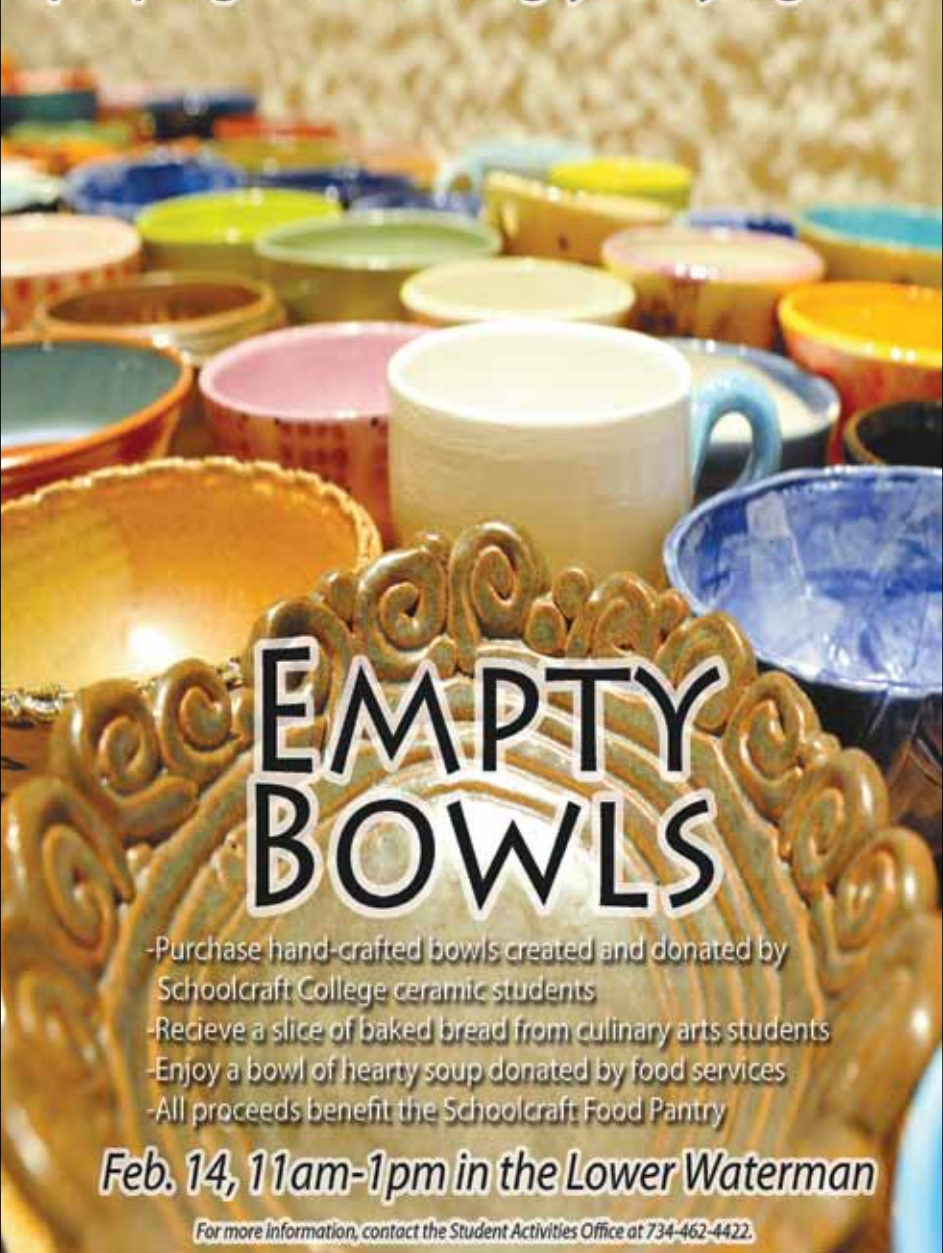
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New facilities

The expansion of Schoolcraft College

BY RAMON RAZO
MANAGING EDITOR

Over the course of its lifetime, Schoolcraft College has done quite a bit of expanding. From the opening of the VisTaTech Center in 2003 to the Biomedical Technical Center in 2008 in the last 10 years alone, Schoolcraft has grown in leaps and bounds over its fifty years. Now, with the possible purchase of an off-campus building, the College continues its march towards innovation and improvement.

Recent renovations: the PE building and bookstore

Schoolcraft's physical education building was built in the early '60s. Being so, it was one of the buildings most in need of a facelift. One of those lifts came in the form of a remodeling of the building's heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems, which cost about \$3 million. In addition to the reconstruction, the building also experienced the inclusion of a brand-new fitness center. The center took the auxiliary basketball court's 11,000 square feet and transformed it, which cost the College a little over \$1 million. The fitness center experienced its grand opening in September of last year. "We're very proud of the fitness center," said Glenn Cerny, Schoolcraft's Vice President and Chief Financial Officer. "It's something we want to promote. It's helpful to students and faculty when they feel like winding down." The center has about 1750 students already registered, and somewhere around 2000 total members. "According

to student services," said Cerny, "we know that there are a lot of students who stay here on campus for hours at a time." Cerny believes that the College has done an exceptional job in offering students, faculty and the public a vibrant environment in which to relieve the workday stress. He especially emphasized the importance of the fitness center's existence in conjunction with the fact that 30 percent of Michiganders are obese. "We're committed to creating an environment to help and turn that around," Cerny imparted.

Another facility that recently underwent extensive updates and modifications was the Schoolcraft Bookstore. The building went through immense redesigns to its overall layout, adding an expanded tech center, a book buyback section and 3,000 total square feet of shopping space. The final touches were added to the bookstore on May of 2011.

Schoolcraft campus expanding

The new facility in question is the American Community Mutual Insurance Building. The company recently went into bankruptcy, and the Office of Insurance from The State of Michigan is responsible for selling the building. According to Glenn Cerny, at the time of this writing, Schoolcraft is currently in a phase where they are checking out the building. "Essentially, it's to kick the tires," said Cerny. "[As of now], the state of Michigan is sort of like a caretaker for the building." He adds that "[the company has] reserves, being an insurance

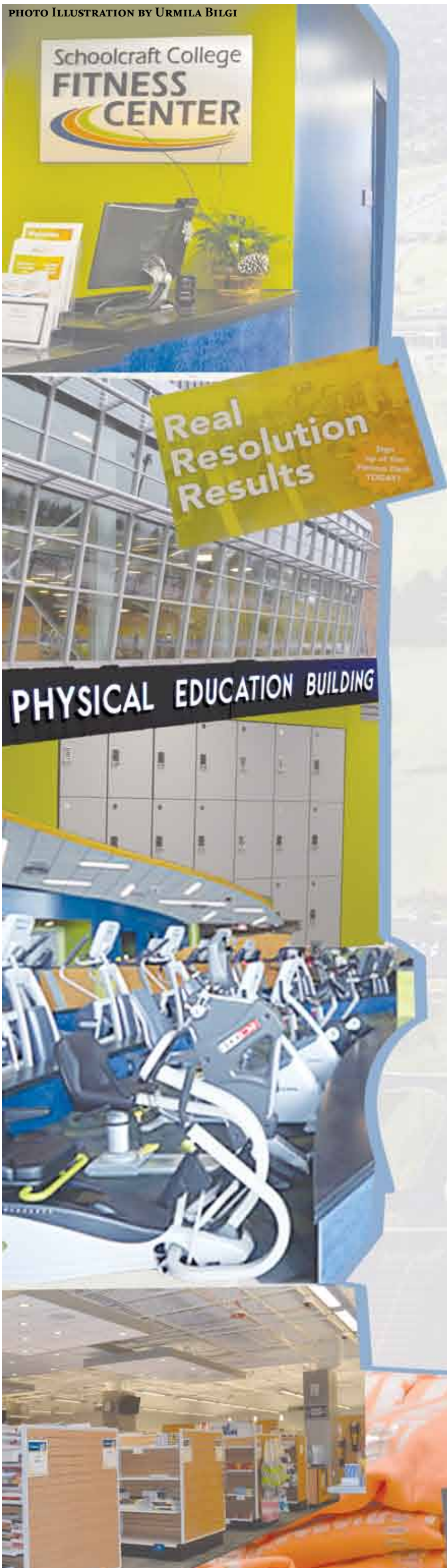
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TECHZONE

es on campus

oolcraft in the past year



PHOTO BY RAMON RAZO

nt vacant American Community Mutual building could potentially be used in the e to hold Schoolcraft classes and offices.

