



# Earth Day

Celebrations on Page 12



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PLYMOUTH WHALERS

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# The Schoolcraft Connection

SPORTS • PAGE 30

VOLUME 26 ISSUE 12

We Pursue Excellence

April 1, 2013

I'LL WEAR

# York Apparel

I'LL LOOK INCREDIBLE.

## Schoolcraft student designs clothing for charity and bands

Student Josh York always wanted to have his own line of clothing. "In high school, I actually made a few iron-on shirts as jokes and sold them to my friends," said York. However, it turned out to be more than a joke, and grew into something more than York ever imagined.

By RAMON RAZO & MOLLY MARTIN  
MANAGING EDITOR & CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

### Simple beginnings

This past summer, York got the idea to purchase his own hobby-sized silk screen press and use it to make shirts for his band, "Yours Truly." "I actually tried to start a silk-screen business," stated York. "I did end up getting a few jobs printing for sports teams and other bands in the area, but that never really picked up."

In December, York got into contact with Schoolcraft students who were trying to get a clothing line outfit (pun intended) off the ground called "Originality is Dead." "They wanted custom tags and labels, so I started experimenting with how to make them." York sewed custom tags and labels to the bottoms of the hoods of sweatshirts. When he figured out how to do this, he purchased a hat at ACO Hardware, then handwrote his name in very small letters on an old t-shirt, then cut out the name and sewed it onto the hat. "I thought it'd be cool to wear it around," he said.

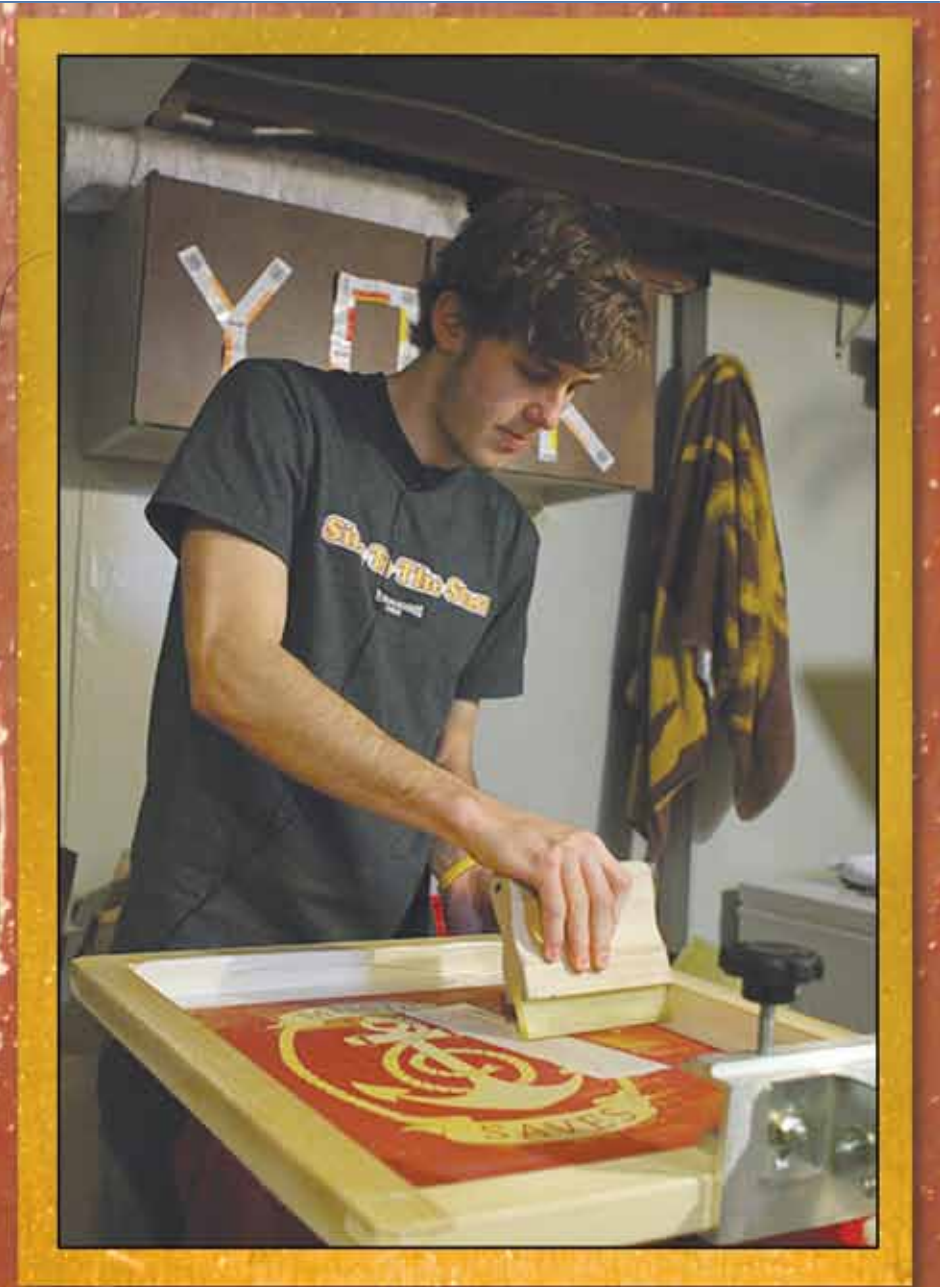
### Expanding the brand

"That night, my band was playing a Christmas show in Canton to about 100 kids," York said. "When I wore the hat there, so many people were com-

menting, saying how cool it was and that they wanted one." This gave him the idea to make more hats for friends and maybe make a couple bucks, so he bought a bag of 20 or so hats.

At his bands next show, York gave his original hat to his band's bass player, Adam Vulecich, to wear on stage as a promotion. Vulecich ended up posting a picture of it on Instagram, which caused a surge of people demanding hats. To draw more attention, York started a web store on Storenvy, a site that allows users to create their very own online store.

"Initially, I sent out messages to friends of mine that were in notable bands in the area," explained York. "I'd get them a cheap hat if they promised they would wear it and post a picture on it on Instagram or Twitter and tag my page on it." With every picture posted, interest increased. "Every time I sold [a hat online], I included a hand-written 'thank you' card that also said, 'Be cool and Instagram/Tweet me @yorkapparel12.'" Every customer ended up becoming free marketing. "It became cool to post a picture of your York Apparel, and people liked doing it."



### Doing some good

As York began to realize how large his business was getting, he came to a second realization that others could benefit from his success. "Instead of just selling hats, I decided to help those in need as well." York said he has always been fascinated by homeless people, and fully admits at how weird that sounds on the surface. "I always want to know their story, like how they became homeless, what they do every day, where they sleep and just how they live." York credits TOMS Shoes, a charity that donates a pair of shoes for every pair purchased, as his model. "I always thought that there are so many national organizations, like TOMS or Invisible Children, that send millions of dollars a year overseas." York sees a better investment in simply sending those funds down the street to help people in the area. Just like TOMS Shoes, York donates one item for every item sold, be it hats, t-shirts and sweatshirts. "For warmer months," said York, "I've decided that I'm going to donate socks and underwear instead of hats."

Nowadays, whenever York takes hats to where his band plays, he usually sells out, and can go through over 200 hats in a week. "Every product sold is hand-printed in my basement, hand sewn by either me or my mom and then shipped out with handmade packaging." York Apparel is also in the process of becoming an LLC (Limited Liability Company). York is hopeful his charity will become something great. He continues to try and push his brand through social media, as well as publicity through musicians and bands. "I really believe in the cause and think that, if marketed properly, it could take off."

**If you want to help support Josh York's charity, please visit:**

Yorkapparel12.storenvy.com  
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# STOP the denial & take action

"STOP the Violence" event aims to arm the community with information and compassion



BY RAMON RAZO  
MANAGING EDITOR

Violence is inevitable and in our society we are searching for a way to defend ourselves against it. In order to equip students and faculty with the methods and awareness needed, the Schoolcraft Cares program hosted "STOP the Violence," an event aimed at raising awareness and equipping them with the knowledge of how to deal with worst case scenarios.

The event took place on March 21 from 10:15 a.m.-11:15 a.m. It was hosted in the McDowell Center, room 200, and featured several speakers. Attendees were welcomed by counselor Stuart Baker, who moderated the event. He credited the book, "We Need to Talk about Kevin" by Lionel Shriver as being a main proponent in setting up this event and the opportunity for discussion. "In a debate, there is only one winner," said Baker. "In a discussion, everyone wins."

With that, Baker introduced Dr. Mark Huston, professor of philosophy at the College. With humanity experiencing two World Wars and the rise of violence in the public eye, people tend to believe that the world is getting more violent. Dr. Huston says, however, that this is not the case. He said that, even though we as a people have experienced extreme death tolls in wars, it is nothing compared to the billions of deaths that occurred because of tribal disputes many, many years back. Conversely, Huston pointed to how, about 5000 years ago, civilization was revolutionized with the introduction of the idea of government. It curbed violence, causing individuals to work together for a common goal. "Now,

instead of punching someone [who did you wrong], we [could] take it to someone else to deal with it," said Huston, citing the advent of courts, which he mentioned was where the word "courtesy" stemmed from. The introduction of currency took away barter disputes. "If you need to sell something to someone, you're not going to fight them," noted Huston. "In the 21st century, we need to look at how we don't have an inner-state war or countries that are going through wars constantly," Huston gave as an example of a society that is becoming more peaceful.

Phi Theta Kappa President Sarah McCullough spoke after, and started out by discussing a student survey she had taken. "I wanted to get a student perspective," she said. The survey was regarding whether or not students felt safe on campus, and an overwhelming majority did. McCullough then recounted a personal experience of hers, where she was afraid to come to class due to a hurtful relationship she was in. However, she was able to get into contact with Campus Security Police who ended up escorting her to and from her car and to her classes. "Any issue that may keep you from completing your degree, we have people here to help you," said McCullough.

The next speaker was Chief of Campus Security Police Steve Kaufman. He reiterated the fact that the campus is an incredibly safe place. "We have the token theft, but violent crime is basically nonexistent," stated Chief Kaufman. He noted how people sometimes have a tendency to read stories about atrocities and think that that happens to

other people. "Denial is the enemy. We want to be able to plan ahead [just in case]."

Professor Herbert Hummer was next to speak. He has been an adjunct professor for 16 years and has extensive experience working with juvenile delinquents, prisoners, violent offenders and other such individuals. Hummer talked about how victims have a tendency to not follow through with complaints, which allows perpetrators to get better at "hiding" than they already are. "We've become much too tolerant," said Hummer, citing that if people on campus see someone suspicious to not be afraid of bringing it up to Campus Security Police.

Counselor Mary LaJoy spoke about the correlation between mental illness and violence, and that those suffering from mental illness are not at any higher risk of committing acts of violence. "Often, we see very few students seek help from counselors," she said. She asked students and faculty to be the eyes and ears of the campus. "One thing you never want to do [with a student] is promise confidentiality," said LaJoy, referring to cases where a student might confide in another, "Because we don't know what they will say." She instead advised attendees to promise that they will only share the info with someone who can help them.

Last but not least, Director of Student Relations, Rochelle Schaffrath, discussed how to best utilize Schoolcraft Cares. The new system allows students and faculty to report incidents, offers information on harassment and bullying and offers counseling services.



Mary LaJoy advised attendees to keep an eye out for students with the following:

Continuous absences

Diminishing quality of work

Works that discuss/depict acts of violence

Expressing anger over grades

Withdrawn attitude

Deterioration in appearance/hygiene



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www.DAV.org

# Aid to America's bravest

Organization on campus aims to assist veterans at Schoolcraft

By **RAMON RAZO**  
MANAGING EDITOR

The Disabled American Veterans (DAV) has set up shop on campus to help former service men and women take full advantage of the many benefits they are entitled to. The DAV is made up of 1.2 million wartime-disabled veterans and has been around since 1920. They aim to provide free claims representation for the Department of Veterans Affairs. The organization seeks to aid veterans, their dependents and survivors.

"We're taken aback to have an opportunity to aid the veterans on the Schoolcraft campus," said Douglas K. Wells Jr., Director of the DAV's National Service Office. "Our primary mission right now is to reach out and touch Operation Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom veterans."

## Reaping the benefits

Some of the aid available to veterans includes educational benefits, healthcare benefits and compensation payments for disabilities they have incurred. The DAV seeks to make sure veterans can take full advantage of them. Wells stated that many vets are not partaking in the aid that the Post-9/11 GI Bill offers, such as educational services, some support services and assistance in finding a job once they have completed their degrees. "You do not have to be a member of DAV

to avail yourself to our service. It is free of charge," added Toni Moses. She is currently acting as the Department Service Officer as part of the DAV's college outreach initiative. Wells and Moses noted that everyone employed by DAV is a disabled veteran.

## The Post-9/11 GI Bill

"The Post 9/11 GI Bill is the current iteration of the educational program that's offered by the federal government," said Wells. GIs or enlisted persons pay a portion of their paycheck into the program to fund it. Once that individual gets out of the service and goes to college, it will pay the vast majority of their books, tuition and other fees.

## Aid on campus

DAV launched their on-campus program on Feb. 4. "I really encourage every vet on campus to use this resource," stated Moses. She said that most vets are not even aware of the plethora of benefits they are able to use, and she is here to help them along the way. Moses said veterans are free to contact her, even when she is off campus. (See box below for more information on contacting Toni Moses.)

As of now, DAV works with Wayne State University, as well as Schoolcraft, and they are looking to set up a program with Madonna in

the near future. Since DAV has set up their program here on campus, they have gotten into contact with 11 vets, informed Moses.

## Obtaining benefits

Once DAV gets into contact with the veterans on campus, they will figure out what sort of benefits vets are eligible for. They will then file the appropriate paper work with the Department of Veteran Affairs and any other local or state agencies that might offer benefits. In Michigan, the traditional compensation claim usually takes about 18 months to complete on average. "That's a pretty difficult pill to swallow for veterans that it takes that long," said Wells. However, he explained that a benefits expert like Moses can aid vets in getting compensation sooner by helping them get the necessary info quicker.

"We're really proud how Toni [Moses] and all of her counterparts around the state really hit the ground running with this program," stated Wells. "I think it's something that's really been lacking in the state of Michigan for quite some time. Fortunately, we have good leadership in Lansing [...] that has recognized the importance of these types of outreach efforts. Not only for the benefit for the individual student veteran, but the state of Michigan as a whole."

of netizens (citizens of the net, for those not in the know) who have rallied together to back-up folks' precious online content. The group has been around since 2009, and has managed to salvage more collected data than the entire web archive of the Library of Congress, according to The Huffington Post. Scott is extremely passionate about what he does. "There's the fake civility written in shutdown messages that reflects people trying to act like somebody who cares," he said. He is dissatisfied with the way websites so casually disregard the content of their users, sometimes erasing years of content away in the blink of an eye.

In the end, though, that's the cost of free. Just like those darn ads on Youtube.

## Internet news

It is a well-known fact that nothing on the internet ever goes away. Everything on the Web is here to say, just like that dead-beat buddy who always seems to be "in between jobs." However, on Feb. 15, Posterous, a website that allowed users to share blogs, photos and other contents announced it was shutting down shop on April 30, and taking the content of its 15 million users into the abyss. Users were given valuable steps in order to back up their archives; a feat easier said than done.

In time such as this, who will save us from this info-pocalypse? Enter Jason Scott and the Archive team. They are a rag-tag group

those who are generous (or foolish) enough to fork over additional funds will off-set the money lost by the customers who pay less. Let's hope for the best in Panera's generous gesture, but if we have learned one thing from history, it's this: people are jerks.

