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We Pursue Excellence

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The Schoolcraft Connection

Blueprint for Success

Schoolcraft's SASS program excels at assisting student athletes

BY ABDALLAH CHIRAZI
SPORTS EDITOR

The SASS (Student Athlete Support Services) is a program committed to giving the necessary aid to all student-athletes, allowing them to reach their full potential academically and personally. A collaborative effort between the Learning Support Services, the athletic department, head coaches and counseling/advising has led to the SASS program becoming successful over the last 20 years.

Schoolcraft has implemented many rules that all their student-athletes must comply with to ensure equal foundation. In 2008, there were 36 ineligible athletes at Schoolcraft, but over the last five years, the number has drastically reduced to merely 10.

“The SASS program has made me a better student-athlete by helping me achieve my goals,” said sophomore Lauren Badalamente who plays for the Women’s Soccer team. “They showed me my mistakes and they never stopped working with me.”

Even with various Schoolcraft committees working effortlessly to ensure the success of the program, student-athletes must carry a great deal of responsibilities. Students must sign a Code of Conduct, which outlines the expectations of their academics and ethical values. Students are the faces of Schoolcraft on and off campus, so they also carry the pressure of supervising their own personal conduct. Student-athletes must also maintain a 2.0 grade point average, which is the NJCAA (National Junior College Athletic Association) eligibility requirements,



Schoolcraft Soccer players (left to right) Rachel Blackney, Garrett Hintzman, Emily Bhenke and Tara Gessler work together on the Math 113 homework

and most Schoolcraft athletes have well over a 3.0.

The people behind the program

The Learning Support Services, led by Associate Dean Dr. Deborah Daiek, houses an exceptional team of educators that have helped the program succeed, providing supportive resources and mentors to help student-athletes. “Over the last few years, the SASS program has evolved into a comprehensive system which has the necessary backing to ensure effectiveness,” said Dr. Daiek. “It is more intentional and strategic. There are now consequences if student-athletes are not in compliance. No grades, no play.”

Athletic Director Sid Fox has provided a strong foundation between athletics and academics. His belief of athletes being students first is imperative. “The SASS program continues to benefit student-athletes, who are always looking for time management skills to improve their academic performance,” said Fox. “The program provides tremendous remedial and tutorial opportunities that can be tailored to respective student-athletes schedule and specific academic needs.”

Coaches have been vital in recruiting athletes who have potential to excel both on the field and in the classroom. They have the most involvement with students on a daily basis and have been very corporative with monitoring academic performances. The faculty is also responsible for filling out reports on students-athletes.

Academic advising has also played a major role in dealing with international student-athletes. On the front lines of the operation is counselor Laura LaVoie-Leshok. Her communication and efforts have been crucial to the program.

Overall, the focus of the SASS program is focused on student success. What happens in classroom is more significant than the outcome on the field or court. The program is aimed at making sure students are able to demonstrate academic, as well as athletic, proficiency.

TO READ MORE ABOUT THE SASS PROGRAM,
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Is everything under control?

Professors and students delve into conspiracy theories at the Global Roundtables

BY RAMON RAZO
MANAGING EDITOR

In an ever-expanding world of information and misinformation, a grand amount of conspiracy theories, both speculative and fact-based, have been added to the collective consciousness. The tool for truly exploring these facets of our culture is conversation in a respectable context. With that in mind, Schoolcraft College's International Institute's GlobalEYezers presents The Global Roundtables 2013. The theme this year was "The Rise of Conspiracy Theories, or Everything is Under Control."

The event was held on Feb. 26 and ran from 10 a.m. to noon. Attendees were welcomed by Deborah Daiek, Associate Dean of Learning Support Services and Cheryl Hawkins, Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences. They were joined by Sandy Roney-Hays, Adjunct Associate Professor of Anthropology and Sociology and Co-Chair of GlobalEYezers. Hawkins expressed the importance of people getting out of their comfort zones in regards to touchy issues like this. "We're so intertwined with each other that we have to start thinking about that," Hawkins stressed.

Meet Professor Mark Huston

After welcoming the attendees, they then introduced Mark Huston, Ph.D. and Assistant Professor of Philosophy. He began his speech by highlighting how important it is for people to engage in discussion regarding conspiracy theories, and how they have changed over the last several decades. "With the advent of the web, [we got] a new level of conspiracy theories," said Professor Huston. "We have people who used to not be able to discuss things now globally connected." Conspiracy theories have been with us for quite some time. "In the 1800s, you had a lot of anti-Masons/Catholic theories," Huston said that, after World War One, there was a major shift in the way people viewed conspiracy theories. Instead of people thinking some sort of outside force was controlling people in a society in which the government was inherently good, it instead changed to a conspiracy mindset that saw the government as the one trying to do all of the controlling.

The Heart of a Conspiracy

During the first discussion, one of the questions put forth for

attendees was what constituted a conspiracy theory, and how to define it. He stressed that too much focus on a conspiracy theory ends up taking our attention away from the really severe issues in our world. "I do think that they have the potential for damage," Huston leveled with the audience. However, Huston highlighted that none of this was to try and discredit any of the conspiracy theories speculated at face value.

The other questions asked during the first round of discussion was what does it mean to be skeptical and what the features of a conspiracy theory are. "You take a kernel of truth," stated Huston, "and you weave a narrative out of it."

Professor Alec Thomson, Associate Professor of Political Science and History, was a moderator at the event. "It's great when you manage to get this many students talking about things," Thomson commented. "Professor Huston covered a lot of info and was really informative."

The Need of Falsifiability

Another major element of Huston's speech was Karl Popper's ideas of science versus pseudoscience, and the idea of falsifiability.

The core principal of falsifiability is that a theory or statement, through observation, testing and scrutiny, must be able to be proven wrong to a degree in order to be considered credible.

Huston also gave an example of what extreme ideas go into the conspiracy theories people often postulate. He talked about how people have a tendency to think that "everything bad that happens must have been intentionally caused."

He went on by saying, "You either accept everything that the government says ... or they caused it." As an example, Huston stated that if at some point after his speech it started snowing, is that evidence that he caused it? The answer, of course, is no, but this sort of coincidental evidence is often used by conspiracy theorist as a sort of nail-in-the-coffin proof that their theory is true.

"There was a lot to learn [about conspiracy theories], a lot of food for thought," commented student Josh Pummill. "It really leaves you thinking about day-to-day life, and the people around you."

Pell payday

Pell jumpers collect millions in fraudulent grant money



BY NICK RENDE
STAFF WRITER

When money is tight for everyone, many people find new ways to scrounge together extra money at any cost. Sometimes this can mean doing things like getting an extra job or cutting back on unnecessary expenses. Some methods, however, are less respectable than others. One of the ways that is becoming a bigger problem for colleges in particular is Pell Grant scamming.

Pell Grants are handed out by the Department of Education as a form of financial aid to students who qualify. The issue is that some eligible students, instead of using the funds to pay for books, supplies or any other school-related materials, collect the balance remaining in the grant and never attend any classes. Regardless of attendance, the college must “disburse” the aid (pay the remaining balance) to the recipient. The total money disbursed is the amount of money awarded by the grant minus tuition prices, as money from the grant is immediately taken out to pay for tuition.

“You’ll only hear about this at low-cost schools,” said Karen McCarthy, a policy analyst for the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators in a recent Detroit Free Press article. This is mainly because tuition rates at community colleges are nowhere near the amount as universities. “If the costs are high,

the students won’t get any of their money back.”

Pell Grants can award a maximum of \$5,500 per year to a student, or \$2,750 per semester. If a residential student enrolled in twelve credit hours at Schoolcraft, where the tuition rate was \$87 per credit hour for the Fall 2012 semester, the semester tuition would be \$1,044. The student would then have \$1,706 remaining as part of the grant, and it is this difference, the remaining balance, that these “Pell jumpers,” as they are sometimes called, are collecting and disappearing with.

This hurts colleges because the money lost must be paid by the school, as it is their responsibility for handing out the grants and their subsequent money. The colleges are then required to repay the federal government for the money they borrowed to hand out the grant.

According to FinAid.org, an estimated 3.6 percent of all Pell Grant recipients are collecting money fraudulently. Henceforth, an estimated \$1.2 billion in taxpayer money was lost in 2012 alone.

The rate of capture for these “jumpers” is not very high – they are difficult to try to collect from, even when bills and bill collectors are sent. So colleges are taking matters into their own hands by withholding financial aid until two weeks into the semester, requiring school faculty to take attendance and requiring bank

or credit card information up front. “These steps have cut our financial aid losses by about half in recent years,” said Kellogg Community College spokesman Eric Greene about these new safeguards their college has put into effect.

“We have identified some suspicious activity [at the College], but nothing that has lead us to suspect it is a huge activity,” informed Regina Mosley, Executive Director of Student Financial Aid at Schoolcraft. She went on to tell the Connection about the measures that the College takes to monitor aid funds, stating the financial aid staff is on “high alert.” They keep an eye out for things like applications with the same address, applications that look like they might be by the same person, sometimes indicated through similar handwriting, and other red flags. They have also watch for matching IP addresses and email accounts.

“Part of the cause has been the poor economy in which students, unable to find a job, look to federal financial aid to pay for their education and to provide funds for living expenses,” said Gary Erwin, a spokesman for Henry Ford Community College, a college that owes \$4.1 million to the government as a result of this form of fraud. “The college must then return some or all of the federal financial aid to the federal government and attempt to collect the funds from the students.”

24 charges out of 30 (which is probably, like, a record or something for a Detroit mayor). Bobby came short of Kwame’s stats, scrounging together nine convictions out of 11. Bobby, however, was in good spirits prior to the hearing, citing Psalms 37, verses 1-4 as his only “statement” to the press. Glad he was paying attention in Sunday school. Too bad he didn’t pay attention to the rest of the lessons taught. Like about stealing and stuff. He must have missed that sermon. Oh well, looks this ex-mayor left his mark in Detroit’s history books.

At least the former mayor, Kwame Kilpatrick, was bumped out of office, and may we add, quite some time ago. Now, thank goodness, a jury managed to convict him and former city contractor and partner-in-crime/BFF Bobby Ferguson on a slew of charges that will likely send the two away for several decades or at least until the city crumbles. You know. Whichever comes first. Jim Thomas, Kwame’s faithful lawyer, said that he will most definitely try for an appeal on the jury’s verdict.

Kwame was found guilty of an impressive

issues of faith. But when you get to drive around in your very own pope-mobile, suddenly everything doesn’t seem so bad. Just sayin’.

News from the “D”

The city that just can’t catch a break, can it? It seems that every day we hear more and more about the famed emergency manager. It’s much like when a friend owes you money; it’s been a long time coming, but when you finally get it you’re still going to be behind on the rent, everything you have is run down and you’re probably going to get mugged tomorrow anyway.

In what was an incredibly short turn around, the 115 cardinals voted in the new pope. In order to win, he would have to get 77 votes total. The man they voted in is Argentinian Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, who chose the name Pope Francis, chosen because of St. Francis, who was known as a reformer for the Catholic Church. Assuming the head of the Catholic Church, Pope Francis will be the first non-European pope of the modern era, reports CNN, as well as the first Latin American pope. Pope Francis has some big shoes to fill, heading into a church life with turmoil over scandals and

The white smoke rises. (That’s still a relevant reference, right?) After Pope Benedict XVI’s surprising resignation from his role, two questions arose. First of all, who would claim the title of Bishop of Rome, and secondly, can the Pope actually do that?

In other news

By RAMON RAZO
MANAGING EDITOR

Vatican City News



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

Check out Page 22



Tattoos: origins and outcomes



Ink addiction on the rise

BY HALEY BABI
STAFF WRITER

Getting your first tattoo can be a very stressful decision. After all, whatever you choose for your tattoo is going to be on your body permanently. This can be especially problematic if you ever decide to get rid of it. Removals are usually more painful than the tattoo itself, and it's more common to cover up an unwanted tattoo with a new design than to confront a half-removed band logo or an unsightly scar every day for the rest of your life. When it comes to getting a tattoo, going with something that you won't regret any time soon is the smartest decision. But be warned, there are potential other ramifications than just the physical.

Intentions behind the ink

"Just about everybody has a particular meaning behind their tattoos," stated Alex Sirena, a tattoo and piercing apprentice at Inked Detroit in Wayne. "It's usually different [for each individual] - we get a lot of memorial tattoos, or couple's tattoos." It seems that there is a lower potential for regret for memorial tattoos than for couple's tattoos. If the relationship ever goes sour, chances are the individual is not going to want the tattoo anymore. Getting a tattoo in honor of a relative or friend who has passed away is a more reasonable choice than getting a tattoo in honor of you and your partner's first year dating anniversary. Relationships are not guaranteed, but the memories of your late loved one will be with you forever. Still, many people choose to get matching tattoos, and many who have a collection of tattoos tend to see their ex's tattoos as just another part of their history, documented on their body in ink.

What's the worst that can happen?

Ink addiction is the need to continuously expand on one's visual history. As the name suggest, it can become seriously addicting and can even turn into a problem for some. "Some people do it for the pain and the adrena-



line that comes along with [getting the tattoo]," Sirena explains. "Other people just get really attached to an artist or a kind of work." Many people find a tattoo artist they really connect with, and continue to see that artist and have ongoing ink projects for several years.

At its best, tattooing is an artistic method of self-expression and identity. However, it is also important to note that tattoos change over time due to sun exposure and weight gain. That cute little sun ring around your belly button might just end up looking like Cthulhu after a few kids or too many doughnuts. Evil octopus monsters are scarier than stretch marks, so be thoughtful of the future when selecting tattoo design and placement.

Of course, excessive tattooing is seen as irresponsible in some circles on both a professional and personal level. From the standpoint of employers, tattoos may not reflect the needed image for a company. For example, Randall Pentiuk, a local business owner and attorney, stated that, "It raises a red flag because it shows poor judgment." This begs the question for prospective inkers: Will this fit into my lifestyle and career choice?

In some cases, Sirena points out that those individuals with tattoos are judged just as much on their ink as they are on other aspects of their appearance. Hygiene, clothing choice and a positive attitude are essential. "From a professional standpoint, I think [that over time tattoos] have become less of a judgment of character and more so of just obtaining a professional image," she argued. Naturally, vulgar tattoos are going to limit your options, as they will immediately put off employers. But with ink addiction having been on the rise for quite some time, general tattoos in the workplace are going to have to continue being more accepted.

As with any decision in life, tattoos aren't something that should be taking lightly. The physical effects are one thing, but the social aspect is another. Placement and design should be greatly weighed when someone considers getting inked. Until the world and the workplace accept Chinese characters and sleeve tattoos become the norm, a little forethought never hurts.



BY RYAN GUIMOND AND RAMON RAZO
STAFF WRITER AND MANAGING EDITOR

People in the United States are no stranger to debt, but there is one deficit that is rising above the rest. More troubling, it is the only kind that is next to impossible to discharge in bankruptcy. This is not credit cards or auto loan debt, but rather the college lending market, also known as student loans.

The problem

According to the credit score company FICO, the average graduate's student loan debt has more than doubled between 2005 and 2012, rising from \$17,233 to \$27,253. In addition to this, the percentage of consumers with student loans of more than \$100,000 has quadrupled in the same period. Lastly, in 2005 about 12 million consumers had at least two student loans. In 2012, that grew to about 26 million.

"This situation is simply unsustainable and we're already suffering the consequences," informed Andrew Jennings, FICO's chief research director. "When wage growth is slow and jobs are not as plentiful as they once were, it is impossible for individuals to continue taking out ever-larger student

loans without greatly increasing the risk of default. There is no way around that harsh reality."

"There has been an increase of the students who apply for student loans," stated Regina Mosley, Executive Director of Student Financial Aid at Schoolcraft. "That increase could definitely just be because of an increase in enrollment in the past couple of years."

The solution

While it is very difficult to point out a singular problem for the ever-rising student loan debt in this country, there is no reason students cannot begin by evaluating their own utilization of loans. Similar to getting a new credit card, getting approved for a student loan is exciting but can unfortunately lead to illogical decision-making.

Students must remain responsible and aware of every possible outcome in order to avoid the financial troubles of student debt. Students should be aware of the different types of loans, such as private versus federal loans.

It can be very difficult to forecast the future and realize the responsibility associated with a student loan, and for this reason, many people often take out loans without thorough research. As mentioned above, the excitement of a spending spree with newfound loan money can dampen logic, so it is important for students to

plan ahead in regards to how they are going to pay off their loans.