il [the people they way.”
y, the building is worth but the College was use it for a lot less.
hat, until it’s finalized, I technically up in the close [the deal], you er,” he said. He com-
ying a house. “Until ys to the house, you’re rt of phase.”

discussed what sort ew building would

be used for. “The programming hasn’t been decided on, but it will be a mixed-use building.” It is speculated that the first floor will be used for academic purposes, and some offices from the main campus will eventually gravitate there over time.

“We’ve projected out for the next five to ten years [regarding the new office space,]” Cerny said. Whatever uses the building ends up being used for, having the additional space will be beneficial to the success of the campus as a whole.

Schematics of the ACMI Building

The building has three entrances: an east side entrance, one on 7 Mile side and the other is in the back end.

The building is separated into three separate quadrants.

There are 504 parking spots surrounding the building. Once the purchase is finalized, the College plans on doing extensive renovations to the north parking lot area to open up more driveways between both lots.



Fairytales for grown-ups

"Hansel & Gretel: Witch Hunters" is stupid fun without the fun

BY CARLOS RAZO
STAFF WRITER

Is it possible for a movie to be so ludicrous and silly that it transcends what would normally be considered “good,” and transforms into something enjoyable? The nature of art is obviously subjective, but at the end of the day, can’t it be enough for a piece of entertainment to simply... entertain? Is it paramount for every film to be a visceral work of art, or can a movie get away with nothing more than 90 minutes of blood, gore and Gemma Arterton in a leather corset? “Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters” gives us an answer.

Everyone knows the story: Hansel and Gretel are abandoned in the woods where they find a house made of candy. Inside they find a witch, she threatens to eat them, they push the witch into an oven, and they live happily ever after... or do they?

According to screenwriter/director Tommy Wirkola, the siblings grow up and use their terrifying experience to become exactly what the title suggests, and that’s pretty much all this movie is interested in saying. When walking into a film like this, certain juvenile presumptions are going to be made. You expect violence – lots of it – and you expect one enormous tongue-in-cheek romp. Hopefully the filmmakers understood that no one would take a project like this seriously, and because of this would fill it with as much over-the-top language, gore and cool gadgets imaginable. In that respect, it is amusing at times and occasionally clever.

The plot is thin, derivative and does not contain the smallest ounce of narrative or twist, but connects the dots on the most basic of levels, allowing the action to come and

go as quickly as possible. But even so, all the action is the same. Two people run at each other, knock the weapons out of each other’s hands, fall to the floor, struggle for control and are saved just in time by an off-screen character. You can only show the siblings fighting witches in the woods so many times before you are begging for something new. Some outrageous gore supplies a few laughs, but that alone simply isn’t enough.

The two leads lack family chemistry, and beyond the fun of making a silly movie like this, it’s clear neither wanted anything more than a paycheck while uttering some of the occasionally funny one-liners. The cinematography is messy and hard to see, and the poor set-lighting makes it even harder to make sense out of what’s going on. The 3-D effects are exploited, using digitally animated gimmicks such as flying

knives and chunks of witch brain, but bits of guff flying at you won’t likely enhance the monotonous experience.

Can a movie be simply viewed as a piece of popcorn entertainment, devoid of any nuance and still be something enjoyable and worth watching? Yes, it can. On a base level, movies are meant to be something worth sitting down and wasting a few hours on, and any artistic merit on top of that just makes the film even better. Sadly, this is not the case with “Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters,” which is only occasionally silly, witty and creative enough to be enjoyable. With a little more camp and a little more style, the filmmakers could have had a really fun movie, but instead of dumb fun, we are given something that is just dumb.



Friday Night Rentals



World War II

BY TODD WALSH, JOSIAH THOMAS,
& CARLOS RAZO
STAFF WRITERS

In honor of Valentine's Day, the Connection Staff gathered together some loving flicks based off of World War II. So grab a loved one and cuddle up with these perfect date night movies.

"Inglorious Basterds" (2009)

From killing Bill to killing mobsters, nobody can create revenge films quite like Quentin Tarantino. The 2009 movie, "Inglorious Basterds," tells the story of a group of Jewish soldiers lead by Lieutenant Aldo Raine (Brad Pitt), whom are bent on killing Nazis. The movie also follows the exploits of Shosanna Dreyfus (Melanie Laurent), a young Jewish girl who survives an SS attack on her family by the hands of Colonel Hans Landa/ "the Jew-Hunter" (Christoph Waltz).

The casting is absolutely perfect. Pitt plays Raine as a fun caricature, going over the top and reminding the audience that, hey, it's just a film. However, it is Waltz who steals every scene. From the very beginning, he draws you in with his charming yet cunning character.

While the actors effectively nail their performances, it's Tarantino's direction and storytelling that make the film. The movie is essentially broken into the stories of five separate characters, any of which could stand on their own as a twenty-five minute film. This storytelling method is nothing new to Tarantino, who has demonstrated this method with great

success in his previous movies and it works beautifully within this film. "Inglorious Basterds" is a smart and genre-defying movie that is not afraid to pull any punches, including a few at historically accurate ones. The movie remains grounded in an incredibly gripping, enormously suspenseful, and realist manner, which we have not seen from Tarantino before.

"The Pianist" (2002)

Roman Polanski's "The Pianist" stands as one of the most powerful WW2 films ever made, thanks to an incredible performance from Adrian Brody and some passionate storytelling. It tells the story of Polish/Jewish pianist Władysław Szpilman and his incredible survival through several concentration camps, kept alive by his love of music and just the right amount of luck. It's a very personal film to Polanski, who managed to escape the Kraków Ghetto as a child, and he fills each scene with a strong sense of hope, even when all seems lost. Brody carries the entire film on his back, running, hiding and stumbling through trials and terrors, forcing the audience to watch the most heartbreaking scenes without blinking. Polanski channels his own love of the art through the character of Szpilman, and his will to live being only as strong as his love for his craft. When Szpilman is finally reunited with his music, it is unbelievably rewarding, and it's at this moment the film finally exhales. Riveting, touching and filled with beautiful music, this critically acclaimed film is sure to leave an impression.

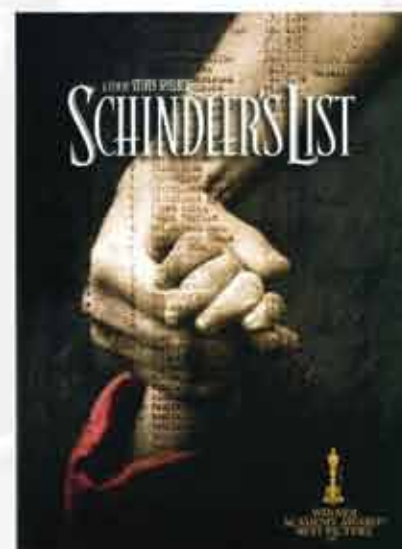
Schindler's List (1993)

As the most esteemed film of the last 20 years by the respected American Film Institute, Schindler's List is a true classic. Taking place over the entire span of World War II, this three-hour film tells the true story of an opportunistic businessman named Oskar Schindler who discovers his conscience.

