



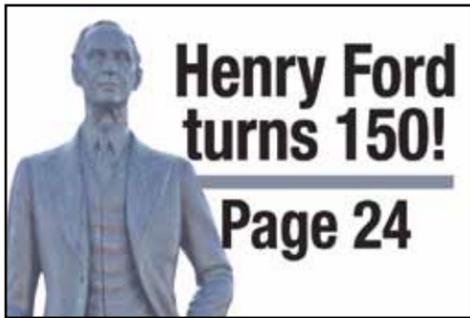
Whalers skate into Conference Finals

Follow our coverage on page 32



KINGS of the craft

PHOTOS ON PAGE 44



Henry Ford turns 150!

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The Schoolcraft Connection

VOLUME 26 ISSUE 13

We Pursue Excellence

April 22, 2013

Training tomorrow's healers

Schoolcraft nursing program receives national accreditation

BY ALYS DOLAN
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Schoolcraft College strives to provide their students with the essential tools in order to grow into successful individuals bound for the professional world. Recently, the nursing program has gained national accreditation. “The associate degree and practical nursing programs have received National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC) accreditation,” states the official release. “This is an optional national accreditation both programs have received in addition to being approved by the Michigan Board of Nursing.” This puts the College among the top nursing schools in the nation and will be a valuable aid to nursing graduates in the job market.

“It’s a value added and it’s an accomplishment we wanted to achieve in order to be nationally recognized,” said Debi Vendittelli, MSN, RN, ANP-BC and Associate Dean of Nursing. She described it as a set bar that the nursing department wanted to meet.

Students coming to Schoolcraft College with the hopes of becoming certified nurses are given two options for their degree. The first is the Practical Nursing program (PN). This amounts to one year of schooling to earn a nursing certificate. The second program is the associate degree nursing program (ADN) and is two years of schooling to gain a registered nursing degree. While the Michigan State Board testing is designed to be challenging, over the past three years, Schoolcraft students averaged 94 percent for the PN and an 86 percent for ADN in passing the state board of nursing.

On top of the instruction, the College also offers valuable assistance for diligent nursing students. “We also have a specialized nursing resource instructor, who assists students with academic and clinical success strate-



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MARKETING

gies,” said Brenda Cronin, MSN, RN and maternal child instructor, concerning Kathy Stegbauer, MS and RN. “She helps them with study techniques. Some people just learn a little differently and she hones in on how that specific student learns and how they can be successful.”

Along with excellent instructors, the students train in the advanced Health Professions Simulation Lab. The lab creates the most realistic scenarios with medical-surgical rooms, a birthing room and a special procedures room. Nurses-in-training work with lifelike manikins that mimic symptoms of real diseases.

Just this last year, students came together to create the National Student Nurses Association (NSNA), a governmental mentoring board of students. They have taken it upon themselves to help usher in and prepare future graduates for the nursing program. The group offers mentoring to first year students, fundraisers to benefit the department and a recycling program to get students slightly used uniforms for classes.

Vendittelli loves what she does and loves the feedback she receives from students. “Students say they enjoy the positive environment we have created for them to succeed,” she explained. The program is designed with a smaller faculty per student ratio in any given course and provides an

Students and medical professionals utilize Schoolcraft's state-of-the-art facilities.



excellent stepping-stone for advanced degrees. Vendittelli stresses the “open door” policy, and reminds students to come to the department with any complications or issues they may be experiencing.

The goal of the nursing education department is to create a seamless transition to either of the degree programs so that students can focus on their craft instead of how to get into the program. Though the admission is selective, it is not as competitive as some schools.

The instructors and facility prepare students for the work force and ensure graduates walk away feeling competent and confident. Now nationally accredited, the Schoolcraft nursing department continues to reach for higher standards and levels of achievement. Thanks to caring instructors such as Stegbauer, Vendittelli, Brenda Cronin and many others, students gain unique knowledge, steady hands and rewarding experience with both nursing programs offered on campus.



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CONTACT US

sceditor@schoolcraft.edu
734-462-4422



Omicron Iota Champions

PTK officers return from International Convention sporting accolades

By RAMON RAZO
MANAGING EDITOR

The ninety-fifth International Convention for the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society took place April 4-6 in San Jose, California. Schoolcraft's own Phi Theta Kappa officers attended the event. The officers returned home recipients of multiple awards, including Five Star level recognition as well as a plethora of others.

The Five Star Chapter

One of the recognitions that the Schoolcraft Omicron Iota Chapter received was once again obtaining a Five Star level. In order to achieve this, PTK must meet a plethora of criteria, such as having members, advisors and administrators be the recipients of several different awards and recognitions. "Not every chapter is exactly like ours," said Sarah McCullough, President of Schoolcraft's Omicron Iota Chapter, stating that some chapters are One Star Chapters, some are Two Stars and so on. "It's based on how active your members are and what your chapter does." McCullough informed that Schoolcraft's chapter of the PTK is a Five Star Chapter because they met all criteria, as well as the Honors in Action Project and the College Project.

Honors in Action

PTK was also recognized for their Honors in Action project. "Every two years, Phi Theta Kappa headquarters gives us a topic. This year it was the Culture of Competition," said McCullough. She went on to explain that there are 10 themes *within* that theme, and that they chose theme 10, which was "co-opetition." After choosing a theme, PTK then starts research, creates an action plan and then implements academic investigation explaining the theme and the research used, the roles of leadership and development, the implementing of actions taken and what courses of actions are planned to overcome the challenges related to the chosen theme and the use of collaboration to overcome the chosen theme. McCullough explained that this was achieved by creating research committees, consulting with librarians and reaching out to other colleges with similar programs. After all the information was gathered, the officers were then required to write up a essay reporting their findings.



Schoolcraft's PTK officers sign the national PTK banner in San Jose, California.

PHI THETA KAPPA, OMICRON IOTA CHAPTER

Sarah McCullough
President

Christa Mott
Vice President of Service

Chelsea Nguyen
Secretary

Mariam Mroueh
Vice President

Issma Iqbal
Vice President of Scholarship

Mary Stefanoofski
Membership Chairperson, Radcliff

Charlie Harrison
Vice President of Leadership

Lori Kelly-Wheeler
Vice President of Communication

Ranequa Kelly-Boyd
Regional PR/Historian

The Hallmarks of PTK

Another one of PTK's big wins was the Hallmark Award. McCullough pointed out that the four hallmarks of Phi Theta Kappa are service, scholarship, leadership and fellowship. "We incorporate all of that into our chapters and leaders." The College Project Hallmark award was given on behalf of Schoolcraft's new Schoolcraft Cares initiative. "PTK wanted to headline a project that would make students feel safe," said McCullough. To accomplish this, they met with Cheryl Hagen, then Dean of Student Services (she has since been promoted to Vice President of Student Services) and Rochelle Schaffrath, Director of Student Relations, the "mastermind behind Schoolcraft Cares." PTK investigated other similar projects

to SC Cares at other colleges and shared the results in an attempt to aid students.

In order to qualify for the award, PTK had to prepare an essay that outlined their college project. The essay could not exceed 1200 words and must express the project, how administration was involved, the objective, the planning process, lessons learned from the project and what the future of the project holds. The essay was then judged on preparation, leadership development, impact and presentation.

Most Distinguished

On top of all of this, Phi Theta Kappa was also awarded the Most Distinguished Region Award. They achieved this due to their commitment to get as many people signed up for the Five Star Competitive Edge, "Which is a program I could talk for 20 minutes

about," joked McCullough. In a nutshell, the program is designed to aid students with scholarship application tips, aiding with speaking and critical thinking, as well as offer aid with an online portfolio and resume building program. PTK member Mary Stefanoofski was also awarded with the Distinguished Member Award. In order to qualify for this, the officers must nominate a member and then write an essay expressing this members strengths, contributions and influences.

"We are also recognized for being one of the top 10 Relay for Life chapters," said McCullough. Schoolcraft ranked number four, internationally. There are 1300 Chapters as part of PTK. It's an international society along with nine other countries, and each chapter has their very own Greek name. The name of Omicron Iota was given to the College's chapter in 1966.

Get ready for fall

Fall class registration is underway

By MOLLY MARTIN
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

Registration for the fall 2013 semester has begun. Get a jump start on your class selection early so you can select your schedule with ease.

Important dates to remember

Registration for fall classes began April 13 and will remain open until the first day of class. After that date, it will be considered a late entry. Classes that are 15 weeks will begin on August 28, along with the first set of classes that are 7 and 12 weeks long. The second wave of 12 week classes will begin on September 28, while the second wave of 7 week classes will start October 23.

How to register

One efficient way for students to register for class is to use WebAdvisor. To access WebAdvisor, go to Schoolcraft's main webpage under the "Current Students" tab. Once students have decided on what classes they would like to take, they can easily locate them on WebAdvisor by searching through the classes by subject and course number. Students can personalize their search by

what days they want to take that class and by what time the class begins.

Students should make sure to register as quickly as possible; otherwise they may find themselves waitlisted. For assistance in determining classes, feel free to contact the Counseling Center at 734-462-4429. Just ask to make an appointment to speak to a counselor about which classes are necessary for your degree completion.



Brightest & best

After receiving the Student Employee of the Year award, Usha Kadiyala is given the surprise news by President Conway Jeffress that she is the recipient of the \$30,000 Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship.

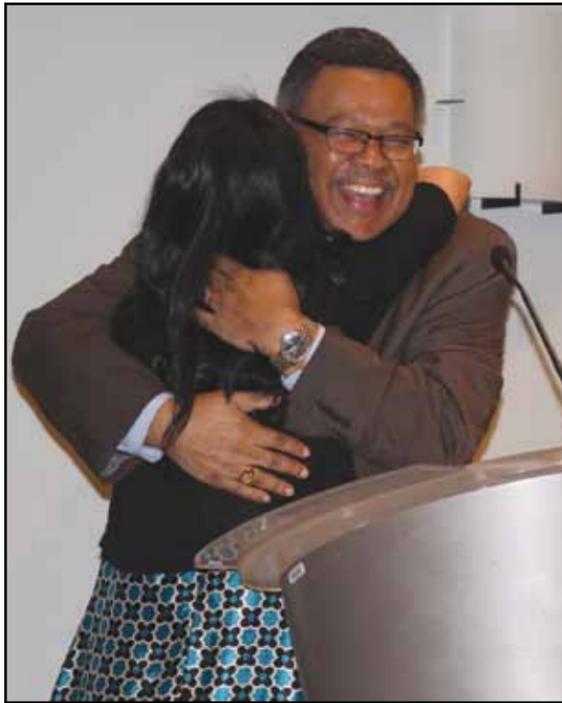
Student awarded prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship

By **RAMON RAZO**
MANAGING EDITOR

Schoolcraft student Usha Kadiyala received the 2013 Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship. This year the scholarship was granted to 73 students out of a pool of 760 applicants in which all are high achievers and seek additional education from four-year universities and colleges from all over the country. It is one of the largest undergraduate scholarships available in the United States.