In other news, Jake Davidson became an instant internet hero when he uploaded a video asking supermodel and OMG, super hottie Kate Upton, to prom. Initially, Upton responded with a tweet telling Davidson to call her "Kate," and that she could not turn the invitation down, but she would have to check her schedule. Reality check-time came in the form of Ms. Upton tweeting at Davidson that, with her busy schedule, she would not be able to go to prom with him. Major props to Davidson for trying, but now the poor guy needs to find a real date.

The worst part is there's not a whole lot of info out there, adding to the mystery of the zombie hooker. On that note, you're welcome, Hollywood.

## National News

They say that the road to Hell is paved with good intentions. It's probably also paved with skulls, because skulls are scary. But in Panera's case, the road of good intentions might be leading them to some financial woes, what with the introduction of the "pay-what-you-can" system at a St. Louis area restaurant. The company is currently doing this as an experiment with one menu item, the Turkey Chili in a Bread Bowl. The usual price of the time is \$5.89 (with tax), but patrons are welcomed to pay anywhere from 1 cent to \$100, and any and all extremes in between. The idea is that

## In other news ...

By **RAMON RAZO**  
MANAGING EDITOR

## World News

At the the Manor Hotel in Zimbabwe, onlookers watched in terror and then surprise and then confusion as a reportedly dead prostitute, who authorities were removing from the scene, miraculously sprang back to life, yelling at police. The lady of the night's name is (apparently) MaNdllo, which opens up a whole new batch of question like "How in the world do you pronounce that?" and "What in the name of Seven Hells does that mean?"

VETERANS INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE BENEFITS THAT ARE AVAILABLE TO THEM ARE ENCOURAGED TO CONTACT TONI MOSES AT 586-215-0457. SHE IS ALSO AVAILABLE THROUGH EMAIL AT [TMOSES@DAVMICHIGAN.COM](mailto:TMOSES@DAVMICHIGAN.COM). SHE WILL BE ON CAMPUS FROM 8 A.M. TO 4 P.M. AND IS LOCATED IN THE MCDOWELL CENTER, ROOM MC205.

[facebook.com/the.DAV](http://facebook.com/the.DAV)

## Campus Crime

Compiled by Michael King  
Staff Writer

### LSPDA (Leaving the Scene of a Property Damage Accident)

March 13. A student called campus police after having witnessed an accident, in which a driver hit two neighboring cars as they tried to park. Minor damage was found to both cars. The driver stated that they are liable for any damage to the vehicle.

March 18. A group discussion in the Lower Waterman wing began to get loud as a one student ran up and started screaming at the group, stating that this group was always so loud that, "I cannot hear the movie on the television." No threats were made and everyone involved eventually apologized.

March 21. A student stated that their car had been hit while they were in class. Small transfers of red paint and white scratch marks were found on the front driver side door. No damage was located on either of the neighboring vehicles and surveillance was unable to turn up anything.

### Disruptive Student

March 25. A Security Police officer was called to a class in the McDowell Center in response to a complaint about a student that regularly listened to music with their headphones, used their phone and put their head on the table which were all violations of the instructor's class. The student had stepped outside to take a call and had returned visibly troubled by the call. The student put the phone away when asked to. Soon after, however, they put their head down on the table and were then caught with headphones in their ears. The student then made a scene when asked to leave but did so when Campus Police showed up. The instructor has arranged a disciplinary meeting with the student.

### Lost Property

March 13. A student reported that their engagement ring had gone missing after they had washed their hands. The student also informed Campus Security that another individual was in the bathroom at the time. Lost and found has been unable to find the ring.

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- The First Amendment to the Constitution

## DRAMATIC MONOLOGUES



By **Alys Dolan**

EDITOR IN CHIEF

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## Word of the Year

Every year professors, doctors and researchers clamor together to select the coveted word of the year. This word is selected based on criteria consisting of popularity, meaning and impact on our society. For 2012 the word chosen was "GIF." This word reflects where our culture and society, not just in the United

States but the world, has come and where we are headed.

"GIF," according to Oxford University Press' Katherine Martin, means "a compressed file format for images that can be used to create a simple, looping animations." The "GIF" turned 25-years old and is at the peak of its popularity. If we think for a moment and reflect on this word, it is a prime example of how far our society and communication have come.

We communicate in a completely different manner nowadays. Through a text message we are able to convey our every emotion, thanks to apps for memes, emoji faces and GIFs. We no longer feel the need to meet with our friends face to face because we can send them a ten-second video of our boredom in math class through the Snapchat app. We have never been so connected.

At any point in the day we can comb through YouTube videos and find out about another college

student's woes via a rant on their channel. The connectivity and communication in our world is boundless. Yes, we are past the good old days of writing letters or sending postcards but, with Facebook and Twitter, we can upload a vacation picture and show all of our friends. Plus, we are rewarded with likes and retweets. (Let's be honest ... everyone loves logging on and seeing the little red number pop up. If you don't, you're lying to yourself.)

Through blogs and photo-sharing websites we are able to connect to people all over the world. You can connect with people on a personal level outside of your neighborhood. We offer support and love to those around us that was not possible before this day and age. We spread awareness for those in need and the best part is we inspire others to take action.

We are viral, we are trending and we are continuing to expand every

single day. We have an amazing opportunity to learn from those around us, and not just those we interact with in person. I can proudly say I feel connected to those I follow on my blog and those who follow me. Our society can learn so much from each other through means of exploration, and not the kind Christopher Columbus did.

We are in a new age where everyone feels connected to everyone. Where we can give help to those we have never met. Our world communicates and grows with each other and the Internet has proven to be the perfect catalyst for this. So be trending like the "GIF," be followed and have the most reblogs on your picture because you are connected to those around you. You may be the reason someone gets excited to log on to Twitter, Facebook or Instagram, so use that. We have the power to make a difference and be heard. So be informative, creative and help others grow.

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## SEE EMILY WRITE



By **Emily Podwoiski**

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

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## Dear nice guys

I'm a nice girl and a loyal friend to everyone. Despite this, I'm still girlfriend zoned by men. Yes, you read correctly. Girlfriend zoned. I had a close friendship with this self-proclaimed "nice guy" who was not actually interested in our friendship. He only wanted to date me. This nice guy turned into a not-so-nice-guy after I told him, "I just want to be friends."

His response was all too familiar: "What do you mean you want to be just friends? I thought you liked me because I'm nice! I do nice guy things! I'm always here for you, doesn't that entitle me to be your boyfriend? This isn't fair! Girls are so dumb for going after guys that aren't nice like me!" Our friendship ended once he understood that I would not go on a date with him. I was girlfriend zoned.

For the self-proclaimed nice guys out there, you are not actually a nice guy after you call girls *dumb* for going out with guys that you don't find suitable. Your crush's boyfriend is not a jerky bunghole simply because you're not the one she's dating. According to your logic, women are dumb for not dating you because you are...nice. Since when does "nice guy" equate to going on rants about how idiotic

women are for making their own choices about whom they date? That doesn't sound very nice to me.

Look, I get that you're frustrated because you can't seem to find a mate. But don't blame that on some mythical "friend zone" concept. If a girl doesn't want to date you, she doesn't want to date you. The world does not revolve around you, nice guy in the fedora. Investing time into your friendship with a girl does not entitle you to a relationship with her so don't get angry when this friend rejects you. Getting angry is not fair to yourself and it's especially not fair to the girl in the situation.

Our society tends to vilify women who say "no" – whether it is within relationships or the workplace. Women generally have a harder time saying no because there is pressure to not come off as too assertive or too bossy (or the other b-word). Basically, women can't win. If we say yes, we're not being true to ourselves. If we say no, we come off as cold. Women tend to soften their words in order to avoid coming off as too assertive and this may be why some men feel betrayed when a woman says no to them. For the most part, women do not want your feelings to get hurt but no means no. Accept it and move on and please, please don't make a Facebook status about it.

I know it's radical but us ladies make our own decisions about whom we choose to date. If you truly are a nice guy, you will respect a girl's decision to not go out with you – instead of making a passive aggressive Facebook status hiding under the "nice guy" façade – and continue to be her friend, if you can. That's what a genuine nice guy would do. Stop girlfriend zoning us. Sincerely, girlfriend-zoned nice girls everywhere.

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

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TRUST ME, I'M  
A JOURNALIST

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

## The Ballad of the Late Bloomer

Attending college at the age of 23 isn't the worst thing ever but it can sometimes make one feel really crummy. Having two or three years of college in your future can be very frustrating, and still living with your parents doesn't make it any easier. Sometimes, "older" college students can experience a bad case of inferiority. Was it not only the last generation that was moving out at 20, living the life and even getting married? (You know; if that's your thing.) With such a huge amount of college kids living at home, crying and student-loaning their way through college and clinging desperately to God-awful part-time employment, it's undoubtedly appropriate for millennials to feel ashamed of their predicament.

Actually, no, that's not true. You're all doing just fine.

The fact is we live in much different times than 20 years ago, or even a decade ago. The price of living is much higher than it was some time ago, so the simple act of fueling your car or paying rent is going to put a bigger hole in your wallet, a hole that holding just one job won't heal. To top it off, the job market is much more of a struggle than it used to be. This editorial is not going to point fingers at any one entity being respon-

sible for the state of the economy; the world is more complicated than that. But the fact remains that you end up needing to work harder and end up getting less. Then there's the struggle of securing a job that's going to take care of you. That's a harder task than ever. Gone are the days where you can get out of school, go to GM and get paid \$20 an hour. We live in an era where it's a little harder to earn your way.

Everything is going to seem hard, maybe even seem unbeatable as you live through it. Every generation has had, and will have, their obstacles. This generation of 18-to-30-year olds' hurdle is money, and in more ways than what's just in your pocket. In order to combat this, Generation Y has adapted concentrating on higher education. The job market has more competition than ever and Gen. Y has to fight for their jobs, and the weapon is education.

But education is expensive. You need money to pay for education and you need an education to make money so you can see how things tend to get complicated. That's where living at home comes in. There's no shame in living with mom and dad as long as you're paying your way, avoiding the pitfalls of being a mooch and chipping away at the wall that separates you from your future. If you jump ship now and try to strong-arm your way into the "real world," things might not turn out in your favor. This is the real world and it's more expensive than it used to be.

Regardless of how it feels now, this is a good generation. This generation is focused on education. They respect the wisdom of elders and aspire to better the world through innovation and teamwork. They have lived through turbulent times and radical social change and are better off because of this. And once Millennials do finally break free of college and living at home, they'll journey out into the real world of office jobs and hospitals and dingy basements where they toil away trying to meet deadlines and they'll be touting a plethora of real-world experience instead of simple book-knowledge. And that's the kind of brain-power that's worth the wait.

than any other country in the world. In fact, while the U.S. contains only 4.5 percent of the world's population, we house a mind-blowing 23 percent of the world's prisoners. That is over 1.6 million Americans behind bars (not including people on probation or those being detained pre-trial). That's more people and a higher rate of incarceration than all of our allied countries combined. Even the enormous autocratic China doesn't best us when it comes to locking up our own citizens. Something is amiss.

Perhaps the problem is an overzealous criminal justice system, filled with prosecutors who are more concerned with keeping up their conviction rate than protecting the innocent. Since 1989, DNA evidence has led to the exoneration of 303 convicted felons, including 18 death row inmates. Here's the fun part: 25 percent of those convicted confessed to crimes they didn't commit. 28 percent pleaded guilty in court on felony charges they were innocent of. These are people who were provably not guilty, persuaded into self-incarceration by members of our criminal justice system. You know the saying, "If you're innocent, you've got nothing to worry about?" Yeah, that's not always true.

Of course, you can't mention the massive prison population without talking about the war on drugs. Frequent readers of my opinionated ramblings will know that I am a fervent legalization advocate for the simple reason that putting certain substances into your own body of your own volition shouldn't be a reason

to put someone in a cage. Unsurprisingly, there's a fairly linear correlation between the drug war taking off in the '70s and '80s and a massive increase in prison population. In fact, the U.S. prison population increased by over 200 percent between 1980 and 1990, as the percentage of people incarcerated for nonviolent drug offenses increased from 7.4 percent to 24 percent. And the number of prison inmates has been rising ever since.

Regardless of the cause, the growing prison population is unsightly on top of being financially unsustainable. According to a 2010 survey, yearly state prison costs were up to \$39 billion while federal prison costs eat up a quarter of the budget for the entire Department of Justice. We just lock up too many people and it's an addiction this nation needs to curb.

Of course, no one is suggesting the solution is amnesty for people who have committed serious crimes. There are plenty of people in the prison system – murderers, rapists, child abusers and the like – who have done horrible things and need to be segregated from society. However, when 1.6 million American citizens are behind bars, something is broken.

The fact that this is one of the few areas where the United States is ranked number one is nothing to be proud of and it's something we as a nation shouldn't be known for. It's ugly, it's expensive and it's in need of reform. Until then, there will be at least 1.6 million citizens who will find it hard to call America the land of the free.

## Counselor's Corner

Advertisement

### April is National Alcohol Awareness Month

By **LINDSAY ROBERTS**  
SCHOOLCRAFT COUNSELOR



April is National Alcohol Awareness Month. Hopefully this will allow many of us to reflect on our own alcohol consumption habits and those of the people close to us. That being said it is important to know the definition and signs of alcohol abuse and alcoholism. The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders defines alcoholism as a diagnosable disease characterized by a strong craving for alcohol, continued use despite harm or personal injury, inability to limit drinking, physical illness when drinking stops, and the need to increase the amount drunk to feel its affects. Alcohol abuse is a pattern of drinking that result in harm to one's health, interpersonal relationships, or ability to work as reported by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. The main difference is that alcoholism includes a physical addiction.

A part of both these issues is binge drinking. That term is often heard in reference to the college experience and therefore downplayed as just a part of being young. According to the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism binge drinking is considered drinking so much within about 2 hours that blood alcohol concentration (BAC) levels read 0.08g/dL. For women, this usually occurs after about 4 drinks, and for men, after about 5. Binge drinking can lead to negative

physical, psychological, and/or social problems. Some examples include: drunk driving arrests, accidents, injuries, alcohol poisoning, and memory loss.

Alcohol abuse and alcoholism can also negatively affect the college experience. Students may experience low grades, frequently missing class, trouble concentrating, poor study habits or none at all. Interpersonal relationships can also be damaged by these issues.

If you or someone you know is abusing alcohol or may be an alcoholic please come to the Counseling Center. Licensed Professional Counselors are available for support, brief counseling, and community resources. Students are able to make appointments by calling (734) 462-4429 or come as a walk-in. The Counseling Center will also be holding Alcohol Awareness sessions. There will be a presentation on Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup> from 1-2pm and screenings on Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup> from 9am-4pm. Both will be held in MC110. Also, be aware of support in the community such as Alcoholics Anonymous and Al-Anon. Websites such as [www.samhsa.gov](http://www.samhsa.gov) and [www.niaaa.nih.gov](http://www.niaaa.nih.gov) provide useful information regarding referrals, inpatient and outpatient facilities, resources, and data.