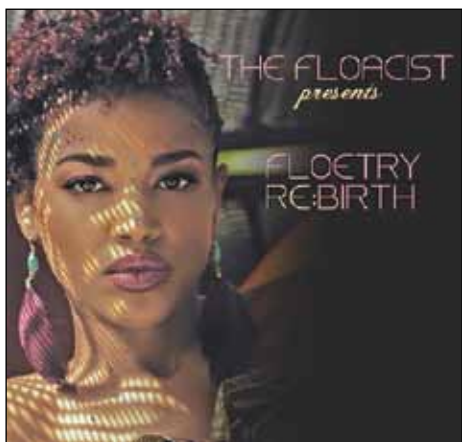
It begins with the gathering of Polish Jews in the ghettos, as Schindler gets a chance to profit from the war by putting them to work as skilled inmates in metal punch-press factories. This happens as he secures his place in the Third Reich, building his business and now-famous list of workers with the guidance of the wise Jewish accountant, Itzhak Stern.

As the war moves on, reality settles in with a vengeance. Schindler's first real awakening comes with the realization of the Nazi's lack of concern with Schindler's Jewish workers. Witnessing the liquidation of the ghettos and some of the horrors in the concentration camps, Schindler works the system to the benefit of everyone on his list.

The gripping realism and attention to detail are exceptional. The sense of historical authenticity was only heightened by the fact that a sizable portion of the movie was filmed on the real-life locations that this story is based on. The film does not shy away from showing the depths of the Nazi's sadism and cruelty. This modern classic fully embraces the realism of the character's hardships, including the stories of tragic characters that believed they could always accomplish more in impossible circumstances.



Alternate Frequencies



The Floacist

"The Floacist Presents Floetry Re:Birth"

Genre: Neo Soul/Hip Hop

★★★★★

BY BRIANNE RADKE
STAFF WRITER

Devoted fans were heartbroken when the women of Floetry, England's sensational neo soul duo, went their separate ways back in 2007. Since then, listeners have heard much from The Songstress (Marsha Ambrosius) as she quickly moved her way up the R&B/pop ladder. The Floacist (Natalie Stewart), on the other hand, has opted not to plunge into the mainstream. Nonetheless, her first solo project, "Floetic Soul" (2010), was well received by fans and critics alike.

On her sophomore solo album, "Floetry Re:Birth," Stewart continues to remain true to her original art form: the spoken word. Her soliloquies are as reflective and poignant as ever, coming alive with the precise inflection and entrancing cadence that have endeared listeners to the vocalist throughout her entire career. In this latest release, Stewart throws back to the instrumental strains found in early soul. When this sound marries the smooth jazz/hip hop blend that she generates in her more recent work, Stewart crafts a vibe that is somehow both fresh and nostalgic.

Raheem DeVaughn joins Stewart to kick-start the collection with an empowering little ditty, "Start Again," which is carried by a groove that feels straight out of the era of Earth, Wind and Fire. "Children of the Sun" follows suit with lyrical themes of the power of self, and "Step Out" continues in this vein even further with an optimistic message of moving on in a new direction.

The album climaxes as Stewart revisits "Say Yes" in a 10-year anniversary edition. Oddly enough, although things have been dramatically rearranged in The Songstress's absence, the track is perfectly complete. In fact, it has taken a far more hypnotic turn, with Stewart's deep crooning contributing more sensuality to the song than Ambrosius's operatic pipes ever did. Finally, the album's closing track, "The Roots of Love," features the ethereal vocals of South Africa's Thandiswa Mazwai and hosts what is easily the most vivid and moving poetry of the entire project.

Bottom Line

"Floetry Re:Birth" is highly recommended to anyone who appreciates neo soul and/or poetry. The greatness of Natalie Stewart lies in her gift for inhabiting the hearts of her listeners and moving them to emotional planes that they may not discover otherwise. This album is truly beautiful.



Megan and Liz

"Bad for Me"

Genre: Pop

★★★★★

BY MARIA CIELITO ROBLES
STAFF WRITER

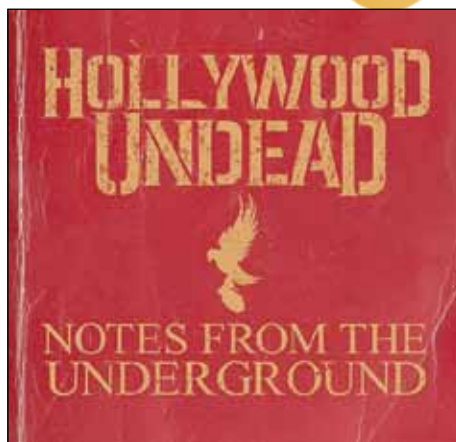
The latest YouTube sensation, Megan and Liz, have been on an adventurous ride from the time they posted their very first YouTube video. Raised in Michigan, twin sisters Megan and Elizabeth "Liz" Mace first hit the web in 2008, when the twins uploaded an incredible video of themselves singing. The duo began promoting themselves through several social media websites including Facebook, Twitter, Formspring and Tumblr in hopes of catching their big break. As the years flew by, the sensational duo developed a strong teen following, transforming themselves from YouTube participants into larger-than-life viral stars. Nowadays you will find these talented women participating in the Z100 concert (performances put on by one of New York's biggest radio stations), touring with big name artists and writing new albums. The twins even announced their plans for a cross-country concert tour with the recent arrival of their twentieth birthday this past November.

"Bad For Me" contains seven songs that fit into the pop genre. However, the pop songs remain distinct with their unique guitar strumming patterns, heavy bass and varying tempos. The songs give off an energetic vibe that will make the listener sing and dance along. Noteworthy tracks include "Bad for Me" and "Dare," which surprisingly contains a beautiful violin accompaniment, improving a cookie-cutter pop song with an interesting twist. "Boys like You," "Closer to Me" and "Sunset Somewhere" have that pop-vibe with a dash of country flare.

This album has a little bit of each genre for everyone. Megan and Liz have stated that they are influenced from their past experiences and past relationships, which translates in their incredibly personal songs. The duo has mastered the art of singing about break-ups and heartbreakers, transforming emotional experiences into a brand new learning experience every time.

Bottom Line

Megan and Liz's journey is a real-life fairytale. From covering other artists to now releasing original tracks of their own, the pop duo has certainly come a long way. Their fans have been rooting for the Michigan natives since they were simply two people singing their hearts out over the internet, posting their videos on YouTube. Now, their fans are rooting for these inspiring artists that can be seen live in concert and heard all across the country.



Hollywood Undead

"Notes from the Underground"

Genre: Rapcore

★★★★★

BY DYLAN NARDONE
& EMILY PODWOISKI
STAFF WRITER & A&E EDITOR

Hollywood Undead produces songs that contain a unique blend of rap and hardcore, more commonly known as "rapcore." With their creative music mash-up, they have excelled at combining these two genres to produce a compelling new sound. Fans of the sub-genre will be especially pleased by the group's music, but to the average listeners, it might not be their thing.