Kadiyala currently works on campus at the College's Career and Disability Service office. She had to undergo an extensive process to qualify for the scholarship. "There was a two-part application process," Kadiyala informed the Connection. She was notified of this scholarship through the Schoolcraft Honor's Program. "The first part is where Schoolcraft picks you and the second is where you apply at the Jack Kent Cooke website," Kadiyala said. The application process was lengthy but that didn't stop her. "It took me around a month to a month and a half to finish," she said. "I had to have two letters of recommendations from professors and I needed to prepare [several] essays."

The scholarship is \$30,000 per year, all expenses paid for the last two years of the recipient's under-graduate degree. "I'm planning on going to University of Michigan-Dearborn," said Kadiyala. She said that she is also considering U of M-Ann Arbor. She wants to pursue a career in biochemistry, and aspires to become a neurosurgeon. She said that this



fascination for neurology stemmed from childhood experiences. When she was younger, she had trouble in school, but through hard work, she persevered. Her own development and improvement sparked an interest in how the brain works.

Through the challenges and triumphs in school, work and with the scholarship, Kadiyala leveled that it was completely worth it. "I would highly recommend students apply for the scholarship," said Kadiyala.

In addition to her job on campus, she is a student ambassador, a member of Phi Theta Kappa, the Math and Physics Club, Schoolcraft Scholars, University Bound, Schoolcraft International Institute as well as a staff writer for the Connection.



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

Check out Page 26

In other news ...

By **RAMON RAZO**
MANAGING EDITOR

National News

Orange County - Sex sells. That's why this story got stuck on a teeny-tiny side bar on the inside of this publication. "Adult actress" Jenna Jameson was taken into custody by police on April 6 for battery after she got into an altercation, according to USA Today. What's more, this was the second time in a year Jameson (whose real name is Jenna Marie Massoli) was arrested. In August, she got in trouble for driving under the influence and hitting her vehicle into a light pole. She was ordered to pay fines, on top of her three year probation. Pretty harsh. She was also required to participate in a

Mothers Against Drunk Drivers panel, which probably wasn't awkward or jarring at all for any of the moms in attendance. The Judge probably meant well.

Also, an entire article about a porn star and not a single innuendo. You're welcome.

NYC - Anyone who has ventured to the New York City is more than acquainted with the colorful collection of characters that populate Times Square. While they differ from day to day, a majority of them are iconic (i.e. licensed) characters, ranging from Batman to Michael Jackson. They're not allowed to ask for money from anyone interested in taking a picture with them (see: tourist trap) but are able to accept tips from people. And when people refuse to tip them, things get serious. As reported by the New York Times, a man dressed as Cookie Monster was upset when a mother refused to tip him. His response?

He allegedly pushed down her 2 year old son. Props for him for not breaking character, but ... wait, no, that is breaking character. Cookie Monster wants cookies, you lout! Not cash or child abuse lawsuits. Get it right. Naturally, he was taken into custody.

This was not even the first incident concerning a costumed character. Last June, a man whose legal name is Adam Sandler (it was legally changed) who dresses as Elmo had a run-in with the law after yelling anti-Semitic statements in the middle of Central Park. He ended up getting a late start the following week due to his being released late from a nearby psychiatric hospital, as the Times reported on June 27, 2012.

There was also an incident several months ago involving Spider-man hitting a woman after she threw a snowball at his head for insulting her for not tipping him. Looks like that spidey-sense wasn't much use.

Local News

Clinton Township - You know what they say: crime doesn't pay ... unless you don't get caught, then it can pay rather well. Several weeks ago, a 60-year-old woman managed to hold up a bank and steal an undisclosed amount of money. Her weapon of choice? Well, the teller was pretty sure it was a bomb. "It did look like there was a hard object in there," said Lt. Eric Reincke. Of course, "hard object" is pretty vague. It could have been a rock. It could have been a clock or a Game Boy. It could have been Chris Mathews' head. But better safe than sorry, right? And after all the hullabaloo, what exactly was the nefarious "hard object?" It turns out she was totting two deadly cans of spaghetti sauce.

Spaghetti sauce. They called in the bomb squad and everything for spaghetti sauce. It's hard to determine whether or not this woman is a genius or that she pulled off

the most idiotic bank heist that just happened to be a success. Police are still working through leads.

Scientific News

Mars - The Curiosity rover must have a hard life. It's only purpose in life is to trudge the barren wasteland of Mars in hopes of finding ... science. More likely than not, the little rover that could isn't going to be finding Martians, but it trudges on. However, one of the discoveries the \$2.5 billion rover uncovered recently is the fact that Mars used to be much more inhabitable a mere four billion years ago. It has, in fact, lost almost 90 percent of its atmosphere in that time span.

In other scientific news, Samsung is developing kitchen appliances that "think." It's like technology companies are trying to put us at odds with our machines and usher in Asimov-style moral conundrums.



PHOTO BY RAMON RAZO

Culinary Arts students work on preparing dishes with fresh produce.

Cooking with accreditation

Culinary Arts program primed for accreditation renewal

By RAMON RAZO
MANAGING EDITOR

On April 9-11, the American Culinary Education Foundation Accrediting Commission conducted an on-site review of the College's culinary program. The culinary program is now in the running to receive seven year accreditation. Before this, the College's culinary program was only in possession of three year accreditation.

In order to be eligible for the ACF accreditation, a 100 plus page self-study had to be completed, as well as nine volumes of exhibits. These exhibits included outlines of the program's eligibility, missions and goals, organization and administration, faculty and staff, curriculum, facilities, support, program assessment and sustainability practices. "We submit the information one month in advanced to a team of evaluators," said Chef Chris Misiak, Certified Executive Chef,

Certified Culinary Instructor and head of the culinary arts purchasing department. "[The evaluators] then visit Schoolcraft for a three day session." Chef Misiak was also responsible for gathering and compiling the information into the 900 plus page report.

The first day, the team of evaluators talks with past graduate students, employers and the advisory board. On the second day, they take a tour of the College, hold a luncheon with everyone on campus and conduct several interviews. On the third day, the evaluators conduct a review. The review itself contains a handful of recommendations to the culinary department about how to better their program. "These recommendations are non-compliance," said Chef Misiak, meaning they are not *required* to do anything different, but, "They're things [ACF] thought might help us." Some of these suggestions were encouraging students in maintaining a professional appearance and considering incorporating social media into instruction.

However, the list of strengths that the culinary arts program received was extensive. Two that Chef

Misiak was particularly fond of was how successful culinary had been in obtaining Perkins funds, which is money from the state given to vocational programs, and the College's implementation of resources such as World Wide Info Delivery System (WWIDS). "This is all done to make the student a stronger candidate for success," said Chef Misiak.

On top of this, with the renewed accreditation, students have the ability become certified after graduation."

The ACFEFAC will be meeting in July to assess the culinary department's strength and abilities and will then make a determination as to the accreditation.

Chef Misiak wished to extend a huge thank you to Chef Shawn Loving and the entire culinary department, as well as other departments and faculty for making this accreditation possible. "It's a lot easier because of their professionalism." He said that it was a lot easier providing information to the ACF due to the incredible quality that the culinary department has, and the exceptional skills the students are learning and demonstrating. "Student responses were the biggest endorsement," said Chef Misiak.

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Schoolcraft hosts joint subcommittee

Students meet board and share thoughts for fiscal budget

BY NICK RENDE & MIRANDA ANDERSON
STAFF WRITERS

On Friday, March 8, Schoolcraft had the honor of hosting the Joint Senate and House Appropriations subcommittee hearing. The event took place in the Vista Tech Center's Sutherland Room. The hearing was in regards to continued funding for Community Colleges.

The fiscal year 2013-2014 Community College appropriations bill, as proposed by Governor Rick Snyder, would increase the community college budget by approximately \$41 million compared to the budget for 2012-2013. \$41 million would be a 2 percent increase from last year.

The subcommittee features Senators Darwin Booher, Tonya Schuitmaker, Glenn Anderson and Representatives Paul Muxlow, Greg MacMaster, Anthony Forlini, Adam Zemke, and Pam Faris. Curtis Ivery, the chancellor of Wayne County Community College, was there as well. Schoolcraft President Conway Jeffress was present for the Committee and welcomed them. "While everyone wants it to be more, I'm not going to say that," said Schoolcraft President Conway Jeffress in a recent Livonia Observer article.

"Two percent is a good number as far as we're concerned. We can live with that."

Culinary Arts student, Lillian Franklin and nursing student Lisa Pisaneschi were selected to testify at the hearing in favor of Schoolcraft and other community colleges.

Franklin believes that the College would further benefit from a four-year degree program. "If we had a four year degree [program at Schoolcraft] some of those advantages are that we would have more time in the classes. Right now, we only have 5 week-long classes and it is very difficult to fit the amount of learning that we're supposed to be doing in those five weeks." Franklin said more time would mean "a lot more repetition and that would allow for students to become more confident and comfortable with certain techniques and certain recipes."

Pisaneschi is an undergrad, currently enrolled in the Registered Nurse



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MARKETING DEPARTMENT

Culinary Arts major Lillian Franklin speaks to the Joint Senate and House Appropriations subcommittee hearing.

Program. "It must have been [a blessing from] the Holy Spirit. It was quite a surprise," she said on why she was chosen to represent Schoolcraft. "Our main goal was to be grateful and thankful for the opportunity of affordable beginnings on an education."

Franklin has experience in the collegiate system. Already possessing a bachelor's degree in food science from Michigan State, she came to Schoolcraft to obtain a degree in culinary arts and will be graduating in May. Schoolcraft has the quality that one could look for in a culinary arts program such as the six master chefs instructing and two that should be according to Franklin. "I think that Schoolcraft is really an ideal place to start having a community college offer four-year degrees," She stated. "Schoolcraft has really high-quality

instructors [like the master chefs]. All the chefs at the culinary school have years of teaching experience and they are the best. I've been through a four-year bachelor's degree [program] already and I know that the quality of instruction is good compared to some of the instructors that I have had in my past."

Dr. Jeffress, in the aforementioned article, stated that Schoolcraft is 18 months away from being able to offer a four-year degree in culinary arts, making the hearing itself more of an informative hearing rather than persuasive.

Pisaneschi spoke on the importance of educators and praised the faculty at the college. "Schoolcraft has awesome science and nursing educators," she said. "Students are ingrained in the techniques of keeping a sterile field sterile. The [Schoolcraft] educators are

leading the way for the general public to have the best patient care possible. So the bar is raised high."

The increase in funds would not be guaranteed. Only half would be provided by the state, the community colleges would be responsible for achieving performance initiatives to receive the other half of the funding.

Franklin said that there is really no better community college to lead the way with four-year programs than Schoolcraft. "There's a really high quality of instruction and this school is responsible with its money, and the culinary arts program is just a really great program," she said. "It would be the perfect program to extend into a four-year degree and is just as good as what I've experienced at the university. I definitely think Schoolcraft is in the right position to do that."



Campus Crime

Compiled by Michael King
Staff Writer

LSPDA (Leaving the Scene of a Property Damage Accident)

April 1 - A student informed Campus Security Police (CSP) that he had witnessed a vehicle hit another. The driver of one of the vehicles, the one that had hit the other, observed the damage then entered the Liberal Arts building. Dents, scratches and chipped paint were found on both cars. The same driver later met with CSP and accepted responsibility for the damage. No charges are being pressed.