Mosley said that loan debt for Schoolcraft students is not necessarily as high as it is at other colleges. "We do a good job of helping students manage their student loans," she said. "They're required to request the funds beforehand; we don't just front the loans." She also said that the Financial Aid Office does its best to educate students about their responsibilities when it comes to loans.

Ramifications

The real problem with the increasing student loan debt burden does not stop at the individual, but has far reaching implications as well. When more and more people become saddled with more debt, their likelihood of default or bankruptcy rises. If this happens, their credit rating will drop, which greatly reduces purchasing power, and in turn, reduces spending, which fuels the economy.

Many students have no other way to fund a higher education degree other than with a student loan. Taking on the responsibility of a student loan is a valuable option when facing the ever-increasing cost of education, but understanding the ramifications of misusing the money is very important. For those who choose to use Financial Aid to fund their quest for academic

success can be greatly rewarded, but those who choose to use the money in other less responsible ways can literally be paying for that the rest of their lives. Whether it is attending a class or a workshop, or simply reading more of the fine print when filling out the the loan paperwork, it is a student's responsibility to understand that using financial aid properly, and wisely, is the first step in growing up.

Loan Tips

Students should be sure to ask questions before taking out loans, like:

What are the pros and cons of each (federal, private, etc)?

What are the eligibility guidelines?

What can I qualify for?

What are the repayment and interest terms?

These questions represent a very small contingent of the sort of questions students should be asking when considering taking out loans.

Exacerbating the situation

Student loan debt putting the squeeze on the economy



Climbing the ranks

Community colleges begin competing with universities for four-year degrees

BY NICK RENDE
STAFF WRITER

On Jan. 21, the Schoolcraft Connection reported the passage of Public Act 495 which allows Community Colleges to offer select baccalaureate degrees. (“Schools with tools for success,” Volume 26, Issue 8.) The act granted community colleges the ability to offer four-year degrees in culinary arts, maritime technology, energy production and concrete technology.

On Jan. 30, House Bill 4148 was introduced by Rep. Mike Shirkey and sent to the House Education Committee. The bill expands on the number of four-year degrees community colleges may offer, expanding to include ski area management, wastewater treatment technology, allied health, information technology and manufacturing technology degrees. The bill also includes a provision to community colleges’ ability to offer degrees in nursing, as long as the curriculum is approved by the Michigan Board of Nursing. “We were very disappointed the previous legislation to confer a Bachelor of Science Degree in nursing at community colleges did not pass last year,” stated Debi Vendittelli, Associate Dean of Nursing for the College. She cited that the Institute of the Medicine’s Future of Nursing Report form 2010 promotes an increase in the number nurses certified with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) increase 80 percent by 2020. Because of this, a handful of hospitals in the area are requiring nurses that are applying have their BSN completed five years from the hire date. “Schoolcraft College currently has various cooperative agreements with other colleges for BSN degrees,” Vendittelli informed. “But [the College] is also anxious to assist students to further their transformational learning experience to include completion of the BSN degree here at Schoolcraft.”

The goal of the legislation is to allow students to partake in a more affordable education and make these degrees easier to attain in order to introduce workers into these high-demand fields with sufficient education and experience. Many two-year colleges already have certain specializations in some

fields, which offer advantages to students seeking an affordable education.

Schoolcraft, for example, has one of the country’s top culinary arts programs, and the ability for the college to offer a four-year degree, as opposed to simply a two-year degree, would benefit students academically and, down the road, financially. Schoolcraft employs four Certified Master Chefs: Chef Dan Hugelier, Chef Jeffrey Gabriel, Chef Kevin Gawronski and Chef Joseph Decker. This is the biggest CMC-to-student ratio of any other college in the United States. Likewise, Northwestern Michigan College has a similar specialization in maritime technology. Additionally, Chef Shawn Loving, Chair of the Culinary Arts department, recently returned home with a bronze medal at the 23rd International Culinary Art Exhibit, also known as the “Culinary Olympics,” one of the most prestigious culinary competitions in the world.

The transition to allow community colleges the chance to offer a four-year degree is not as farfetched as some would think. It is mostly a matter of resources, a requirement that the College is able to meet. “Much of what they will require, we’re already prepared to do,” said Schoolcraft President Dr. Conway Jeffress, in an article from Crain’s Detroit Business. “But it’s going to be a long process from here. I would say [it’s going to be] a good two years before we can start cranking out baccalaureate people.”

“Our registered nurses and practical nurse programs have maintained state Board of Nursing approval since they were started and obtaining the additional national accreditation further exemplifies the quality of the nursing programs at Schoolcraft College,” said Vendittelli

Opponents of this legislation argue that these acts, ones that allow four-year degrees, are “unconstitutional.” On top of that, they tend to create unnecessary competition and damage agreements between two year colleges and four year universities that already enable smooth transfer between the two institutions.

At the end of the day, it is the students’ decisions as to what type of education fits best for them, regardless of agreements or legislation.



Campus Crime

Compiled by Michael King
Staff Writer

Larceny

Feb. 5. A student left his classroom at 4:50 p.m. and realized that he had forgotten his keys and coat. Returning to the classroom, he discovered that the items had been taken. The class instructor did not see who might have taken them. A search of both the security camera system and the lost and found failed to turn up any additional details. The cleaning staff has been requested to relay any information.

Feb. 7. A male student parked his car at 9:00 p.m. and returned three hours later to find a calculator stolen from his back seat. He stated that he had forgotten to lock the car and that the item was clearly visible. Nothing else appeared to have been stolen.

Feb. 8. Campus police met with a student who’s Schoolcraft-issued Macbook had been stolen from his residence. A report was filed with Ann Arbor Police.

Feb. 14. A student left his bag under a table in the Lower Waterman and walked upstairs, leaving his backpack unattended. At 2:19 p.m., surveillance cameras caught a suspect stealing the red and black backpack as well as a blue and pink one from an adjacent table before leaving. The suspect is described as a black female, collar length hair pulled back into a barrette.

VCSA (Violation of a Controlled Substance)

Feb. 13. At 11:32 a.m., a student told Campus Police that two people by the video game area of Lower Waterman were eating brownies with marijuana in them. The student had overheard a story about the two haven eaten “special” brownies and when one opened a clear, unmarked bag containing a brownie, the student detected the odor of marijuana. At 12:05 p.m. of the same day, Campus Police noticed a duffle bag outside the east

entrance door. The owner lied about the bag being his before confessing that there was marijuana inside. The Livonia Police were called and the student was taken into custody and the hash brownies confiscated.

Possible MDOP (Malicious Destruction of Property)

Feb. 16. A Campus Security Police officer noticed that a Coca-Cola machine in the east break room of the Liberal Arts building had been tampered with. The machine had been kicked and the plastic barrier peeled back to expose an electrical panel. An investigation is underway.

Threat of violence

Feb. 19. A female student called the Financial Aid center, stating that her refund was less than expected. After the Financial Aid clerk explained the situation and why the refund was the amount that she had received, the student began raising her voiced, repeatedly using the f-word and stated that she would have to “bring a gun onto campus” in order to get the clerk to listen. Later, another Financial Aid employee received a call from the student and when she relayed the same information, the student cursed her out and hung up. Calls to the student were not answered.

Hit-and-Run PDA (Property Damage Accident)

Feb. 28. A female student returned to her car to find a dent in her front passenger side door. Review of the surveillance cameras turned up nothing. The student was given a CVR card.

March 11. A student reported that his vehicle’s front bumper had been damaged. Review of the surveillance cameras revealed that a dark-colored SUV-style vehicle parked in the north parking lot row O had hit the “Staff Parking” sign of row N, propelling it into row M were it struck the student’s bumper.



Located in the Lower Level of the VisTaTech Center

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



WE ARE ALL WITNESSES

By **ABDALLAH CHIRAZI**
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Disney: a whole "new" world

The Walt Disney Company has entertained kids, families and Disney enthusiasts all over the world. Their parks and films have given us unique destinations built around adventures and enchanting music that fills our minds with magical thoughts. Walt Disney Studios continues to provide us with movies where we can discover exciting adventures and memories that will last a lifetime. Yet there are many spectators who would love to think

of Disney executives, CEOs, animator and writers as constantly plotting to find new ways to shove “hidden” messages into their films in order to corrupt the innocence of children. Take a stroll down the haunting dark secrets that lurk behind the spectacle and fascination that Mickey & Co. don’t want you to know about. Sex and stereotyping are specific subliminal messages being portrayed in Disney films. Numerous accusations and unarguable evidence have been highlighted in countless cases, bringing forth allegations that are tough to ignore. Disney has much to answer for. Take “Beauty and the Beast.” The movie’s message is that true beauty is found inside, right? You may want to reconsider the message. Belle’s absurd acceptance of abusive behavior from the Beast gives the impression that sticking with abusive relationships will resolve the issue. What you’re supposed to take away is that you should treat others the way you wish to be treated. The actual message is that behind all the anger and threats, the Beast is a man with a heart aching for love. Romantic? I think not. Sexual imagery has been iconic in the hidden messages of Disney films. The original VHS cover of “The Little

Mermaid” shows King’s Trident castle, as well as our heroin and her beloved below. A closer look will reveal one of the castle towers having a phallic-like shape. For later releases, the infamous image was edited and removed. What’s that? You’re looking for stereotyping? Look no further than “Aladdin.” The original lyrics to the film’s opening song, “Arabian Nights,” were “I come from a land/from a faraway place/where the caravan camels roam/*Where they cut off your ear/if they don’t like your face/* It’s barbaric, but hey, it’s home.” After the release, the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee made a formal complaint which lead Disney to revise the song. But it doesn’t stop there. In the movie “Dumbo,” faces of black men perform tedious labor while chanting, “We never learned to read or write” and “Grab that rope, you hairy Ape,” giving the impression that blacks were only good for hard labor and other incredibly offensive slanders. Fans of Disney may feel this is an overreaction and will likely find these allegations inadequate, citing that they watched a lots of Disney films growing up and never had dilemmas with Disney’s ethical views. But why

should Disney be exempt from criticism? They are the super giants of the entertainment world, so naturally they should be placed under the social microscope which inevitability comes with the territory. Of course we can only speculate as to whether or not Disney has purposely instilled mischievous content into their films of this just being one massive coincidence. Overall, if it’s not a coincidence, then the company has proven to be just another monopolizing company with no regard for ethical values. If we continue to support a company that ultimately enforces discriminatory and sexist propaganda, then we are allowing young Disney viewers to adopt wrongful perceptions of today’s society. At the same time, avid Disney fans need to understand that by purchasing products and seeing their movies, they are endorsing the ethics of Disney, whatever they are. The goal isn’t to annihilate Disney but to eventually change any involvement of negative subliminal messages. If anything, like most powerful monopolies, all Disney has done is add merit that “Power tends to corrupt; absolute power corrupts absolutely.”

THE SCHOOLCRAFT CONNECTION

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

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DRAMATIC MONOLOGUES

By **ALYS DOLAN**
EDITOR IN CHIEF
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"Falling up"

There are those people who are happy with their lives and live with the cards they were dealt. Then there are others who complain about them and curse their maker for the suckish hand they are forced to play instead of working with what they have. We all complain, let’s face it, but do we really have to be so down about everything? Each day is a gift and how we choose to spend it is up to us but standing around complaining about the day won’t make things better. Some people are just whiners. You sit and build a brighter day for yourself while they complain about anything and everything they can think of. “I ran out of my favorite soap today and this boy I don’t like won’t stop texting me and my nails look like garbage and, like OMG, my iPhone is soooo slow...” says your best friend while you sit there with a broken leg and a better attitude. Life is tough get a helmet. If you have a bad attitude, adjust it or stay home – the rest of the world does not want to deal with your sour face and depressing conversation. Listen, I’m sorry the world does not

work according to Ginger or Ned or whoever you are but that is the way the cookie crumbles. Just because you have a bad day, or week in some cases, does not mean the world is ending or that you need to reshape your entire attitude to be the person with a little black rain cloud. No one wants to stand by you if they are going to get dripped on. Life is hard, confusing and scary but it is also exhilarating, exciting and joyous. Find something to turn your day around. Instead of thinking about the date that went badly, think about how you learned from it or, oh man, you just bombed that test but now you know the areas you need to work on. Concentrate on the things you can fix instead of the things you can’t. There are bigger things to worry about than the rain ruining your hairdo or the rip in your new leggings. You are young and the world is out there, you will have plenty of heartbreaks but you must go forward and face the world and make it a place you want to be in. We will have things to worry about like student loans, credit card debt, the next president and how we will afford the mortgage this month but the important thing is to keep your chin up. When you go into something with a poor attitude you will get poor results but if you try to bring out the positive points you will see positive results. When worse comes to worst, remember what Shel Silverstein said: “Listen to Mustn’ts child, listen to the Don’ts. Listen to the Shouldn’ts, the Impossibles, the Won’ts. Listen to the never Haves, then Listen close to me. Anything can happen, child, Anything can be.”

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TRUST ME, I'M
A JOURNALIST

By **RAMON RAZO**
MANAGING EDITOR
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One world religion

The world is full of different religions. Most feature adoration and worship of a deity or deities and have a list of guidelines to follow for better living. Then there are those who claim to not be “religious.” These folks usually believe in some higher power, be it God or something in some form or another, but don’t exclusively attribute themselves to one denomination or faith. There are the individuals who don’t believe in any form of a higher power. Be it through their own truth journey or in instances of spite, these individuals wholly reject the idea of an Almighty. But that doesn’t matter.

Whatever the case is, chances are, we are all religious.

Folks who usually attribute themselves to the non-religious method of thinking do so for several reasons. It usually stems from a longing to not be dragged down by a slew of rules, regulations and religious dogma. That’s understandable (kind of); living your life accordingly can be daunting. But it’s sort of a cop-out. If something is true, it’s true, regardless of whether or not you believe in it. How you label yourself won’t change that. Getting back on track, most folks who consider themselves to be “non-religious” still hold some beliefs close to their hearts. If they’re showing reverence to some god, they’re engaging in religion.

But what about those who don’t subscribe to all that Wizard-in-Space God hogwash? Are they not exempt from religion? It would appear the answer is a resounding nope. Renowned journalist and author Christopher Hitchens was a devout atheist in the same way that Billy Graham was an on-fire Christian. On top of being sexist and a socialist, Hitchens seemed as though he was on his own crusade, never missing an opportunity to dog religion and bash God. He described Islam, Christianity and Judaism as “the axis of evil,” claimed that religion was the source of hate in the world and wrote the book “God is Not Great.” (Subtle.)

Is this to say that Hitchens is in the wrong in propagating his opinion? No, absolutely not. However, it can’t be ignored that Hitchens religiously fought against religion, preaching from his own humanist pulpit whenever he could, God rest his soul.

Last on the agenda, even Christians themselves need to be called out for their denial of religion. “It’s not a religion,” says Mr./Ms. Christian. “Our faith is a relationship with Christ.” In no way am I trying to deny that a spiritual devotion and friendship with Jesus Christ is not part of the faith but here’s the thing: do you go to church regularly? Do you pray often? Read the Bible? Then you are doing those things *religiously*. Get over yourself and accept that it’s still a religion.

Religion, summed up, is defined by an institutionalized system of beliefs you accept through faith. I saved the definition until the end to emphasize the fact that most humans, regardless of worldviews, are in fact religious. This is not to say in any way that all beliefs are true or all religions are equal. That is an *entirely new* discussion the likes of which is the starting point for a tomes of crucial conversation. What is being said is that, theistic or atheistic, Muslim or Judaist, we all ascribe to some form of faith stemming from our worldview and collective experiences.



MANAGEABLE
MISCHIEF

By **MOLLY MARTIN**
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR
mollyfaye29@yahoo.com

The soul behind the tattoo

There have been many different trends and statements made in the name of self-expression and creativity. The arguments of their merit and reasoning are endless but one major conflict amongst self-expression is body art. Our bodies are a temple and are to be protected and kept pure of any imperfections. In the mind of so many, tattoos and permanent markings are seen as a stain on the bodies created by our maker. However, our religion should have nothing to do with these tattoos because to each person beauty and perfection is in the eye of the beholder.

In the Bible, Leviticus 19:28 states, “Do not cut your bodies for the dead or put marks on yourselves.” Thus showing tattoos or any kind of mark on your skin is wrong. However, at the same time the Bible tells us, “Not eat meat that has not been drained of its blood.” We eat animals all the time that do not follow the “rules” laid out in the Holy Scripture. Furthermore, if tattoos are a problem then make-up, coloring our hair and nail polish should be as well for all are temporarily tampering with our “temple.”