It all began in 2005, when their very first song was posted on MySpace. The song received remarkable reviews and their fanbase continues to expand with every new electric release. The band consists of Jordan "Charlie Scene" Terrell (vocals/lead guitar), Matthew "Da Kurlzz" St. Claire (drums/vocals), Daniel "Danny" Murillo (vocals/rhythm guitar), Dylan "Funny Man" Alvarez (vocals), Jorel "J-Dog" Decker (rhythm guitar/keyboards/bass guitar) and George "Johnny 3 Tears" Ragan (vocals).

"Rain" is one of the huge hits off of their new release, "Notes from the Underground." The song deals with the difficulty of coping with death and other forms of loss. The soothing vocals of Danny Murillo transition well into his powerful hardcore rap styling, which are reminiscent of Eminem's vocals in his slower tracks.

10 of the 15 songs on the album are explicit, especially "Up in Smoke" and "One More Bottle." These songs place an emphasis on marijuana and alcohol, which may discourage some people from listening to their music and could potentially damage the band's reputation.

One standout track, "Believe," starts out slow and builds up to a classically-styled melody. The song consists of powerful and thought-provoking lyrics like "What's another dream?/ You could hardly sleep/ Can you believe bad things only happen to me?/ God knows one day, you will finally see/ That scars will heal, but we're meant to bleed." Their lyrics are always beautifully raw, and their unique style has entranced and fascinated fans everywhere.

Bottom Line:

Hollywood Undead has found their calling in combining rap and rock to produce a sensational and captivating sound. However, some of the tracks are overly gratuitous in their use of profanity. Despite this (or perhaps because of it), the album will please fans, but tread with caution if you have not been acquainted with this unique band.



Foxygen

"We Are The 21st Century Ambassadors Of Peace & Magic"

Genre: '60s Revivalism

★★★★★

BY JONATHAN KING
ONLINE CONTENT EDITOR

Composed of songwriters Jonathan Rado and Sam France, Foxygen doesn't feel like a product of this era. "Into the Darkness" and "No Destruction," the first two tracks off their debut album "We Are The 21st Century Ambassadors Of Peace & Magic," seem to indicate that Foxygen spent their childhood listening to "Sgt. Pepper," Bob Dylan and Lou Reed on a loop. The rest of the album confirms this suspicion, playing like a lost LP from some forgotten rock band that opened for The Velvet Underground in the mid '60s and was never heard from again.

Starting off as "L.A. high school kids obsessed with [the band] Brian Jonestown Massacre" – a title that instantly puts the album into context – Rado and France took seven years to build on their retro-psychedelic rock sound. The result is truly aesthetically pleasing for any fans of '60s revivalism, and those with extensive vinyl collections can expect to hear a few of their favorite artists woven into the tapestry of "Peace & Magic."

The titular track is a white-hot psychedelic rocker, featuring barely enunciated words screamed over a series of choice Doors-approved guitar riffs. On the other side of the river, the track "San Francisco" could easily follow "Monday, Monday" by The Mamas & The Papas on any '60s radio station without anyone blinking an eye. Only a close look at the lyrics would suggest that this is the product of a modern indie duo.

Oddly enough, the first single off the album, "Shuggie," sounds less like a '60s throwback and more of a pastiche of past decades and styles. While not a bad song, it does stand out in an otherwise temporally-locked album.

The only question left by "Peace & Magic" is where Foxygen is going to end up next – standing on the shoulders of a bygone decade can only get you so far. For now, though, listeners will find themselves more than satisfied with this hip duo's selection of groovy rockin' tunes.

The Bottom Line:

"We Are The 21st Century Ambassadors Of Peace & Magic" is a great piece of retro revivalism, and despite being a debut LP, Foxygen have got a firm handle on their decidedly old-school style. The result is less of a rehash and more of a tribute by two guys who clearly love these anachronistic sounds, and that's a-okay with us.



American Horror Story vs The Walking Dead

BY CARLOS RAZO
STAFF WRITER

There will always be a special place in the heart of American entertainment for horror. It's a difficult genre to master, many times being filled with cheap jump-scares, ridiculous buckets of blood and derivative characterizations. The genre generally tends to be looked down on as lowbrow entertainment by mainstream critics, but when done right it can be an incredibly thrilling experience. So hold your loved ones tight. Make some popcorn and go turn off the lights.

FX's "American Horror Story" and AMC's "The Walking Dead" are two perfect examples of how to master the genre of horror. Not only do they perfectly use the medium of television to their advantage, they know exactly how to entice, entertain and most

importantly, scare their audiences. Each season of "American Horror Story" is designed to be self-contained as its own miniseries, with new characters and storylines introduced each time. Season one tells the story of a young family who moves into a luxurious new home, only to learn that the house is haunted by the ghosts of its former occupants. The series puts a strong emphasis on psychological horror, as well as urban legends, ghost stories and other familiar clichés, but not once does it become monotonous. Every episode is well contained, usually beginning with a head-scratching prologue that is only cleared up at the end of the episode. "American Horror Story" is exactly as its title suggests; a self-aware and clever tribute to the American horror legacy that is both engrossing and plain freaky.

"The Walking Dead" is a whole dif-

ferent animal. After awakening from a coma, Georgia Sheriff Rick Grimes (Andrew Lincoln) finds the world he once knew in ruin, after an unknown event caused the dead to become reanimated as zombies (or as they are referred to within the series, "walkers"). The show follows Rick, his wife, his son, and a mismatched group of survivors as they move from location to location, fighting to stay alive. There is a relentless feeling of dread that permeates every episode. With shocking twists and turns filling each season, it quickly becomes apparent that no character is guaranteed to survive the season, and a slow, appetizing death could be stumbling behind any corner. The acting, especially towards the later episodes where the stakes get extremely high, is magnificent, and the cliffhangers keep you coming back for more.

The plotting for each show is gripping, but there's something deep inside "The Walking Dead" that is superior. Behind its rotten flesh and intense violence, there is a very real sense of morality that is being fought for. The characters are constantly arguing over what should be considered "right" or "wrong" in the situations they face, and even within the silly setting of the zombie outbreak, it feels very authentic.

Though not for the faint of heart, both of these shows are guaranteed to satisfy both adamant gore hounds and more casual television viewers. The storylines are gripping, the performances all solid, and the scares effective and plentiful. "The Walking Dead" simply contains more thought-provoking plotlines that will give viewers something to talk about long after the lights are turned back on.



COMPILED BY EMILY PODWOJSKI
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

"Pillow Talk"

If you suffer from nostalgia and an addiction to Turner Classic Movies, then this is the show for you. The Redford Theatre will be presenting "Pillow Talk", the classic 1959 romantic comedy. The story follows Brad (Rock Hudson) and Jan (Doris Day), who get off to a rocky start when they share a telephone line. Brad continues calling her, disguising his voice in an attempt to romance her.



This is the perfect pre-Valentine's Day date for all of those old souls out there. The showings will be Feb. 8 at 8 p.m., and Feb. 9 at 2 p.m. and 9 p.m. The Redford Theatre in Detroit is located at 17360 Lahser Road for this adorable movie. Tickets are only \$4. Call the Redford Theatre at 313-537-2560 for more information.

Motor City Muse: Detroit Photographers, Then and Now



This is the perfect exhibition for Michiganders everywhere. Featuring over 100 stunning photographs by various photographers, this show is the story of our beloved Detroit. The exhibition will be open until June 16, Tuesdays-Sundays. Visit the Detroit Institute of Arts at 5200 Woodward Avenue to see this spectacular vision. Call the DIA at 313-7900 for more information.