Assault/Threat

April 3 - Eight students were participating in a wally-ball game in the Physical Education build-

ing. While trying to calm another student down for an unspecified reason, a racial slur was spoken, causing a confrontation between two of the participants. One student threatened the other and the instigator was quickly put into a headlock. Neither student have complained of bodily injury, nor do they seek to press charges against each other.

April 4 - A male student repeatedly made threatening gestures towards a female student, repeatedly saying that he was going to assault her and her boyfriend. Similar incidents happened over the next several days, with repeated threats made between both the male student and the female stu-

dent's boyfriend. On April 8, the male student instigator returned, attempting to coax the boyfriend into a fistfight. He began using disrespectful language aimed towards the other student's girlfriend. However, the boyfriend later told CSP that he would no longer be making any threats.

Threat/Harass via Text

April 2 - Having recently broken up with a girl he had been dating for only two weeks, a student told CSP that he had received threatening text messages from her, many of which involved her ex, who she claimed was a drug dealer, inflicting bodily harm to him or shooting him. The female

student was later questioned by CSP. She stated that she was upset about the breakup and had sent the texts out of anger but had never intended to follow up on them. She agreed to have no further contact with the student.

Liquor Law Violation

April 4 - A student informed CSP that an empty beer bottle sat next to a car in the parking lot. In addition to this, he informed CSP that there was an open 12-pack of beer in the back seat. The owner later explained that his friends had spent the night at one of their houses and that he was waiting for his car. Information on this case has since been given to Student Services.

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

What ever happened to the wild things?

SEE EMILY WRITE



By **EMILY PODWOISKI**
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR
epodwoiski@yahoo.com

“reach for the stars” turns into the crushing phrase, “be realistic.” Living in the moment turns into thinking about nothing but the future.

Most of us are going to school to get a job to make a living so we can buy a ton of crap for ourselves and future kids, who will eventually go to school to get a job and the cycle starts all over again.

Do not take your education for granted. Getting an education is extremely important, but sometimes I wish the learning environment was a bit different. I wish there wasn't this dread of the mundane paradigm that is going to class and seeing the same people almost every day. Instead, let's travel the country and learn through new experiences. Heck, not just the country, why not travel the world? Sure, it isn't realistic but I was taught to dream big.

Of course, we can't drop out and become explorers, (I know my parents would probably kill me) and dropping out of college will result in swimming

What did Max from “Where The Wild Things Are” grow up to be? How do “wild things” turn out? Perhaps, Max settled down, became an accountant and isn't so wild anymore. Or maybe he never settled down and never quenched his desire for wanderlust. For all we know, Max is still out there with all the wild things.

Children are taught to dream big. As kids, we were taught to reach for the stars and all of those other clichés that plastered our kindergarten classrooms. But then, all of sudden, we grow up and

against a very strong current. But there is one change our generation needs to make. We need to stop thinking about the future all of the darn time.

Did Ferris Bueller teach us nothing? Let me refresh your memory: “Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it.” Sure, it's another cliché, but it's cool because Ferris Bueller said it.

Stop worrying about the future. Maybe it's easier said than done, but take a look around you and breathe it all in. You might miss it one day, just like the majority of us miss being little kids and wild things.

And grown-ups, please stop asking us about our majors. I'm eighteen and I don't know what I will be doing with the *rest of my life*. Shall I ask you where you going to retire to when you're 75? I'd like to think that the possibilities are endless. Maybe I'll become an artist and maybe you'll retire to Jamaica. My point is, let's not worry about it right this second. Right this second, let's focus on our surroundings, our friends, family and every single person we take for granted. Let's just focus on life that is happening right now.

With summertime comes the ultimate freedom. Don't let this freedom go to waste. This summer, take a risk. Go on a road trip. Travel to someplace you've never been. Learn an instrument. Play in the mud. Stay out all night and watch the sunrise. Start a revolution. Make a difference. Take a stand. Break the rules. Break the mold. Go too far. Speak your mind. Leave a mark. Do what you love. Be happy.

Most importantly, be wild. After all, we are wild things.

I'm probaby wrong about everything

HUMANITY'S CRITIC



By **JONATHAN KING**
ONLINE CONTENT EDITOR
kinetikai@hotmail.com

Well, friends, it's been a trip. Over the course of the last three years I've written a couple dozen editorials, covering topics from drugs to religion, from music piracy to cannibalism and from steroids in baseball to “The Human Centipede.” And here I am, one last time, to tell you that there is a solid chance that for those three years everything I have said has been wrong. Incorrect. Poppycock. Bull honkery. Obviously, I haven't been trying to willfully deceive you, but really, what are the odds that a 23-year-old musician with long hair and a bowler hat actually has a reasonable grasp on the intricacies of the world?

Over the course of several years in my life, specifically from my late teens to my early 20s, I came to realize that I might be wrong about everything I believed. It was a time that both frightened and fascinated me, as my religious beliefs, my political beliefs, my philosophies, my moralities and my thoughts on science and the universe all shifted by varying degrees – in some cases doing a complete 180 – all in the span of a couple years. Slowly, my grip on everything I thought I knew loosened, eventually giving way to something much more beautiful. I realized that I might always be wrong, and that's okay, because searching for the truth is more important than holding beliefs as sacred for the sake of fear, comfort or tradition.

All people need to assume that they might be wrong. The armor of immovable certainty is a dangerous and even damaging force in the hands of humans. There are countless examples of atrocities caused by unshakeable faith, political stalwartness or good old-fashioned impenetrable ignorance. From violent hate groups to anti-vaxers, religious extremists and deluded dictators, the desire to remain stagnant in the face of evidence, reality and logic is pervasive and destructive.

But this is a bigger issue than some choice incidents of unpleasantness. Accepting fallibility and adapting to new information is what moves humanity forward. The science, medicine and human rights of today would not exist if we had come to the conclusion that we had figured it all out in 1950. Questioning everything, even oneself, is not a misdeed – the curse of the Doubting Thomas – but a skill and a virtue that needs to be instilled in all of humankind. We are an imperfect species. But we're getting better every day. And the reason is that even when we think we've found the truth, we keep looking.

Anyway, I hope you've enjoyed this eclectic run of opinionated meanderings and are as sad to see it go as I am. For my last act as a person with some modicum of authority, I give you all this homework assignment: Look at everything you believe, everything you think you know, everything you *know* you know, and ask, “Why do I think that?” and “What if that wasn't true?” Be skeptical, and be open to the idea of being wrong. Read literature that contradicts everything you've been taught, and listen to opinions you think you could never hold. Analyze everything, be honest with yourself and see where the evidence takes you. It won't be quick and it won't be easy, but truly worthwhile things rarely are.

As a footnote, I spent a while looking for a quote by a famous so-and-so to end this piece – preferably one that was simultaneously deep, inspiring and slightly sarcastic if possible. But in the end I think this line by the noted German psychologist Hans Eysenck sums it all up: “If the truth contradicts deeply held beliefs, that is too bad.”

Of course, he might be wrong about that.

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Would it kill you to think?



**TRUST ME, I'M
A JOURNALIST**

By RAMON RAZO
MANAGING EDITOR
misterrazo@gmail.com

I shouldn't be proud that the inspiration for this rant came from the places it did. But it did, so deal with it. While perusing Facebook several nights ago, I stumbled upon a post I have seen several times in the past months. The image accompanying the post is a shot of a police officer kneeling on a dog who's name, strangely, was Parrot. The accompanying text states that the cop, after driving his knee into the dogs back, threw him down a flight of stairs before shooting him.

What followed the posting was the usual diatribe of drones who love to sound off without even bothering to consider a fraction of the factors. Some of the commenters called for the officer to be fired and jailed, while other level-headed citizens said that the cop should have the same thing done to him, bullets and all. I had to ask myself: would any of them be the one willing to pull the trigger in order to make that happen? Chances are no, as none of them have likely even *seen* a real gun before.

Then there were other comments that caught my eye. Commenters remarking that this was a hoax, and that the picture was taken out of context. These individuals were more on track, but the annoying thing is that they're still not on-point. The truth is a little more complex than that, but sometimes people just aren't as interested in it. It requires a little more thinking.

Flexing my journalistic abilities, I began to conduct some extensive research (which means I turned to Google). I found out that the truth is pretty mixed. Turns out Parrot actu-

ally attacked another individual's dog, and the cop pictured was trying to restrain him. The dog retaliated, biting the officer's hand and drawing blood. This is where things get sketchy. The officer then allegedly threw the dog in self-defense. Parrot got to his feet and began running at the officer, who then gunned the dog down.

You see, with context, things sound completely different. Did this police officer overact? He might have, as there is conflicting information from witnesses and reports. But this dog is not some victim, and why people would get all worked-up about Parrot literally dying like a dog is beyond me, not when we systematically eradicate our own children in the name of freedom.

The meat of the problem here isn't Facebook. It's not even about this incident. The issue is with people who like to run their mouths, formulate cold, brain-dead opinions and overreact on them without considering the factors first. Everyone loves to speak their mind. Not everyone takes the times to think about whether or not what's on their mind is any damn good.

Take for instances the Deepwater Horizon oil spill of 2010. (The BP oil

spill for those who don't watch the news.) Everyone loved to boldly stand up and proclaim things like, "We must do something!" But when asked to offer solutions, you'd be met with either silence and/or statements like, "Doesn't matter. Enough politics. We must do something *now*." Rinse. Repeat. Ridiculous. It's easy to spew out an opinion based on the reasoning birthed from your own little mind, but when exposed to the elements of the real world with modifying factors and consequences, sometimes your great idea is worth absolutely nothing.

We're never going to know everything when it comes to events, even in our own lives. But that is not an excuse to live in ignorance and knee-jerk reactions. The best you can do is consider all the factors, look into things a little more than just the surface level, don't be afraid to talk to people who know more than you do and come to conclusions based on your findings and experiences. Your ability to think critically is the most important thing you possess.

Trust me. I'm a journalist.

The Distance from A to B

**MANAGEABLE
MISCHIEF**



By MOLLY MARTIN
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR
mollyfaye29@yahoo.com

When someone complains about not seeing their significant other after one day, all I can think of is how absolutely, terribly heartbreaking that is. Actually, just kidding. I don't think about it at all. Not to sound rude, but

that's not a big deal. As someone with a boyfriend leaving for basic training in the coming week, I don't exactly have sympathy for people who complain about not seeing their "pookie" in the last 24 hours. It's understandable when a couple has been dating for a while and life gets in the way of visiting one another, but the former is a bit clingy.

Finding out the person you're in a relationship with is joining the military comes as a shock, but just like anyone, you must accept that and carry on. The facts are simple: To be in this relationship you must be able to commit to the distance and absence. You must be ready to live through important events such as birthdays and holidays for the sake of the soldier fighting for this country. In other words deal with it or jump ship.

I won't see my boyfriend every

day, and that's okay. I know he won't always be around, but what can I say? I'm smitten with him. There is an old saying, "Absence makes the heart grow fonder," which rings true with us. In life we won't spend every minute together or even every other day together but the important thing is to make these moments together count. Spend time with those you love, but don't smother them. Make the most of your time together. Take them out for a special evening or do something together you have always wanted to do, even if you are a little afraid to be daring. Make memories, because those memories might be all you have for a while.