If we still followed the rules and lessons set forth by the Bible from thousands of years ago, the world would be a primitive place. Our faith grows as we evolve on our journeys. Someone that we love shouldn’t be condemned by our faith. If your religion is holding you back from living life then perhaps it isn’t for you.

I consider myself a Christian and I am proud to say I have a tattoo. It does not make me less of a follower in Christ or damned but is an expression of who I am. Everyone has the right to do as they wish with their own bodies so why are we condemning those around us who express themselves differently?

Tattoos are a way of expressing one’s self, regardless of beliefs. Usually, tattoos are very particular to the person who gets them and they take them very seriously. Ignorant peers who know nothing about the person shouldn’t judge. We can agree to disagree. It doesn’t make much sense to tell someone else they are wrong but “ignore the log in your own eye” as Christ said.

Tattoos are a very personal addition to your body. No matter what the meaning is behind a tattoo, religion should not be the reason you hesitate, after all one’s faith is a personal expression of who you are. The person you are may consist of piercings, tattoos and eyeliner out to your hairline, and your religion should accept you for that. If your religion is a conflict with their lifestyle, is your faith really a reflection of how you want to live your life? More importantly, are they even wrong to begin with? If somebody has tattoos from their toes to the tip of their skull, there’s nothing wrong with that. It’s the person behind the ink that matters. If you have a problem with someone else’s tattoos, it’s not your place to judge. Just respect who they are as you wish to be respected as you are.

SEE EMILY
WRITE



By **EMILY PODWOISKI**
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR
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Tainted love

Rihanna is as naked as her lyrics in her latest music video for her new single, “Stay.” The video features a sad-eyed Rihanna soaking up in a bathtub, where she seems to be contemplating her own haunting lyrics. The song alludes to her current relationship with Chris Brown. It’s no secret that Chris Brown has damaged her but now it’s the fans that are hurting her too, both verbally and physically.

“She’s a disgrace to women,” said Andrea Peyser of The New York Post. “I’ve lost any respect I ever had for you.” Recently, a supposed fan even threw a bottle at Rihanna, screaming about her returning to Brown. While Rihanna’s decision may baffle us, I will truly never understand why women choose to

put each other down when they could be helping each other. Why insult her? Would you call your best friend “a disgrace to women” if she returned to her abusive relationship?

In an interview with Oprah that aired last August, Rihanna tearfully discussed how she repaired her relationship with Chris Brown and her abusive father. “I thought I hated Chris,” she stated, “and I realized it was love that was tarnished.” This woman is clearly not a disgrace to women and she is not an idiot as she has been called. Rather, she is a human being that has been through a traumatic experience, just like many others who have suffered from domestic abuse.

We often ask why the “victim” goes back to their abuser but, perhaps, we need to ask a new question. Why are these men (I say men, because men are overwhelmingly the perpetrators of domestic violence) abusing these women that they supposedly love so much? In Rihanna’s case, Chris Brown came from an abusive family. While this is no excuse, it does help to explain why Brown acted out with violence.

If you know somebody who is in an abusive relationship, you should never, ever, ever judge that person. As crazy as it may seem to us, we are not in their shoes. It’s important to listen to them without judgment and offer any help. Political activist and all around saint, Gloria

Steinem, sums up Rihanna’s situation pretty well, stating, “Most women leaving violent relationships return at least once because their self-authority has been eviscerated and replaced with a partner’s authority. Think Stockholm syndrome. Rihanna probably needs support, not criticism, and her return could be a cause for teaching, not despair.”

Some argue that Rihanna is a bad role model to women due to her actions. However, as a feminist, I believe we should be careful about the phrase “role model.” Yes, Rihanna is a superstar but that doesn’t make her any less human. When I first watched Rihanna’s music video for “Stay,” I was shocked at how raw and numb this superstar appeared. Other than her perfectly manicured fingernails, the music video is not glamorous. The lyrics do not depict a healthy relationship. This song is simply a truthful account of her feelings as an artist and we should accept this as her form of therapy. While my heart breaks at her return to Chris Brown, she is not obligated to do anything just because she is in the spotlight. Yes, she is a superstar but she is first and foremost a human being.

And some human beings make the mistake of returning to their abuser. But this doesn’t mean that they deserve to be insulted for their actions. If anything, they need love and support that isn’t tainted.

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Counselor's Corner

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Stop the Violence

By MARY LAJOY
SCHOOLCRAFT COUNSELOR



A federal study by the Department of Education, FBI, and the U.S. Secret Service called, "Campus Attacks: Targeted Violence Affecting Institutions of Higher Education", reports that there is an increase of violence at U.S. colleges and universities. Out of the 272 violent incidents that were analyzed as a part of this study, 75 percent of them have occurred since 1980 (roughly in proportion to enrollment increases in higher education, though with an apparent proportional uptick in the 1990s and 2000s).

In response, colleges and universities are challenged with identifying potential at-risk individuals. In his book "Ending Campus Violence: New Approaches to Prevention", author Brian Van Brunt indicates that while there are no profiles that are consistent or useful in predicting future violence on campus, we may see concerning behavior that should be a red flag. He goes on to distinguish between disruptive behavior, aggressive behavior and violent and direct threat behavior. A student who is disruptive in the classroom or shows signs of aggression may not pose a direct threat, but may exhibit behavior that is worrisome and should be further explored.

As a student, faculty or staff member, you are in a good position to identify someone who may be emotionally distressed. While some stress is expected, especially during certain times of the year (e.g., final exam week), you may notice someone acting in a way that is inconsistent with your normal experience with that person. Your expression of interest and concern may be a critical factor in getting the individual to seek appropriate help. Indicators of distress may include repeated absences from class, missed assignments, exams or appointments, deterioration in quality or quantity of work, change in personal

hygiene, isolation from friends, family or classmates, essays or papers that focus on suicide or death and excessive confusion.

If you encounter a student in distress, try to speak with that student privately. Let them know that you are concerned about their welfare and that you are willing to help. Listen carefully to what they are describing and help them to explore their options. This may include a referral to an on-campus department including the Counseling Office. When talking with a student in distress, it is also important to maintain clear and consistent boundaries and expectations, recognize your limits and document the interaction or incident.

If you are uncomfortable approaching a student in distress, locate a Schoolcraft College employee for assistance. It is always better to report an issue or concern than to assume that someone else will intervene. If a student is acting in a violent or threatening manner, contact Campus Security Police at (734)462-4424 or dial 911, because you should never approach someone if you are concerned about your personal safety.

SC Cares is a resource that has been established to create awareness and help maintain a safe and secure campus. If you would like to report an incident or have concerns about a situation, you can submit a confidential incident report at www.schoolcraft.edu/incidentreport. In addition, Schoolcraft College has licensed counselors on staff who can help. The Counseling Office offers brief counseling, crisis intervention and can assist with finding appropriate resources in the community. Students can make an appointment or just walk-in.

For more discussion on the topic of campus awareness and violence prevention, join us for a Stop the Violence event on Thursday, March 21st, 2013 from 10:15-11:15am in the McDowell Center room 200 A&D. A panel of college representatives will take a closer look at what triggers violent behaviors, what we can do to prevent violence and how we can keep our campus safe.

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Tickets must be purchased in advance. For more information, or to purchase tickets, contact the Student Activities Office at 734-462-4422.



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To enroll stop by the Student Activities Office and fill out an enrolment form and recieve an identification number.



The Food Pantry is located in the Lower Waterman and is open Monday-Friday from 9am-5pm.

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

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

www.schoolcraft.edu/sccares



Thayer's Park



Help Clean Up Thayer's Park!

April 13, 2013
8:00a.m. – 12:30p.m.

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

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12th Annual Multicultural Fair celebrates diversity

BY MIRANDA ANDERSON
STAFF WRITER

Come travel the world in a matter of minutes with the Schoolcraft Multicultural Fair. The Multicultural Fair is an annual event centered on celebrating the diversity of cultures in the Schoolcraft College community. Each year, volunteers set up tables where guests can learn about their respective cultures, be it Mexican, Indian, Asian, etc. These tables provide visitors with a wonderful display of information, artifacts and sometimes even food from the designated country or culture. The 12th Annual Multicultural Fair will take place in the DiPonio Room at the VistaTech Center on Thursday, March 28 from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.

The Fair hosts many attractions such as international displays, musical and cultural performances

language demonstrations and international snacks provided by local restaurants. While traveling around the world (metaphorically), visitors are provided with a passport that they can get stamped at each country's table. "Typically, about two dozen countries are represented," said Helen Ditouras, who has been on the Multicultural Fair Committee for about four years. The most exciting aspect surrounding the event is the people that come out to enjoy the Fair. "The crowd energy is very high. We have over 3000 people attend the fair annually and this is exciting." As for popular features of the fair, the entertainment is first rate. "Some of the highlights include vibrant music and dance performances from cultures around the world," added Ditouras.

The Multicultural fair itself has

only been running for a just over a decade and continues to grow with each passing year. The fair began in 2001, with the goal of extending cultural awareness and appreciation beyond the walls of the classroom being the center of focus. The event offers students and the community alike a chance to indulge in a multi-ethnic experience free of charge. The added benefit of the event is that students end up taking the lead in teaching others.

Aside from the chance to teach, there are other causes for students to get involved with this event. "First off, the fair is a celebration of the wide variety of cultures on campus and in our community," informed Ditouras, "and this gives student and community participants an opportunity to share their cultural knowledge with others at Schoolcraft. In addition, the aim

of the fair is to promote cultural sensitivity, awareness and appreciation of other cultures. In a global world, this skill set is imperative to student success." If that isn't enough reason to attend, don't forget the event is free of charge.

The Schoolcraft College Foundation Grant funds the Multicultural Fair, which is created for and by students and the community. The Multicultural Fair is supervised and coordinated by a four member committee consisting of Helen Ditouras, Josselyn Moore, Laura LaVoie Leshok and Todd Stowell. The Fair is certainly something to look forward to and it is sure to be just as successful this year as it has been in the past. Join the community and fellow Schoolcraft students, faculty and staff as they celebrate diversity on March 28th.

Don't miss
Schoolcraft's
12th annual

MULTICULTURAL FAIR
March 28 10 a.m. until 3 p.m.
VisTaTech DiPonio Room



STOP THE VIOLENCE

Campus takes on prevention, hosts interactive panel discussion

By **MOLLY MARTIN**
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

All over the world, at any given time, people are the victims of shooting violence, often being wounded, sometimes fatally. These people are getting hurt for being in the wrong place at the wrong time, and sometimes, as we know too well, this happens in a school environment. At Schoolcraft, the safety of students is the highest priority. The Schoolcraft Cares program will be hosting a “Stop the Violence,” event on Thursday, March 21, 2013 in the McDowell Center, room 200 A-D, from 10:15 a.m.-11:15 a.m.

“We are hoping that students react with interest and come to the event to learn more about this topic,” said Michelle Koss, the Associate Dean of Counseling and Student Support Services. “The issue of campus violence is a concern for all. The event is centered on increasing awareness

of this topic and promoting ways that we can help keep our campus safe.”

The event is taking place in conjunction with the Pageturner’s Book Club discussion of “We Need to Talk about Kevin,” a book that deals with a fictional school massacre (a discussion of the book will also be held on March 21 from 4-5 p.m. at the Radcliff Center in Garden City, room R645). “We Need to Talk about Kevin,” was written in 2003 by Lionel Shriver, and centers on a woman’s letters to her husband, as she tries to come to terms with the fact that her son has massacred a group of high school students. Although the book is a work of fiction, it hits a chord with many, especially in light of recent events.

The subject of this book has inspired those at Schoolcraft to be proactive and offer information to students to help them better understand how to prevent violence on campus, and how to deal with the possibility of a violent emergency. No one

wants to think that they might find themselves in a worst case scenario situation, but they need to know how to best protect themselves. The “Stop the Violence” event aims to teach and educate students spot the danger signs and also help them know how to handle a horrific scenario like a school shooting. This event aims to curb fears by educating and preparing people. Koss hopes that students who attend this event will come out of it with a better understanding of campus violence. She also wants students to be reminded that they can report an incident through the SC Cares reporting page located at www.schoolcraft.edu/sccares or contacting Campus Security Police in the case of an emergency by dialing 734-462-4424. Students should know that their campus is a safe environment. Mark your calendars for the “Stop the Violence” event on March 21 and learn about this serious topic with your peers.

This club rocks

Local rock & mineral club educates guests and raises money for scholarships

By **MANDY GETSCHMAN**
LAYOUT & DESIGN EDITOR

Geology students at Schoolcraft have a small local club to thank for many scholarship donations over the last four decades. The Roamin Club of Livonia was formed to promote interest in mineralogy, geology, paleontology, and lapidary arts (rock cutting and engraving). From September through April, they on the second Wednesday of every month at 7:30 at the Northville Montessori Center on Haggerty to share knowledge and collections. During the warmer months, members get together for field trips to little-known locations and collect unique treasures to add to their collections. Anyone who fancies themselves a rockhound is sure to benefit from the club’s shared knowledge of local gems.

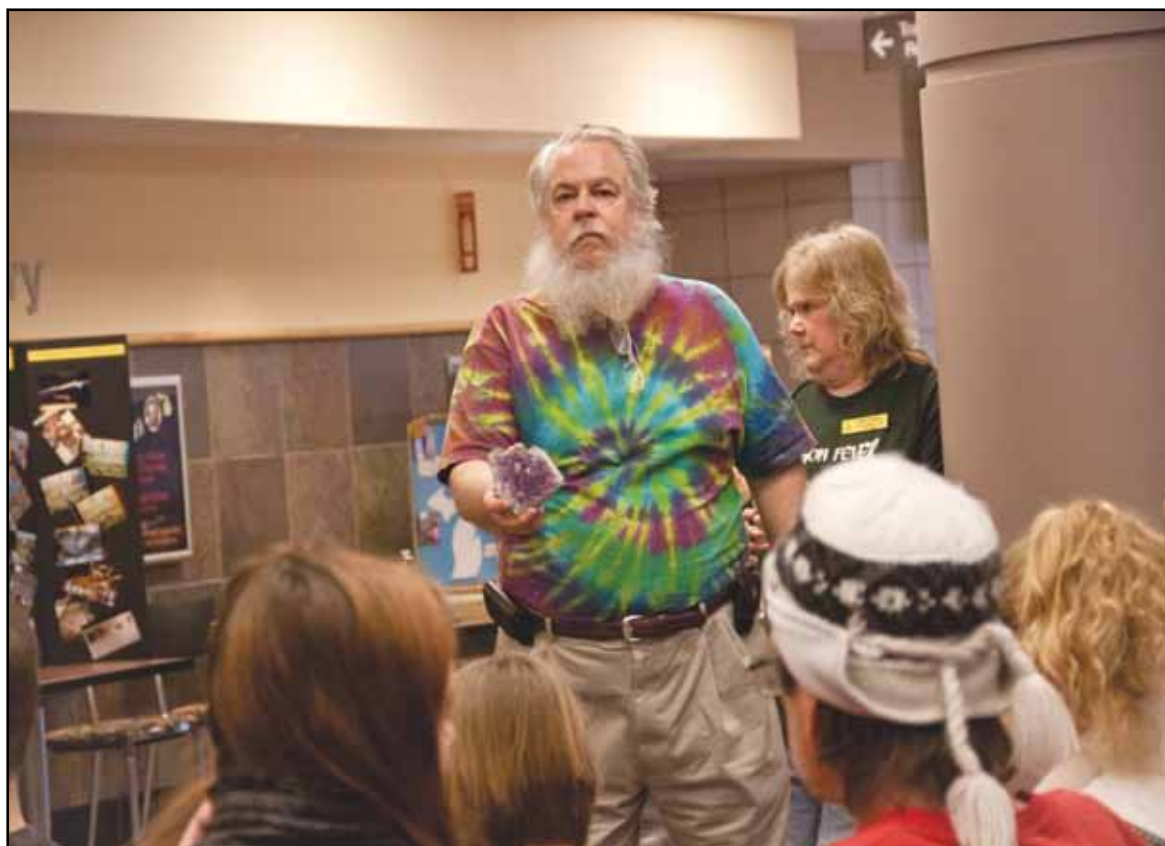


PHOTO BY MANDY GETSCHMAN

(Above) A member of the Roamin club carries around a high-quality piece of amethyst so that each bidder in the audience can get a good look.

(Left) These pieces of gypsum are from a field trip to a mine near Grand Rapids.

Diary of an immigrant

Unlearning and learning culture, Part II

BY URMILA BILGI
ASSISTANT LAYOUT EDITOR

My journey to enlightenment was an invigorating experience. The change reflected upon my ideas of life. It all started with small arguments like why women should share her husband's name post-marriage. My solution was that the couple should be sharing both the family names with a hyphen in between, thus passing on the family name to future generations. "Who's to say that only the man's name should be passed on?" I thought.