The Lion King

Relive your childhood and see your favorite Disney movie come to life at the Fisher Theatre at 3011 W. Grand Blvd in Detroit. This musical has received incredible reviews. "There is simply nothing else like it," says *The New York Times*. The show begins Feb. 13 and will be on stage until March 10. "The Lion King" will be playing Tuesday-Saturday at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday evenings at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are on sale now, starting at \$30. For more information, call the Fisher Theatre at 313-872-1000. Remember, Hakuna Matata is the motto.



Ice Skating Rink



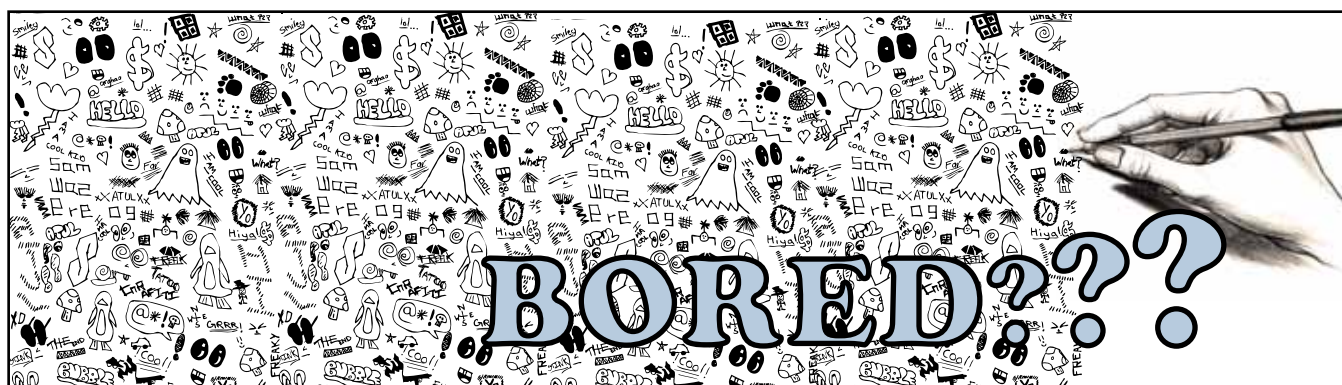
Throw on some skates and enjoy the last of the winter festivities. The Campus Martius Park

ice skating rink at 800 Woodward Ave. in downtown Detroit is open for you to enjoy. Skate rental is \$3 and the rink is open Mondays and Friday-Sundays. Adult admission 13 years to 49 is \$7, children 12 years and younger is \$6, and seniors 50 years and older is \$6. Call 313-963-9393 for more information.

Valentine's Day at MGM Grand Detroit



MGM Grand Detroit at 1777 Third St. is featuring a romantic dinner for two. What better way to show that you care than with delicious food? There are two menus to choose from, one which features Wolfgang Puck Steak, available to order from 5-10 p.m. The Palette Dining Studio is serving prime rib and shrimp at 5-11 p.m. To top it off, chocolate dipped strawberries are offered as well. Impress your date this Valentine's Day and call 877-888-2121 to make your romantic dinner reservations.



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PHOTOS BY ANDREW KIELTYKA

Sophomore Guard Courtney Dyer (left) fights for possession of the ball against Macomb's Jaclyn Bieniewicz.

Optimistic Ocelots

Despite woes, Lady Ocelots remain confident

By **ABDALLAH CHIRAZI**
SPORTS EDITOR

The Women's basketball team (5-13, 2-6) struggled to get anything going against tenth ranked St. Clair County Community College (17-1, 7-1) losing 89-48 on Jan 23.

The Ocelots, who shot a meager 11-of-59 from the floor and committed 26 turnovers, seemed frustrated the entire night.

"Obviously it's disappointing to lose and everybody takes it really hard," said freshman Alexis Smith. "We as a team are built to win. It's hard facing adversity and having new girls come in and learn the game all over again (I was one of them). We just go to practice the next day and work harder because we have an end goal and that's to make it to nationals."

Although they never seemed to find their rhythm, Courtney Dyer contributed 18 points and 13 came from freshman Toi Brown. Sophomore Ajai Meeks contribution was significant as well, grabbing a game-high 13 rebounds along with 8 points.

At halftime, the Ocelots found themselves down 42-26, as the Skippers continued to effortlessly make their way through the second half. Skipper's sophomore guard Teisha Knott led the way with 22 points and nine rebounds. They also got 14 points apiece from Sheyna Deans and Cianna Peterson.

Although Schoolcraft is 2-6 in the MCCA Eastern Conference and currently sit in eighth place in the standings, it doesn't seem to shake their confidence.

"I really hope and feel like we will start getting wins and we will go to nationals as long as we keep working hard and pushing ourselves," said freshmen Brittany Longhini. "We talk about what we can do to improve what we did in the game. We talk about

the good points and talk about what areas we need to work on in the following practices."

The coaching staff believes firmly in the strategy of taking it one game at a time. They have instilled a system where if they can improve simply on basic fundamentals and determination despite their record, they can find a way to reach their goals of reaching nationals.

"It's possible to see the playoffs," said Head Coach Kevin Brathwaite who is in his second season. "We just need to keep improving and working on the fundamentals. Just take it one thing at a time."

Jan. 19

Macomb 54 vs. Schoolcraft 37

The Ocelots lost to No.12 Macomb 54-37 on Jan 19. The Monarchs had a strong first half shooting 43 percent from the field including five three-pointers. Sophomore Courtney Dyer led the way for Schoolcraft with nine points and five rebounds. Schoolcraft shot 26 percent from the field and 20 percent from beyond the arch.

Jan. 26

Schoolcraft 41 vs. Mott 54

Schoolcraft traveled to Flint to face the Bears of Mott Community College on Jan 26. Unfortunately the Ocelots suffered another loss 52-41. The team shot 10-15 from the free throw line and kept the game within reach. Sophomore Ajai Meeks led the way for the Ocelots with 12 points and 15 rebounds. Other contributors were from Brittani Hamlin (9 points, 7 rebounds) and Brianna Berberet (13 points, 6 rebounds).



Freshman Guard Brianna Berberet stares down a Macomb Monarch's player as she ramps up the defensive pressure.

GET into the

WBCA PinkZone

Play 4 Kay

The WBCA began PinkZone in 2007 as an initiative to raise breast cancer awareness in women's basketball, on campuses, and in communities. The late Kay Yow, former North Carolina State University head women's basketball coach, served as the catalyst for the initiative after her third recurrence of breast cancer in 2006. Kay lost her long battle in 2009.*



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PLAY 4 KAY

5th annual Pink Zone game supports breast cancer awareness

BY ABDALLAH CHIRAZI
SPORTS EDITOR

The WBCA (Women Coaches Basketball Association) began in 2007 as an initiative to raise breast cancer awareness in women's basketball, on campus and in communities.

The late Kay Yow, former North Carolina State University head women's coach served as the catalyst for the initiative after her third recurrence of breast cancer in 2006. Kay lost her long battle in 2009. Since then the WBCA has been nationwide success in raising funds for breast cancer awareness.

In 2010, over 1,800 participants came together to surpass \$1,045,000 in donations and reached over 922,000 across the nation.

On Wednesday Feb. 13 both the Men and Women's basketball teams will compete in a double-header against visiting Alpena Community College. The Women's game will start at 5:30 p.m. followed by the Men at 7:30 p.m. in the Physical Education building. Admissions fee and commemorative t-shirts will be sold for \$5, all the proceeds will benefit WBCA. Admission gets you in to see both games.