For anyone in a similar situation, whether it is a military or long distance relationship, there are things to do to pass the time. I'm no veteran in the handling of these situations, but I'd like to hope I could offer a bit of advice. Unlike the girls who curl up in a ball and stare out a window for

months on end while waiting for their lover to return (yes, Bella Swan, I am talking to you), go out and *do things*. While I'm not advocating going out every night and partying, you still need to get out there and live. Have adventures and tell them about it. Go on trips and share your life with them from miles away. Write interesting letters, send cards and take pictures. Make sure they know they are always with you.

Those who are clingy need to come to their senses. Life is good. Having a significant other or not having one doesn't change that fact. The world will keep turning even if your relationship status on Facebook says "single" or "it's complicated." Keep your chin up and enjoy the time you have with the one you love. A very wise, albeit unknown, author once said, "Always be ready for everything in life, because life is too short and we don't have time to practice for everything before it happens."

Man in the Mirror

**DRAMATIC
MONOLOGUES**



By ALYS DOLAN
EDITOR IN CHIEF
alysmarie91@gmail.com

So in comes spring, out go the graduates on to a new world of possibilities and another printing season ends for this paper. We are all off to new things, and new adventures but there is something I simply must stress in this last editorial. Awareness. As a society, we are always harping and jumping on stories that break but show little enthusiasm once the story has simmered. Remember Kony?

Remember SOPA? Remember all the times we swore we were going to do something about these things but never did?

I urge all the readers of this paper to research and find answers. Ask the tough questions and find the answers that no one is looking for. Do you know where our Government stands on issues that are important to you? And do you know what actions you can take to ensure the elected officials keep their promises? We are suddenly so informed when Facebook posts point out social and economical tragedies, but do you care once you've scrolled down? No. We have the power to help and change the world around us but in order to do so we need to educate ourselves.

According to a study by the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, 3.5 million people in the United States are likely to experience homelessness each year, and there isn't

enough aid reaching them. Reaching out can heal the sting of seeing those in desperate need for a warm bed, food and clean clothes and could be the difference they need. Donate to the shelters that are working to make a difference like the Detroit Rescue Missions Ministry. Take a few hours and volunteer. Here on campus students volunteer their time to make a difference at St. Leo's kitchen on various Saturdays once a month. Just a few short hours could change a person's life.

Equal rights are so important to the nation but our awareness goes as far as what we care to know. If you stand with equal rights then actually stand by those fighting for it. Merely changing your Facebook profile picture or declaring you support equality does little to actually stir a change. Go out and fight for the cause, petition and spread the love to those who are against it. Show the world your views and change it through education and awareness.

We stand on our soapbox statuses

preaching about equality and change but how often do we step away from the keyboard and take action? You can make the difference. Identify with a political candidate and their policies and look for ways to promote them. Volunteer your time to inspire others to truly change the problems our nation faces.

We, the people, hold the power for change. Make a promise to yourself that you will take action instead of idly sitting by while others are crusading for freedom. We are the now; we are the future and if we let our voices be stifled we become the sheep and we will blindly follow the shepherd into the world created for us, instead of the world by us.

 Thank you for
a great year,
see you next
semester!

OCELOT OPINIONS

Several weeks ago, to show support for marriage equality, many on facebook changed their profile picture to show support for marriage equality. Did you change your profile picture to the marriage equality sign? What are your thoughts?

Compiled & Photos by
Hassan Ahmad



Jiz Singh
Sophomore
Major: Business

"No I did not change my profile picture to the marriage equality sign. I don't want to say what I think on the topic."



Jamie Yunn
Sophomore
Major: Psychology

"I did not change my profile picture, although I support marriage equality."



Lien Nguyen
Sophomore
Major: Physical Therapy

"No, I didn't change my profile picture to the marriage equality sign, but I feel that is a good way to show your support to gay/lesbian people."



Bindiya Vyas
Sophomore
Major: Health Care

"No. I won't change my profile picture to the marriage equality sign. The reason behind that is I don't like to share my personal decisions on facebook."



Nicole Bugash
Sophomore
Major: Communications

"I did not change my profile picture; I have my child in my picture. I feel everyone has the right to love freely, no matter what gender, race, or ethnicity you are!"



Suzanne Lenhardt
Junior
Major: Occupational Therapy

"No I did not change my profile picture, however I support marriage equality. I believe people should be able to marry whoever they want."



Brandyn Johnson
Freshman
Major: Undecided

"I did not change my profile picture mainly because I would have felt like I was jumping on the bandwagon. But as for the issue itself, I support gay marriage 100%."



Anthony Dinsmore
Freshman
Major: Communication

"No I didn't. I am personally against gay marriage for multiple reasons."

Our apologies

In the April 1, 2013 issue, the Connection did an article titled, "A Rendezvous with International Students." The Connection would like to clarify some information on the article regarding student Marcel Schmid on page 39.

When Schmid moved from Germany to the United States, he was not looking to coach. He came here to play soccer and unfortunately injured his knee, thus leading him to the coaching job at Schoolcraft. While at Schoolcraft, Schmid has enjoyed being on campus and is enthusiastic about how very welcoming it is. Schmid has said Schoolcraft seems like a family. The lessons learned here will help improve the already bright future ahead of this German student. After Schoolcraft, Schmid plans on transferring to a four year university so he can study international business.

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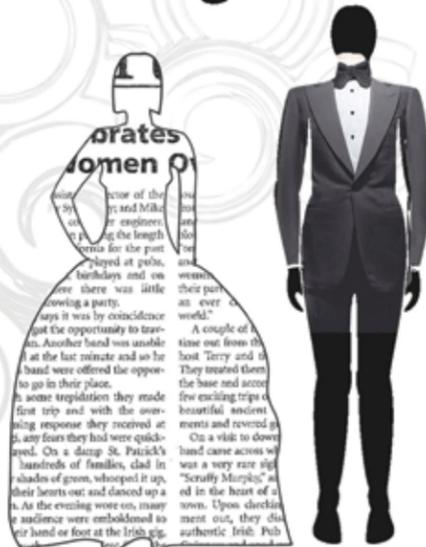
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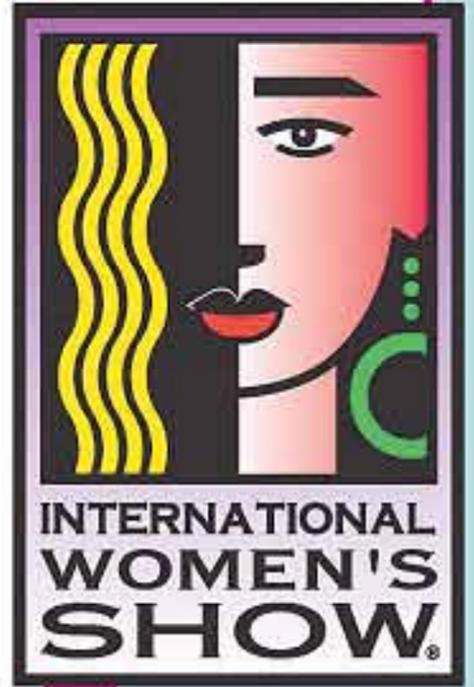