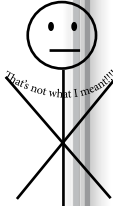
In my case, it was crucial since we were all daughters. If each of us thought traditionally, our family name would vanish. However, my husband came up with an excellent point, arguing that when our children got married, there would be too many last names to deal with. Even in that case, I wasn't ready to settle for my husband's last name. Even my parents would refer to me with my "new" last name. "I don't think the world is ready to accept the new me." I wrote in my diary.

My inability to explain my thought process to society became more evident and painful over time. Once during a how-I-turned-agnostic conversation, my friend, a devout Hindu, told me that reading literature about God's existence would change my views. I tried telling her that when one comes to such conclusions, it is often an outcome of past experiences, through reading and observing society over time. "Oh, so you are just a rebel." she grunted.

"Maybe," I said. "But only if you don't make it sound like I'm an angry teenager, the difference is: I question before following norms blindly."

"They have become norms because they were tried and tested over time," she calmly explained to me, "by people who know more than you. Why else would we have an entire country following it?" Could there be an argument after that?

In spite of receiving a poor response, I continued to share my revelations with people, hoping that they that might feel relieved and liberated just like me. After reading mythologies, like most booklovers I started questioning whether or not everything around me and, even, my own existence was a myth. The answers I found started defining



my life and I wished to pass along this wisdom. In an attempt to explain myths in life, I asked my friends whether India was a myth. Most of them got offended by this. "How can it be a myth when the country exists?" asked one of my friends. It took me a long time to explain that the mass of land does exist, but the identity was given to it by its people and the socio-political nature of the country. This identity creates the myth of India. On one hand, we are known as a colorful culture with strong family bonds. On the other hand, our political image also adds to the myth. We try to come across as a peace-loving country, but we're often seen as violent due to the constant communal riots and border tensions. After that, my friends and family were convinced, but still offended by the fact that I discussed such a sensitive topic amongst foreigners.

In another such incident, I was thrilled to have found out a direct relation between the Indian cartoon strip, Chintoo, and Dennis the Menace. I read about how post-World War II America had adopted permissive parenting, which ended up empowering children. Dennis was merely a manifestation of this attitude. Likewise, in post-globalized India, Chintoo was similar. There were even similarities in the characterization of the strip. It inspired me to write an entire paper. Unfortunately, my excitement died when my friend sarcastically asked me whether or not I was accusing the creator of plagiarism.

Eventually, every little incident started breaking me apart. When I finally couldn't take it anymore, I turned to my professor. She calmly told me that if they never studied liberal arts, chances are that they are going to react so. "Sometimes, it's only good to talk about the weather," she assured with a smile.

Suddenly, it all made sense to me. Maybe the change I felt was something individuals has to experience for their self. No amount of reiterating was going to tell them how beautiful the feeling of enlightenment was.

That evening, during dinner, my roommates asked me what I studied, since they always saw me reading or writing. I was tempted to change the topic, but instead told them about children's literature. "So you study for knowledge," said one of them. "That's great. We just study to develop a skill."

~~"Just the thing I wanted to hear."~~ "Just the thing I wanted to hear?" I wrote in my diary that night.



Secrets of the Quill

BY BRIANNE RADKE
STAFF WRITER

Q: I am a non-traditional student who has not had to produce academic writing for a very long time. What is the best piece of advice that you can give me?

A: Write with intention. Thoughtlessness will sap your page of any power or creativity that it might otherwise carry – no matter what genre you are tackling. Be deliberate when mapping your paper's overall structure, be purposeful and objective in your decisions about supporting details, and carefully select each word and bit of punctuation.

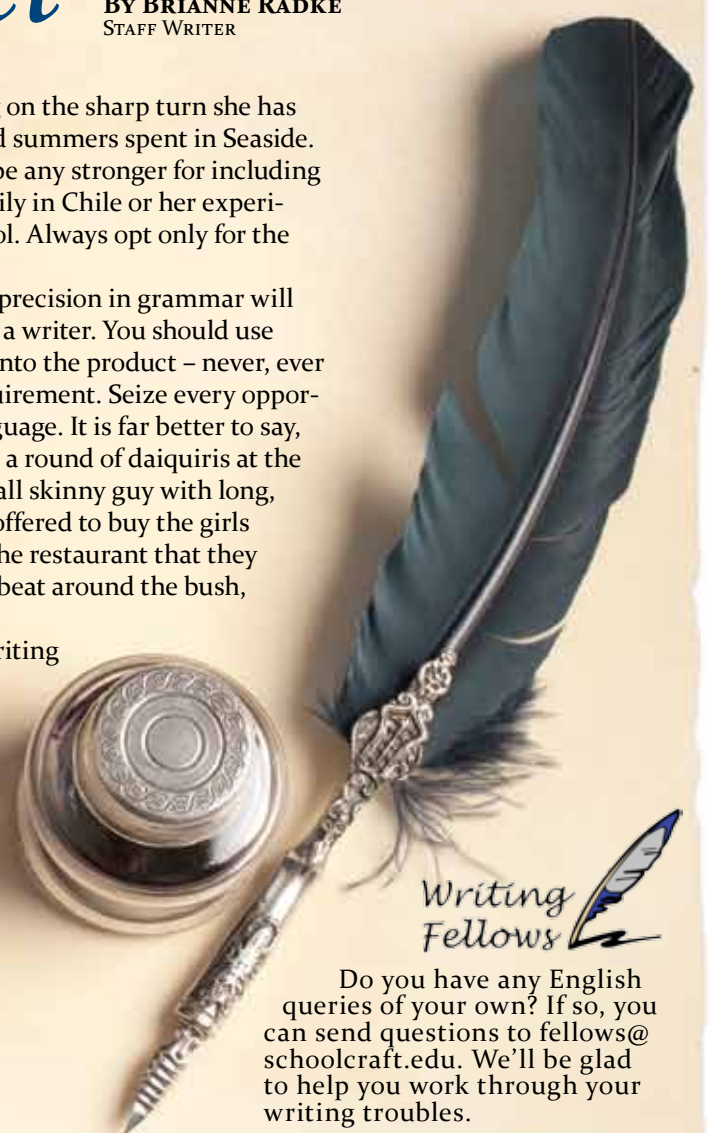
The structure of your paper begins with a well thought-out thesis. Understand that a thesis like, "Nicole 'Snooki' Polizzi is a positive role model," will not hold a candle to "Despite controversy surrounding MTV's 'Jersey Shore,' Nicole 'Snooki' Polizzi has transitioned into a positive role model for young women by proving herself to be a loving mother to Lorenzo, settling down into her relationship with Jionni and by showing maturity in other recent personal decisions." Your thesis must give you a point to argue – in this case, you will obviously have plenty to prove. It should also outline the main points to be discussed throughout the body. From the very beginning, you want your reader to clearly understand your purpose and direction. Note that these ideas are ranked in order of importance – baby Lorenzo, Jionni and then Snooki's other personal decisions.

Intention is critical to supporting your thesis as well. The body of your paper should bear only the strongest, most undeniable evidence for your stance. This selection process may require extensive prewriting and research, but objective consideration of all possibilities is crucial to deciding which ones to incorporate into your work. In our Snooki example, it might be a weak choice to praise the reality television star's decision to raise her son on MTV. The initial argument would

be far better sustained by focusing on the sharp turn she has taken from the several rum-soaked summers spent in Seaside. Similarly, your argument will not be any stronger for including facts about Polizzi's biological family in Chile or her experience as a cheerleader in high school. Always opt only for the most relevant facts.

Commanding word choices and precision in grammar will further heighten your authority as a writer. You should use every bit of space to infuse power into the product – never, ever fluff things up to meet a word requirement. Seize every opportunity to be concise with your language. It is far better to say, "The surfer offered to buy the girls a round of daiquiris at the Beachcomber," rather than, "The tall skinny guy with long, blonde hair wearing board shorts offered to buy the girls some fun, fruity, frothy drinks at the restaurant that they always go to." Be direct; when you beat around the bush, your reader gets bored.

If you would like more tips on writing with intention, please bring your paper to the Writing Fellows in Bradner Library's LAC. We are always glad to offer suggestions to help a peer improve a paper. Happy writing!



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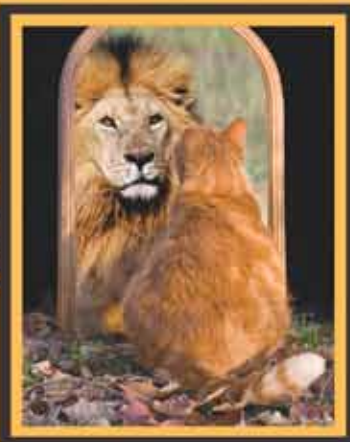
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March 18

3 - 6 p.m.

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Schoolcraft Music Faculty

March 20

noon - 1 p.m.

VisTaTech Center

Gay/Straight Alliance Meeting

March 20

Noon

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Personal Finance 101

March 21

10 - 11:20 p.m.

Liberal Arts, Rm. 200

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE STUDENT ACTIVITIES OFFICE AT 734-462-4422



PHOTO BY ANDREW KIELTYKA

Schoolcraft police academy students listen intently to instruction as they gather inside the new high-end shooting range during their firearms safety class.

Arming yourself with knowledge

Police Academy introduces new high-end shooting range

BY PETER HUBBARD
STAFF WRITER

A new and important type of instruction will now be offered by Schoolcraft College in upcoming semesters. These courses will offer education designed to save lives with the proper use of firearms. Police academy students training to become officers will benefit greatly from Schoolcraft College's new firing range. Schoolcraft can now add its very own firing range to the ever expanding list of resources to its students.

The shooting range is for educational-based purposes only. Safety is empirical when handling any type of

gun. "It is mandatory that all individuals wear eye protection and ear protection," said Fred Stanton, the Director at Wayne County's Regional Police Training Academy.

When asked to go over the range's safety procedures, Stanton responded with "do you have 8 hours?" Obviously there are reasons entire courses are dedicated to gun safety. One can never be too careful when learning the safety protocols for the range. If one is ill-equipped when it comes to handling guns, the results can be incredibly hazardous.

Instructors will always be present when the range is in use, the numbers of supervisors depending upon how large the class is. With experts watching over you, Schoolcraft's firing range offers a unique opportunity to use these weapons safely. "The firing range

was built to serve for educational-based purposes, providing a safe environment for people to learn how to shoot," explained Stanton. Capable of handling all handguns, shotguns and most rifles of hunting gauge, the facility is state of the art in its performance capabilities. The range features targets ranging from human based, to silhouettes, incentive targets and danger/situational based.

The firing institution was built mainly to fit the impressive standards of Schoolcraft's own police academy. The state of Michigan requires a minimum of 10 hours in the classroom, and 50 hours weapons training as part of standard police weapons training. "For Schoolcraft students, we like to go above and beyond," said Stanton. Any police students enrolled in the academy will receive 70 hours at the

range to ensure that they know how to handle their firearms. Schoolcraft's firing range is another welcome addition to the Public Safety Training Complex. The firing range offers a perfect opportunity for hands-on learning with highly qualified instructors. The firing range stands to offer a safe and informative environment for Schoolcraft students seeking a degree in the police academy program.

Schoolcraft College Public Safety Training Complex (PSTC)

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The Training Complex is located one block south of I-96 on Merriman Road. Turn west on Industrial Drive. The Complex will be on the south side of street.

Gourmet vending machines offer great prizes to patrons

State-of-the-art machines provide delicious food within minutes

BY ALYS DOLAN
EDITOR IN CHIEF

All over campus, things are changing with new and innovative ideas. Just recently, two new vending machines have arrived on campus. These vending machines feature gourmet dishes prepared right from the campus's own Culinary Department kitchens and are a quick and easy way to satisfy hunger when one is in a rush. The food is prepared and replaced weekly, and the machines offer a variety of choices. Not only are they delicious, convenient and fast but by purchasing a meal within the next two weeks purchasers have the opportunity to win an iPad or an assortment of other great prizes by taking a short online survey for trying the dishes. These meals all cost around five dollars.

The machines are located in the VistaTech Center and Biotech Building vending machine areas. Main Street Café also sells a variety during regular business hours. After purchasing the delicious meal simply look on the package for instructions on where to log on and enter for your chance to win. By



taking a short survey about the vending machines and your experience you are entered into a drawing that could get you a fabulous prize. The contest ends April 1, so stop by the machines and try out the new choices today.

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Mainstreet Cafe



VistaTech Center Vending Area

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One of your dime-a-dozen mediocrities

"Oz: The Great and Powerful" trades in the wonderful for the decent

By **RAMON RAZO**
NEWS EDITOR

L. Frank Baum’s timeless Oz tales never go out of style, whether it’s in the form of the classic “The Wizard of Oz” (1939) or the Tony-award winning “Wicked.” Director Sam Raimi’s take for the Land of Oz, as well as the origins of its witches and wizards, does hold fabulous style and some genuine charm. It’s a pity, though, that its inconsistent performances and a gawky tone lead take audiences on an outing that’s more callow, more shallow, detracting what is, for the most part, an enjoyable romp through Oz.

James Franco’s Oz character works as a con-man-style magician in a traveling circus, trying to woo women left and right, which ends up being his downfall in both worlds. He’s egotistical and insensitive, and only near the end does he actually redeem himself in the traditional protagonististic fashion.

The film’s supporting cast is a mix-match ranging from good to bad. Rachel Weisz obviously had a good time being delectably wicked, and Michelle William’s Glinda isn’t nearly as boring or naive as stereotypes would want you to think. Raimi’s adaptation invites new and familiar faces onto the movie scene as well. Such as, the scene where Oz discovers the destroyed Chinatown (a town where everything is made of fine glass, obviously) and introduces the little angel that will steal your heart. After Oz aids the injured China Girl in a tender moment she is off on the adventure to battle the Wicked Witch, and there is not one moment where you will not be convinced she is not a living creature. Oz’s other assistant, a flying monkey named Finley, while his face doesn’t look nearly as lifelike ends up saving the film from its own awkward sense of humor with his adorable comedic moments. Although all of his companions are reminiscent to the famous film adaptation from the 1930’s it leaves true Oz fans wanting a little bit more.

The movie’s greatest strength is the dazzling world of special effects, even if the abundance of digital animations does lead to awkward char-

acter interactions at times. Though it’s drop-dead gorgeous, and the 3-D has some defining moments. And how Oz finally becomes the Great and Powerful wizard that the prophecy for told of is most certainly sight to see.

But not all is fair and good in the Land of Oz. The Wicked Witch is horridly mixed up and should have been swapped with her sister’s actress. And if that weren’t enough, the writers seem to think that a woman has only one motivation: broken heart. This stereotypical flaw weakens this legendary character. Furthermore, while there is a good deal of exposition regarding prophesies that are never explained and relationships that are never fleshed out, the mythology and histories of the witches is completely gutted. Who are they to each other? How have the two Wicked Witches managed to subjugate the Emerald City without anyone really seeming to care?

What’s even more shameful was the missed opportunity to paint Oz as a man of science and ingenuity. It’s no spoiler that Oz, while he might become a very good man, he is a very bad wizard (and possibly a humbug). What gets him through most of the trials in the film is happenstance and people incapable of putting two and two together. But the film seems to tease at the possibility of Oz utilizing his skills and knowledge when it comes to the sciences and know-how of Thomas Edison and Harry Houdini. What could have potentially been a great set-up for Oz’s ability to foil witches and fool Ozians ends up being a side idea, the same way the film treats trying to sync up with any previously existing Oz stories.

For what it’s worth, “Oz: The Great and Powerful” serves as a decent family film, as well as a tasty morsel to the fans of Baum’s work. There’s nothing terribly frightening or violent, and there are enough cute characters, darling humor in a fast-paced world of enchantment to keep audience’s interest. But if it only had the brain, the heart and the nerve to try something new, that would have made something truly worthy of being called wonderful.

Powerful supporters

"Oz: The Great and Powerful" made a grand entrance at a charity premiere in Burmingham.In attendance were dozens of Michiganders who played supporting roles in the film. Sales from the event went to support the Coalition of Dwarf Advocacy, a charity started by local actor Martin Klebba.