Since 2009, Schoolcraft has participated in the WBCA Pink Zone play for Kay fun-

draiser. Last year the college raised \$820. "We would like to match or exceed last year's total," said Athletic Director Sid Fox. "We raise the funds from admissions and t-shirts. All the money goes to the WBCA."

This annual event is a win-win for both Schoolcraft and the cause. Not only to display team spirit and support our teams but there are many coaches currently battling cancer across the nation.

"It's not about the game, it's about bringing awareness to helping cure breast cancer," said sophomore guard Ajai Meeks. "It's not about us but a chance to remember those who are currently experiencing such a difficult time in their life."

It's highly encouraged that students, family and friends attend the game to watch the Ocelots in action and continue supporting a cause that has affected so many women. Take a few friends out for a night that promises fun for a good cause. The Schoolcraft men's basketball team will be doing their part to help as well.

"The team will all buy t-shirts and wear them on game night," said coach Randy Henry. "The cause is a noble one and we need to find a cure. People need to be more aware of breast cancer and really take time to get checked out."

If you cannot make it to the game and still want to donate, please visit www.kayyow.com for more details or text '4KAY' to 85944 to make a \$10 donation. When we all come together everyone can make a difference in the fight for a cure.

Power surge

Whalers trades add depth to roster; team continues to win

BY DYLAN NARDONE
STAFF WRITER

Trading places

Last year during the trade deadline, the Plymouth Whalers passed on making any roster moves. This year however, roster moves were made. The trade deadline saw Plymouth lose Alex Aleardi to Windsor, Zach Bratina to Saginaw, and Simon Karlsson to Oshawa. Aleardi was traded to Windsor for Zach Lorentz. Zach Bratina was traded to Saginaw in exchange for their captain Vince Trocheck, a third round pick in 2016, and two conditional picks (Plymouth's 2015 second round pick and Kitchener's third round 2016 pick). Simon Karlsson was traded to Oshawa for Sebastian Uvira and a fifth round pick.

Since the trade deadline, the newest additions have made an impact from the start. Especially Florida Panthers 2011 draft pick, Vince Trocheck, who has been a major contributor offensively since being acquired. He is teamed up with fellow USA World Junior teammate Ryan Hartman and has added another offensive punch to the already heavily stacked lineup. Trocheck currently leads the team in three offensive categories: most goals (29), most assists (37) and most points (66). The team has won six out of nine games since the trade acquisitions on Jan. 9.

Fight for First

During the month of January, Plymouth has been working well on both sides of the puck. Over the last three games, the team has outscored their opponents 18-9. On Jan 26, the Whalers put on an offensive show as they hosted the Sarnia Sting (27-18-3) at Compuware Arena. This game was a part of the home and home series against the

Sting in which the team fell short of a win in shootout the night prior 5-4.

This game was crucial for both teams in the standings. A win to either team would solidify first place in the Western Conference West Division standings. Right from the drop of the puck, the tempo was fast and hard. Sarnia stung first with a goal by Taki Pantziris, his second goal of the season at the 4:45 mark in the first period. The Whalers answered back with a power play goal by Mitchell Heard at the 12:23 with an assist by Sebastian Uvira, tying the game 1-1. The team didn't stop there and scored two more goals. Vincent Trocheck scored his twenty eighth goal of the season at 13:58 with assist by Colin MacDonald, making it 2-1. The team never looked back and held the lead throughout the night. Connor Carrick with an assist by Mitchell Heard scored the third goal of the game at 16:37 expanding the lead 3-1.

The second period scoring started off with a bang with a quick goal by Plymouth's Garrett Meurs only seventeen seconds into the period, his twenty third goal of the season making it 4-1. Sarnia's Craig Duinick scored on a power play at the 2:10 mark cutting Plymouth's lead down 4-2. Overage veteran Mitchell Heard recorded his second goal of the game at the 7:47 mark with an assist by Cody Payne making it 5-2. Just over a minute later, Vince Trocheck sealed the win for Plymouth by adding his second goal of the game, his twenty ninth of the season, making it a final score of 6-2.

"We always thought [Trocheck] was one of the best players in the league, if not the best, when we traded for him," Vellucci told the Observer and Eccentric. "We gave up a lot (forward Zach Bratina and draft picks), but he's proven that he's a good player."



PHOTOS BY MANDY GETSCHMAN

(Above) New addition Forward Vince Trocheck sweeps between two Erie players to take possession of the puck.



(Left) Following the Jan. 21 matinee game against Erie, fans were treated to free ice skating with the team.

1/25/13 Plymouth (4) at Sarnia (5) SO

With just a under five minutes remaining in second period, the Whalers Garrett Meurs scored on a power play tying the game 4-4 tallying his second goal of the game. With a scoreless third period and overtime, the game went to a shootout. Sarnia Sting goaltender Knicholas Dawe blocked three shots he faced. The Sting flew to a victory 5-4 in the shootout with a goal by Charles Sarault.

1/24/13 Plymouth (8) at Windsor (2)

The Whalers traveled across the river to take on division rival Windsor Spitfires. The team shut down Windsor on both ends of the ice by putting on both an offensive and defensive display. The Whalers tallied three goals in the first period and five more in

the second easily skating to a 8-2 victory. Whalers Vincent Trocheck and Matthew Mistele lead the game with two goals each. Cody Payne, Zach Lorentz, Garrett Meurs and Mitchell Heard each chipped in with a goal apiece.

1/21/13 Erie (1) at Plymouth (7)

Plymouth played host to Erie for their traditional matinee game on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The offense was jumping with goals by Zach Lorentz, Cody Payne, Ryan Hartman, Connor Carrick and Gianluca Curcuruto. Lorentz and Payne record two goals each while Hartman, Carrick, and Curcuruto scored goals on the Power Play. The team were 3/3 on the power play. Goaltender Matt Mahalak had recorded 24 saves in the win.

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PHOTOS BY ANDREW KIELTYKA



Bitter sweet

Ocelots get first divisional win; lose to Mott in same week

By ABDALLAH CHIRAZI
SPORTS EDITOR

It was only a matter of time before Randy Henry's squad cracked the win column in the MCCA Eastern Conference. Although it took a little longer than anticipated, the Men's Basketball team (4-13, 1-7) finally snapped out of their 9-game losing streak with a 66-61 victory over a struggling Macomb team (6-12, 8-8) on Jan. 19. Schoolcraft was able to get over a streak of setbacks by capturing their first conference win of the season.

The Monarchs led in points in the paint and had more contribution from their bench but 19 second chance points doomed Macomb. Sophomore Richmond Jackson led the way for Schoolcraft posting another double-double, 17 points and 11 rebounds. Freshman Matthew King also chipped in with 12 points and 6 rebounds.

The game featured nine lead changes and six ties. The Monarch's largest lead was by five in the first half at the 12:31 mark. Schoolcraft's largest lead was by seven in the second half with 11:20 left to play.

After cashing in on their first conference win of the season, the Ocelots stumbled at an opportunity to take advantage of another below .500 team, losing to St. Clair County 80-73 at home on Jan. 23. Although Schoolcraft was able to win the rebounding battle (59-50) and get more contributions from their bench, they couldn't overcome their lack of defense. The Ocelot's gave up 56 points in the paint, exploiting their weakness of size.

Sophomore Richmond Jackson continued to lead the way for Schoolcraft with 28 points and eleven rebounds. Freshman Terrance Coles pulled in a double-double with 11 points and 10 rebounds.

On Jan. 26, the team traveled to Flint to face No.2 Mott Community College. Mott has continued to dominate the conference. Currently the team has an overall record of 18-1 and an 8-0 record in the MCCA Eastern

Conference. Schoolcraft would have to be disciplined both offensively and defensively in this matchup to grab a win.