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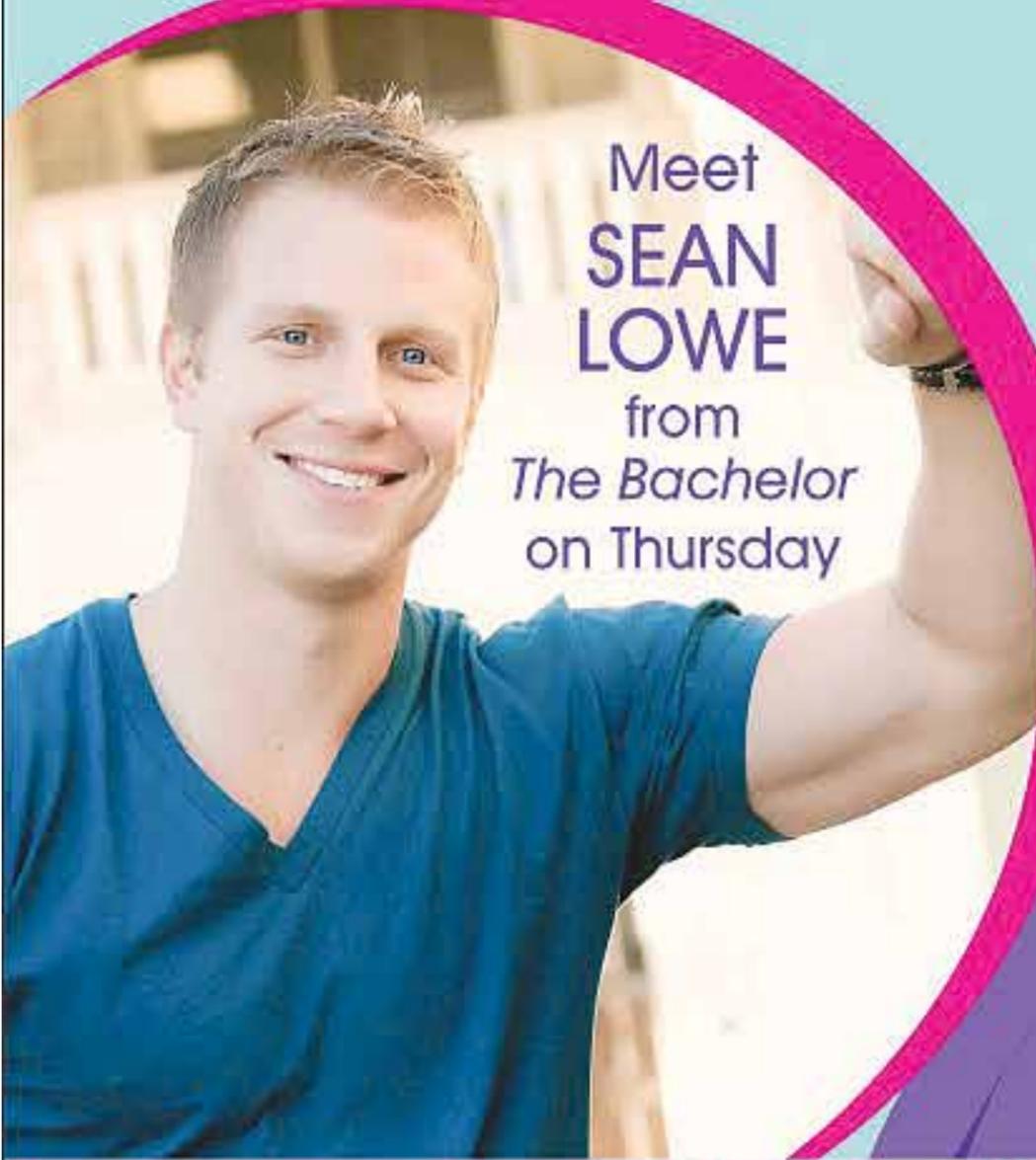
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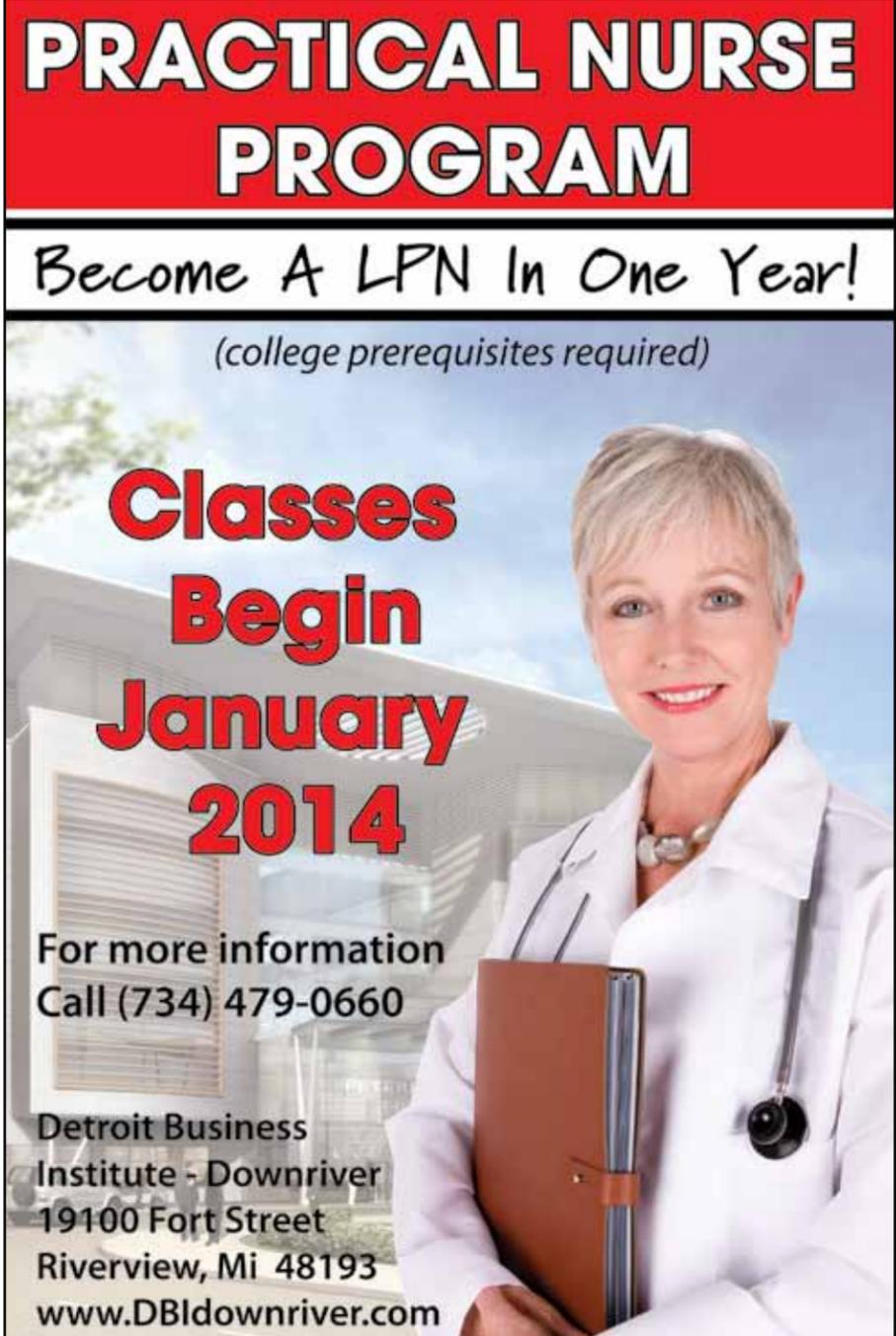
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ROCK FOR AFRICA



The Rock for Africa charity concert took place on April 11. The event was held in the Lower Waterman wing of the VisTaTech Center. They managed to raise over \$300 from the event, which went towards Coins for Change, a charity that aids children in Third World countries with education. The event included musical performances of Signature Mistakes, Speak Low If You Speak Love, riot CircuS, Keep Your Composure, Hampshire, and Yours Truly.



Westland native Christian Bridges rocks out on percussion with his band Keep Your Composure.



(Above) Lead singer Jonathan Weber of the Metro Detroit band Yours Truly leans towards the crowd during the performance.

(Right) Tyler Common of Westland strums the acoustic guitar while performing with his group Signature Mistakes.



PHOTOS BY MATT SANDERS



A crowd of fans gather around the stage during the performance by Michigan Metalcore band Keep Your Composure.

Poetic REFLECTIONS

Inspirational works from the "My Path to Poetry" event

BY JACKIE CHARNIGA
STAFF WRITER

The canary yellow tablecloths on the circular tables celebrated the delightful atmosphere of the annual My Path to Poetry event, held in W201 B in the Waterman wing on April 9, 2013. The majority of the attentive audience was of staff, faculty, and students. The three poetry readings were the styling's of professional author and poet Christine Rhein, the illustrious Dr. Deborah Daiek, and a current Schoolcraft student, Samuel Bednarz.

The event began with three opening pieces by Christine Rhein. Energetic and polished, Rhein began her time with a piece called "Tuning," which

was an homage to the sounds of everyday life, ranging from the loudest and most disturbing, to the softest and most lovely. Her voice as she read was sturdy, yet fragile as though she relived her emotions through her words as she read them.

The second poem performed contained a pantoum, in which there are subtle shifts in meaning as repeated phrases are given new context through the piece. Using this literary device of repetition, it gave a haunting quality to a poem about a child shot in Detroit, and how this had impacted the family. In fact, Ms. Rhein allows most of her upbringing in Detroit and professional experience as an engineer influence her work. However, her final poem was a fictitious piece through the eyes of a model posing for a portrait, which highlighted the intimacy of art, as well as the introspection behind how females react to attention.

After her performance, there

was an interview facilitated by Mark Harris, professor of English at Schoolcraft. She described the poetic process as a complex integration of musical elements, and how its appearance as being a spurt of inspiration can be deceptive. Her final advice to the audience was to never focus on the point of a poem, but rather recognize that you are your own audience. After listening to Christine Rhein's performance, Schoolcraft student April Slusser said, "It was truly inspiring to see someone who led such a diverse life find stability in poetry."

The second speaker was none other than Dr. Deborah Daiek, whom in addition to her responsibilities as the Associate Dean of Learning Support Services is an accomplished poet and author in her own right. The title of her first poem, "Kokoro," is Japanese for "heart," as well as "mind," both of which Dr. Daiek appears to have in abundance. Speaking in a voice scarcely above a soft whisper, she performed her poem. Filled with beautiful imagery and reminiscent of an authentic cultural atmosphere, she carefully pronounced the Japanese words with reverence. Her second poem also contained heart-wrenching imagery of

a blind boy in an orphanage, based on a photograph which she aptly titled "The Photograph." In response to the importance of poetry for young adults, Dr. Daiek commented, "Poetry is an important self-reflection [...] the young would do well to stop, be still, and think."

The final speaker, though not as experienced as the rest, left an equally profound impression on the audience. Currently a Schoolcraft student and formerly from Latvia, Samuel Bednarz performed two of his pieces with surprising confidence and aptitude. In his first poem, "Wisdom," his style is that of using simplistic prose to create impact. The steady rhythm was entirely his own, however it retained the musical quality of poetry intended to be performed. The final piece of the event was his, entitled "Once Upon a Time." Despite its offshoot title, the poem possessed a romantic quality as it compared feminine influence to that of cosmic energy.

The event itself was indeed inspiring and occasionally emotional for the audience as well as the performers. In fact, it is a shame that this art form is celebrated only once a year.

Schoolcraft offers support for those dealing with divorce



BY MOLLY MARTIN
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

Starting in May, Schoolcraft will be offering a new support group through the Admissions and Welcome Center. This group aims to assist men and women going through a divorce and is structured to help individuals get through the legal

and financial aspects of divorce. If you or someone you know is in need of this assistance, contact the Transition Center at 734-462-4443. This group is free of charge and no prior registration is required.

The first class will take place on May 14 in MC225 from 7-8 p.m. and will be a group discussion

facilitated by Dianne Hartman. Attorney Patricia A. Kasody-Coyle will be able to privately answer questions on a first come, first served basis. This group strongly encourages anyone looking for help during a difficult time to ask questions and utilize resources here on campus.

Divorce Support Group Dates

May 14
Group Discussion
Facilitated by Dianne Hartman, LMSW, ACSW of Heron Ridge Associates. Attorney Patricia A. Kasody-Coyle will also be available to answer questions in a private setting on a first come first served basis.

May 28
Legal Aspects of Divorce
Attorney Carla G. Testani, attorney with Cummings, McClorey, Davis and Acho, PLC will present an overview of the process of filing for divorce including spousal support, child support, division of marital assets and custody issues.

June 11
Group Discussion
Facilitated by Dianne Hartman, LMSW, ACSW of Heron Ridge Associates. Attorney Patricia A. Kasody-Coyle will also be available to answer questions in a private setting on a first come first served basis.

June 25
Equitable Divorce Resolutions
Vicki D. McLellan, MA, CFP, CDFP, owner of Equitable Divorce Resolutions a collaborative practitioner, will discuss financial issues in divorce and division of assets.

July 9
Group Discussion
Facilitated by Dianne Hartman, LMSW, ACSW of Heron Ridge Associates. Attorney Patricia A. Kasody-Coyle will also be available to answer questions in a private setting on a first come first served basis.

July 23
Filing for Divorce
Attorney Susan Elkouri will discuss the issues to be addressed in filing for divorce including spousal support, property division, custody/parenting time and the mediation/arbitration process.

Aug. 13
Group Discussion
Facilitated by Dianne Hartman, LMSW, ACSW of Heron Ridge Associates. Attorney Patricia A. Kasody-Coyle will also be available to answer questions in a private setting on a first come first served basis.

Aug. 27
Dealing with Anger, Guilt and Depression
Cynthia Koppin, MA, LPC, LLP will address the topic of dealing with the emotions of anger, guilt and depression that occur in the divorce arena.

Spring music celebrations

College offers a variety of concerts to welcome the season

BY ALYS DOLAN
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Spring is in the air and so is music from the halls of Schoolcraft Campus. These concerts are sure to delight and provide a unique experience, so mark your calendars. For questions regarding any of the performances, please contact the Music Department at 734-462-4403.



April 22

UP Jumped Concert-A Tribute to Dave Brubeck

The Schoolcraft College Jazz Studies Program, directed by Dr. Riccardo Selva, is offering an evening of entertainment on Monday, April 22, with the UP Jumped Concert- A Tribute to Dave Brubeck featuring guest artist Russell Gloyd. Tickets are available in advance at the college bookstore or at the door. Ticket prices are \$15 for general admission, \$10 for seniors and students \$10 and \$5 for Children under 12.