THIEVERY

at 88 miles per hour

Sly Cooper returns after an eight-year absence

By JONATHAN KING
ONLINE CONTENT EDITOR

Of all the thieves to appear in video games, the sticky-fingered raccoon Sly Cooper is surely one of the greatest. Alongside his friends and cohorts, Bentley the turtle and Murray the hippo, Sly produced three stellar games for the PlayStation 2 (developed by “Infamous” studio Sucker Punch), the last being “Sly 3: Honor Among Thieves” in 2005. And then, like the thieves they were, they disappeared into the night, not to be seen again until 2010 with the release of “The Sly Collection.” Now Sly and friends have arrived back on the PlayStation 3 with their first major title in eight years: “Sly Cooper: Thieves in Time.”

This latest installment finds Cooper enjoying a bittersweet retirement with his Interpol rival-turned-girlfriend Carmelita. While Cooper is staying on the straight and narrow, he has not quite lost the urge to be a thief. Luckily (or unluckily), Cooper is forced to get back in the game as pages of the Thievius Raccoonus (the legendary tome handed down by generations of the Cooper clan) begin going blank. It quickly becomes clear that someone is erasing the Cooper family history from time, and it’s up to Sly and his gang to find out whom and stop them at all costs.

“Thieves in Time” follows the same basic format as “Sly 2” and

“Sly 3,” focusing on platforming, stealth and combat. There are five primary locations, and this time each is set during a different period in history. Each locale has a main open hub area, and from this hub you can search out missions, which take you to linear stages. The new addition this time around is costumes, which give Sly new abilities and consequently allow him to access new areas. Also, a number of new playable characters are entered into the mix, including Carmelita and several of Sly’s ancestors.

Like its predecessors, “Thieves in Time” is big on collectables and secrets. Each hub area contains 30 clues, tucked safely away in easily breakable bottles. Once collected, they open up a safe containing an item, which gives you a new ability. There are also treasures (12 per time period) that have to be not only found but also carried intact back to the hideout within a certain time. And if that weren’t enough, there are also Sly masks scattered throughout the hub worlds and missions. This is definitely a game that rewards exploration, and searching every corner of the surprisingly intricate landscapes is a big part of what makes the game enjoyable. The treasure hunts are particularly satisfying, bringing back the long-lost adven-

ture platformer flair of games like “Banjo-Kazooie.”

Unfortunately, Sly’s fourth installment is not without some problems. The characters are way too talkative, spewing one-liners at every conceivable moment for no apparent reason, and it becomes grating quickly. (A real pity considering it gets in the way of the music, which is fantastic.) Also, the mini-games are a mixed bag at best. (Which is a pity as well, due to the creativity that went into the mini-games in previous Sly titles.)

However, the largest problem surrounding this game is, ironically, one of time. Beside the graphics (which are decent but comparatively unremarkable in today’s PS3 market) there is nothing to suggest that this is a modern, next-generation, eight-years-in-the-making “Sly” game. “Thieves in Time” feels like it could have come out a year after “Sly 3,” which is good for creat-

ing a consistent continuation to the franchise, but not so good for re-entering the video game industry after such a large period of change and growth. When you consider that the entire “Assassin’s Creed” franchise was produced in Sly’s absence, this old raccoon’s roof-jumping antics suddenly seem less spectacular.

Nevertheless, it’s good to see Sly and the gang back up and running after so long. While his looks may have received a shiny new upgrade, not a lot has changed in terms of actual gameplay – and that could be for better or worse, depending on your perspective. While it’s not a quantum leap forward, “Thieves in Time” is still a fine addition to the series. With the ringtail back in the game and rumors building about the PS4, it will be interesting to see what the future holds for this franchise. (Hopefully we won’t have to wait yet another eight years.)



It runs in the family

A look back at the Sly Cooper series

By MICHAEL KING
STAFF WRITER

Platformer-style video gaming has been around pretty much since the dawn of gaming, however, just as the advent of 3-D gaming threatened to rid the industry of this beloved genre, the king and champion character of platforming game genres — Mario — appeared and showed the world how platforming in the third dimension was properly done. Then in 2002, Sucker Punch Productions made the genre relevant again when the “Sly Cooper” series was born.

Following the titular character and his gang of thieves (Bentley the Turtle, who acts as the team’s brains, and Murray the Hippo, a part-time driver and full-time burden), the game is about Sly, the last descendent in a long line of thieves, fighting to reclaim his family book, the Thievius Raccoonus, a tome that documents the Cooper family’s knowledge of thievery and skill. The game is standard as far as 3-D platforming is concerned, but what sets it apart — as a game — from the others, is

the delightful necessity to be continually stealthy. Players can climb up poles, sneak around tight corners and dodge laser grids all in the first few levels. Sly’s cane can double as a weapon for whacking enemies and as a tool for grabbing onto objects to climb. The flow of the platforming challenges, along with the stealth required to be successful in the game keep the pace of the game constantly moving. Sly can only get hit once before losing a life (in the style of classic platformers), but collecting coins and lucky charms allows him to survive extra hits. On top of that, collecting clues in bottles allows Sly to open up the safes that yield pages of the Thievius Raccoonus, which supply Sly (upon study) with the knowledge necessary to perform new important game winning skills and adding new weapons to his arsenal.

Then in 2004, “Sly 2: Band of Thieves” drastically changed the way the game was played by doing enough with the original formula to transform it into a better game. The plot follows the Cooper gang as they attempt to steal parts of Clockwerk (a giant clockwork owl and one of Sly’s nemeses) from another group of criminals known as the Klaww Gang. The great platforming from the first game was still present but the game introduced a more interactive strategy with emphasis on stealth and

exploration. Stray treasures could be sold for coins, which were then used to purchase new upgrades. The game also reintroduced several of the series staple characters, such as Bentley and Murray, making them playable participants. The game was also enhanced to include other interactive aspects: a health bar and the ability to pickpocket guards (a non-option in the first game).

Then in 2005, Sucker Punch Productions then released “Sly 3: Honor Among Thieves” and it did little to improve the game play, choosing instead to focus more on developing the characters that had already been established in the original game — such as the disheartened Panda King as well as the now crippled Bentley — while also introducing new characters and developing them as well. The story centers on Sly needing to break into his family’s vault, which holds the accumulated wealth of the Cooper family through the years. In order to pull this off, he’s going to need the help of his old gang.

In a time when platforming seemed to have reached the end of its road, Sly Cooper and his thieving crew appeared just in time to help save it. Those that haven’t taken a few steps in Sly’s sneaky shoes should certainly give this trio of PS2 classics a whirl.

Alternate Frequencies



Steven Wilson

"The Raven That Refused to Sing (And Other Stories)"

Genre: Progressive Rock

★★★★★

By JONATHAN KING
ONLINE CONTENT EDITOR

Steven Wilson is one man responsible for more great music than most groups of musicians. His credits include producing records by Opeth and remixing the back catalogues of King Crimson and Jethro Tull. For his third solo album, "The Raven That Refused to Sing (And Other Stories)," Wilson gathered a rogue's gallery of master musicians as well as legendary producer Alan Parsons (whose work includes the Beatles' "Abbey Road" and Pink Floyd's "Dark Side of the Moon") to bring us a slice of retro prog rock filtered through the mind of one of music's most creative polymaths.

"The Raven" is more overtly inspired by '70s progressive rock than any of Wilson's previous works. Each of the album's six tracks tells a different story, each with an element of ghosts or the supernatural. There are solos a-plenty from some of the best in the business – saxophonist and flautist Theo Travis shines particularly bright on several tracks – as well as orchestral elements, angular guitar riffs, moments of ambience and dramatic mood shifts.

The album's strongest point is the midsection combo of "The Holy Drinker" and "The Pin Drop." The first is a darkly electric rocker about a holy man who gets into a drinking contest with the devil (rarely a good idea) and ends up getting dragged to hell. "The Pin Drop" is almost the polar opposite, featuring a delicate verse – Wilson's voice sounds unusually vulnerable on this track – that erupts into a bright rushing torrent of sound.

Despite containing six relatively lengthy tracks, "The Raven" is Wilson's tightest solo record yet. Everything is neatly composed and definite, free of the turgid and tangential instrumental waffling that could so easily drag down a piece of old-school prog. To top everything off, the titular song, which closes the album, is one of the most beautiful tracks Wilson has ever committed to tape. His pleading "Sing for me, raven/ I miss you so much" is haunting, and a perfect way to end a near-perfect album.

The Bottom Line:

"The Raven That Refused to Sing (And Other Stories)" is both a love letter to '70s prog rock and a showcase of a modern master at work. Conceptually and aesthetically, "The Raven" and its book of musical ghost stories are on point, and Wilson's best solo work to date.



The xx

"Coexist"

Genre: Electro-pop

★★★★☆

By BLANDELIA PAYNE
STAFF WRITER

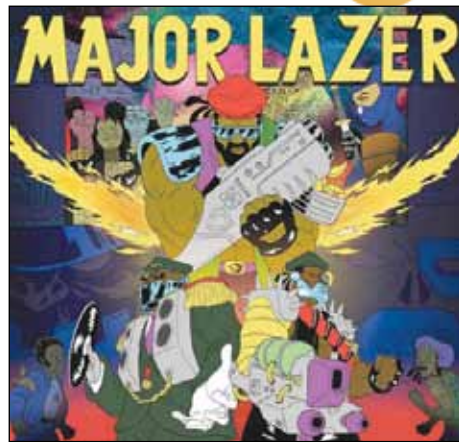
Rarely does a sound so minimalistic become such a sensation in the world of pop music. "Coexist," released September 2012, debuted at number one on the UK Album Charts, selling over 50 thousand copies in the first week. Over the course of 11 tracks, Oliver Sim and Romy Croft of The xx whisper heartbreaking sentiments into the ears of dazed fans, entranced by their sounds. By muting certain elements and using subtle instrumental dynamics, this English indie-pop trio embarks into uncharted territory with "Coexist."

"Throughout pop music, you usually have to make the chorus really big," Croft mentioned in an interview with Pitchfork, "[...] but we have a way of working where everything has to be played live. That's why there's not loads and loads of guitars or doubled vocals." This new minimalistic approach to club music makes The xx experts in taming their audience. Each song has a tendency to command attention with streams of unexpected melodies and musical patterns. It's almost as if Jamie Smith, music producer and member of The xx, is playing with the expectations of listeners, and his methods of luring the audience to the edge of a cliff with each erratic melody arouse the crowd like no other.

The album explores loneliness, love and heartache, setting a much darker and sultry tone compared to past work. "Angels" leads the album with an innocent sound similar to those heard in their last album, "xx" (2009), which was written by the band while in their adolescent years. But this new work no longer reflects the feeling of naiveté evident on the first album, but instead draws more deeply from the band members' personal experience, maturity and sensuality, especially evident in "Chained." The mood of this track guides the rest of "Coexist" through a series of melodramatic battles between love and lust. So seductive is the album that it leaves lovers unnerved upon hearing the hopeless conclusion of each song — that intimacy is the start of something destined to end.

Bottom Line:

As secretive as The xx is known to be, it comes as no surprise that they would steal hearts with this 2012 sophomore album. Judging from previous work, it is clear that this band understands the direction they intend their music to flow. "Coexist," a maturation of the first album, is symbolic in the aesthetic growth of The xx and their electro dream-pop blend.



Major Lazer

"Free the Universe"

Genre: Dancehall

★★★★★

By EDWIN CARIRE
STAFF WRITER

Major Lazer is back with their latest album, "Free the Universe," which hit store shelves on Feb. 18. "Free the Universe" demonstrates incredible creativity with its science fiction-like backstory about a renegade Jamaican commando with prosthetic laser arms. "Free the Universe" is the project of Philadelphia's Thomas Wesley Pentz (better known by his stage name, Diplo) and Switch London's Dave Taylor. The two are both DJs best known for their debut album "Guns Don't Kill People... Lasers Do." Their joint venture has created a musical style that is vibrant, creative and fun. The tracks are perfect for parties and festivals or if you are just trying to "free the universe," like the hero of the album.

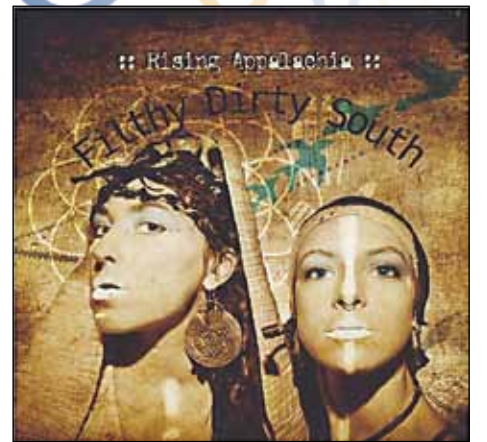
Major Lazer clearly pulls inspiration from Jamaican reggae beats and dubstep, two genres that are not normally meshed together. However, the genres are blended together to create an incredibly beautiful album. The majority of the tracks feature other artists. These include Vampire Weekend's Ezra Koenig, Bruno Mars, Wyclef Jean, Tyga and an assortment of other talented names. Each artist adds a unique touch to the album.

Major Lazers' single "Jah No Partial," featuring Flux Pavilio, is a mash up of reggae, trance and dubstep with the familiar hooks and drops Flux Pavilion is best known for. The song kicks off with a heavy Jamaican-style influence and then transitions into electronica with cool beats unlike anything you have ever heard. The song is definitely one of the more upbeat tracks on the album and is perfect for dubstep fans or a DJ looking to change up the tempo at a hype event.

"Get Free," which features Amber Coffman of Dirty Projectors, is another noteworthy song that does a fantastic job blending a tropical, mellow reggae tune with the incredible vocals of Coffman. Her dreamlike voice blends perfectly into the reggae and trance-like backdrop. The hypnotic track is an amazing and original song worth adding to your personal playlist.

The Bottom Line:

Major Lazers' "Free the Universe" demonstrates superb creativity through the mashing up of opposing genres. Several songs feature well-known artists that only emphasize and heighten the collaborative creativity and originality of this album. "Free the Universe" is a fun album with songs that are so catchy that it will not be long before you hit the replay button again and again and again.



Rising Appalachia

"Filthy Dirty South"

Genre: Urban Folk

★★★★★

By BRIANNE RADKE
STAFF WRITER

In "Filthy Dirty South," Leah and Chloe remain unshackled by the folk label as they layer their unique vocal harmonies over fresh sounds blended with traditional twanging banjos and humming fiddles. In this 15 track album, the soulful sisters exercise their effortless Southern charm as they lure listeners into their world of revolution. This, their fifth full-length album, is laden with earth-loving, globally conscious themes just like the previous four releases.

Although the resulting package is highly unique, the sounds of "Filthy Dirty South" incorporate easily recognizable influences. Chloe and Leah claim to be inspired by a great number of concepts and musical styles, and it shows. Their vocal style is often similar to that of Ani DiFranco, and there is an obvious global footprint on this album, with styles ranging from worldbeat to hip hop to very primitive tribal beats to pared down country.

"Mississippi Song" proves to be a powerful opener with barbershop-esque a cappella, complete with a simple finger-snapping rhythm section. The title track appropriately chases the first by blasting big oil corporations for their contribution to a "Filthy Dirty South" in a confection of poignant lyrics and a Latin-influenced, though still folksy, groove.

The pace of the album picks up a positive note in the instrumental "Remember What You Told Me," while "Pretty Lil' Foot" exemplifies the duo's commitment to preserving the ancient art of musical lore. Perhaps the most interesting decision in this project is in the treatment of the old spiritual "I'll Fly Away." A human beat box supplies an unobtrusive backdrop for the graceful harmony, until the band joins in and changes in tempo and key brighten up the solemn tone of the track's beginning.

Also notable is "Occupy," a politically charged anthem combining swampy swank, poetry and rage in a manner that should make hips sway, regardless of party affiliation. "Cluck Ol' Hen" closes the album in much the same vein that it opened, with simple lyrics and a down-home feel, though the pulse of this track is a knee-slapping beat unlike the somber tones of "Mississippi Song."

Bottom Line:

"Filthy Dirty South" is highly recommended to listeners of all tastes. Rising Appalachia has an earthy feel that truly transcends genres, and the masterful prowess in this piece can easily be appreciated by most listeners.

Friday Night Rentals

Films worth drinking to

By **JOSIAH THOMAS, JONATHAN KING, EMILY PODWOISKI, AND ALYS DOLAN**
STAFF WRITER, ONLINE CONTENT EDITOR, A & E EDITOR, AND EDITOR IN CHIEF

"Shaun of the Dead" (2004)

The romantic comedy is frequently loathed among genres, and for good reason: not enough zombies. Luckily, one film stands to amend that problem. The antidote to any amount of hopeless, unfunny, unromantic slush is Edgar Wright's marvelous zom-rom-com "Shaun of the Dead."