Right from the tipoff, Schoolcraft were no match for the Mott Bears, as they were handled 77-42.

The Ocelots were tamed thanks to a strong defensive stand by the Bears. Schoolcraft was held to under 23.5 percent shooting the entire game. Mott was also dominant on the boards, outrebounding the Ocelots 56-32.

"We are struggling right now because we are not shooting well," said coach Randy Henry. "We are shooting under 30 percent we won't beat anyone shooting like that."

Sophomore Richmond Jackson finished the game for Schoolcraft with 13 points and eight rebounds while Forward Terrance Coles contributed 12 points and nine rebounds.

Coach Randy Henry was visibly frustrated with his team's effort. They allowed nearly 40 points a half and 36 points in the paint. The Bears also took advantage of Schoolcraft's mental mistakes, scoring 30 points off turnovers.

"We are a young team and we are struggling offensively," said coach Henry. "We are averaging 20 plus turnovers a game, we can't win like that. Every possession counts and we can have already five wins in the conference if we played like that."

Mott Sophomore Fred Mattison controlled the game offensively, scoring a game-high 19 points. In the second half Mattison scored 11 straight points and tallied 11 rebounds.

"We are shooting ourselves in the foot," said coach Henry. "We are making great efforts but we are making mistakes. Guys are playing well [...] but if we don't come and play for 40 minutes we won't win. It's all about hard work and that's what I keep telling them."

Schoolcraft largest lead was by 1 in the first half with 18:03 left to play, they never lead again.

(Top left) Sophomore forward Mathew King (3) goes up for a layup against Macomb's Patrick Ferrell.

(Left) Sophomore forward Richmond Jackson drives past a Macomb player.

BOWLING TO PERFECTION

Men's and Women's Bowling teams sweep competition

By ABDALLAH CHIRAZI
& DYLAN NARDONE
SPORTS EDITOR & STAFF WRITER

Let the pins fall where they may but even pin counts. Both the Men's and Women's Bowling teams were able to secure their 3rd straight victory

by defeating Muskegon Community College on January 26th.

The Men's team placed first out of six teams at the Muskegon Invitational tallying a score of 3,958 pins. The Ocelots were just able edge out Muskegon's 3,927 pins. Schoolcraft bowler David Nikkila had the high score for the Ocelots, bowling a 290.

The Women's team was able to outplay the Jayhawks as well. They had a 223-pin advantage, winning 3,579-3,356. Head Coach Greg Colling was very pleased with his team's overall performance in the last couple of weeks.

"Both the Men's and Women's teams are doing really well," said coach Colling.

They've practiced hard for three months and now the results are fantastic so far. It's beautiful. Not only are they having fun playing, they are playing very well."

With three straight victories and full momentum on their side, the Ocelots are on an early pace to achieve their goals. Although they have passed all their early tests, they will know their true potential when they reach nationals in New York in early March.

"There are not enough schools that compete, but so far we've won all three matches," said Coach Colling. "We'll find out when we go to Nationals in March in Buffalo, New York. Then we'll find that's the real test there."

Notables January 18 Schoolcraft vs. Delta

Schoolcraft defeated Delta 4,050 -3,985 pins.

Women Results: Schoolcraft 3,373 Muskegon 3,041 Northern Lane Pacers 2,736 Mackenzie Carlson had the high score of 250.

January 12 results

Schoolcraft: 3,490 Delta: 3,377 Muskegon: 3,334

Women Results: Schoolcraft defeats Muskegon 3,120-2,749.

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Happen!

One student at a time
One gift at a time





**Schoolcraft
College**
FOUNDATION

To make a gift visit:
www.schoolcraft.edu/foundation
or call 734.462.4455

MADONNA VISIT DAY

Discover all Madonna has to offer!
Saturday, March 16, 2013 • 8:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Madonna Visit Day Includes:

- Check-In
- Welcome and Overview
- Comprehensive campus tour
- Academic program introductions by deans and faculty – explore over 100 majors!
- Complimentary lunch
- Informative Break-Out Sessions



**MADONNA
UNIVERSITY**



Register online at madonna.edu/visit
If you need to cancel or reschedule, please call 734-432-5317

Stay connected!
Receive email updates about events, news and more!
Text MUCONNECTION to 22828 to join Campus Connection today.

HUNTERS WEST

Come see the **NEW** Hunters West!

Hunters West Apartment Homes
6501 Yale Street
Westland, MI 48185
866.997.3751
www.HuntersWestApartments.com

	Hunters West	Fountain Park	Woodland Villa	The Landings
One Bedroom	ONLY \$589	From \$870*	X	From \$625*
Two Bedroom	ONLY \$695	From \$970*	From \$795*	From \$770*
Utilities	Free Water & Heat	Free Water	Free Water	Free Water
Parking	Free Lot & Spaces	√	√	√

*Indicates estimated price to include cost of heat.

Spring/Summer 2012
Only 10 Apartments Left!

Under new management, **Hunters West Apartment Homes** is currently undergoing a multi-million dollar renovation. Offering 1 and 2 bedroom apartment homes and many luxury amenities, at Hunters West, you can experience high-rise living at its best.

Financial aid applies!









NEW! Fitness Center | Wi-Fi Café | Lobby | Indoor, Heated Pool



Schedule a personal tour today!
HuntersWest@ResourceResidential.com
866.997.3751





SUPER SMASH BROS. MELEE TOURNAMENT

When?
Feb. 11th 2013
3-6pm

Where?
VistaTech, Waterman

Entry fee?
\$5

Cash prize!

For more information,
please contact the
Student Activities
Office.




It really matters how you see yourself!




**The Student Activities Office can help
you see yourself better.**

Consider joining our clubs for a better you:

- Math and Physics
- Phi Theta Kappa
- Scientific Research
- Philosophy
- Health Information Technology
- Metro Detroit Association for the Education of Young Children (MDAEYE) & many more...



The need is constant.
The gratification is instant.
Give blood.



**American
Red Cross**



BLOOD DRIVE

Tuesday, February 5, 2013

9:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, February 6, 2013

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Call 734-462-4422
to schedule an appointment.

1-800-GIVE-LIFE | RedCrossBlood.org

Now hiring writers

Do you...

1) Write?

2) Write more?

3) Then write some more?

4) Write when you want to?

5) Write even when you don't want to?

6) Write when you have something to say?

7) Write when you don't have anything to say?

If you do... we are looking for you!

Come see us at the Connection office located
at Lower Waterman Center and find out
how you can earn some extra cash while writing.
No experience required.

Contact us at the Student Activities Office (734) 462-4422.



The Schoolcraft
Connection

EMC

ECCENTRIC MOVIE CLUB

We are the Eccentric Movie Club, movie goers of all ages that get together just to watch all forms, genres, classics, bombs, educational, sensational, nerdy, turkish, swedish, dubbed (without the step), should-have-never-seen-the-light-of-day, silent, loud, funny, depressing, and just about anything and everything that's on the glorious gray and black thing called film.

We meet in the Lower Waterman wing of the VisTaTech Center on Tuesdays and Thursdays from Noon-Six o'clock. Each week we focus on a theme in that magical medium called film.



Popcorn is provided FREEEEEEEE,
all other food and drink stuffs is on you.