April 24

Noon Recital Series- Kirk Toth, violin and Michele Cooker, piano

The Music Department Final Wednesday Noon Recital Series is on April 24 in the VisTaTech Center Presentation Room. Kirk Toth is the featured violinist with Michele Cooker on piano performing works by Jean Marie Leclair,

Claude Debussy, Cesar Franck and Manuel de Falla. Admission is free and open to the general public. For more information, go to www.schoolcraft.edu/music.

April 27

Collage Concert XXII

A concert featuring the Schoolcraft Wind Ensemble, Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Improvisation Combo, Choral Union and Synthesizer Ensembles. The concert starts at 8 p.m. in the DiPonio Room of the VisTaTech Center. Admission is adults \$8 and \$5 for children, students and seniors.

May 1

Applied Music Voice & Instrumental Student Recitals

The student recitals will take place at noon in the VisTaTech Center, Presentation Room. The concert features students from the Applied Music classes in their final performances of the semester. This event is free and open to the general public.

We're #1!

Schoolcraft math whizzes excel in student math league contest

BY EMILY PODWOISKI
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Chances are, not many people could solve this equation: "The numbers 2 and 1 are the smallest positive integers for which the square of the first is 2 more than twice the square of the second. If a and b are the smallest such pair with $a > 10$, find a-b." That was the toughest question at the Student Math League Contest according to Michael McCoy, the Assistant Professor of Mathematics and coach of the Math and Physics Club.

"We can be very proud of our team's performance," McCoy stated. "The contest consists of two rounds, held in the Fall and Winter. Each round consists of a gruelingly difficult 60-minute, 20-question test. The maximum possible score for each contestant is 40 points on each round, and the top five eligible scores are totaled to obtain the college's team score. Only the best students compete, and most scores are in single digits." The hours everyone put into the Math and Physics Club paid off, as Schoolcraft's team ranked first place in the Midwest, and third in the entire nation.

Oakland Community College ranked second behind

Schoolcraft with a total of 197.5 points and Schoolcraft finished with a whopping 290 points. Our team surpassed 50 separate colleges within the Midwest and Central divisions. The American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges (AMATYC), a group devoted to enhancing mathematics education across the nation, hosts the competition each year.

"Our campaign was led by Rohit Bhandange and Krithika Swaminathan. Both are dual-enrolled high school students currently enrolled in Math 252, differential equations," McCoy said. "Rohit, a student at Farmington High School, scored a total of 62.5 points (out of 80 possible) placing him in a three-way tie for 6th place in the nation. Krithika, a student at Novi High School, scored 40.5 points, which was the highest score amongst all females in the Midwest Region."

Congratulations to Schoolcraft's Math team for their astounding accomplishments. Continue to fight for first place; the sky is the limit. Actually, in the words of mathlete Cady Heron from "Mean Girls," "The limit does not exist!"

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Secrets of the Quill

BY BRIANNE RADKE
STAFF WRITER

After an entire school year of answering questions, the Writing Fellows would like to leave you with some inspiration to continue writing in the coming months. Please continue to submit any writing questions that you may have, and you are still welcome to visit our writing center. We will be open with limited hours through Spring and Summer. Write on!

"You rely on a sentence to say more than the denotation and the connotation; you revel in the smoke that the words send up."
-Toni Morrison

"If you want to be a writer you must do two things above all others: read a lot and write a lot."
-Stephen King

"I'm always pretending that I'm sitting across from somebody. I'm telling them a story, and I don't want them to get up until it's finished."
-James Patterson

"I try to leave out the parts that people skip."
- Elmore Leonard

"A short story must have a single mood and every sentence must build towards it."
-Edgar Allen Poe

"If you are using dialogue, say it aloud as you write it. Only then will it have the sound of speech."
- John Steinbeck

"One of the few things I know about writing is this: spend it all, shoot it, play it, lose it, all, right away, every time. Do not hoard what seems good for a later place ... Something more will arise for later, something better."
- Annie Dillard

"Quantity produces quality. If you only write a few things, you're doomed."
- Ray Bradbury

"Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."
- Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Seek first to understand and then to be understood."
- Stephen Covey

"Share your knowledge. It is a way to achieve immortality."
- Dalai Lama XIV

"Close the door. Write with no one looking over your shoulder. Don't try to figure out what other people want to hear from you; figure out what you have to say. It's the one and only thing you have to offer."
- Barbara Kingsolver

"Writing is the best way to talk without being interrupted."
- Jules Renard



Writing
Fellows

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

Getting political

Young Americans for Liberty hosts inaugural debate featuring Libertarians

By NICK RENDE
STAFF WRITER

On Tuesday, March 26, the Young Americans for Liberty hosted the first ever Conservative/Liberal/Libertarian campus debate. The debaters consisted of Justin Buell (libertarian), John Dalton (republican) and Devon Paynter (liberal). Mohamed Shuman, president of the Young Americans for Liberty for the Schoolcraft chapter and Alys Dolan, Editor-in-Chief of The Schoolcraft Connection, moderated the event.

The debate covered a variety of hot-button issues in today's political world, with topics covering economic policy, domestic policy, foreign policy and anything in-between. Each debater was given an adequate amount of time to address the question, and counterpointing was permitted. The questions, written up by the Young Americans for Liberty, were designed to elicit a radically different response from each debater, especially when "role of government" questions seeped into the mold. Sadly, no real fireworks erupted between the debaters, as both Dalton and Paynter were fairly centrist in their politics, making common-ground between them and Buell an easy spot to find. If the three were just a tad more radical, it could have made for a more entertaining exchange.

The goal for next time, as hinted by Shuman, would be to get those who are on

the cusp of deciding their political orientation into attending these debates, which he also stated would become a bi-annual campus event, to let people know that there are more than just two political ideologies.

Shuman, along with the three debaters, each agreed that this event between the three parties has the potential to become a bigger event in the future. "I think it's a matter of continuity and generating interest, which is sort of difficult in the community college setting just because people are only here for so many years," said Paynter. "But I think [Shuman] has such great leadership and organization here, and the people who want to do the debate and wanted to be here are so committed that I think we could absolutely make this bigger every year."

Shuman wished to also bring awareness to libertarianism, as well as highlight the difference between libertarians, liberals, and conservatives. The goal was accomplished, and Shuman's goal to promote libertarianism was accomplished as well, despite the event's relatively small audience. However, if the libertarian ideology becomes a major party in future politics, the Young American for Liberty's goal to spread awareness to freedom and liberty will accomplish much more than what a small campus debate could do. Maybe more of these small campus debates are what the budding libertarian movement needs to become a major political movement.



Republican John Dalton answers questions about current political issues that are affecting Michigan students.

Millage election party to be held at Schoolcraft

Livonia, MI-Schoolcraft College's Young Americans for Liberty will be hosting an election night party with the Committee on Priorities in Education Spending. The gathering will take place May 7, 2013 for those who oppose the Livonia Public Schools bond proposal. The party will take place at 8:30 p.m. at Schoolcraft College's VisTaTech Center in the Lower Waterman.

"This will be a great event for Livonia taxpayers to gather together and promote fiscal responsibility in government," said John Dalton, City Commissioner and the member of the Committee on Priorities in Education Spending, and other community members will be present at the election night event. Food and refreshments will be served.

A celebration of written work

Students are honored for their talents and achievements at the Write Word reception

By JACKIE CHARNIGA
STAFF WRITER

April 15, 2013 brought about a celebration of English accomplishments in the form of The Write Word Event. Held in the Waterman Wing of the VistaTech Center, the event honored many scholarship recipients in addition to the Writing Fellows.

A slideshow corresponded with the brisk pace of the event. The theme of the keynote speech, given by Dr. Steven Dolgin of the English department appeared to be the art of writing itself and the importance of finding the right words. According to him, there are three writing styles of consequence: poetic, expressive, and transactional writing. Dolgin went on to describe the extraordinary ability of the modern multi-faceted writer who is capable of seamlessly transitioning between these classifications. He believes that today's writers are to be congratulated on the ability of using a variety of sentence forms.

The first award was the Faculty Academic Award, presented to student Joshua York, who was described by Professor Mark Harris as being "A true Renaissance man." York was invited to give an impromptu speech. York humbly accepted his award.

From there, the program advanced with the announcement of the Harward Malinowski Award recipient, Freya Thodesen-Kasparian. Deborah Taracuk, the Scholars Honors Co-Director, described Thodesen-Kasparian as being a pioneer of her own accomplishments in the Honors Program.

Next up was the Pageturners Writing and Art Award, of which there were three winners for prose pieces and one for artwork. Beginning with third place, Professor Elzbieta Rybicka presented Kasey B. Zadorozny. After an introduction on her interests, Zadorozny accurately lived up to her primer



Professor Niran Kheder and the Writing Fellows are recognized at the 2013 Write Word reception in the VisTaTech building.

as being "quiet and unassuming." The introduction of the second place prizewinner, Laura Caruso, was comparatively shorter but no less glowing. While the seemingly ever-present prompt for the participants was Breakfast at Tiffany's, first place for writing was awarded to Meghan Montgomery Jones based on "A Doll's House." Jones was inspired by the play, which she considered "revolutionary for its time."

Writing Fellow Haley Babij said it was, "Motivational fuel to be surrounded by so many active members of the literary community." In a compassionate gesture, parents were asked to stand so that the crowd could acknowledge them with their award-winning offspring. The art award was given to Jo'El Liberati for her painting inspired by Breakfast at Tiffany's.

Finally, the main event of the affair was the celebration of the Writing Fellows in the 2012-2013 calendar year. In her radiant introduction, Writing Fellows Coordinator Niran Kheder described her Fellows as gifts. Possessing the pride of a mother hen speaking of her hatchlings, Kheder spoke with

apparent warmth. The strength with which she spoke seemed only to enunciate her sentiments as she articulated the challenging requirements that must be met in order to become a Fellow. Each Fellow was presented alongside a list of their accolades and their accomplishments. The Fellows were exemplary in various honors programs, community activities and some were even multilingual. Among them, Peter Helms, Michael Polano, Michelle Barnett, Rael'e Buddenborg, and Brianne Radke received certification from the College Reading and Language Association. Additionally, Radke was peer elected to receive a Certificate of Excellence.

While Professor Kheder's insurmountable introduction spoke volumes, nothing was more touching or memorable than the returning tribute given by Radke. Touching upon Professor Kheder's ability to inspire confidence and achievement, Radke stated that this stems from deep adoration and respect for her. This heartfelt tribute closed the event, and brought several members of the audience to their feet and to tears.



Diary of an immigrant

The Final Destination: Part Two

By URMILA BILGI
ASSISTANT LAYOUT EDITOR

After coming back home, a slow recovery period followed. It started with changing from the student Visa to the curse Visa, which meant dependent status, not to mention extra expenses. "For the first time in my life, I wished that I were a lazy person, who enjoyed a laidback lifestyle," I wrote in my diary in 2011.

As part of the recovery program, I took up window-shopping retail therapy. Soon I realized that window-shopping had turned into shopping for sale items and then slowly switched to buying regular priced items. "I think I fuel 80 percent of the retail U.S. economy," I wrote. It had a worse effect on my mood, changing me from a temporary feeling of happiness to extreme guilt for spending money. It had to stop.