The film centers on Shaun (Simon Pegg), a man whose life is at a standstill. His relationships with his girlfriend, mother and stepfather are all strained, and he spends all of his time playing video games or hanging out at the local pub with his apathetic pot-dealing friend Ed (Nick Frost). These social problems are exacerbated by the fact that this all takes place during a zombie apocalypse.

The writing in "Shaun of the Dead" is brilliant. In fact, it's probably one of the most well constructed comedic scripts of the last decade. There are so many jokes, references and callbacks that it's impossible to catch everything on a single watch-through. However, just because this is a comedy doesn't mean it skimps on substance. The relationships and characters are genuine, as is the zombie horror and gore. And yes, there is plenty of gore.

Unique, over-the-top and decidedly British, "Shaun of the Dead" is a hilarious tribute to classic horror movies that has created a classic in itself. If you haven't seen it before, pull up a chair, pour yourself a pint, grab your cricket bat and give this bloody amazing film a watch.

"Casablanca" (1942)

According to the American Film Institute, "Casablanca" ranks a close second behind Orson Welles's masterpiece "Citizen Kane" in the American Film Institute's Best Films of the past 100 years. Taking place near the height of the WWII, the film concerns two former lovers who were separated by the invasion of France. Rick Blaine, played by the legendary Humphrey Bogart, relocates to Casablanca after the invasion. There, he becomes the owner of an upscale nightclub. Refugee Ilsa Lund, played by Ingrid Bergman, also relocates to Casablanca with the intent of securing letters of transit that can ensure immunity in both Nazi-occupied Europe and any other neutral country.

One night, the two lovers meet for the first time in years at the nightclub when Ilsa requests the pianist play their song, "As Time Goes By."

The film's impeccable structure and perfect chemistry between the main and supporting characters fuels the film and its reputation. With a bittersweet ending, the film is as near to perfection as any a director would hope for.

"Lost in Translation" (2003)

Director Sofia Coppola, the master of pretty imagery and awesome indie soundtracks, gained attention in 2003 for her Academy Award winning masterpiece, "Lost in Translation."

The realistic plot follows the lives of two strangers who happen to meet in a bar in Tokyo. Bill Murray gives an incredible performance as Bob Harris, an aging movie star on a business trip who is bored with his life and struggling with his marriage. Charlotte (Scarlett Johansson) is a depressed wife who has traveled to Tokyo with a husband who, over the course of the trip, rarely spends time with her. These two mismatched strangers end up forming a friendship born of loneliness as they discuss their deepest fears and secrets. In between trips to the hotel bar and late night parties, it seems as though the two fall in love, just a little bit.

Don't get your hopes up; this isn't exactly a lovey-dovey story. The relationship between the two main characters is raw and authentic. Coppola, who doesn't whitewash anything, captures the busy culture of Tokyo flawlessly. The two friends immerse themselves in the culture, sometimes humorously failing to enjoy the food or understand the language.

The incredible soundtrack set to the beautiful imagery is simply spellbinding, making it easy for the audience to fall in love with Bob and Charlotte's misadventures. The memorable ending will break your heart and leave you hanging, but "Lost in Translation" is an unforgettable film that reminds us all to pay attention to strangers once in a while.

"P.S. I love you" (2007)

A story that will melt your heart and keep your mug filled began when Holly met Gerry. Holly, played by Academy Award winner Hilary Swank, is the creative artist yet easily stressed out wife of the smooth and suave Irishman Gerry, played by Gerard Butler. She loses him to cancer, but before he dies he orchestrates a final master plan for Holly to follow during her grieving process. Letters and packages are delivered with personal touches from her lost love: ending with a little twist, reveals the identity of the one who helps Gerry execute the plan.

This heartfelt tale depicts the unique nature of a couple that met in a bar while Holly was on a trip to Gerry's hometown in Ireland. The movie does an amazing job developing the love story, even though one of the main characters is dead. The beauty behind their love is depicted in humorous and exceptional ways, all while the slightly neurotic, yet earnest Holly, the movie's central character, grapples with and deals with her grief and the tragedy. Swank plays the part convincingly.

You will recognize many of the supporting cast members prior television and movie performances, such as Lisa Kudrow ("Friends"), James Marsters ("Smallville" and "Buffy"), Kathy Bates ("The Office") and Harry Connick Jr., each of whom help Swank through her grief by showing her the value of friendship and family. Anyone looking for a good laugh *and* a good cry will thoroughly enjoy this tale of finding yourself after tragedy.



Give me seven years bad luck instead

"Mirror of Fate" disappoints "Castlevania" fans

By MICHAEL KING
STAFF WRITER

Having exhausted nearly every option for their vampire slaying series, Konami opted to reboot the "Castlevania" franchise in 2010 with "Castlevania: Lords of Shadow." While the title was panned for uninspired gameplay that borrowed mechanics from everything from "God of War" to even "Sonic Unleashed," it sold well enough to warrant a sequel. Unfortunately, now that we've gotten a good look at the prelude to that sequel, "Castlevania: Lords of Shadow - Mirror of Fate," the future of the franchise looks bleak indeed.

Recently released for the 3DS, "Mirror of Fate" follows a 2-D plane that pays homage to the original "Castlevania" NES classics, as well as featuring a dash of the tried and true "Metroidvania"-style of exploratory gameplay. However, the combo-based fighting mechanics of "Lords of Shadow" shatters any possible entertainment value by reducing the entire adventure to a monotonous two button brawler.

The story follows three individuals in their fight against Dracula, each with their own chapter. Simon Belmont, Trevor Belmont and Alucard all have different sub-weapons to utilize in addition to the standard whip, though there is little variety from Trevor's boomerang to Alucard's bat projectiles.

While "Mirror of Fate" tries to emulate a more classically-styled "Castlevania" experience, there are too many little alterations that sully the gameplay. For example, death is less a catastrophic setback than a temporary hindrance. Even when the player dies during boss battles, they'll restart at the most recent checkpoint, leaving the boss with a chunk of health still missing and effectively removing all challenge from the fight. In addition, the once stat-based experience system has become little more than a way of preventing

players from having access to more devastating combos early in the game.

The music – while better than "Lords of Shadow" – sadly remains an embarrassment for the franchise. "Castlevania" has been known for featuring fantastic and atmospheric music, so reducing the soundtrack to an ambient snorefest is disgraceful at best. The game can manage an enjoyable little melody every now and then, but it rarely lasts for more than a few seconds.

However, not all is wrong with the world. The map system is so easy to interpret that it eliminates the need to look up completed maps online. Additionally, players can add bullet points to the map with notes attached, which is perfect for keeping track of treasures. Regardless, "Mirror of Fate" is hardly worth playing for this one great aspect.

As the ridiculous name should indicate, "Castlevania: Lords of Shadow - Mirror of Fate" is a hot mess of a game. If the upcoming "Lords of Shadow 2" doesn't significantly improve the gameplay mechanics, then "Castlevania" may very well join the ranks of "Megaman" and "Resident Evil" as gaming's next great insignificant series. Fans of the franchise both old and new will undoubtedly be distraught upon realizing that this is the future Konami has chosen, and those that have yet to be entranced by the eternal tale of Belmonts and vampires should know that "Castlevania" is capable of much, much more than this.



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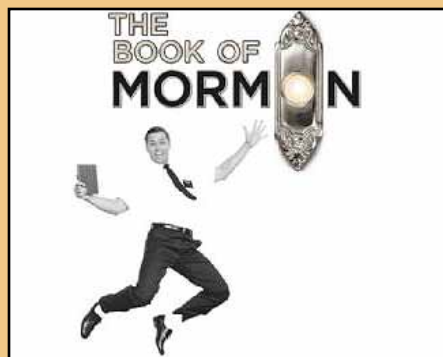
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"The Book of Mormon"

Chances are, you have heard a thing or two about this infamous Broadway production. Trey Parker and Matt Stone, creators of South Park, collaborated once again to create this hysterical musical about missionaries for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The award-winning show is currently playing at the Fisher Theatre, located at 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. The show will be up and running until March 24, so get your tickets now. Tickets start at \$49. Call Ticketmaster to purchase your tickets at 248-433-0000.



Rihanna in concert

Mark your calendars because Rihanna is bringing her Diamonds World Tour to Detroit on March 21. Rihanna has excelled as an artist, receiving a whopping total of six Grammy awards. Rapper ASAP Rocky will also be tagging along with Rihanna on her world tour. The show starts at 7:30 p.m. at the Joe Louis Arena, located on 600 Civic Center Dr. in Detroit. Tickets are on sale now, ranging from \$35-\$125. Call Ticketmaster at 248-433-0000 to purchase your tickets.

Buddhist Exhibit



Come find your inner peace at "Buddhist Thangkas and Treasures: The Walter Koelz Collection." The breathtaking exhibition will be held at the University of Michigan Museum of Anthropology,

located at 525 S State St. The exhibition will spotlight the belongings of Buddhist monks, as well as the beautiful Thangkas, which are exquisite paintings on cloth that feature beautiful Buddhist imagery. The exhibition is open until June 9. Call the University at 734-764-0395 for more information.



Guest of Honor: Van Gogh's Bedroom in Arles

Gogh away with me to the DIA. Van Gogh's famous painting, "Bedroom in Arles," will be in the spotlight until May 28. Three separate Van Gogh paintings will be showcased along with "Bedroom in Arles." This piece of work is truly a piece of history right out of 1889. So come visit the DIA's Guest of Honor this spring at 5200 Woodward Avenue. Call the DIA at 313-833-2323 for more information.



Motor City Muse: Detroit Photographs, Then and Now

This is the perfect exhibition for Michiganders everywhere. A collection of talented photographers have showcased their love for Detroit through their breathtaking photos. Featuring over 100 pictures by various photographers, this show is the story of our beloved Detroit. The exhibition will be open Tuesday-Saturday, and Sundays until June 16. Visit the Detroit Institute of Arts on 5200 Woodward Avenue to see this spectacular vision. Call the DIA at 313-833-2323 for more information.



Dexter

Breaking Bad

BY CARLOS RAZO
STAFF WRITER

When societal structures fail you and there's nowhere else to go, the only choice left is to take things into your own hands, regardless of morality. At least, this is what protagonists Dexter Morgan and Walter White would both like you to believe.

Beginning in 2006, Showtime's "Dexter" follows the daily life of Dexter Morgan, a blood splatter analyst who works for the Miami Metro Police Department. Dexter is hard working, likable and good at his job, but he has a bit of a secret; Dexter is a serial killer. When criminals fall through the cracks of the legal system, Dexter takes it upon himself to catch them, kill them, and silence the 'dark passenger' deep inside of him, while adhering to a specific set of rules given to him by his adoptive father, Harry. As brutal and immoral as Dexter's murders may seem at first, as the series goes on, it seems that in every twisted situation, their deaths were the only justifiable thing happening. As far as Dexter is concerned, if the justice system isn't going to do its job and put these violent criminals away, then he is going to protect society and do something about it. It all makes sense, right? But are Dexter's actions, regardless of intention, admirable?

On the other hand, AMC's hit series "Breaking Bad" poses a similar question. Walter White, extremely overqualified middle-school chemistry teacher, husband and father of two, learns he has inoperable lung cancer. With an unimpressive income and no savings, Walter realizes he will leave his family with nothing but debt. After meeting a young drug dealer named Jesse Pinkman, Walt realizes he could put his chemistry knowledge to good use and begin "cooking" crystal meth in the hopes that his product will make enough money to leave for his family when he dies.

Both series tackle two similar issues: keeping secrets, and the nature of right and wrong. Both of our main characters are constantly trying to maintain the illusion that their lives are normal while doing everything they can to ensure that they are not caught, while in the meantime trying to placate their consciences by committing to the idea that the end justifies the means. The acting on both series is phenomenal, with Michael C. Hall's Dexter constantly jumping between mild-mannered investigator and cold-blooded killer. The supporting characters, including Dexter's sister and adoptive father, his girlfriend and the rest of the police force are played by actors offering solid, convincing performances; although, none of them as outstanding as Hall. On

the other hand, Bryan Cranston, who plays White in "Breaking Bad," gives one of the most powerfully internal performances currently on television, and each of the cast members follows suit with extremely strong and developed characters, especially Aaron Paul who plays Pinkman.

Both shows are written with the perfect amount of dark humor, suspense and ethical questioning to make the series memorable, but "Breaking Bad" has one thing "Dexter" does not: visual storytelling. While these little nuances are not constant throughout the entire series, every now and then they show up to prove a point. For instance, as season two begins, we are introduced to a small pink Teddy bear with a burnt left side. Only as season three concludes are we shown that this bear was designed to represent the build-up and, quite literally, the eruption of Walt's empire and the foreboding consequences.

If crime dramas are your thing, both of these television series' gritty story-telling styles should satisfy. While "Dexter" struggles through a few episodes, "Breaking Bad" gives a continually suspenseful chase, full of incredible acting, some interesting imagery, and most importantly, compelling drama. With that said, the winner here is crystal clear: "Breaking Bad" is a few steps above.

The Plymouth Whalers celebrate one of their many recent wins. The team reached the OHL playoffs for the 22nd consecutive year.

PHOTO BY MANDY GETSCHMAN


FIRED UP

Whalers continue to dominate as playoffs near; team reaches OHL playoffs for 22nd consecutive year

BY DYLAN NARDONE
STAFF WRITER

For the 22nd consecutive year, the Plymouth Whalers have clinched a spot in the Ontario Hockey League playoffs - an OHL record. The Plymouth Whalers improved to 38-17-5-4, good for 85 points in 64 games and are in first place in the OHL Western Division. Overall, the team is tied for second best record in the league with the Belleville Bulls just behind conference rival, the London Knights. The surge of wins acquired since late December have helped propel the team to the top of the standings as well as distance themselves from the rest of the competition.

On March 5, the Whalers traveled to Saginaw to take on the Spirit. Saginaw is vying for the eighth seed in the West Division and is on the verge of clinching a playoff spot. The difference between the two teams was desperation and depth. Saginaw is looking to finish off the regular season on a high note, while the Whalers, who already have clinched a post season berth, is looking to finish strong.

Former Spirit captain Vincent Trocheck got the scoring started for the Whalers at the 6:34 mark of the first, scoring his 47th goal of the season. Both Connor Carrick and Tom Wilson assisted on Trocheck's goal. After 11 minutes of play, Matthew Mistele netted the second Whalers goal of the game, his 32nd of the season, with help from Nick Malysa and Garrett Meurs. The first period presented multiple opportunities for Spirit, but they could not quite capitalize against the depth of the Whalers.

"They're both great players," Meurs said of linemates Heard and Mistele, according to Plymouth-Canton Dispatch. "Misty works so hard and that's why he's got many goals. And Mitch is a great worker. The way he can control the puck down low is unbelievable. I just try to work as hard as I can and put pucks in [the net]."

After being scoreless after 20 minutes of play, Saginaw's Alndrey Alexeev got the Spirit on the board with a quick wrist shot at the 4:26 mark past goaltender Alex Nedeljkovic, cutting Plymouth's lead down to 2-1. Notably, the goal by Alexeev broke Nedljkovic's shutout streak at 123:47 which dated back to the Erie game on March 1.

The Whalers were able to put away the game after Tom Wilson snagged the puck from a Saginaw player and carried it back down the ice to score the 3rd goal of the game, making it 3-1 at the 11:07 mark of the second period. Plymouth finished off the second period with a comfortable 3-1 lead and outshot Saginaw 16-8 in the period.

In the third period, Mitchell Heard made a great effort on the power play and took advantage of the Spirits penalty, netting his 12th goal of the season making it 4-1 at the 6:34 mark. Trailing 4-1, Saginaw had an opportunity to close the scoring gap when Whaler's Vincent Trocheck found himself spending some time in the penalty box in the last ten minutes of the game. At the 10:08 mark, he received a double-minor penalty. One was for unsportsmanlike conduct and the other was for slashing. However, the Whalers penalty kill was spot on and killed off any scoring threats made by the Spirit.

"It was a great pass by Noesen," Meurs said of his first goal, according to Plymouth-Canton Dispatch. "He went hard and wide [left wing into the Saginaw zone] and I just went to the net and he hit me. [On the third goal], Riki [Rickard Rakell] tries that all the time. He's had success with that and sometimes, you have to try it, too."

The Whalers outshot the Spirit 34-28. Regardless of how many power play opportunities Saginaw had, the Whalers dominated the penalty kill five different times. The Whalers won 4-1 with Mistele's score counting as the game-winning goal.