HUMANITY'S  
CRITIC



By **JONATHAN KING**  
EDITOR IN CHIEF  
kinetikai@hotmail.com

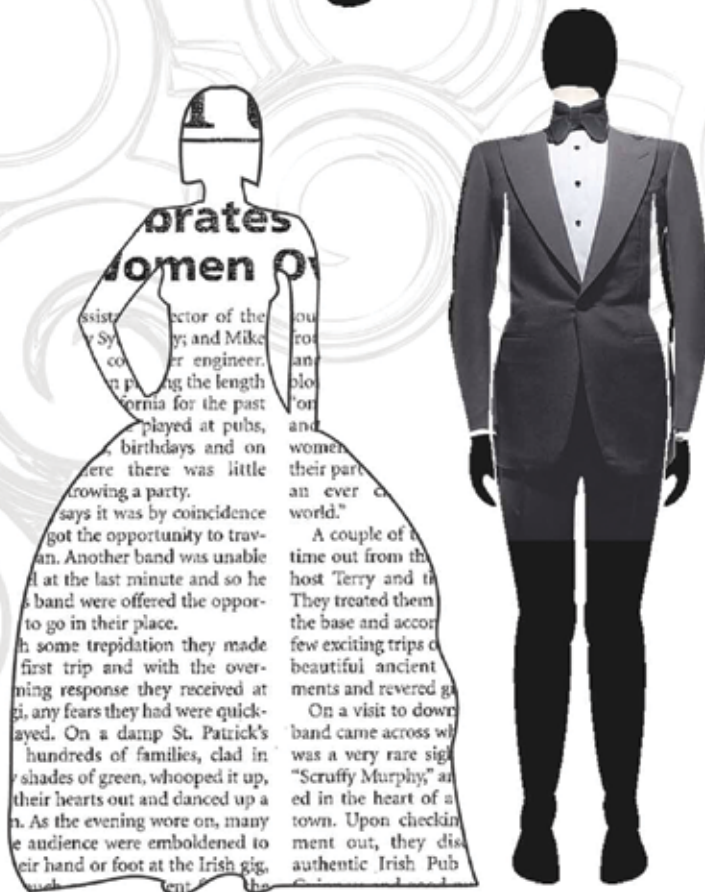
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I love this country but that doesn't mean it doesn't operate under some grade-A, platinum-standard hypocrisies. To quote the late, great George Carlin, "This country was founded on a very basic double standard. This country was founded by slave owners who wanted to be free."

Perhaps the most stunning contradiction looming over us is that this nation, this bastion of freedom, incarcerates more of its citizens

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## A thousand acts of GREEN

A celebration of the world around us

BY MOLLY MARTIN  
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

People talk about protecting the Earth and saving the environment but most do not take action. However, a brand new campaign will be taking full swing on our campus this April. On April 8, Schoolcraft will be getting a head start by having an Earth Day celebration titled, "A Thousand Acts of Green." The event will go from noon until 3 p.m. in the VistaTech Center room VT500.

Earth Day began in 1970 and has been celebrated all over the world. April 22 is a reminder to us to be aware of what is happening around us. "It is to raise awareness about the deteriorating condition of our planet's natural resources," said Michael Orick, a Biology Professor here at Schoolcraft. Earth Day is a day for people to stop and reflect on the potential dangers that face Mother Nature and ways to protect it.

At this Earth-friendly event, there will be an "Acts of Green" panel discussion, tasked with brain-storming ideas and ways to promote a greener lifestyle in the community. There will also be a meet and greet with many Earth-friendly retailers and organizations, such as the Sierra Club, the longest-running conservation organization in the United States, REI, an outdoor clothing and gear store and Wayne County

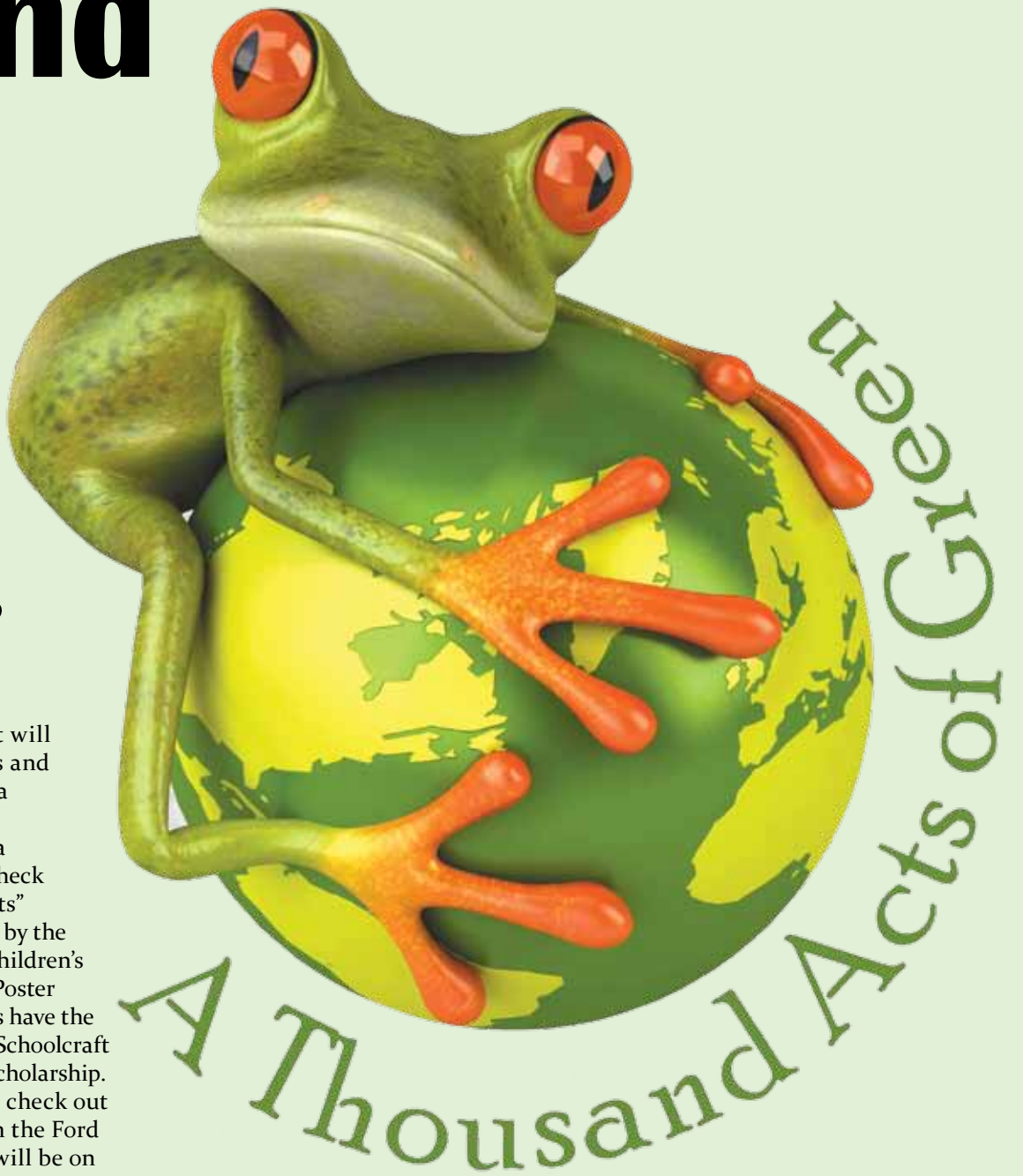
Recycling. The event will also have free drinks and snacks to enjoy and a prize raffle.

While you stop for a snack, make sure to check out the "My Green Acts" artwork display made by the Schoolcraft College Children's Center as well as the Poster Contest. Two students have the chance to win a \$250 Schoolcraft College Foundation Scholarship.

And don't forget to check out the electric cars from the Ford dealerships, as they will be on display, where attendees are welcomed to check them out and learn more about how this technology benefits the environment and consumers.

One also has the opportunity to pledge to do their part in helping protect the Earth. For the first 250 people who pledge, they will receive a white pine sapling.

It is a free entry event and will be an amazing, eye opening experience for those in attendance. "We celebrate Earth Day at Schoolcraft to promote the wise and sustainable use of the Earth's resources so that generations to come will be able live healthfully and enjoy the natural beauty of the planet," said Professor Orick.



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## Graduating Class of 2013

Give yourself a proper sendoff

BY DEWEY LAHMAR  
STAFF WRITER



From the day of enrollment to the day of commencement, Schoolcraft faculty has paved the way for students, making everything easy and accessible for the future leaders of the free world. All of the staff and faculty members are caring, patient and extremely meticulous. The last act of rolling out the red carpet before the graduation ceremony is the Graduation Fair, held in the bookstore on the main campus for the 2013 graduating class. The event takes place on Monday, April 8 at 4 p.m.

During this time, graduates will be able to obtain their cap and gown free for the ceremony. Students can also purchase graduation announcements for \$2 each. This includes customized announcements and envelopes.

If you buy a diploma frame, you will get a free "Grad Pack" including an alumni t-shirt, coffee mug and lanyard. You can also get Phi Theta Kappa honors regalia. To go along with all of that wonderful merchandise, students will also be able to order a DVD of the graduation ceremony upon request for \$15. As a one-stop shop for all graduation paraphernalia, students will also have a gown-pressing service available for a small fee of \$5.

As the college nears its 48th commencement ceremony, the same sense of integrity continues, and students can expect an excellent sendoff furnishing them with everything they need before the final celebration. Christina Barkoff, a bookstore employee,

briefly spoke with us here at the Connection, and wishes a successful future for all graduates. Joe Holtzman, the director of the College Bookstore, looks forward to helping students as they close out their final chapter here at Schoolcraft.

Do not miss out on this opportunity to get everything you need to graduate. Get to the campus bookstore on April 8 at 4 p.m. and get excited for your graduation. From here at the Schoolcraft Connection, we wish all of those who are graduating, an exciting journey in life. In the famous words of Walt Disney, "All dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them." See you all at the Grad Fair.



# Diary of an immigrant

## The Final Destination? Part One

By URMILA BILGI  
ASSISTANT LAYOUT EDITOR

By now, it was time for graduation. For most students, that meant freedom from studying and a chance to work towards their real goal. But for immigrants like me, it was just a chip off the ice block. The biggest hurdle to pass was getting a work permit, otherwise just take a U-turn and go back to your home country to pay off your hefty loans in rupees.

Unfortunately, my timing for graduation couldn't have been worse. With the recession at its peak, things weren't looking good. I had to start with a temporary work-permit, which would last for a year. Before it expired I would have to find an employer who would be ready to file a Visa. "I can hear the clock ticking," I wrote anxiously in my diary. In an effort to find a job, I made thousands of calls, wrote emails and, wherever possible, personally dropped off my resumes, but only to receive rejections. Finally, I received semi-good news when PBS KIDS offered me a summer internship. The question was do I wait for a job or take what was offered? "This could turn into a full time opportunity!" I convinced myself, or at least my diary...

"Plus," I wrote, "PBS is big. If need be, they'll sponsor my Visa." Soon, other logistics like renting an apartment and finding roommates were taken care of, and I started packing for Washington D.C. I didn't know what excited me more, moving to the capital city of America or working for a channel I loved!

"D.C. is amazing," I wrote in my diary. "Unlike Michigan, there is public transport, which makes life simple. There's so much you can do on the bus. You can read, sleep or simply find time to apply make-up. If there was a skill I learned from Washington it would be applying perfect make-up on the shaky ride. Women dressed on the way to their work places and wore sports shoes until they reached their



I am leaving on a jet plane

offices and then their shoes miraculously transformed into stilettos. It surprised me because I hadn't seen 'The Devil Wears Prada' until then. And then at the office everybody sat on exercise balls instead of office chairs to improve postures."

PBS KIDS was an experience I could never forget. The love and respect given to me by my seniors was commendable. The work was great, too. I would play games and submit feedback, register Children's responses on PBS KIDS games, work on SEO (Search Engine Optimization), update their social media, rectify broken links and enjoy delectable tacos from the local taco truck for lunch. Things actually looked promising. Also, I started having a good time with my new roommates. "Now I am just missing you," I told Aneesh.



Just when I thought so, my roommates had plans because of summer vacation and they left for their hometowns. To add to my misery, PBS told me that they don't sponsor Visas for entry-level positions. "Loneliness and no job; back to square one," so said my diary. I was back to eating alone and talking only when the phone rang. During one such solemn evening, while jogging, I burst into tears, only to realize that there was nobody around to console me. Not even a stranger. "Will there be an end to this? I wondered.

I was broken, but I hadn't given up. On weekends, I travelled to big cities like Boston and New York City to distribute my resumes. It was a shot in the dark but worth the try. The minute I entered Random House in New York City, it felt great. "Now this is my temple," I made a note. I also got the phone numbers of editors from people at the concierge. When I called one of the editors, she was surprised to have her number with me. "When the devotee thinks of god, she appears, doesn't she?" I asked her. She appreciated my sense of humor, but that's the most she could do for me.

These trips were mostly unfruitful, except for the interesting people I met. On the bus to New York, I met a young soldier who had fought in Afghanistan, and he told me some frightening stories. "It could either be him or me, so I killed him, but even today I have nightmares," he spoke, in a deep, painful voice. "My only solace is the fact that I did it for my country, and God is my witness." As a newly-turned agnostic, I wondered how I would have reacted in this situation. Would I need God to forgive me? Or would I have to justify the love for my country in order to forgive myself?

These trips didn't help me find a job, but it did help me look at life with a whole new perspective. How could I put a price on such experiences?

After the D.C. debacle, I found an internship in Chicago, at Independent Publishers Group. The drill began with finding roommates. This time, I was determined to live with an American. In an attempt to find a roomie, I replied back to "Ashley," a listing I found on Craig's List. Upon reaching the apartment, Ashley turned out to be a guy. I wasn't sure how to react. On one hand, it would be a great experience but being married and having to answer to parents meant I couldn't do it. Now I just refer to it as my funny story. After reviewing several apartments which were either in an unsafe area or a bedbug prone one, I chose the least of all evils - the one where my husband couldn't visit. I ended up sharing the apartment with an Indian girl again but at least it was beautiful, as it was located in front of a beach. Soon I realized that my roommate, too, was a delight.

My co-workers, just as those in D.C., respected and appreciated my work. This was a rotational internship, which meant I not only went through the slush pile to find good literature but also there were days when I had to work for the accounting department. It goes without saying that I hated those days.

However, Chicago made my life a bit easier due to its proximity to Michigan. I could go home, once in a while, unlike when I was in D.C. My office was located off of The Magnificent Mile. Walking everyday in the spirited downtown was pure pleasure. And once, just to be like an American, I even bought a cappuccino from Starbucks during my daily commute.

It was during one of these rides that I met a person who is still a mystery to me. Every morning, we waited at the same stop. One day, she came up to me for a chat, during which she told me her story, and it was probably the scariest one I have ever heard. At first I wasn't sure what I was hearing. She told me that in Iraq, she and her family kept moving constantly, looking for a safe area. But the US government offered a relocation plan to Iraqis that were educated and ready to leave everything else in Iraq. "It was the toughest decision we had to make," she told me. "[We were] not sure when we would see our parents again, but with war all the time, we had no life! Our parents supported our decision. Now we are here, and we feel very lonely." I could see the tears in her eyes while she said this. After she finished telling her story, I literally didn't have words. My loneliness was nothing in comparison to her pain. "It will be fine!" was the most I could come up. "Let's meet up on the weekend and do something together."

That evening I shared this story with my roommate, hoping she would join us. Instead she freaked out. "You never know if it's the truth,"

my roommate told me. "You should be worried; you too are on a Visa. Better stay away!" She warned me. My roommate followed Islam and often expressed her communal issues while living in India or America. So for obvious reasons she feared the Homeland Security. Honestly, all immigrants do! We come here to live a peaceful life, but the smallest issue can jeopardize our stay. Until then, I had never thought of this as an issue. I wanted to help the Iraqi lady, but I was scared and I chickened out. Later, I just exchanged pleasantries at the bus stop. I still can't forgive myself and I still don't know what the right thing to do was. I covered the entire page of my diary in question marks that night.