So I took up volunteering at a home day-care center. Even though working with children kept me occupied, every day at 11.30 a.m., the kids watching Barney's on PBS KIDS reminded me of where I wanted to be. "How things change! Watching PBS with kids; how does that count as an experience?" I wrote, which made a perfect dear diary moment.

Days went by until one day I woke up and I was 26. I could barely smile at the to-do-list I had had to complete before I turned 26. On that list, the number one goal had been to become a successful career woman! Another was to get drunk, with a note in parentheses saying "only when I have money enough to do so." That evening, after a few margaritas and a couple of Jell-O shots, I was there, though only after 26 years and with a little financial

help from my husband. But it turned out to be a rather unpleasant experience, especially after 3 hours of bitterly crying about still being a loser. It was probably after that that my husband understood the gravity of the situation and decided to intervene. He laid out two options for me. Option A, go back to India or option B, go back to school, study something technology related, a known path for procuring a work Visa in the US for Indian immigrants.

Unfortunately, option A, going back to India, would be extremely unfair to my husband. My husband was a straight-A mechanical engineer from India and an automotive engineer from U of M who worked with a company that appreciated his potential. Going back to India meant restarting careers for both of us.

However, studying technology was literally me facing my fear. My extent of computer knowledge was using the internet and Microsoft Word. "I don't think I have an aptitude for technological studies. I would never make a good engineer!" said my diary in 2000. Also, taking up a new career at this point wasn't promising. But there had to be a solution to my problem. There had to be a part of technology that fascinated me. That's when I thought of graphic and web design. While researching for a college, I came across Schoolcraft. To my relief, it was one of a few colleges that allowed studying on dependent status with in-state tuition fees, which made the new degree affordable.

I remember walking timidly into the office of a computer graphic technology facility at Schoolcraft, wondering if the professor was going to think that I was crazy to randomly switch careers from writing to technology. To my surprise, he encouraged the idea of pursuing technology for career advancement.



He also assured me that I could manage technology even though I didn't have any related background.

In spite of the professor's encouragement, I was nervous. I already had two master's degrees and an unsuccessful attempt towards a career. Every day, I was reminded that the younger generations were better than me and I had a long way to catch up with my contemporaries.

But in spite of my cynicism, I stepped into the Photoshop Class in the fall of 2011. I remember trying to catch up with the class demos and getting frustrated when I couldn't follow the teacher. But with the patient support of these teachers, and often venting out my frustration at my husband, I slowly started understanding and enjoying what I was learning.

After two semesters at Schoolcraft, I started loving the program and I was convinced that I needed to continue with it. But I felt guilty about making my husband pay the tuition fees. I knew I had to work something out. While finding out about financial aid, I came across a flyer that advertised an opening for a graphic designer position for The Schoolcraft Connection. Even though I was just two semesters old, I decided to apply. "I had so much disappointment, this will be another one!" the pessimist in me wrote in my diary.

I remember walking into the energetic and bustling Student Activities Office. I slowly looked around. All the students were in their early 20s, looking smart and confident. And there I was, sweating under my formal shirt, feeling overwhelmed. "Have I forgotten that I used to be a journalist?" I reminded myself. Just then, a prior applicant for the position walked out of the office pretty happy. "There goes my position," I told myself.

Soon I was interviewed. After a long conversation, I came to the difficult conclusion that I could not be paid unless it was a scholarship. I walked out of the office convinced that I wasn't going to make it.

But the tide had changed. I received a call after a few days, telling me about the good news. "It took me 24 hours to believe that it had happened!" I wrote in the diary.

I soon started enjoying working at the Connection. Steadily, I picked up work, learning from my supervisor and editor and feeling confident at what I was doing. "Finally, my life is going somewhere!" said my 2012 diary.

In this process, I also rediscovered my lost love for drawing. Now I am working on children's books, for which I soon hope to find a publisher.

I never conquered the world, but I am at an honest place in my life. Currently, I enjoy working at the Connection and would soon like to find a job. Till then, apart from picking on my husband from time to time, I am on two other important self-appointed missions. I volunteer at an organization that is working for the rights of immigrants like me. Another pastime is lecturing my colleagues at the Connection about drinking water instead of pop and vitamin water, and choosing healthy meals instead of junk food. Lastly, I always look to make new friends.

Yes...I chose to be happy!





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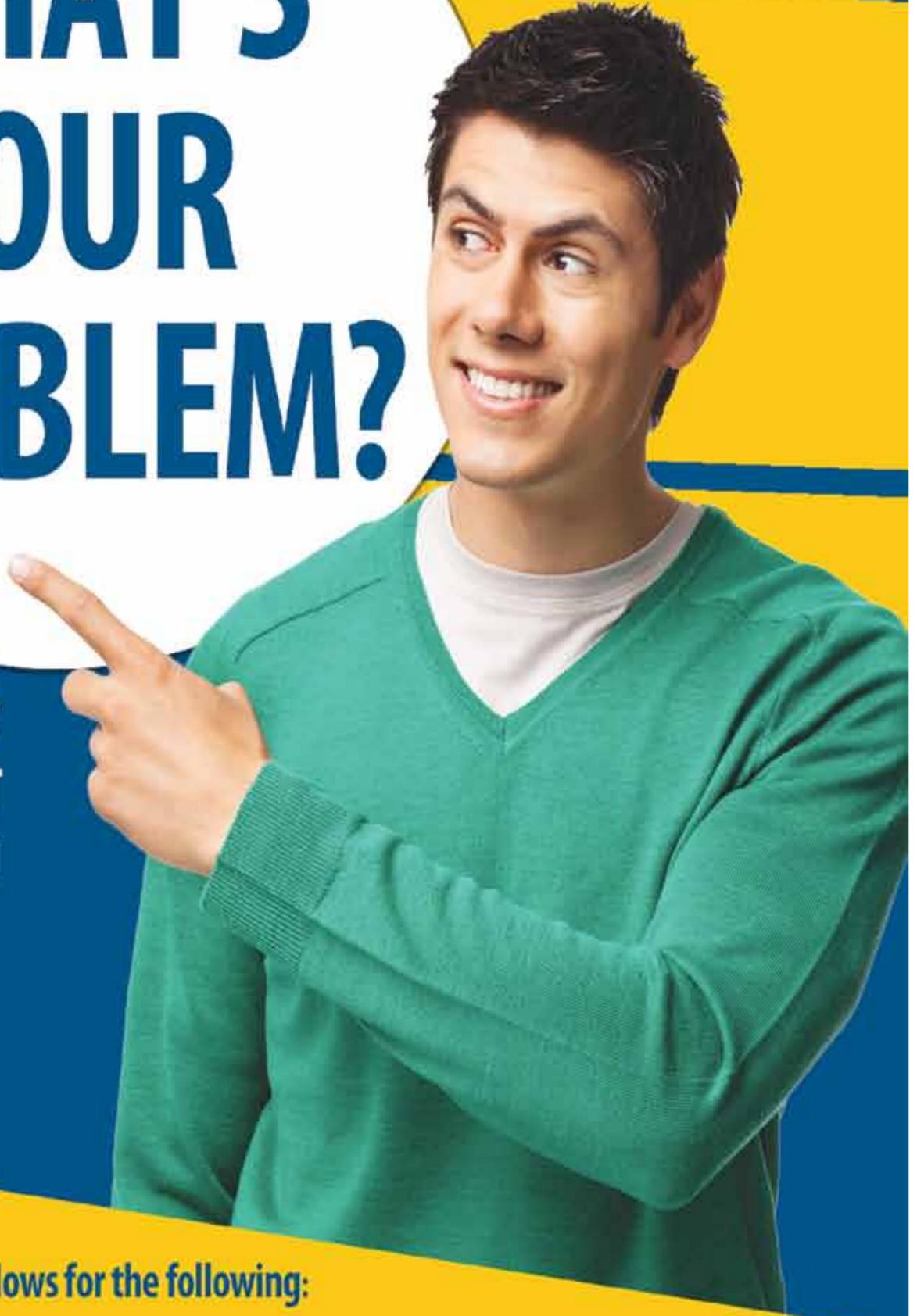
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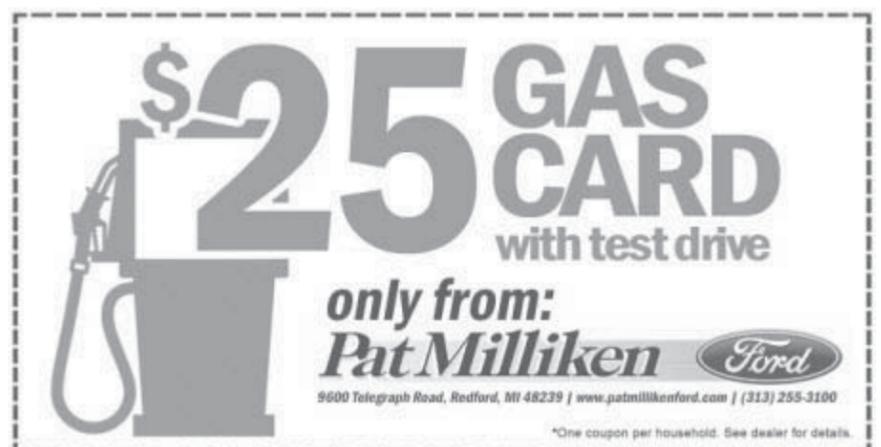
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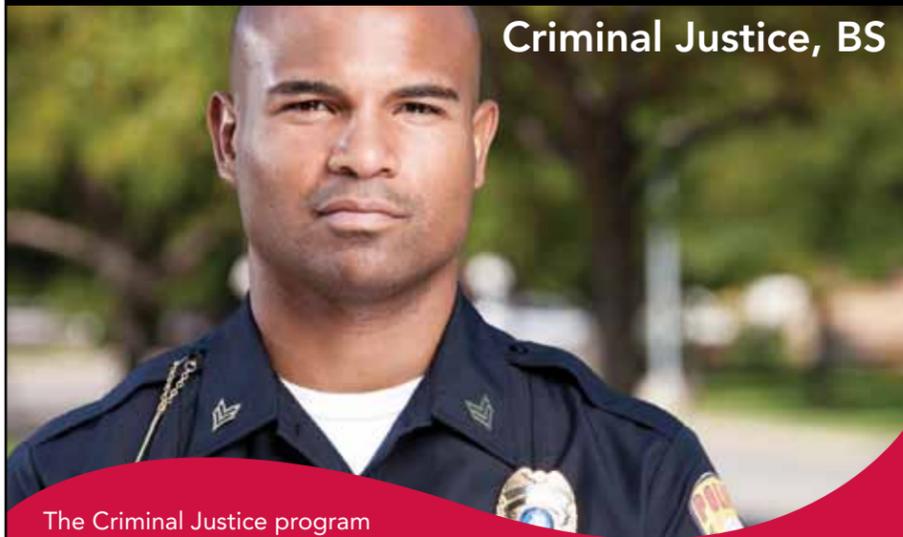
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Summer Blockbusters

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"Iron Man 3"



May 3

"Iron Man 3" is the final installment of Marvel Studios' highly successful franchise. The story picks up after the events of last summer's "The Avengers," as Tony Stark (Robert Downey Jr.) must face his greatest threat yet; a terrorist group known as "The Ten Rings," lead by The Mandarin (Sir Ben Kingsley), who set out to destroy everything Stark believes in. The film also stars Gwyneth Paltrow, Don Cheadle, and Guy Pearce.