3/1/13

Plymouth (7) at Erie (2)

Despite giving up the first goal of the game to Erie's Stephen Harper just three minutes into the game, Plymouth settled down and dominated the rest of the game against the Erie Otters. Vincent Trocheck led the team with two goals and two assists. Garrett Meurs, Rickard Rakell, Mitchell Heard, Austin Levi and Tom Wilson also scored for the Whalers. The Whalers ousted Erie 7-2 with solid goaltending by Alex Nedljkovic who stopped 17 of 19 shots.

2/28/13

Plymouth (7) at Niagara (1)

Plymouth continued on the road for its second game of its five game road trip. Plymouth's last game in February ended on a winning note with a win over Niagara 7-1. After a scoreless first period, Garrett Meurs opened up the scoring at the 1:32 mark of the second period. The Whalers offense kept firing on all cylinders with goals by Nick Maysa, Garrett Meurs (his second of the game) Connor Carrick, Vince Trocheck, Cody Payne and Zach Lorentz. Goaltender Alex Nedljkovic was the first star of the game stopping 25 of 26 shots.

*The games listed contain information from Feb. 28 - March 5. For the latest up to date scores and information please visit Plymouthwhalers.com

The Whalers' first playoff game is scheduled for either March 23 or March 24 at Compuware Arena against an opponent to be determined.



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National accomplishment

Ocelots close out successful bowling season

BY ABDALLAH CHIRAZI
SPORTS EDITOR

The Schoolcraft Bowling team competed in the National Junior College Athletic Association's national tournament on March 2-3 in Buffalo, NY.

"We prepared to bowl for two days straight," said Head Coach Greg Colling. It was an overwhelming feeling for the new players, but we did our job and competed."

The Men's Bowling team finished 11th out of 20 teams. The Men's doubles team of David Nikkila and Jamie Garrett finished with a combined total of 1,893 points. They finished in second place, overcoming most of their competition.

In the doubles competition, Nikkila shot a 689, averaging 230 per game.

"They did a great job," said Colling. "If you think about it, they competed against 60-paired teams. That's a great accomplishment."

Schoolcraft Women's doubles team was led by Julianne Ayers and Mackenzie Carlson. They came in seventh place. Kim Landon and Danielle Ferguson shot a total of



During the first weekend in March, Schoolcraft's 2013 Men's and Women's Bowling Teams competed in the National Junior College Athletic Association's national tournament in Buffalo, NY.

984 points and were tenth overall in Schoolcraft's other double team.

Sophomore Kimberly Landon earned top 10 All-American honors for her second consecutive year. This year she placed fifth in all women's top events. Overall the women finished 7th out of 13 teams.

"The girls made major improvements and continued to show consistently," noted Colling. "I was proud of the effort overall and couldn't ask for anything more."

Although the season is over and

the team was not able finish on top, they did feel like they put forth a good valiant effort.

"You just don't know which one of your players is going to have the hot hand," said Colling. "The kids enjoyed every moment of the competition. This was a new experience for some but it brought us together."

This is the fourth consecutive year that Schoolcraft's bowling team, coached by Colling, has had an All-American on its roster.

"They did a great job. If you think about it, they competed against 60-paired teams. That's a great accomplishment."

- Greg Colling
Head Coach

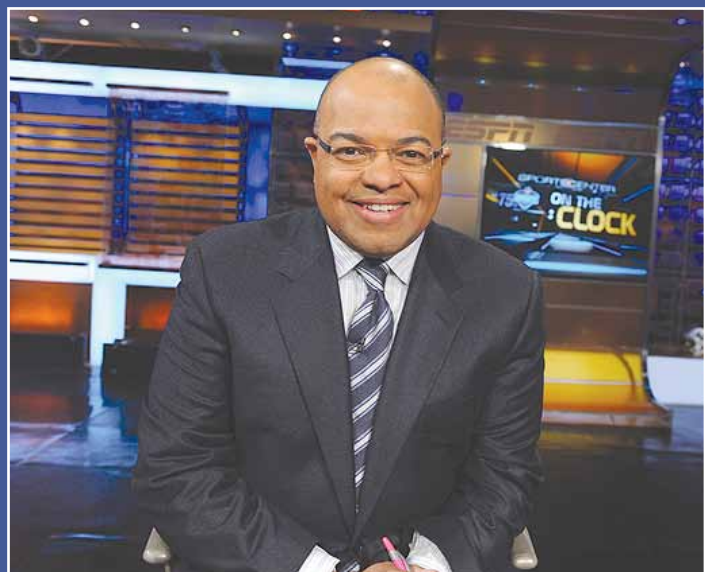
CONGRATULATIONS OCELOTS ON A JOB WELL DONE!



THE TIRICO EFFECT

ESPN commentator and Michigan resident speaks at Adcraft

BY ABDALLAH CHIRAZI
SPORTS EDITOR



Mike Tirico uses his experience working as a play-by-play commentator for ESPN to inspire others to pursue greatness. (RIGHT) Tirico poses with *Connection Sports* Editor Abdallah Chirazi.



Personal development is an evolutionary process designed for pursuing excellence in oneself. It is not something we practice, but rather something acquired through personal experiences or through inspiration. In life we meet people who attract us by their appearance or their outspoken messages. They are people from our own inner circle or individuals who we have come to know by name. They help us think analytically, discover our creativity and pursue our ambitions.

For those who were able to attend the Adcraft's March program with Mike Tirico, they may have left feeling more positive emotions towards people in their community. A play-by-play commentator and radio host for ESPN, Tirico addressed his thoughts on sports around the country. Deep down, however, there was a more profound message expressed.

In his presentation, an emphasis was placed on teamwork and the involvement of a society. "Sports teaches real-life lessons," he said. "Sports is exciting, full of drama and entertainment." He spoke about how we live in a culture where people have isolated themselves from each other and are more concerned with personal achievements than relationships. Tirico highlighted the importance and enormous benefits of being able to have a closer relationship with co-workers and the advantages of having being unified, communicating with ambition, enthusiasm and care.

To drive home his message, he used sports as an example, which was fitting considering his background in sports. He targeted the Miami Heat as his model. LeBron James, Chris Bosh and Dwayne Wade, a collection of all-stars, all had prior individual success before taking their talents to South Beach. For those who have a high level of basketball knowledge understand these three athletes on paper were stati-

cally unbeatable. However, they lacked a key element in order to achieve success - chemistry. It was not until one postseason failure and time spent working together that finally propelled them to achieve championship status. Tirico discussed aspects of how sports relate to our everyday lives, and that teamwork ultimately brings teams together, no matter what adversities lay face.

In his speech, he also highlighted sports as something to be appreciated, and how they have no boundaries in terms of race and demographics. He also spoke of the influx in the diversity of fans that are all bound together because of a team. "Sports looks past races and demographics," said Tirico. Additionally, Tirico conveyed the accomplishments of being associated with athletics. "Being part of athletics is one of the greatest accomplishments one can do."

What made this two-hour event a more intimate experience was that Tirico is a Michigan resident. After moving to Ann Arbor in 1999, he was invested in helping people understand that Detroit is indeed worthy of being an elite sports market. His high praises of the state of Michigan and surrounding suburbs of the Motor City resonated among those in attendance, perhaps becoming the single-most important crucial statement in his address.

Detroit has been a punching bag for the better part of the last decade, casting the city in a dark shadow in the mind of the rest of the nation. Tirico's admirations gives hope to a city that is going through difficult times. "Detroit is a great sports market," he said. "More than people give it credit for." As a national figure, it is important Tirico introduces Michigan in a good light not only for exposure but to show how the spirit of a team and the love of a game can lift a city.

Picking up the pieces

Ocelots look to rebuild following disappointing season

BY LIBBY HUBER
STAFF WRITER

The Schoolcraft Men's Basketball team would love to have some "do-overs" in regards to the 2012-13 season. From missed baskets to costly turnovers, the Ocelots had their fair share of close games slip right through their fingers.

The Ocelots ended the regular season with an overall record of 7-20 and 3-14 in the Michigan Community College Athletic Association Eastern Conference (MCCAA). The most difficult part is trying to find a bright spot in a season full of frustration and disappointment.

This offseason, the biggest obstacle facing Schoolcraft will be filling the gaping holes in the roster. The Ocelots will be graduating five players: Matthew King, Jordan Eastman, Zinoviy Pelekh, Richmond Jackson and Marcus Williams.

If this is an indication of anything, the Ocelots may not just have to worry about recruiting players, but start working on forming an identity. It is tough to endure long stretches of losing streaks like they have this season, but not knowing who you are as a team is unsettling to the rebuilding process.

The squad had a lot of fight in them all season, but in the end the Ocelots could not recover in the standings with each loss they collected. Despite being in a tight battle with Alpena, Kirtland and Macomb for the last seed for a post season tournament berth their postseason fate was decided when Macomb Community College (10-18, 4-14) landed the final playoff spot with a forfeit win over Oakland Community College on Feb. 23. With Macomb grabbing the last seed in the NJCAA District 10 tournament, Schoolcraft was left with a bad taste in their mouth and a lot of unanswered questions.

"I wish our record could have

reflected our effort," said sophomore guard Richmond Jackson. "As a team, we need to execute plays and really give it our all from start to finish."

For Head Coach Randy Henry, the memories and heartaches of a young squad's setbacks can provide a solid foundation to build on for the 2013-14 season. With returning players training hard in the offseason and taking the lessons learned from this past season, the team can take a step towards solidifying their chances of finishing higher in the standing next season. "We need to stay positive and maintain energy," stated Coach Henry. "Closing out the game is key."

Although the Ocelots did not reach their championship aspirations, it has not shaken the confidence of next year's returning players.

"I am excited for next season," admitted freshmen center Terrel Sewell. "I think with the hard work during the off season, we can definitely pull off a winning season."

This marks the third time in four seasons that the Schoolcraft Men's Basketball team fell short of making the NJCAA District 10 tournament. However, with some tweaking to the roster and offseason preparations, the 2013-14 Ocelots could be right in the thick of being a playoff contender in the MCCAA Eastern Conference.

Game v. Kirtland 2/28

The Ocelots finished the 2012-13 season with a win on the road over host Kirtland Community College, 73-56. The meeting between the schools was originally scheduled for Feb. 27, but due to poor weather conditions, the game was postponed for the following day.

Sophomore Richmond Jackson finished the game with 16 points and freshman Jonathan Campbell had 11 points. Freshmen Terrance Coles, Terrel Sewell and Nicholas Redmond also contributed 10 points each.



The Men's Basketball team ended their regular season with an overall record of 7-20 and 3-14 in the MCCAA Eastern Conference.

Mott CC (96) vs. Schoolcraft (46) 2/23/13

The Mott Community College Bears were the spoilers to the Ocelots as the team celebrated Sophomore Night, 96-46. The afternoon was bittersweet as the five sophomore players played their last basketball game on their home court. Unfortunately, the squad was

unable to keep pace with the Bears, who clawed their way past the Ocelots right from the start.

Schoolcraft scored a season low 18 points, entering the second half of the game. The Ocelots were left licking their wounds as Mott easily captured the win in their final home game of the season. Top scorers were sophomores Richmond Jackson and Matthew King.



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SASS Program Coordinator, Dr. Michael Oliver, consults with Women's Soccer goalie Tara Gessler on career advice.

Academic and athletic success

SASS program coordinator guides student athletes

By ABDALLAH CHIRAZI
SPORTS EDITOR

Mentoring is a process that focuses specifically on providing guidance, direction, and career advice. At Schoolcraft, Dr. Michael Oliver, Coordinator of the SASS program, works with student-athletes to help them achieve their academic goals. He plays a pivotal role in helping enroll athletes in classes and meet their all-academic eligibility requirements in hopes to get them to transfer to a four-year university.

"I meet with the athletic director weekly regarding the academic reports and coaches as needed," said Oliver. "There are also times when I am reaching out and working with faculty depending on the situation and the needs of the particular student-athlete."

Oliver, who currently resides in Northville, earned his bachelor's in Psychology and his master's in counseling at Wayne State University.

Prior to working at Schoolcraft, Oliver worked at Wayne State University as the Learning Center Coordinator. He also worked with WSU athletes for academic support and worked for an international human resource company as an executive leadership coach and trainer for Fortune 500 companies. He was recently awarded the President's Award 2012 for his work with the SASS program. He became involved in the program in 2009.

Dr. Oliver carries a substantial amount of responsibilities in regards to student-athletes academics and their personal life. "It is a serious business when you are discussing issues that affect a student-athlete personally," noted Dr. Oliver. "Knowing what to say, how to say it and what resources are available is critical to the success of that student-athlete." Dr. Oliver is able to relate to his student-athletes through experience, being a former collegiate athlete himself. Admittedly, he expressed his emotional attachment to the success of his student-athletes by stating, "I would like to tell you that I am detached from it, but I am not. I care deeply about their success and I care deeply about them as individuals. When they are not performing to the best of their ability, it affects me." Regarding the relationships between him and students, Dr. Oliver described it as, "Close, personal and honest; they trust me and I have earned that trust. I am their point person and their primary resource for whatever they need. We have mutual respect for each other."

Oliver also noted that his student assistant, Susan Lenhardt, is a critical piece to the program. "The student-athletes appreciate her," Oliver said. She has been working with him for two years now.

"As for the future status of SASS," commented Oliver, "it is my hope that all of our student-athletes remain eligible and move forward successfully in their lives."

The perfect fit

Schoolcraft introduces Kara Kinzer as new head coach



By ABDALLAH CHIRAZI
SPORTS EDITOR

Things have been changed up for the Women's Basketball team. Kara Kinzer has taken over as the Head Coach for the team, replacing Kevin Brathwaite after consecutive disappointing seasons.

Over the past two years, Kinzer has been the Assistant Coach at Oakland Community College for their Women's Basketball. "We began looking for a new Head Women's Basketball Coach who valued academic integrity, diversity and fairness, while maintaining a competitive program within the context of the NJCAA," said athletic director Sid Fox. "We have found Kara to not only possess these admirable traits, but she also demonstrates a positive, old-fashioned work ethic that will prove to be contagious among student-athletes who need role models." Schoolcraft College officially made the announcement on Monday.

Kinzer brings a unique background of accomplishments as a former basketball player. She attended Eisenhower High School in Shelby Township. While at Eisenhower, she broke the scoring and three-point record. She continued her sharpshooting as a three-year starter at Saginaw State Valley University, breaking two records along the way: most 3-pointers in a season (67) and most 3-pointers in a career (208).

As the new head coach, Kinzer has expressed her excitement and eagerness to get this program back to an elite level. "I really cannot put into words how excited I am to be part of Women's Basketball program," said Kinzer. "I'm very appreciative of the opportunity." Kinzer went on by stating, "I cannot wait to be able to start putting

the team together and find out what types of players we will have on the team. It's going to be a while now before we can actually practice, but I am ready to prepare the student-athletes during the summer workouts and pre-season workouts."

Although she has expressed enthusiasm and readiness to take the program in the right direction, Kinzer has not lost sight of what is most important. "The number one priority for the student-athletes is their education," noted Kinzer. "The student athletes on the Women's Basketball team will know that in order to be able to be on the court in practice and in games they need to go to class and have the expected GPA."

Kinzer believes in a coaching philosophy that includes accountability and toughness. Her expectations for student-athletes are set at a high standard. Organization in class work and athletic responsibilities will be accounted for each player. Schoolcraft is looking for someone to change the losing culture and Kinzer is looking more like the perfect fit.

"Kara is strikingly honest and approachable which impressed me most and immediately laid the groundwork for someone that can be trusted in a relationship," said Fox. "In my estimation, Kara has gained those characteristics throughout her brief work history, [and] that has permitted her to become extremely qualified for this coaching position."

Kinzer has also made a personal invitation to Schoolcraft College students to attend open gym on April 11 and 25 and on May 9 and 23. All open gym is from 6-8 p.m. Students with remaining eligibility and high school seniors are welcome to attend.