And then it was raining bad news. Just like PBS, IPG didn't sponsor Visas.



Soon the stress of the past 10 months started taking its toll on my body. I was put on medication for hormonal imbalance which the doctor told me was stressed induced.

That's when the nature took things in its hands and decided that I needed to rethink. I was stuck on the bus due to the snowstorm of Chicago, 2010. "It may have been a temperature controlled bus, but the doors kept on opening automatically after every 15 minutes, bringing cold winds from the lake," I wrote in my diary.

I thought of everything that happened so far, starting from India. There was a time when I wanted to change the world and then there was this, when I felt like a complete failure. I was physically and mentally sick, and only a bit wiser (and all this just for a work-permit). Was all of this worth it?

After finishing my internship, I went back home to Michigan, dejected. I wasn't sure what I felt anymore. Soon I had to go back on the cursed Visa, which didn't allow me to work. In short a house arrest. I tried to cheer myself up while reading the "Welcome Home" sign put up by my husband. "At least I am home," I told myself.



# Thayer's Park



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WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ON CAMPUS?

SEE PAGE 20

# Secrets of the Quill

BY BRIANNE RADKE  
STAFF WRITER

**Q:** My English professor requires documented peer review for every paper that we submit. I absolutely hate sharing my work with other students, and I have always been told that my writing is exceptional – I have declared an English major! Why would our instructor force her students to review each other's work?

**A:** Peer review is a critical step in the writing process and an excellent habit to get into. This is especially true for anyone who is passionate about writing and considering a career in English. Even authors so esteemed as J. K. Rowling and James Patterson submit to an editing process. In fact, they embrace it, viewing constructive criticism as an opportunity to further the excellence of their craft. Furthermore, journal articles are not even given credence until a panel of peers has reviewed them.

While peer review may seem daunting and a little nerve-wracking, it can be fantastically rewarding. A fresh pair of eyes can spot things that the author might miss after countless hours of drafting and writing and rewriting. An interesting thing about the human brain: it sees what it wants to see. Our mind is wired to expect that our text is error-free and performs a sort of auto-correct as we read, especially when the words are our own. We can easily

miss silly typos and misspelled words simply because we know what we intended to say, and we all know that spell check can only take us so far – it will not point out an accidental "their" in place of "there." A peer can more easily find these mistakes.

An unbiased reader can also pick up on rough patches – areas that may be perfectly clear within the confines of an author's mind, but may not translate easily into the mind of another. This kind of constructive criticism can help us smooth out awkward transitions and give clarity to the structure of our work.

Additionally, it is great practice for a writer to serve as the reviewer. Developing a critical eye in reading the works of others, ultimately, improves our own writing. It increases our level of objectivity and reveals what we most appreciate within a piece of writing. In honing our analytical approach, we sharpen our perception, giving us an edge in every step of the writing process.

Your professor is doing you a huge favor by requiring this step. In fact, the College values peer review so highly that they offer the service, free of charge, in the LAC. Feel free to visit the Writing Fellows any time you would like a second set of eyes to peruse your paper before turning it in to your instructor.



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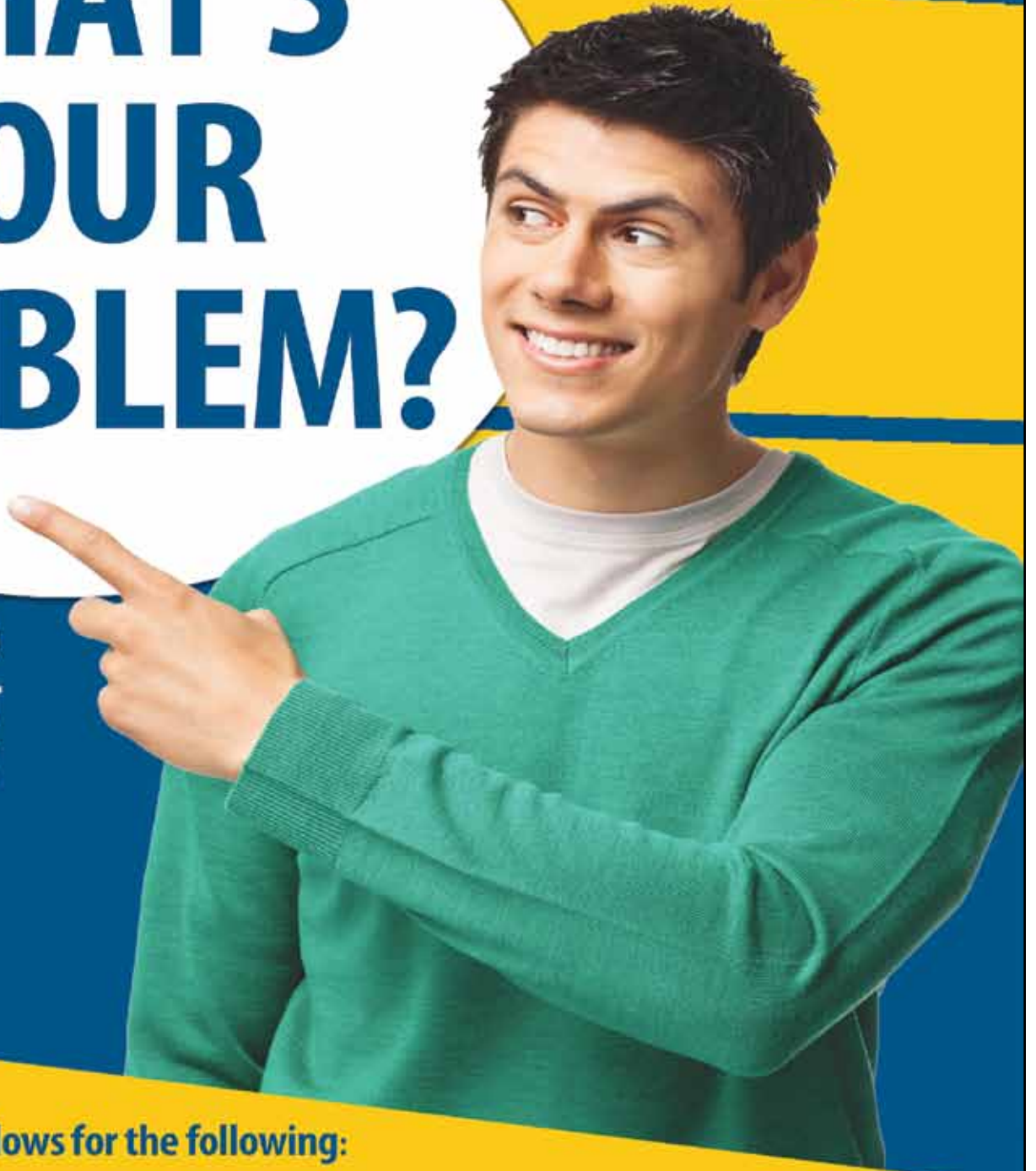
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Meeting**  
April 8  
4 p.m.

**Gay/Straight  
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Meeting**  
April 10  
Noon

**PTK  
Membership  
Meeting**  
April 10  
6-7 p.m.

**Rock for  
Africa**  
April 11  
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# “We all should know that divers




Hello! I am Melissa.  
I am from Bermuda.

Guten Tag! I am  
Marcel. I am from  
Germany.

Hola! I am Jose.  
I am from Venezuela.

**Bermuda**   
**Major Political Parties:** Progressive Labour Party (PLP) and the One Bermuda Alliance (OBA)  
**Premier of Bermuda:** Craig Cannonier  
**Country Status:** Developed  
**Currency:** Bermudian Dollar  
 Bermuda is frequently known as the Somers Isles and is located off the east coast of the United States of America. Bermuda was discovered in the year 1505 by a sea captain who went by the name of Juan de Bermudez. The islands are named after him. Bermuda's economy is made up of offshore

**Estonia**   
**Major Political Parties:** Estonian Reform Party, Estonian Centre Party, Union of Pro Patria and Res Publica and Social Democratic Party.  
**President of Estonia:** Toomas Hendrik Ilves  
**Country Status:** Developed  
**Currency:** Euro  
 Estonia is a state in Northern Europe and is divided into 15 counties. Estonia is listed as a “high-income economy.” Estonia is described as a much wired country. Estonia has limestone deposits, along with granite that hasn't been mined yet.

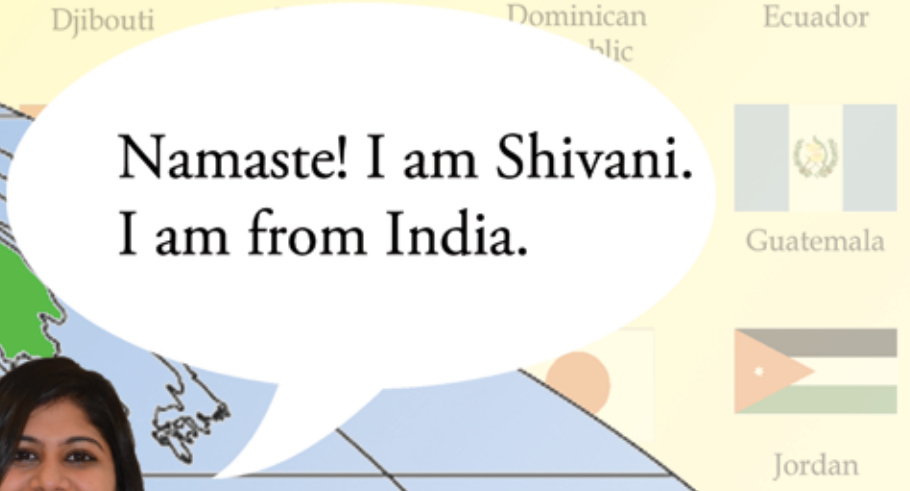
**Germany**   
**Major Political Parties:** Christian Democratic Union of Germany and Christian Democratic Party of Bavaria  
**President of Germany:** Joachim Gauck  
**Country Status:** Developed  
**Currency:** Euro  
 Germany is a country in western-central Europe. It consists of 16 states and the largest city is Berlin. The Chancellor of Germany is Angela Merkel and she is the head of the federal government, using the

# iversity makes for a rich tapestry!"



Hello! I am Kärt.  
I am from Estonia.

-Maya Angelou



Namaste! I am Shivani.  
I am from India.

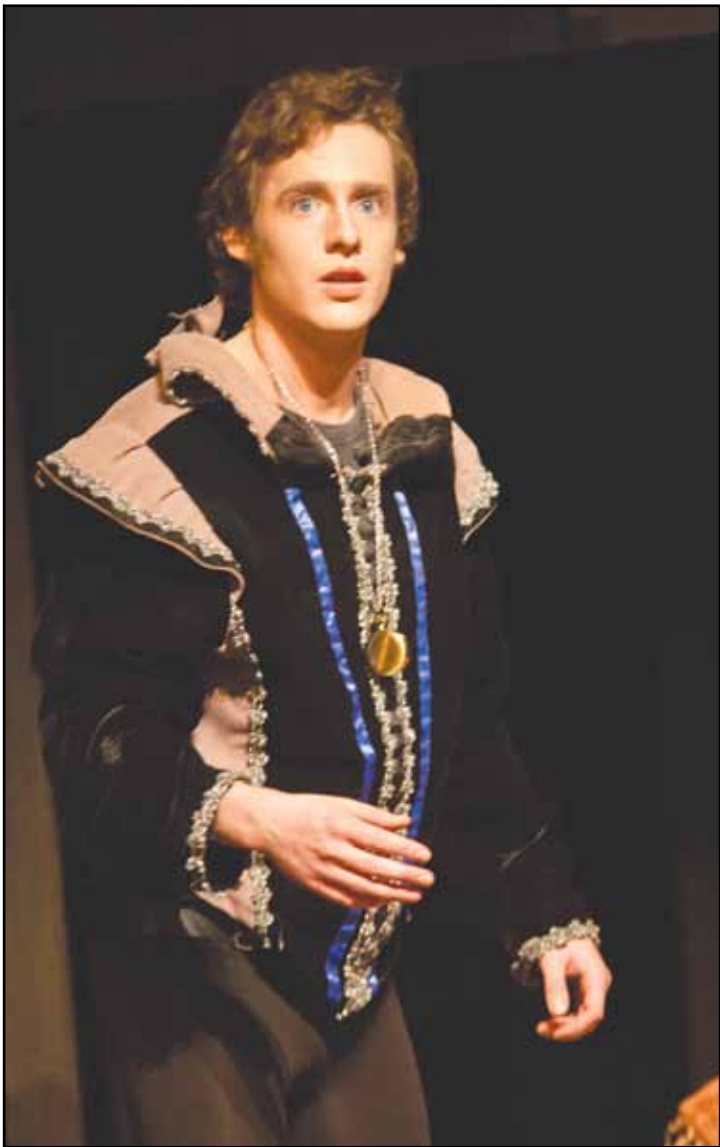
rties: Social  
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any:  
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ggest city is Berlin.  
Germany is Angela  
ne head of the  
executive power.

India 

**Major Political Parties:** Nationalist Congress Party, Indian National Congress, Bharatiya Janata Party and Communist Party of India  
**Prime Minister of India:** Manmohan Singh  
**Country Status:** Developing  
**Currency:** Rupees  
India is one of the fastest growing major economies and is located in South Asia. Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism, four world religions, formed here. It has a federal constitutional republic and the 28 states and 7 union territories are governed under a parliamentary system.

Venezuela 

**Major Political Parties:** United Socialist Party of Venezuela, Democratic Action, A New Era and Independent Electoral Political Organization Committee  
**President of Venezuela:** Nicolas Maduro  
**Currency:** Venezuelan bolivar  
Venezuela is a country located in the Northern area of South America and is home for more than 29 million people. Venezuela consists of 23 states and is one of the most urbanized countries in Latin America. Venezuela has one of the largest exports of oil and has the largest oil reserves.



The tortured and grieving Hamlet (Joey Kulling) stops in his tracks when he hears the ghostly voice of his deceased father.



The regal, yet treacherous, King Claudius (Benjamin Karl) yells out encouragement to his angered nephew during a swordfight (pictured below) against the equally anguished noble, Leartes (Sean Thomas).



# Oh, Hamlet, Hamlet, Hamlet ...

## The retelling of a Shakespearean classic

By ALYS DOLAN  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

"To be or not to be, that is the question..." The answer for this version of Hamlet is "to be." The local community and students on campus took on the difficult mission of performing Professor James Hartman's edited version of "Hamlet" by William Shakespeare. This play has been adapted and undertaken by many theatre companies, schools and performers. It is complex through the beautiful poetry and rich story telling, and thanks to Professor Hartman's adaptation, audiences will be granted an easier time understanding it. The long speeches and interactions have been cut down but preserve the vivid complexity that is Hamlet.

A clever boy sets out to unmask his uncle after the mysterious death of his father, the King of Denmark. A ghost, who Hamlet believes to be the king, delegates his son to uncover the truth behind his death and avenge his name. The implements of his cruel plan unfold in this story of betrayal and heartbreak.

This is one of the most difficult plays to undertake. Hamlet, the lead, is one of the most complicated and twisted characters in all of literature. Thankfully, Joey Kulling returns to Schoolcraft as the grieving and vengeful Hamlet. The moments of intimacy between just him and the audience are astonishing. He commands attention, and one of the most eerie and remarkable moments in the show is the scene between Hamlet and the Ghost during his confrontation with his mother, the Queen.