Mt. Holly Ski Trip

Feb. 22, 2013

Car pool from Schoolcraft's north parking lot at 2 pm

ski and ride

from 3 - 11pm

for

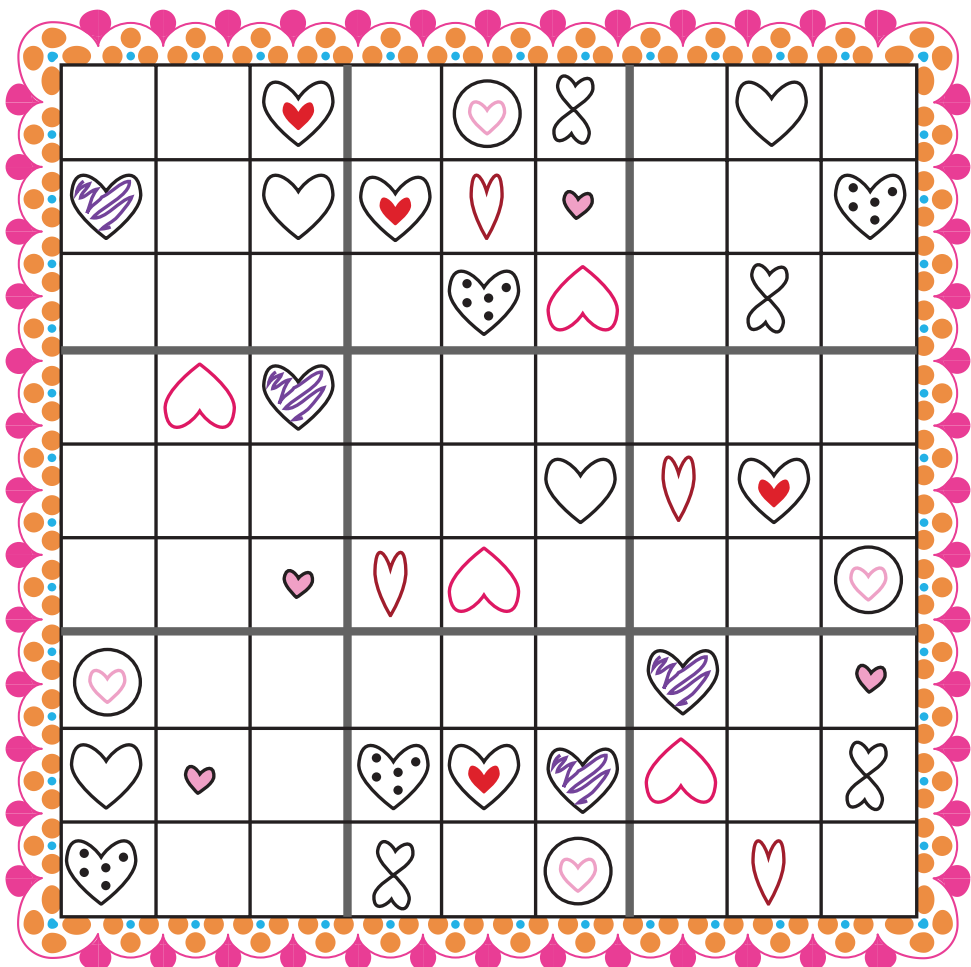
\$41

edgerunner

For more information,
contact the SAO at
734-462-4422.



VALENTOKU



Want to know where to find
the coolest beats around
town this month?

Check out Page 22



CELEBRITY LOVESCOPES

By MADAME MYSTIQUE
STAFF PSYCHIC

Kimye

3/21 - 4/19

New love is entering your life, but it looks like an old flame is still causing you trouble. It's time to clear up any problems with your previous affairs. Once you get over this hump, your love life will begin to blossom.

Marilyn and Joe

4/20 - 5/20

Your main goal in life is to marry your best friend, but you're having trouble sorting out who that friend may be. Stay close with all of your friends, but be patient with love. If things are meant to be, they will be.

Liz and Dick

5/21-6/20

You are currently in a passionate love affair. If you are not, expect to have someone walk into your life soon. This person could even be your soulmate, but you need to start controlling your temper tantrums.

Cleopatra and Antony

6/21-7/22

A particular love affair is putting you and your lover in the spotlight. Don't let this unwanted attention alter your feelings towards the person you like. Stay true to who you are and what you want.

Adam and Eve

7/23-8/22

Everyone says that you and your partner are destined to be together, but you do not feel the same way. Follow through with your desires. And remember, if anyone warns you about eating that box of chocolates, eat them anyway.

Johnny and June

8/23-9/22

Music is an important factor to you when deciding on a mate. Make sure that your boyfriend/girlfriend is your musical equal first and foremost. Once your playlists are aligned, your hearts will be as well.

Anne and Henry

9/23-10/22

You care for your partner, but lately they have been driving you crazy. Don't lose your head. Communication is key, so sit down with your partner and open up to them. It will be a great relief.

Ellen and Portia

10/23-11/21

You love people who make you laugh. Humor has always been an important factor in relationships. If you aren't laughing with the person you are dating, then it's time to move on to someone with your sense of humor.

Frida and Diego

11/22-12/21

Art is the love of your life and it seems as if you don't have room for anyone else. Focus on your passion, but remain open to meeting new people. They may even turn out to be your next muse! Love your life and it will love you right back.

Brangelina

12/22-1/19

You can't seem to get away from all of the attention lately. You are big on privacy, but your friends want to know every little detail of your love life. It's okay to open up to those you trust, but be wary of others.

Obama and Michelle

1/20-2/18

Difficult times are ahead and you have a ton of responsibility weighing down on your shoulders. It's important to accomplish your goals and remember that a special someone is always there to help you along the way.

Elvis and Priscilla

2/19-3/20

Glamour is your addiction. You love big hair and fancy clothes. It's time to stop worrying about materialistic matters. Focus on connecting to those around you, and your love life will instantly improve.

GET into the

WBCA™
PinkZone™

Play
 4Kay

The WBCA began PinkZone in 2007 as an initiative to raise breast cancer awareness in women's basketball, on campuses, and in communities. The late Kay Yow, former North Carolina State University head women's basketball coach, served as the catalyst for the initiative after her third reoccurrence of breast cancer in 2006. Kay lost her long battle in 2009.*



Wednesday
February 13, 2013

Women 5:30 PM
 Men 7:30 PM

Schoolcraft
College



Alpena
Community
College



Admission
\$5.00
T-shirts
\$5.00

All proceeds benefit
 WBCA™ PinkZone™



Students enjoyed playing games for prizes such as the getting “cookie-faced” during the Cookie Face Contest (above left) and the Hot Dog Eating Contest (above right).

It may be cold outside...
but Schoolcraft students are keeping warm

SCHOOL DAZE

Winter Carnival

Photostory by Tara Wilkinson

Even the cold couldn't keep the students away from enjoying Winter Schooldaze. The Student Activities Office held its annual event on Jan. 23 and 24 in the Lower Waterman Wing of the VistaTech Center. The event ran from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. both days and featured a variety of activities and entertainment for all to enjoy. For more photos, “Like” our Facebook page or visit our website at www.schoolcraftconnection.com.



Schoolcraft Alumni Mike Wisniewski and daughter Katie pose together as they give their caricature sketched.



Students dance to the Macarena. DJ Jason George (not pictured) kept the music playing throughout the event.



Gillette came to campus where students could participate in Gillette's Kiss & Tell Live Experiment. Students would tell what is more kissable, smooth or stubble.



The Student Activities Office would like to thank the following sponsors for their contributions in helping make Winter Schooldaze a success.



Rodan & Field
Sprint
Jimmy John's
T-Mobile
Novi Chiropractic
TCF Bank
Noodles & Company
Parkside Credit Union
Hunter's West Apartments
Harmonized Health
Illuminate Your Spirit
United Productions