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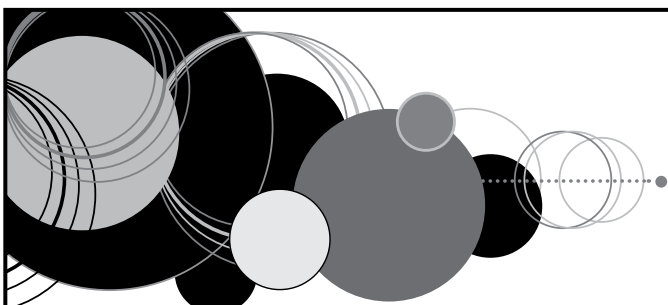

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





























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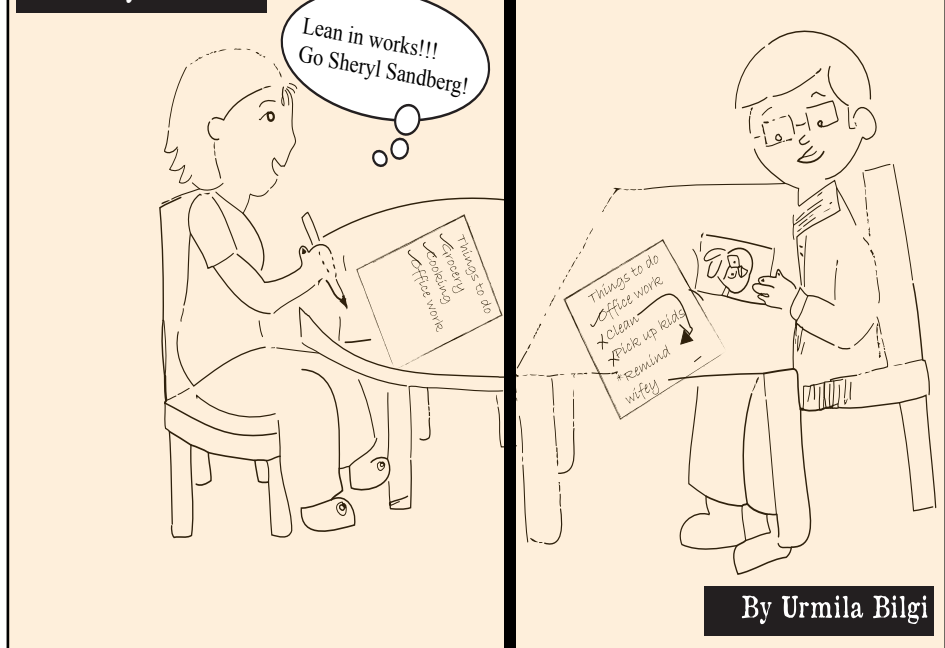
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Vatican Blues...



Politically Correct...



By Urmila Bilgi

COCKTAIL-SCOPES

BY MADAME MYSTIQUE
STAFF PSYCHIC

Manhattan

3/21 - 4/19

People tend to mistake you as bitter, when you are really just a bit shy. You like to keep to yourself, but you may be missing out on some opportunities to create bonds with others. Come out of your shell and allow your peers to discover your wild side.

Jack And Coke

4/20 - 5/20

When it comes down to it, you enjoy the simpler things in life. Your down-to-earth personality allows you to connect with anyone and everyone. Just be wary of who you let into your life. Let go of anyone who brings negative energy into your life.

Tom and Jerry

5/21-6/20

You love the winter and are dreading the spring. You are not one to embrace change, but perhaps it is time to leap out of your comfort zone. Embrace the new season and any change coming into your life. It takes practice, but it will make life a lot easier and far more interesting.

Cyprus

6/21-7/22

Lately, you have been sour and bitter to those around you. It is important to keep negative thoughts out of your mind during this time of your life. Remember to focus on the positive aspects in your life. Be sweet, not sour.

Martini

7/23-8/22

Old fashioned and classic, you enjoy the finer things in life. Your tastes are sophisticated, which may intimidate those who are interested in dating you. Remind others that you are laid back, even if you enjoy the fancy things.

Bronx

8/23-9/22

As of recent, your life has been full of cheer due to your positive and sunny outlook on life. Do not let go of this positivity. You are a perfect blend of orange juice and gin, of sweet and spicy. Keep thinking happy thoughts every time you wake up, and happy thoughts will come your way.

Gin and tonic

9/23-10/22

Not everyone understands your dry sense of humor, but do not let that stop you from cracking jokes. You love making people laugh and it is important to keep doing what you love. Your sense of humor may even attract some potential life partners.

Jack Rose

10/23-11/21

Free spirited and wild, you love a good time. However, do not become sucked up in the partying scene. It is important to keep up with your grades and passions. Occasionally, you must limit yourself here and there in order to excel.

Black Velvet

11/22-12/21

You have many layers to your personality, but you especially have a dark side. While it is okay to indulge yourself every once in a while, do not go overboard. Remember to keep it light every now and then. Find a balance.

Long Island Iced Tea

12/22-1/19

Someone has taken notice of your lighthearted and carefree personality. This may be a special someone, but you are enjoying your single life. Remember to stay true to yourself and your desires. Stay free, even if you do end up in a relationship.

Appletini

1/20-2/18

People tend to underestimate your strength, both mentally and physically. Recently, you have been called a lot of names, but do not let that damper your strength. You are truly a strong human being, inside and out.

Shirley Temple

2/19-3/20

People perceive you to be childish, but they do not understand that you just want to have fun. Not everyone will understand your actions, so you may want to practice being eloquent in your speech. Always attempt to explain what is on your mind and heart.

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(313) 927-1240
info@marygrove.edu
See our ad on Page 35.

Cleary University

Close to finishing your degree?

Then start your hands-on business education at Cleary University. Visit CLEARY.EDU/ADMISSIONS to schedule an appointment. Mention this ad to have your application fee waived. 800.686.1183.
See our ad on Page 10.

Community Alliance Credit Union

Mobile banking is here. Access your account on the go. Contact **Community Alliance Credit Union**, Dearborn 313-336-1534/800-287-0046 or Livonia 734-464-8079 or visit communityalliancecu.org for more info. See our ad on Page 10.

Michigan Education Credit Union

Serving the Educational Community since 1942. MECU offers some of the best savings and loan rates in the state, with less fees and fewer minimum balance requirements than most financial institutions.
--Find out what we can do for you today at www.michedcu.org.
See our ad on Page 35.

Be in control with our flexible **FREE** checking and 24/7 access to your money. **Contact Community Financial** Call 877-937-2328 or visit www.cfcu.org for more info. See our ad on Page 19.

Siena Heights University

Did you know...

You can transfer to Siena Heights University and bring up to 90 semester hours from Schoolcraft. We have convenient Metro Detroit location and class times. Contact Us Today! 800-787-7784 or visit www.sienaheights.edu/mdp - mdp@sienaheights.edu
See our ad on Page 10.

Orin Jewelers

Proposing to the love of your life? Make her a Tacori Girl, with a beautiful ring from **Orin Jewelers**. Visit us at www.orinjewelers.com or call us **Garden City-** 734.422.7030, **Northville-** 248.349.6940 for more info. See our ad on Page 33.

Madonna University

Think Transfer Think Madonna

- o Transfer up to 74 credits
- o Take advantage of transfer scholarships.
- o Learn where you're valued!

Contact Colleen Kibin 7.432.5339
Visit us at www.madonna.edu
We know you by name at the M with the flame!
See our ad on Page 26.

Eastern Michigan University

Explore Excellence! Explore Eastern!
Attend Undergraduate Open House on **March 23** and meet you future professors, apply for **Free** and learn from advisers in financial aid, housing, career service and more.
Visit www.emich.edu/explore
See our ad on Page 18.

SC Cares

SC Cares is a resource that has been established to create awareness and help maintain a safe and secure campus. If you would like to report an incident you can submit a confidential incident report at www.schoolcraft.edu/incidentreport

Schoolcraft Counseling Office

The **Counseling Office** offers brief counseling and crisis intervention. For more discussion on the topic of campus awareness and violence prevention, **join us at the Stop the Violence event on Thursday, March 21, 2013 from 10:15-11:15a.m. in the McDowell Center room 200 A&D.**
See our ad on Page 8.

Pat Milliken Ford

Ready for a new car?
Current students and recent college grads receive an additional \$500 rebate at **Pat Milliken Ford**.
Call (313) 255-3100 or visit www.FordCollegeStudent.com for more info. See our ad on Page 33.

Walsh College

Walsh grads use their business knowledge to get **great titles!** Winter registration now in progress. Classes start April 1.
Visit www.walshcollege.edu for more info. See our ad on Page 11.

Wayne State University

Wayne State Preview Day!
9 a.m.-Noon April 20.
o Learn about Wayne State's academic programs and Honors College.
o Meet with our financial aid representatives.
o Tour Campus and Midtown

Can't make it? Tours are offered each weekday at 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Sign up at www.wayne.edu/tour.
See our ad on Page 35.

Schoolcraft College Foundation

Golf Classic Fore Scholarships
Monday, June 3, 2013
Walnut Creek Country Club
South Lyon, Michigan
All proceeds benefit the education of Schoolcraft College students. For information please call 734-462-4518.

Western Michigan University

GO WEST. A new life is out there.

People come here because they're looking for something. It's all about discovery. A lot of people who have become successful- skilled, happy, wealthy and powerful- started by heading West!

Western Michigan University. It's your turn to GRAB THE REINS.
www.wmich.edu/GoWest
See our ad on Page 31.

Central Michigan University- Global

How to fit a bachelor's degree into you busy schedule!

- o Step 1: Call or visit Central Michigan University's Global Campus in Metro Detroit or Online.
- o Step 2: Choose the Bachelor's degree that's right for you.
- o Step 3: Take your Associate's degree to the next level.
- o Step 4: Apply for positions you couldn't even dream for before!

Get started today! Call 877-268-4636 or www.CMUglobal.edu See our ad on Page 26.

Buffalo Wild Wings

Quench your thirst don't parch your wallet!
Happy Hour
Monday- Friday ~ 3P.M - 6
*\$1 off all tall drafts.
Livonia 734.469.4400
Canton 734.844.9464
See our ad on Page 33.

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.
Students visit SPRINT.COM/PROMO/IL30772PC
Employees visit SPRINT.COM/PRO-MO/IL30758PC
Don't delay! Offer ends 7/11/2013

Offers for students and employees of SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE.
See our ad on Page 34.

Noodles and Company

Order the world with our online ordering!
www.noodles.com/orderonline
Northville- 248.380.7777
Livonia- 734.525.2288
See our ad on Page 26.

Henry's

Easy as 1...2...3!

Enjoy awesome Southwestern food right here on campus.

1. Go to the Henry's Southwestern station.
2. Choose your dish!
3. Enjoy!!

Henry's is located inside the VistaTech Building.

See our ad on Page 31.

Jimmy John's

FREAKY FAST FREAKY GOOD!
Jimmy John's Gourmet Sandwiches

FREAKY FAST DELIVERY!
Order online @ jimmyjohns.com
See our ad on Page 8.

Eastern Michigan University

Make your summer brighter!
Enroll at **EMU** this summer, and move your education forward. To see a complete listing of course offerings and instructions on how to apply,

Visit www.emich.edu/admissions.

Text **SUMMER** to 467467 to find out how you can apply for free and receive free on-campus parking!
See our ad on Page 15.

Schoolcraft Continuing Education

Get your computer training @ Schoolcraft...

Whether you are new to computers, need to brush up on your skills, or want to learn something new, we can help. Registration for Spring/Summer classes begins on April 4!

Continuing Education and Professional Development.

Visit us on www.schoolcraft.edu/cepd or call us 734.462.4448.
See our ad on Page 19.

Looking to get your name out there?
Advertise with us!



Call 734-462-4422

JUMP INTO THE FUN AT SKY ZONE!

THURSDAY, MARCH 28 6-7PM AT SKY ZONE IN CANTON

\$11
ADMISSION


SIGN UP IN THE
STUDENT ACTIVITIES OFFICE!

MEET US AT 5:45 AT SKY ZONE IN CANTON AT
42550 EXECUTIVE DR. IF YOU NEED DIRECTIONS,
GO TO CANTON.SKYZONESPORTS.COM OR CALL
SKY ZONE AT (734) 981-0007.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE STUDENT ACTIVITIES OFFICE AT 734-462-4422.









Schoolcraft College YOUNG AMERICANS for LIBERTY

Come join the largest and
fastest growing libertarian youth
organization in the country.



Every Monday at 1pm in the Lower Waterman
Conference Room C.



The Schoolcraft Connection



Passionate about photography?

Then consider joining us
here at The Connection
where you will learn and
build your résumé, all while
getting paid.

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



18th Annual Motor City Tattoo Expo

The Motor City Tattoo Expo celebrated its eighteenth year in the heart of Detroit on Feb. 22 through the 24 at the Renaissance Center. The event featured dozens of professional and talented tattoo artists from all over the country showing off their skill. They hosted several caricature artists, exciting contests, interesting artwork and clothing and jewelry available for the public to purchase.



Young man patiently waits while the artist creates the beginning of his arm sleeve.



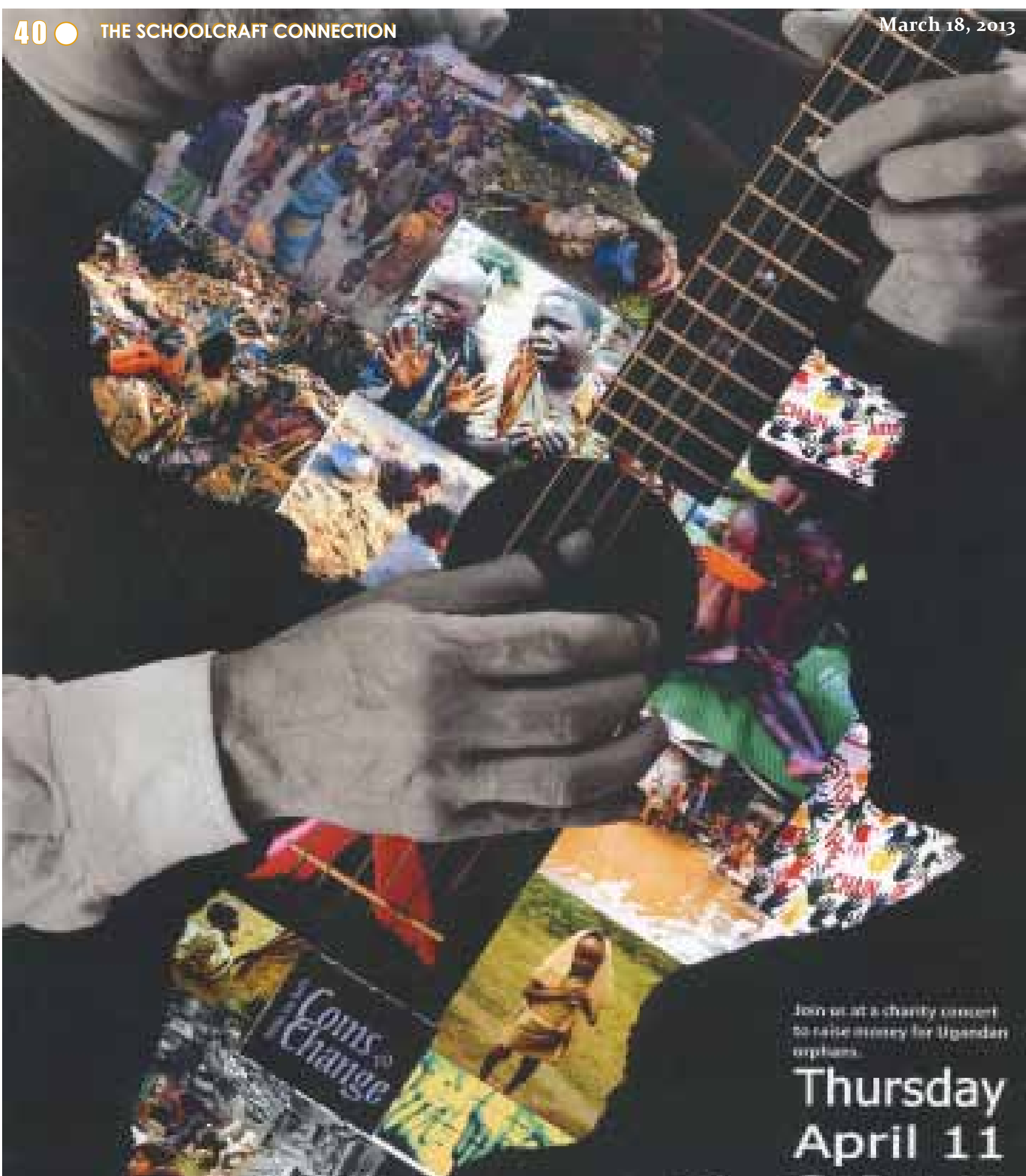
Some love ink enough to get it from their head to their toes, literally.



This back tattoo features unique and colorful designs from the children's classic "Alice in Wonderland."



A green monster mask is brilliantly embellished on this proud owners skin.



Rock for Africa

A charity concert for Coins to Change

Join us at a charity concert
to raise money for Ugandan
orphans.

Thursday
April 11
2013
7:00-11:00pm

\$5 donation per ticket

Schoolcraft College, Livonia
WeTech Center - Student
Activities Office

For more information, call
the Student Activities Office
at 734-463-4433.