King Claudius, the accused uncle of Hamlet played by Benjamin Karl, is sensational. His presence on the stage is exquisite, with his intense delivery and smooth voice it was only fitting that he be king, even if he did murder his brother for it. Karl holds a regal demeanor amongst the members of his court but breaks once he is alone. He shows the truly human side of a man driven by jealousy to commit murder and plagued by guilt coming before God with his sins.

Tommy Patrick Ryan plays an exceptional Polonius. He is comical, yet serious and each word that falls out of his mouth is as if he wrote the part himself. Ryan plays the devoted aid to the King brilliantly and keeps a watchful eye on the condescending Prince Hamlet.

The members of the cast are all very fitting and the show keeps interest, although be cautioned that the first act is lengthy. Acting veteran Elizabeth Tumminello returns to Schoolcraft's theatre stage as Queen Gertrude and is a delight. Ophelia is played by the lovely Ronya Mallad, and does the part well. Other supporting members are well cast and aid in immersing the audience in the world of "Hamlet."

There is still time to purchase tickets and catch the last two weekends of the show. Contact the bookstore for advance sale tickets or tickets can be purchased the night of at the theatre. The last curtain call is on April 13. Tickets for the dinner theatre are \$24 for April 5 and 6. For just the show on April 12 and 13, tickets are available prices are \$12.



PHOTOS BY MANDY GETSCHMAN

The beloved Queen Gertrude (Elizabeth Tumminello) is concerned and perplexed as her son, Hamlet, fearfully pleads for her to believe in an apparition that only he can see.

# FRIDAY NIGHT RENTALS

## Planet-friendly flicks

By JOSIAH THOMAS, EMILY PODWOISKI,  
RAMON RAZO, & ALYSON DOLAN  
CONNECTION STAFF



### "Erin Brockovich" (2000)

Some are driven to serve others by passion or desire, but some are driven by survival. In "Erin Brockovich," the title character is a single mother with no job, no help and bills piling up. She begs her lawyer for a job to work off her debt to the firm, but her appearance and demeanor are huge turn-offs to everyone in the office. However, things change when she begins to investigate a bizarre real estate case between the Pacific Gas and Electric Company.

The story of Erin Brockovich and her struggles to help uncover the dangers of illegal toxic waste dumping while balancing her family life is as moving as it is thought provoking. This is a tale of finding hope when all seems lost and with a powerful Oscar winning performance by Julia Roberts and an exceptional supporting cast, this film does not disappoint. Aaron Eckhart ("Olympus Has Fallen"), who plays Brokovich's biker boyfriend, restores faith in relationships to her character. The other members of the supporting cast do a remarkable job and the story keeps the audience invested.

The film explores the lengths a mother is willing to go through to support her children, and to find out the truth when no one else can. Through hard work and determination, a woman just trying to survive finds her place in this world, and what an important place it is, too.

### "FernGully: The Last Rainforest" (1992)

"Tree hugger" takes on a whole new meaning in the mystical animated film, "FernGully: The Last Rainforest." Centered on the awesome fairies of the rainforest and the stupid humans who keep trying to destroy it, "FernGully" has a powerful message that still prevails.

The heroine of the film, Crysta, is a teenage fairy who can't seem to master her magic spells. One day, she comes across a human dreamboat named Zak who is working for a company that harvests trees, and she is terrified. In an effort to save her rainforest, Crysta casts a spell that accidentally shrinks Zak to a fairy-friendly size. A freaked-out Zak immediately denies being part of demolishing the rainforest and Crysta believes him. The two become pals while trying to thwart an evil singing sludge of oil named Hexxus, voiced by Tim Curry.

Even though this movie screams "cheesy, liberal, tree-hugging hippies," the movie's message will truly make the audience think. Through cheesy songs and beautiful animated imagery, the movie will touch your heart. The majority of the animation is drawn from the fairy's point of view, pulling inspiration from Australia's rainforests.

Crysta takes Zak on adventures throughout the rainforest, allowing him to take in the overwhelming

beauty of the forest. Eventually, Zak comes clean about his past and admits that he was indeed destroying the rainforest when he first met Crysta. After he witnesses the fairies' struggle, Zak vows to stop destroying the beautiful nature around him.

Many people have stopped caring about the environment and, unfortunately, there are no cute little fairies to show them how ignorant they're being. Therefore, allow "FernGully: The Last Rainforest" to be your reminder to take care of the environment, avoid singing sludge of oil and leave those dang trees alone.

### "Princess Mononoke" (1997)

The realm of fantasy/adventure, especially in animation, does not get much better than the works of Studio Ghibli. Director/writer Hayao Miyazaki has created some legendary works throughout his career, and "Princess Mononoke" is one of the most seminal of his collaborations with the company.

Set in a fantasy retelling of Muromachi period of Japan, the film tells the story of Ashitaka, prince of the Emishi village. One day, Ashitaka has a fateful run-in with a demon that ends up infecting him. In order to free himself of the curse, he must undertake a journey to the west, where the demon came from. Ashitaka gets wrapped up in the conflict between Irontown and the forest spirits, as the two entities battle over resources and control of the forest.

As with most of Studio Ghibli's work, "Mononoke" features some of the most intricate and beautiful hand-drawn animation in film. It also features an expansive and wonderfully fascinating fantasy world, building mythos, lands and magic in a wonderfully compact 133 minutes. It has great music, is filled with exciting moments and is sure to leave an impact on all who partake in Miyazaki's magnificent imagination.

### "The Day After Tomorrow" (2004)

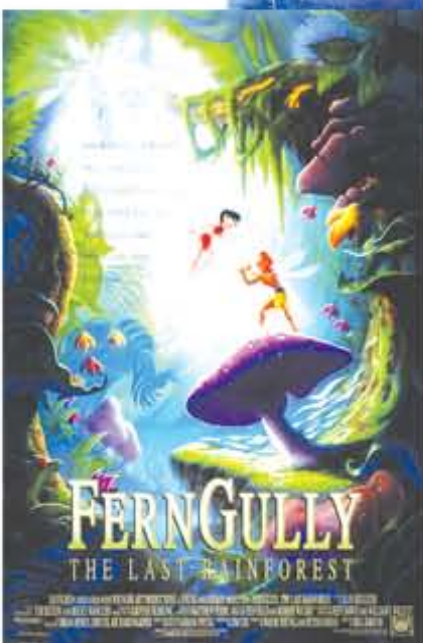
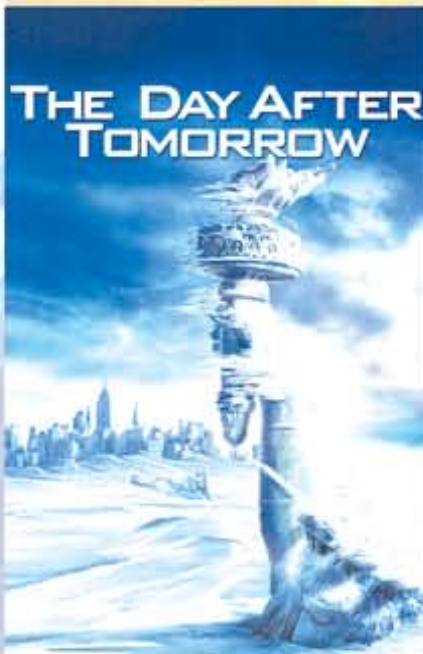
Directors use their power to expose

the possible threats our world's future may hold. A film that is an example of this is "The Day After Tomorrow," which focused on the disastrous effects of global warming. Roland Emmerich truly demonstrates a deep political stance through this movie.

The film begins with an enormous ice shelf that detaches itself from Antarctica and makes its way northward. A prominent paleoclimatologist played by Dennis Quaid fails to convince a summit of world leaders that his global warming findings will result in rising ocean levels, horrific storms, gargantuan tornadoes and long-lasting climate conditions for the northern hemisphere.

The professor manages to convince a British researcher, played by Ian Holm, that climate change will have detrimental effects on the environment. Subsequently, the aforementioned global warming effects arrive with unforeseen force and speed. Rising sea levels and super-storms cripple entire countries, including the United States. The government forces the survivors to ride out the conditions until a better plan is made, while climatologists try to make sense of the drastic climate change.

The film's goal is to inform viewers on the potential dangers of global warming. The visual effects are quite an eyeful, particularly with the flooding of New York and the intricate details of the blizzards and frost damage that overwhelm the characters. "The Day After Tomorrow" is a movie that serves as a "what-if" that's entertaining enough to warrant a rental.



# Alternate Frequencies



## Autechre "Exai"

Genre: Electronic



BY JONATHAN KING  
ONLINE CONTENT EDITOR

Just because you can make a two-hour album doesn't necessarily mean you should. Since 1993, Autechre (composed of musical duo Rob Brown and Sean Booth) has been producing electronica with a focus on mechanical beats and digital ambience, standing alongside artists such as Aphex Twin and Squarepusher. On March 5, they released their 11th studio album "Exai" – a behemoth construct that sits at just over 120 minutes.

From second one, Autechre are flexing their sound-bending muscles with chilly splintered circuitry on the opener, "Fleure." The next track, "irlite (get o)," continues the sonic experimentation, toying with density and darkness over the course of ten minutes. And so the march of electronic meddling continues, and it's all pretty good, until you realize around track six that there's still an hour and a half of music left to go.

The major problem with "Exai" is that it features a lot of great moments, but they are scattered in the midst of an art gallery that is far too large to walk through in one sitting. The 12-minute "bladelores" is fantastic, with a slow-stepping beat and wobbly polyrhythmic bassline that hints at dubstep, but opts instead to drown it out in a sea of foggy synthesized ambience. And the final track, "YJY UX," is one of the best on the album, with its slowly shifting sand dunes of bit-crushed ambience. Unfortunately, by the time they reach it most listeners will have become numb to the directionless outflow of sound.

"Exai" is an "album" only in the sense that all the tracks are collected in a single package and sound like they were produced by the same artist. The concepts of cohesion and composition are lost in waves of structural static. No single track is necessary to the whole. Randomly reshuffling the songs produces no detrimental effect. While such a lengthy compilation should feel grand, it just comes off as overlong. In short, "Exai" may be a great playlist of assorted cool ideas, but a great album it is not.

### Bottom Line:

There's nothing inherently wrong with any of the tracks on "Exai," but as an album it is a trial to listen to, and is probably best enjoyed piecemeal. While Autechre's ability as electronic technicians is unquestioned, this overstuffed suitcase of ideas reeks of an inability to edit and an overall lack of vision. Listen at your own risk.



## David Bowie "The Next Day"

Genre: Glam Rock



BY EMILY PODWOISKI  
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

After a ten year absence from the music industry, David Bowie has returned from Mars to present us mere mortals with his finest work yet. "The Next Day" is the epic comeback fans have been dreaming of. Yes, David Bowie is finally back and he doesn't sound a day over Ziggy Stardust.

"The Next Day" is a coherent piece of artwork, as every synth-induced song melds into one another, producing a hypnotic vibe that will stick with you long after the album ends. Composed of edgy guitar riffs and dreamy synthesizers, "The Stars (Are Out Tonight)" brings back the raw side of '70s glam rock. A pinch of saxophone spices up the song – a signature Bowie move. The lyrics allude to an unhealthy obsession with celebrities, as Bowie belts out, "Trap you with their beautiful eyes/ They're broke and shamed or drunk or scared/ But I hope they live forever."

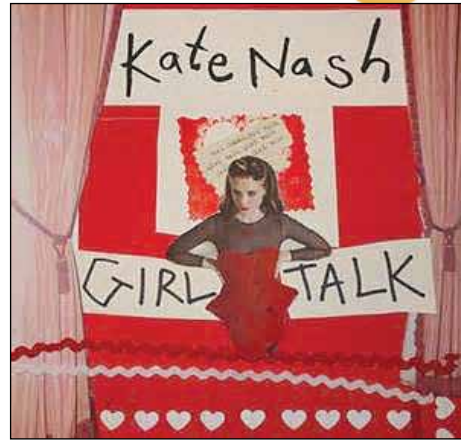
Eerily romantic, "Where Are We Now?" is nothing short of breathtaking. Bowie pours out his undying love for Berlin against a melancholy backdrop of piano melodies and soothing synthesizers. A repetitious drumbeat explodes at the climax of the song, accompanied by synthesizers that are bound to haunt you.

Of course, the album would not be complete without a song about space (this is David freaking Bowie, after all). "Dancing Out In Space" kicks off with a beautiful electric guitar riff that seems to travel through space itself. The enchanting riff transitions in and out of a kooky chorus that only Bowie can master. Not once does the kookiness become unpleasant, even when the song becomes busy with noise.

It's no secret that Bowie is influenced by different eras. "Valentine's Day" hints to the lovey-dovey slow songs of the '60s with some "sha-la-la-las" sung throughout the chorus. With a plethora of electricity, the song remains in the realm of glam rock while still sounding romantic and sweet. On the other hand, psychedelic rock clearly influenced "I'd Rather Be High," which is full of repetitious vocals and groovy vibes. Even when the king of glam rock borrows from other eras, the tunes are still distinctively Bowie.

### The Bottom Line:

Although Bowie has left us with a wide body of music throughout the years, "The Next Day" marks a sophistication of Bowie's classic glam rock style. His days of Ziggy Stardust, Thin White Duke and even the Goblin King have led up to this marvelous masterpiece. Let's hope it is not his last.



## Kate Nash "Girl Talk"

Genre: Indie-pop



BY MONTGOMERY JONES  
STAFF WRITER

"Girl Talk" is, simply put, one of the best albums of 2013. Blending different eras seamlessly, Kate Nash's third album is primarily a throwback to '90s artists like Fiona Apple and Alanis Morissette with Nash's signature lyrics and unique vibes. The 25 year old British songstress, who was discovered on MySpace, is known for her hit "Foundations." Mixing colorful stories with her signature speaking-singing style, the songstress has grown into an indie-pop sensation.

Sing along or scream along with "Girl Talk," because Nash demonstrates a wide range of vocal styles on her latest album. With a feminist undertone, the album is empowering as she deals with current social issues. The most liberating track on the album happens to be the most explicit as well. The track, "Rap for Rejection," deals with racism, homophobia and especially sexism.

"Lullaby for an Insomniac" is another powerful song that tells the tale of a person in a funk who is trapped in the day-to-day struggle of simply living. The entire song is made up of soft-spoken sentiments until the ending, when a beautiful and hypnotic classical symphony unfolds.

The track "Sister" pays homage to 1960s beach music, starting off with a sweet melody that transitions into a catchy, fast-paced beat. Mocking the person she is singing to, Nash declares, "Being ripped away from you, is like being ripped out of a room/ I'm sorry, is that too dramatic? I should just be far more placid/ Well blah-blah, blah-blah, me myself and I/ I'm so funny, oh my god, ha-ha." Each word stings as Nash's raw emotion shines through the vintage vibes.

This album is definitely marketed towards women and girls alike, as it should be. Being more applicable to the fun and struggles, ups and downs of being a female, Nash has managed to make an album that makes you angry and happy all at once. Best of all, this album makes you think. After listening to "Girl Talk," you'll want to go home and plaster her lyrics in your spiral notebook.

### The Bottom Line:

The audience never knows where Nash's songs will take them. Whether she is leading you through an easygoing '60s surf beat or a teen angst anthem, you wholeheartedly buy what she is selling: honesty. If you have experienced a first kiss or a cheating ex, "Girl Talk" has got a song for that and then some.



## Atlas Genius "When It Was Now"

Genre: Indie Rock



BY BLANDELIA PAYNE  
STAFF WRITER

With the new wave of Aussie acts splashing in overseas this spring, it is no surprise that international indie rock band, Atlas Genius, would join the ride into everyone's summer playlist. After achieving U.S. recognition with their first single "Trojans," the band's fan base has been anticipating the release of their first full-length debut. "When It Was Now," released Feb. 19 from Warner Bros. Records, is the synth-pop '80s blend that fans have been eager to jam out to under the sun.

Reaching 45,000 sales on iTunes and peaking at number four on Billboard's Alternative Songs chart, Atlas Genius climbed up from Down Under with "Trojans" almost overnight. Derived from their 2012 EP, "Through the Glass," the band's first single, received an immediate reaction from music bloggers, producers and record labels across countries. But this 2012 summer jam was merely a peak into an eleven-track playlist set for the summer of 2013.

"Electric" opens up the album with a strong retro aura. This synth-pop track will bring listeners back to the funky era of voluminous, frizzy hairstyles and multi-colored legwarmers. "If So," the second single of the album, follows the electronic introduction with a shade of contemporary indie rock, resembling indie band Two Door Cinema Club. Nonetheless, the track maintains its own original pop sound with a heavy dose of synth and rugged vocalization behind a catchy chorus.

However, "Through The Glass" is by far the most impressive track on the album. The track has a series of unpredictable melodies with dynamics ranging from steady to climactic. The unique balance of raw acoustics and piano tunes give the song potential to break out as a huge hit.

The major flaw of the album is the tendency for each track to blend into one another. If you are attentive to the details, you will notice that there is not a track special enough to truly stand out from the rest. This aspect plays on the flow of the overall album, but limits individual tracks from breaking out into mainstream music.

### The Bottom Line:

After their EP, "Through The Glass," Atlas Genius has faced many comparisons to several indie bands including Phoenix and The Strokes. But with the release of "When It Was Now," the group has proven themselves to be original enough to be an incomparable name in the music industry.





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COMPILED BY BLANDELIA PAYNE  
STAFF WRITER

**Bad Religion, Against Me! and Polar Bear Club**

Smooth guitar riffs and a rock-n-roll drum beat is everything you need to kick off the month of April. In support of their upcoming album, "True North," Bad Religion is bolstering their 2013 tour with additional performances from Against Me! and Polar Bear Club. Be there at 7 p.m. on April 2 at St. Andrew's Hall, located at 431 E. Congress. Ticket prices vary from \$27-\$30. Contact 313-961-6358 for more information.



**"Legally Blonde: The Musical"**

It's not too late to graduate from pink to prep in this stage adaptation of "Legally Blonde." Located on 52200 West Ten Mile, South Lyon East High School welcomes anyone over age 13 to the fabulous drama presented by South Lyon's very own Theatre Department. The musical will take place from April 11-13 at 7 p.m. with a matinee showing on Sunday, April 14 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. Contact South Lyon East High School at 248-573-8700 for more information.



**"Peter Pan"**

Bring your friends and family to relive this magical childhood classic. The Fox Theatre will be displaying an award-winning production of "Peter Pan," starring Cathy Rigby, from April 19-21. All ages are welcome to this exciting fairytale spectacle. The theatre is located at 2211 Woodward Ave and tickets range from \$30 to \$75. Contact The Fox Theatre at 313-471-6611 for more information.



**Alicia Keys with special guest Miguel – "Set the World on Fire Tour"**

R&B sensation Alicia Keys brings her 2013 "Set the World on Fire Tour" to the 'D.' Keys will be introducing her latest music from her 2012 album, "Girl on Fire," on April 17 at 7:30 p.m. at Joe Louis Arena. To top the night off, there will be a special guest performance by rising artist, Miguel. Joe Louis Arena is located at 600 Civic Center Drive in Detroit. Tickets are priced from \$58-\$105. Call 1-866-586-4688 for more information.



**Bringin' Back the '80s Festival – Frankenmuth**

Trek back in time to the tubular days when hair was big and clothes were bright. On April 19-20, wear your flashiest attire and celebrate the golden days for the "Bringin' Back the 80's Festival." There will be live cover bands, contests, breakdancing and beyond. The festival will take place at Frankenmuth Heritage Park, located at 601 Weiss Street in Frankenmuth. You must be 21 or older to attend. Admission is \$10. Call 989-652-8008 for more information.



# The action movie we've all been waiting for

"Olympus has Fallen" takes audiences on a thrill ride

BY ALYS DOLAN  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Action flicks have morphed into a slew of special effects riddled with buff stars but leave audiences feeling incomplete. Thankfully Gerard Butler's latest adventure, "Olympus has Fallen," is here to save the day, literally. The movie takes hold of the viewers and doesn't let go until the moment the credits roll.

A radical terrorist group attacks the White House, code name Olympus, and it is up to the sole surviving secret service agent, Mike Banning (Butler), to take it back. The power is out, ammunition is scarce and the enemy is ruthless, but that is the least of Banning's worries: the enemy has the President and his staff trapped in the bunker of the White House. Banning's mission is to rescue the President before a nuclear disaster.

Butler connects with the acting President and speaker of the House, Trumbull (Morgan Freeman), and lays down the plan of attack while carefully trying to rescue the President's son from the demolished building. He calls the shots and delivers swift justice to all who get in his way. To ensure he remains hidden, most of the fighting is hand-to-hand so certain scenes are deliciously brutal, like the interrogation scene between two mercenaries and Banning.

The story, though hard to wrap your mind around, develops and puts anyone watching on edge. Seeing assassins storm into the front doors of the White House and take down the "safest" place in the country is a hard pill to swallow.

The threat goes from bad to worse and there are moments your breath will be taken away by fear. However, it will take more than an infamous and vengeful terrorist to bring Banning down.

Choppers and military circle the White House waiting for an opportunity to strike, but the villains are heavily armed with the self defense mechanisms designed to aid the President during an attack. The weapons crafted to protect them are now their worst nightmare as helicopters filled with soldiers are maliciously shot from the sky and burst into flames on the front lawn.

Aaron Eckhart plays the President and his patriotism and dedication is enough to make any American bleed red, white and blue. Rick Yune (Kang) is the right amount of ruthlessness and sass. He is cold and calculating, which will make audience's members cringe. Seeing Kang square off with Banning in the bunker of the White House is the most climatic scene in the film.

The other members of the supporting cast, such as Ashley Judd, Dylan McDermott and Angela Bassett, compliment the story and keep things dark and, even, delightfully twisted. Finley Jacobsen plays the President's young son, Connor. He is charming and does a remarkable job keeping his composure under heavy gunfire.

If you have been looking for a flick to get your heart racing and out of breath "Olympus has Fallen" is a must see. The special effects are flawless, the plot is epic and the action is solid. Action movies don't get much better than this.

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PHOTO BY MANDY GETSCHMAN

Whalers Forward Tom Wilson celebrates after scoring the game-winning goal in the third period during the 3-2 win during game 2 on March 23.

# Bring out the BROOMS

## Whalers complete first round sweep against Sarnia

BY JOSEPH KOCK  
STAFF WRITER

It took just four games for the Plymouth Whalers to send the Sting packing for the off season. The Whalers beat the Sarnia Sting 5-2 on March 27, to sweep the best-four-of-seven Ontario Hockey League Western Conference quarterfinal series.

Whalers forward Vincent Trocheck led the team with two goals and two assists. He also tallied five goals and seven assists in the series. Mitchell Heard also scored twice and recorded one assist. "We have a lot of guys on this team that have certain roles and everyone is contributing," said Trocheck according to Plymouth-Canton Patch.

Plymouth outscored Sarnia 24-8 in the series, never letting them get into a rhythm. This marks the fourth time since 1998 that the Sting and Whalers have met in a first-round matchup. The Whalers swept two of the four series. The Whalers are also the first team in the Western Conference to advance to the second round semi finals. As of publication, the Whalers next round opponent is to be determined.

Game four's clincher didn't come easy for the Whalers. Sarnia's right winger Bryan Moore scored just 21 seconds into the first period to give the Sting a 1-0 lead, putting pressure on the Whalers to respond right from the start. Whaler's right winger, Garrett Meurs responded for the Whalers six minutes later to tie the game at one a piece at the 6:39 mark of the first period. The Whalers continued to pressure and just under a minute later, Trocheck scored a short-handed goal to give the Whalers the 2-1 lead. Both teams were evenly paced for the remainder of the period until Sarnia's forward Nick Latta redirected the puck into the net to tie the game 2-2 with 21 seconds left to go in the first.

The second period saw both teams grinding it out. Plymouth's fore-check was much more aggressive



than in the first and the team outshot the Sting 17-5 in the period. Whaler's veteran Mitchell Heard took advantage of a rebound in front of the net and put home the game winner with three seconds left in the second, giving the Whalers a much needed boost going into the third.

Plymouth continued to dominate offensively, when Trocheck scored two minutes into the third with a low shot from the right circle. Heard got his second goal of the night 13 seconds in and put away Sarnia for good when he dangled the puck and roofed it in the net.

**March 25, 2013**  
**Plymouth (5) at Sarnia (2)**  
**Game 3 Western Conference**  
**Quarterfinals**

The Whalers took game three of the first round with a 5-2 victory over the Sting at the RBC Centre in front of 2,332. Whalers forward Vincent Trocheck recorded three assists while Rickard Rakell and Ryan Hartman each scored two goals.

**March 23, 2013**  
**Sarnia (2) at Plymouth (3)**  
**Game 2 Western Conference**  
**Quarterfinals**

After falling victim to the Whaler's offensive power in game one, Sarnia had to come out hard right from the puck drop. However, Plymouth would have to make do without the offensive assistance of Matt Mistele who was serving a suspension for a check to the head, resulting in an injury to

Sarnia's Alex Carnevale from the night before. The league disciplined Mistele by suspending him six games for his actions. Despite the loss of Mistele for six games, the Whalers showed how deep they are on offensive. Plymouth struck first with a goal by Mitchell Heard at 1:26 in the first putting the Whalers up 1-0. Sarnia's Nickolas Latta answered with a power play goal at 4:59 tying the game at 1-1 through 20 minutes of play. The game produced a much more evenly paced matchup. Plymouth's Zach Lorentz and Tom Wilson scored in the second period and put the Whalers up 3-1. Sarnia's Reid Boucher scored in the third to cut Plymouth's lead to 3-2. Plymouth held on to get the win and go up 2-0 in the series.

**March 22, 2013**  
**Sarnia (2) at Plymouth (11)**  
**Game 1 Western Conference**  
**Quarterfinals**

The Whalers squashed the Sting 11-2 in an impressive offensive display during game one of the Western Conference Quarterfinals. The team tallied five goals in the first period, three in the second and three in the third. Sarnia never was able to catch up and couldn't adjust to the Whalers pressure the entire game. Goal scorers were Vince Trocheck, Tom Wilson, Garrett Meurs, Stefan Noesen, Gianluca Curcuruto, Matt Mistele and Cody Payne. Trocheck scored three goals for the hat trick while Meurs and Noesen had two goals apiece. Rookie goaltender Alex Nedeljkovic recorded the win with 31 saves.



## Previewing WWE's Biggest Event

BY ABDALLAH CHIRAZI  
SPORTS EDITOR

WrestleMania 29 will take place on April 7, 2013 at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey. It is expected to draw over 90,000 fans. As the intensity begins to shape around “the granddaddy of them all” many will tune in around the world to witness wrestling history.

This WrestleMania will feature the who’s who of superstars, from Dwayne “the Rock” Johnson, John Cena, the Undertaker, HHH and many more. With much of the card already booked, many are anxious to see how these bouts play out.

Below is a preview of the top three matches that will headline WrestleMania.

### John Cena vs. The Rock (WWE Title Match)

The “twice in a lifetime matchup” is taking place again. While most wrestling fans may not be looking forward to a match they witnessed last year, this is simply a money draw.

At last year’s WrestleMania, the Rock defeated Cena in a match

where both wrestlers didn’t look good from a technical standpoint. This year the match doesn’t seem to impress many. With a lack of build-up and no real time to renew a rivalry, this match loses its luster. The real question, though, is whether the Rock gains anything from a win over Cena. And can a monumental win for Cena mean getting booed out of the building, knowing his controversial reactions from wrestling fans?

**Prediction:** John Cena will walk out of MetLife Stadium victorious. In some ways this is the passing of the torch, a match to cement Cena’s legacy.

### Undertaker vs. CM Punk

The Undertaker’s winning streak is synonymous with WrestleMania (20-0). And even though the Undertaker is more than likely to continue his dominance on wrestling’s biggest stage, Punk remains the biggest threat to the streak.

With how the storyline has played out the past couple of weeks,

it gives Punk a slightly better advantage than most opponents in recent past. After coming off a 434-day WWE championship reign and losses to Cena, Rock and Kane, will WWE allow Punk to lose another significant match?

**Prediction:** A streak like the Undertaker’s will never be duplicated again. Since the Dynasty of The Deadman embodies everything that is WrestleMania, expect the streak to extend.

### Triple H vs. Brock Lesnar (No Holds Barred Match)

It was almost certain this match was going to take place at WrestleMania, after Lesnar broke Triple H’s arm last year. Since Lesnar is likely to take time off after WrestleMania, many wrestling fans seem a loss for him is evident.

Surprisingly, this match will steal the show. This storyline features hatred, revenge and drama – key ingredients to a compelling match. The stakes are also very high. With Triple H agreeing to

put his career on the line, a loss will force him to call it quits.

This match surpasses any bout on the WrestleMania card in terms of storyline development, unpredictability and implications.

**Prediction:** With Triple H taking on a more executive role and appearing to be steering away from wrestling ring, it’s hard to imagine Lesnar losing. But a win for Lesnar will essentially mean this feud will prolong.

This becomes problematic seeing Lesnar’s contract contains restrictions on appearances. This is one where WWE creative writers have a lot of flexibility in coming up with possible unanticipated scenarios. The safe bet: fans maybe better off letting it all unfold on wrestling grandest stage.

Overall, WWE looks to have at least three main events that will put it over the top. Although the buzz seems quite low, these three matches will either make WrestleMania a success or a major disappointment.

# Making the grade

Lions address secondary and running back needs - plan to add more this off-season

BY NICK RENDE  
STAFF WRITER

The Detroit Lions wasted no time within the first two days of free agency, signing running back Reggie Bush, defensive end Jason Jones and safety Glover Quin. In addition, they have re-signed Chris Houston, Louis Delmas, and Amari Spivey.

With the signing of Quin and Delmas (granted if he will be in good enough health to play), a free safety and strong safety respectively, and the re-signing of their best cornerback in Chris Houston, the Lions put a band-aid on a bullet wound in regards to their secondary, their most easily exploitable flaw on defense.

Among those who have fled elsewhere include Titus Young (release), Stephen Peterman (release), Kyle Vanden Bosch (release), Jeff Backus (retirement), Gosder Cherilus (signed with Colts), and Cliff Avril (signed with Seahawks).

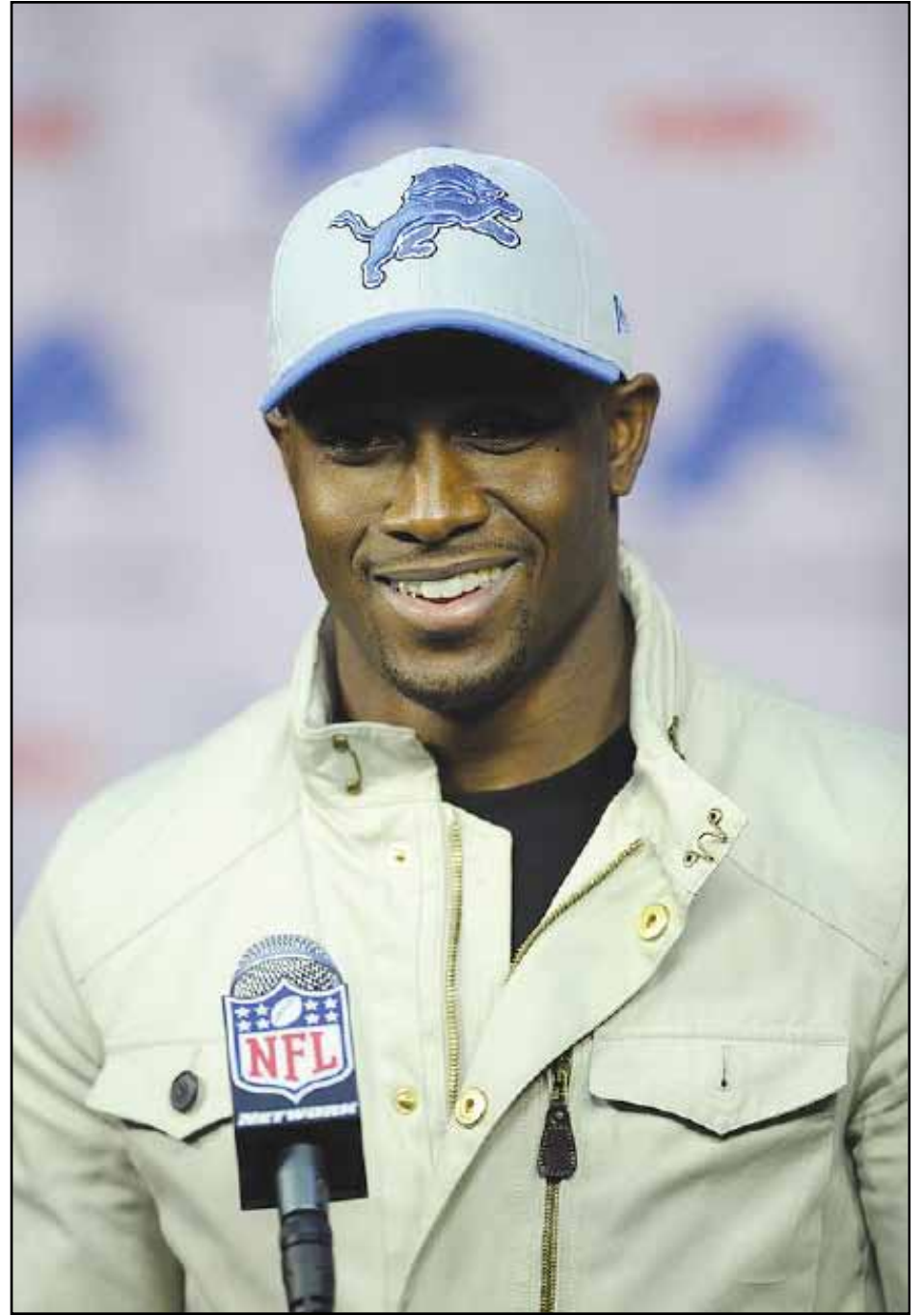
The signing of Reggie Bush was the big news out of the Lions' organization on the second day of free agency. With Jahvid Best likely being put on the PUP (Physically Unable to Perform) list, the Lions were in desperate need for a game-breaking running back to replace the explosive speed Best brought to an otherwise lifeless running game that the Lions had previously. The answer to this foreseeable absence was Reggie Bush. "They want to be able to bring a run game that's effective and helps balance out the passing game," Bush said on SiriusXM

the day after signing with the Lions. "Obviously Calvin Johnson demands a lot of attention and when that's going on, that should open up a lot for me. I won't be seeing any more 8-man boxes. That's a running back's dream."

Defensive end Ndamukong Suh and Calvin Johnson also helped the Lions by restructuring their contracts to free some cap relief for the team. Johnson agreed to a simple restructure by freeing \$3.428 million in cap room. Suh on the other hand restructured and saved the Lions \$7.68 million.

The Lions have so far done a mild patchwork on a team that has gaping holes in other places. It is through the Draft that the Lions hope to upgrade these positions where high-end talent is missing. Among the most likely players to come to the Lions in the first round include cornerback Dee Milliner, defensive end Ezekiel Ansah, and offensive tackles Luke Joeckel and Eric Fischer. Analysis on which one would be a better fit in Detroit would be moot as any of these players in the first round would help this team.

What will determine if this draft is a success for the Lions will be determined by what they do in the later rounds, a trait the team has failed to do adequately. The Lions have only three starters from their previous three drafts: Suh, Nick Fairley, and Mikel Leshoure. The Lions need a competent receiver to put next to Johnson - one who can run inside, a cornerback, center, and offensive linemen, all positions that could be filled via the latter half of the draft.



The Detroit Lions are hopeful that by signing Reggie Bush they will improve their offensive running game.

"There'll be some other signings, I would think," said Mayhew according to the Detroit Free Press. "And then obviously after the draft we have a period of time to continue to try to add to our roster and look for guys, whether it's signing free agents or street free agents or trades, whatever the possibilities are."

If the Lions can play their cards right, they may have a young nucleus to build the team around. With the addition of Brian Xanders, the former general manager of the Broncos, the Lions hope to develop their own draft strategy in hopes of finally building a playoff-caliber team.



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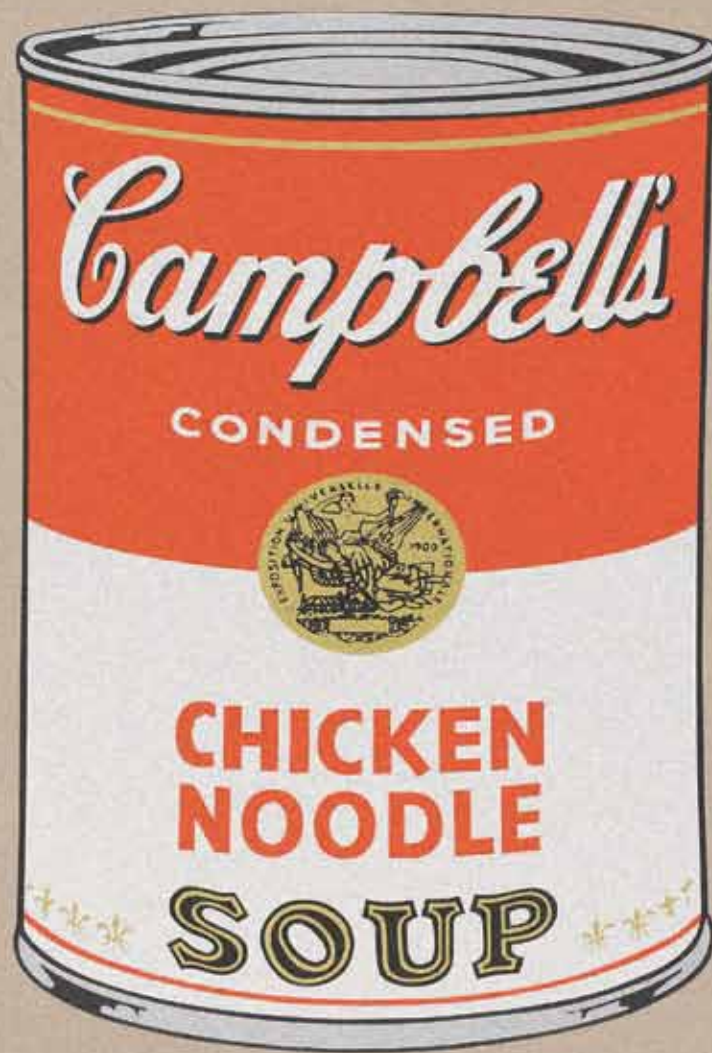
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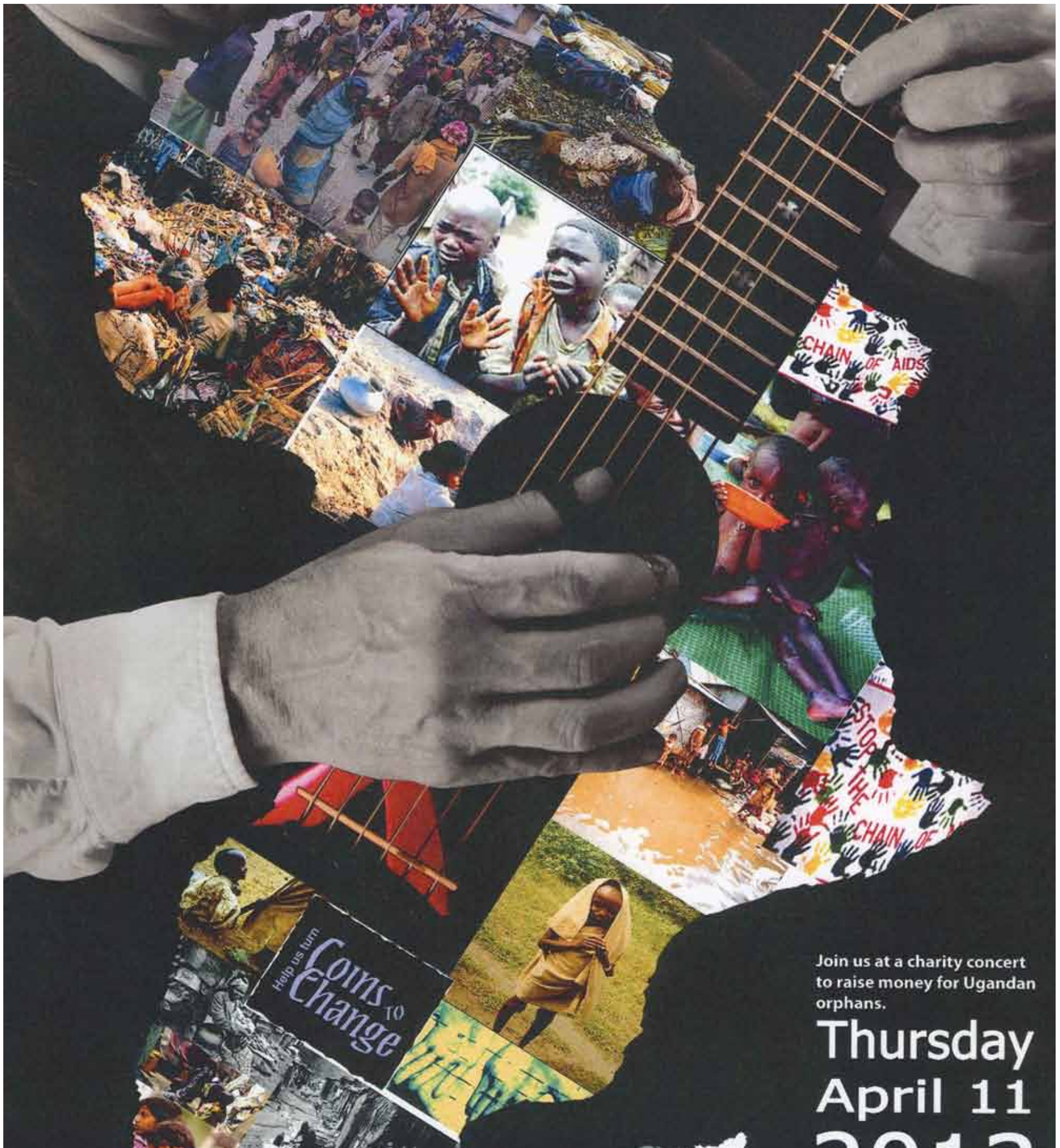
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## FLORASCOPIES

By MADAME MYSTIQUE  
STAFF PSYCHIC

### Apple Blossom

3/21-4/19

Winter has been cruel to you, Apple Blossom, but good fortune is coming your way. Keep up your hard work, because it will pay off in time. You may just save enough money for that summer trip you have been dreaming of.

### Dandelion

4/20-5/20

Spring is the happiest time of year for you, Dandelion. You are the best possible you. Now is the time to share your joy with those around you. A tendency to keep your feelings to yourself stops you from celebrating. However, it's your time to shine. Take pride in what you have accomplished.

### Forget-Me-Not

5/21-6/20

This winter has been difficult to leave behind. You have wonderful memories that you are trying to hang on to as spring comes your way. Perhaps it's time to let go of some memories that are holding you back. Instead of focusing on the past or the future, focus on the present. It's all happening, Forget-Me-Not.

### Ivy

6/21-7/22

New friendships are coming your way, Ivy. Whether you've been slaving away at school or at work, you haven't had the time to form any friendships. Welcome new people into your life with open arms. You now have the time to form new lifelong bonds.

### Lily

7/23-8/22

Your pure and naïve mind is subject to heartbreak, Lily. But do not avoid relationships in an attempt to avoid heartbreak. Spring is right around the corner and there are lessons to gain. If you never branch out of your comfort zone, you will always wonder about the missed opportunities. Now is the time to take a chance.

### Narcissus

8/23-9/22

Everyone believes you are vain, dear Narcissus. However, being vain is not always a bad thing. It's important to love yourself, but many may mistake this love for selfishness. Take some time and focus on those around you. Prove to your closest friends that you care for them as much as you care about yourself.

### Red Rose

9/23-10/22

Open your mind and heart to the unfamiliar, Red Rose. You are still searching for that perfect match but your standards are raised a little too high. While it's important to go after what you want, it's also important to be realistic. Stay true to what you want, but let go of the reins a bit.

### Tulip

10/23-11/21

Instant popularity and fame is in store for you this spring, dear Tulip. Many new people will be entering your life, but be wary. Some people may take advantage of you. It's important to sort out the weeds from the flowers, the good friends from the bad.

### Witch Hazel

11/22-12/21

You are not interested in the ordinary, Witch Hazel. You only desire the magical moments of life. To keep your creative mind busy, take up some new hobbies. An artistic hobby may especially unleash your wild imagination. Do not second-guess yourself. You have the power to create a masterpiece.

### Orchid

12/22-1/19

Spring marks maturity for you, Orchid. The winter has taught you many lessons, as you have learned from your mistakes. Your knowledge will be put to the test very soon. Challenges will be entering your life this spring and summer, so be sure to deal with them wisely.

### Poppy

1/20-2/18

Lately you have been forgetful and unappreciative of those around you, dear Poppy. Caught up in your own mind, you have forgotten to appreciate the acts of kindness around you. Perhaps meditation will help calm your mind. It's time to open up your eyes and realize the kindness that surrounds you.

### Sunflower

2/19-3/20

Raise your head up high, Sunflower, because sunny days are coming your way. Lately, times have been tough for you. During difficult times, always remember to have faith that happy days will come. Stress is only momentary, if you let it be.



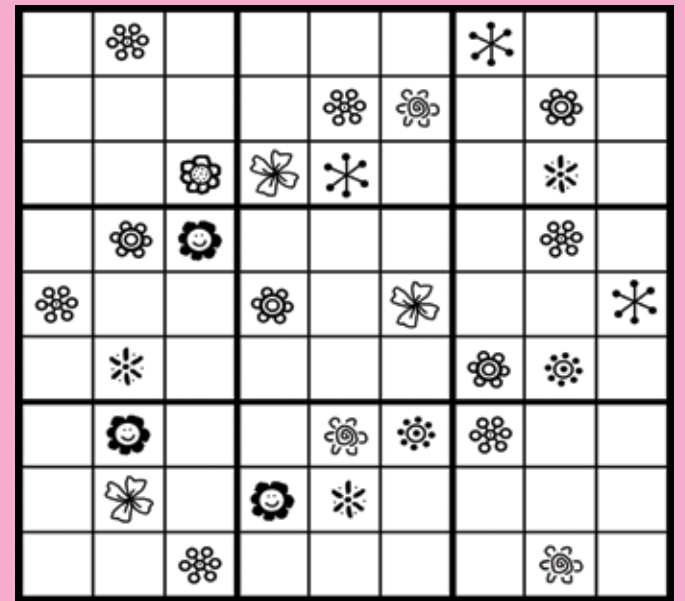
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Jimmy John's Gourmet Sandwiches FREAKY FAST DELIVERY! Order online @ [jimmyjohns.com](http://jimmyjohns.com) See our ad on Page 9.

## Marygrove College

Transfer Student Open House April 2 - 5:30 - 8 p.m. Madame Cadillac Building - Speak to professors about Marygrove's bachelor, associate and certificate program.

- Find out how credits transfer to Marygrove
- Learn about Financial Aid and scholarship opportunities.

We look forward to seeing you! For more info go to [www.marygrove.edu/transfer2013](http://www.marygrove.edu/transfer2013) or call (313) 927-1240. 8425 W. McNichols Road Detroit, MI 48221-2599. See our ad on Page 5.

## Community Financial Credit Union

Auto loans that keep you moving! Community Financial can help you into your new car with low payments & flexible terms on new and used auto loans. Our loans feature NO application fees. Apply in person, by phone at 877.937.2328 or at [www.cfcu.org](http://www.cfcu.org) See our ad on Page 10.

## Madonna University

Turn your Schoolcraft associates degree into a Madonna bachelor's degree! -Transfer more credits; up to 90 in some cases -Small classes and block scheduling -Discounted master's tuition for Madonna alumni Find out more info from Colleen at 734.432.5768 or [www.admissions@madonna.edu](mailto:www.admissions@madonna.edu) See our ad on Page 19.

## Siena Heights University

Congratulations Schoolcraft Graduates! Your bachelor's degree is waiting for you at Siena Heights University. - Convenient Metro Detroit locations and class times - Transfer up to 90 semester hours from Schoolcraft College. - Accelerated & online classes available.

### Contact Us Today!

Metro Detroit Campus 800.787.7784 [mdp@sienaheights.edu](mailto:mdp@sienaheights.edu) or [www.sienaheights.edu/mdp](http://www.sienaheights.edu/mdp) See our ad on Page 19.

## Schoolcraft Continuing Education & Professional Development

Become a better you. We can help... - Career transition training. - Small business entrepreneur exploration - Physical fitness programs for all ages, interests and abilities. - Test preparation classes And so much more...

Registration starts April 4. Contact us at 734.462.4448. See our ad on Page 10.

## Walsh College

WE ARE THE BUSINESS CHAMPIONS. Visit our website [www.walshcollege.edu](http://www.walshcollege.edu) for more info about Walsh College. See our ad on Page 28

## Schoolcraft Fitness Center

"Reboot your New Year's resolutions"- it's not too late! Lots of great equipment in the Fitness Center and a new member incentive program is going on RIGHT NOW to keep you motivated! Credit students can join FREE! Get over to the coolest place on campus...the Schoolcraft Fitness Center! See our ad on Page 19.

## Buffalo Wild Wings

FULL BELLY, FULL WALLET! Lunch Madness starting at \$6.99! Monday- Friday ~11 AM - 2 PM

-37651 Six Mile Rd Livonia 734.469.4400 -41980 Ford Rd Canton 734.844.9464 See our ad on Page 5.

## Resham Boutique & Spa

Now Available Facial Massage & Body Wax Monday Senior Specials! -1/2 OFF upper lip w/eyebrow threading -10% OFF total purchase -1/2 OFF Eyebrow Threading Open Mon-Sat 11am-7pm Sun-By appointment only 43087 W. 7 Mile Rd Northville Set up appointment: 248.349.6119 See our ad on Page 29.

## Sprint

Take credit for making a smart call. For a limited time, switch to Sprint and receive a \$100 service credit for each newly activated line of service. Offers for students and employees of Schoolcraft College. Offer ends 7/11/2013 Find the codes to claim your discount on our ad see Page 18.

## Henry's Food Court

Keep a healthy lifestyle with Henry's salad bar! Freshest toppings daily to make a delicious healthy salad. See our ad on Page 15.

## Schoolcraft Counseling Department

April is National Alcohol Awareness Month. -If you or someone you know is abusing alcohol or may be an alcoholic please come to the Counseling Center.

-Students are able to make appointments by calling (734) 462-4429 or come as a walk-in.

-The Counseling Center will also be holding Alcohol Awareness sessions. There will be a presentation on Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup> from 1-2pm and screenings on Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup> from 9am-4pm. Both will be held in MC110.

- Websites such as [www.samhsa.gov](http://www.samhsa.gov) and [www.niaaa.nih.gov](http://www.niaaa.nih.gov) provide useful information regarding referrals, inpatient and outpatient facilities, resources, and data. See our ad on Page 7.

## Franklin University

With Franklin University's 3+1 program, you'll save by paying the lower Schoolcraft College tuition rate for up to 3 years and then 1 year at Franklin to finish your bachelor's. See our ad on Page 11.

We can @ help

**BORED???**

SCHOOLCRAFT STUDENT ACTIVITIES OFFICE COLLEGE

## A Rendezvous with International Students...

### Efua Crentsil



Efua Crentsil came to Schoolcraft College from the warm climate of Ghana, a country in West Africa. Her perception of the United States was a bit fantasied thanks to Disney movies like "High School Musical."

"When I came here everything, was different," Crentsil confessed. But the experience of going to college in the U.S. has given her a different outlook on the world.

"Coming here is a blessing to me," she stated. Because she gets one-on-one experience with professors and her involvement in Schoolcraft has landed her an on-campus job.

When she lived in Ghana, her major was decided early on. However, after one semester she realized business was not for her. Coming to Schoolcraft helped her decide to try and pursue a field that excited her.

"I'm here by myself," Crentsil said. "I don't have any family except for my adopted family. And sometimes I am homesick." Crentsil said how challenging it is to stay on top of her schoolwork and her job without the help of her family in Ghana. Growing up is difficult, especially in a foreign world, but her experience has helped strengthen her. She said she knows she is here to grow.

Her life has been greatly impacted by this exciting journey. The experiences here have shown her how important parents are. "I remember I called [my parents] one day and told them, 'Thank you very much for training me to be such a wonderful woman.' If not for them I wouldn't be here." She said her time here has made her appreciate family. Her passion for life and her determination to build a bright future has been grows each day.

Efua Crentsil loves American movies and has a zeal for acquiring knowledge, as well as asking questions in classes. She is bubbly, bright and is a perfect example of how success can happen for those driven to achieve it.

### Friederike Kappa



To gain a rich experience and skillset, Friederike Kappa decided on Schoolcraft for her degree in culinary arts. Adjusting to a new country was difficult enough due to a different language and traditions, but adjusting to the winter weather was another story. "My first winter was one of the worst ones, and driving was so hard," said Kappa. She had seen snow before coming to the States, but had never actually driven in it. Getting acclimated to the ever-changing weather of Michigan was tough for this Venezuelan.

However, the beauty of Michigan's Up North has helped ease the shock of the cold. Instead of spending Spring Break in the usual college getaways, she and her friends enjoyed a nice vacation near Alpena. Kappa has molded a wonderful experience for herself in Michigan, through meeting friends to growing as a person, and she has some big hopes for the future.

"I am doing the two-year program [in culinary arts], but I want to go into pastries," Kappa stated. She aspires to work behind the scenes at Disney World. She hopes to someday be the one creating the edible designs offered on the theme park's menu. From Mickey Mouse ears on cupcakes to the topsy-turvy-inspired look from the world of "Alice in Wonderland," Kappa is thrilled to do it all.

### Jose Viloría



Jose Viloría had some knowledge of America because he has family members who lived here. But even the expectations could not make up for first time experiences here. Coming to Michigan from such a faraway place was not the easiest thing in the world for Viloría, but he is very happy with his decision to stay here. He feels he has a lot of opportunities to succeed and to be the best person he can be.

One thing that he has noticed since coming to America is that people do not say hello here as warmly as they do in Venezuela. "Back home, when you entered a place, you acknowledged the people [there]. You made sure that you knew most of the people in the room, or at least say 'hi' to all of them."

As far as being at Schoolcraft, Viloría has enjoyed every moment. "I love Schoolcraft," he said. "This is my last semester here, and everything has been great." Viloría joined the Men's Soccer Team and made many friends and acquaintances through it. The team helped him with speaking English and was very welcoming and helpful to him.

On one occasion, he went to a party with some of his fellow team members and they introduced him to some girls. Viloría greeted them by kissing their cheek, later realizing that, culturally, a handshake would have been acceptable. Though that may have been a pretty embarrassing moment, Viloría has enjoyed being a student at Schoolcraft and being here in the U.S.

### Kärt Ojasaar



Schoolcraft student Kärt Ojasaar says she has noticed a lot of differences between the United States and her home, Estonia (located in the Baltic Region of Northern Europe).

"The amount of work [in school] we have to do back home is much bigger," she said. "Here, teachers help you much more than they do in Estonia. Our students have to learn how to get everything done independently." She also commented on the food even tasting different compared to Estonia, like chocolate, which she said is her favorite. "My family has to constantly send me some European chocolate," she pointed out.

"I came here at a young age," said Ojasaar, "I didn't know what to expect." When she first arrived in the States, she landed in New York and admitted that it was interesting to see places she had only seen in movies thus far.

Ojasaar also said that she is used to everything being closer together. A simple trip to the store was always in walking distance. Not so here, she said. "There is no way you would be able to live here without a car," she said.

Ojasaar has been a full-time student for almost two years, and plans on graduating over the summer. "My experience with Schoolcraft has been very positive," she said. She stated that while there have been ups and downs, she has gotten a lot of positive feedback from her professors and students, with a lot of them showing a lot of interest in her country and culture. "I always have fun hearing how people try and pronounce my name right."



## *A Rendezvous with International Students...*

### **Marcel Schmid**



The last thing on Marcel Schmid's mind was coming to America, but when offered an opportunity through an agency to coach soccer in the states, he took it. Schmid, who came from Germany in January 2012, played professional soccer in Germany up until he tore his ACL (Anterior Cruciate Ligament) during a game. He decided to come to the states and after taking care of the required and lengthy paperwork, he traveled to Michigan where he took a coaching position with Schoolcraft's Men's Soccer team.

"I see Schoolcraft as a family," Schmid told the Connection. "I don't think that is generally [the case with] other schools. They have great professors here. The campus isn't that big. For a community college, it's great."

After arriving in Michigan, Schmid quickly noticed some differences. He had girls flocking around him as he was walking down the street, because they thought he was actor Chris Hemsworth, who plays Thor. However, they noticed the accents did not match, so then he was deemed the "German Thor."

The second thing he realized was the maturity level of students here. According to him, Europeans ages 18-25 are more mature than Americans of the same age. Schmid also noticed that American house parties were very different as well. In Germany, you can drink beer and wine when you turn 16, and when you turn 18, you are allowed hard liquor. Schmid believes that a big difference in maturity has to do with the fact that Americans cannot drink until they are 21.

After Schoolcraft, Schmid plans on going to Madonna to pursue his degree in international business. The "German Thor" continues to coach Soccer on campus and looks forward to building his future here in the States.

### **Shivani Batra**

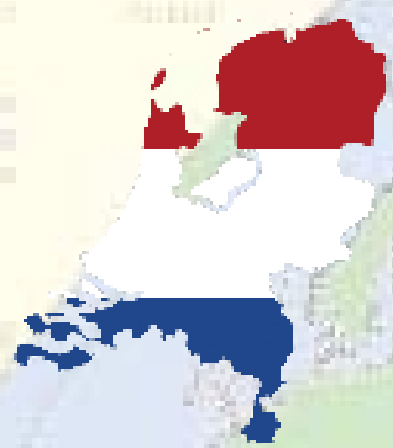


Coming from India, Shivani Batra faced a few challenges adjusting to life in the United States. One in particular was the food. She is a vegetarian, not vegan, but she is strict about animal products. No rice cooked in chicken stock or beans that have interacted with meat at any point. Here in the U.S., much of our food mixes with animals. Finding restaurants that accommodate these diet restrictions was hard at first.

Other things were a bit easier to adjust too since Batra lived in the Capitol of India, New Delhi. She learned English young and has family that lives in Michigan, so her perception of the States was that of an environment of fun-loving individuals. Although we are deemed to have a friendly attitude, Batra noticed how, at the end of classes, students tend to duck out pretty quickly. "The class ends and everyone just leaves," she said. "Nobody talks to each other, and they are all in their own zone." She said she understands it but found it a bit puzzling why students did not interact with each other more.

Thanks to her uncle, Batra was challenged to talk to others. He made her do everything on her own, with some help of course, but she had to speak to people and learn about her surrounds. For instance, when she first came to the States, she was asked at a Subway, "For here or to go?" A question that is second nature to us is somewhat baffling to someone new here. She was so confused by it and later asked her cousin what that meant. These moments of interacting with others and asking questions helped Batra become expressive and open up.

### **Tobias Hagenbeek**



Tobias Hagenbeek is from the Netherlands. He has really enjoyed his time here at Schoolcraft College. "Schoolcraft has been great," he told the Connection. "The school is big enough for someone not to be noticed and small enough to get personal attention when needed. The experience has been great, [mainly] because of the support of the administration at Schoolcraft, and in particular my advisor, Laura Leshok. She made things extremely easy, and therefore comfortable." He said that this is invaluable, especially being in a foreign country where you need all the support you can get.

Adjusting to the new surroundings was quite an experience for Hagenbeek, especially to things like the differences in restaurant dining and college. But everything was made a bit easier because of his background in English. One thing that really changed his lifestyle was the necessity of an automobile. Getting a car on a student's budget is not easy, but an old clunker was just the thing he needed to get from point A to point B. Except for his trip to Niagara Falls.

"After being here almost 2 years, a friend of mine was in the States, and I decided to pick him up in New York City," Hagenbeek said. They decided it would make a great road trip. He traveled to New York just fine, even stopping in New Jersey to see the ocean. However, trouble began when he and his friend decided to take a trip north, where the car broke down right outside the border. Not being allowed to get out of their car, a worker at the border had to push it the rest of the way. "We thought the battery somehow just died," he said, so they got a jump and were off. But the car died again only a half a mile later. After finally contacting a tow truck and getting a spare battery, the two made it to the falls.

It was on the way back that the car stopped again and the friends had to push the car back to the States. Eventually, Hagenbeek got the car fixed and after his friend's return to the Netherlands, Hagenbeek sent him a T-shirt that read, "I went to Canada and saw Niagara Falls...But only because I had to push the broken-down car across the border and all I got was this lousy T-shirt."



## Take a trip

# AROUND THE WORLD



Marcus Garvey Academy  
African Drums



### MULTICULTURAL FAIR A HUGE SUCCESS!

On Thursday, March 28, the Multicultural Fair took center stage at Schoolcraft once again. The event took place again in the DiPonio Room in the VistaTech Center. The students, faculty and public attendees all joined together to enjoy the fair that consisted of delicious international food, wonderful dancing, language demonstrations and cultural displays representing each country. Those in attendance had the opportunity to play world trivia. Successful answers were rewarded with candy and other treats.

The event was a fantastic opportunity for people all over the campus and in the community to come together and learn about other cultures. The 2013 Multicultural Fair is sure to be one for the books.

The event was sponsored by the Schoolcraft College International Institute, as well as the Student Activities Office, the Counseling center and a generous grant from the Schoolcraft College Foundation.



Dance Ensemble  
of the Marcus Garvey Academy



### Spanish Flamenco



Language  
of the Fan



O'Hare Irish  
Step Dancers