"The Great Gatsby"



May 10

The classic story of the self-made man, Jay Gatsby (Leonardo DiCaprio), unfolds through the eyes of his curious neighbor Nick Carraway (Tobey Maguire). Gatsby's desire to find his long lost love and his fantastic parties lead to controversy and tragedy, as he gets closer to Daisy Buchanan (Carey Mulligan). Director, Baz Luhrmann, creates a whole new look for the 1920's with this year's smash film, "The Great Gatsby."

"Star Trek Into Darkness"



May 17

Climb aboard the Enterprise as it makes its way back into theaters for the second installment in J.J. Abrams' Star Trek franchise. This time around, the crew will be facing Benedict Cumberbatch's mysterious villainous role. Although his name is still rumored for the film, it has been speculated he will play Khan. Guess we will have to wait until May 17 to find out.

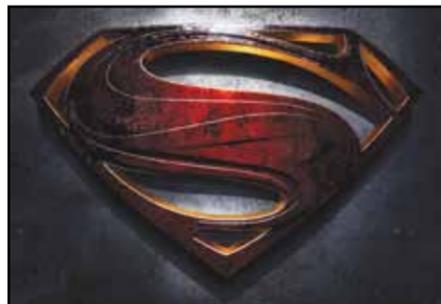
"This is the End"



June 12

The stars will be joining forces as the world comes to an end in this summer blockbuster that features the likes of Jonah Hill, James Franco and Emma Watson. It's each man for himself in this movie that showcases how these stars would truly handle the world ending. Make sure to hit the theater on June 13 to find out who else will be teaming up in this apocalyptic adventure.

"Man of Steel"



June 14

After mixed reactions to "Superman Returns," Warner Bros. chose to reboot the franchise, with "Watchmen" director Zack Snyder directing and director Christopher Nolan producing. "Man of Steel" focuses on Clark Kent's struggle to find his origin, how to maintain a "normal" life on Earth with his powers and humanity's "first contact" with Superman. "The Tudors" Henry Cavill

will be donning the cape and tights, and daring reporter Lois Lane will be portrayed by Amy Adams. Superman will also have to tussle with fellow Kryptonian, General Zod, played by Michael Shannon.

"Monsters University"



June 21

This summer, Pixar is returning with their latest animated extravaganza, "Monsters University." This prequel to the classic "Monsters Inc." follows our protagonists Mike and Sully (once again voiced by Billy Crystal and John Goodman) a decade before the events of the first movie, when they're but fresh-faced teenage monsters setting off to college to major in scaring. This promises to be another fun family adventure - you can never go too far wrong with Pixar.

"World War Z"



June 21

Starring Brad Pitt as a United Nation employee who is trying to keep his family safe during a worldwide zombie attack, the film chronicles his effort to find a solution to the outbreak. While the film appears to detour much from Max Brooks' book in how it's presented and the author admitted he had "zero control" on the film, he claimed to have confidence in how his account of the undead is being brought to film.

"The Lone Ranger"



July 3

A Hollywood legend is coming back to the big screen, and it's had a bit of a makeover. "The Lone Ranger" revisits the classic tale of an odd duo consisting of Tonto (Johnny Depp) and The Lone Ranger (Armie Hammer). The action-packed Western, distributed by Walt Disney pictures, follows the duo through their misadventures in the wild, wild West.

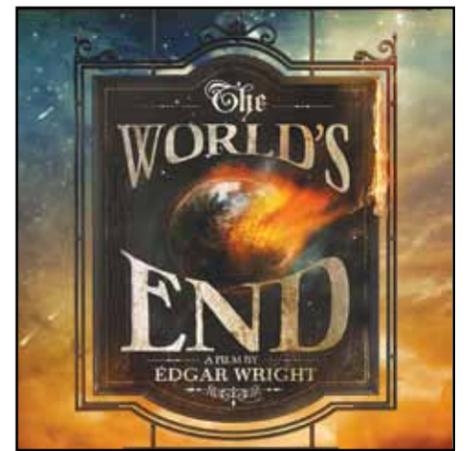
"The To-Do List"



August 16

Brandy Klark does not have your average to-do list. In fact, it's rather naughty. The virginal high school graduate, played by the hilariously awkward Aubrey Plaza, comes up with a list of sexual acts that she plans to finally experience before attending college. With appearances by funny SNL stars Bill Hader and Andy Samberg, "The To-Do List" is sure to evoke shameless laughter.

"The World's End"



August 23

The team of Edgar Wright, Simon Pegg and Nick Frost who previously brought us "Shaun of the Dead" and "Hot Fuzz" are returning this year with "The World's End." The film follows a group of friends attempting to recreate an epic pub-crawl of their youth, when otherworldly forces intervene. Like the team's previous films, this promises to be a hilarious and unexpected adventure of apocalyptic proportions.



Summer Events

Motor City Comic Con



Come out and meet with the creators and legends behind your favorite comics, novels, TV shows and movies. On May 17-19, Suburban Collection Showplace is hosting the 2013 Motor City Comic Convention. This three-day event is filled with pure entertainment including costume contests, gaming, live wrestling and loads of anime. The convention is held at 46100 Grand River Ave. in Novi. Ticket prices vary. Call 248-426-8059 for further information.

Movement Electronic Music Festival



Located at the "Hart" of Detroit will be the party that should not be missed. The 2013 Movement Electronic Music Festival is a three-day festival dubbed the "Festival of the Year" by URB Magazine. From noon to midnight on May 25-27, come dance to your heart's content and listen to 116 music artists including Dubfire, Jason Kendig, Nina Kraviz and more. The festival will take place at Hart Plaza in downtown Detroit right on the riverfront. General admission passes are \$39 per day or a three-day pass is \$89. Visit movement.us for more information.

99.5 WYCD Downtown Hoedown



Come celebrate the 31st Anniversary of the largest country music festival in the world. Detroit's Downtown Hoedown, hosted by 99.5 WYCD, will hold a three-day event from May 31-June 2. From local to national, there will be over 50 country stars taking the stage in appreciation of country lifestyle and entertainment. The

Hoedown is located at the grounds surrounding Comerica Park in downtown Detroit and tickets are just \$20 per day. For more information, contact the Joe Louis Arena Box Office at 313-986-6606 or Hockey town Authentic at 248-680-0965.

Meadow Brook Music Festival



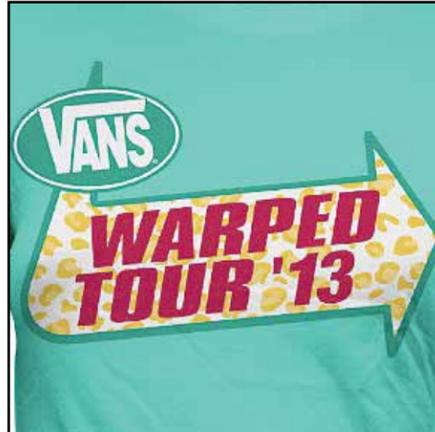
Kick back in a lawn chair or crowd underneath the pavilion and get ready to get the most out of this summer. Meadow Brook Music Festival will be dominating the summer of 2013 with epic musical performances each month. On May 28, doors will open at 5:30 p.m. to Iceland's indie folk/pop band, Of Monsters & Men, along with Canada's indie rock group, Half Moon Run. On June 30, O.A.R. is performing with Andrew McMahon and Allen Stone at 6:30 p.m. And on July 16 at 8 p.m., performances by indie pop band Fun, with special guests Tegan and Sara, will take the stage. All events are located at 3554 Walton Blvd. in Rochester Hill. For information on all the upcoming events, visit palacenet.com or contact the Meadow Brook Box Office at 248-377-0100. Ticket prices vary per show.

Orion Music Festival



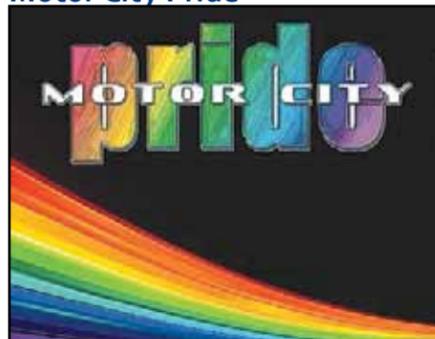
In a two-day event, June 8-9, Belle Isle will be hosting Detroit's long-awaited rock festival. Heavy metal rock band Metallica is bringing the Orion Music and More Festival to the edge of Detroit with a lineup that will drive the audience wild. Performances include Red Hot Chili Peppers, Rise Against, Deftones and many more. Two day general admission tickets are \$150, while VIP tickets are \$750. Visit orionmusicandmore.com for more information.

Vans Warped Tour 2013



Rock out at the Palace of Auburn Hills this summer as the 2013 Vans Warped Tour makes its annual stop to metro Detroit on July 19. Performers include bands from around the country including 3OH!3, Forever the Sickest Kids, Black Veil Brides, Motion City Soundtrack and beyond. A full list of the lineup can be found at www.vanswarpedtour.com. Don't miss out on an epic daylong party with your favorite bands. Tickets range from \$23-\$45. Doors open at 11:00 a.m. Contact the Palace at 248-377-0100 for more information.

Motor City Pride



Celebrate pride this summer. On June 8 and 9, people from all over will come together in celebration of equality and peace for the LGBT community. This weekend event will be filled with multiple activities such as family picnics, musical performances and, of course, a parade. Come out and support the exhilarating efforts of the metro Detroit LGBT community. The event will take place in Detroit at the Hart Plaza, located on 1 Hart Plaza right off of the riverfront in downtown. Contact info@motorcitypride.org or Facebook: www.facebook.com/motorcitypride for more information.

River Days & Freedom Festival Fireworks



Kick-start the summer with friends and family and head over to downtown Detroit for the 2013 Detroit River Days Festival June 21-23, located on the

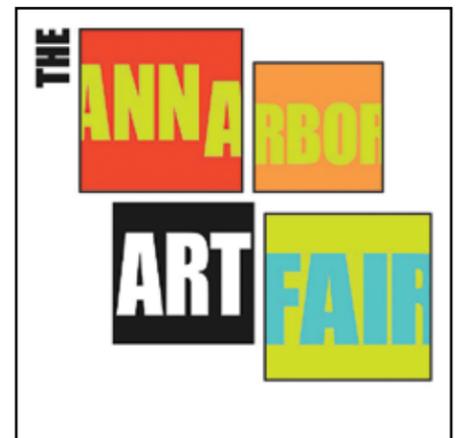
Detroit Riverwalk. The three-day festival takes place from the GM Plaza and Promenade to the Rivard Plaza and is dedicated to festivities such as interactive exhibits, entertainers, carnival rides and more. The festival ends with a spectacular fireworks show on June 24 at 10 p.m. For more festival details, visit riverdays.com or call 313-566-8200.

Ann Arbor Summer Festival

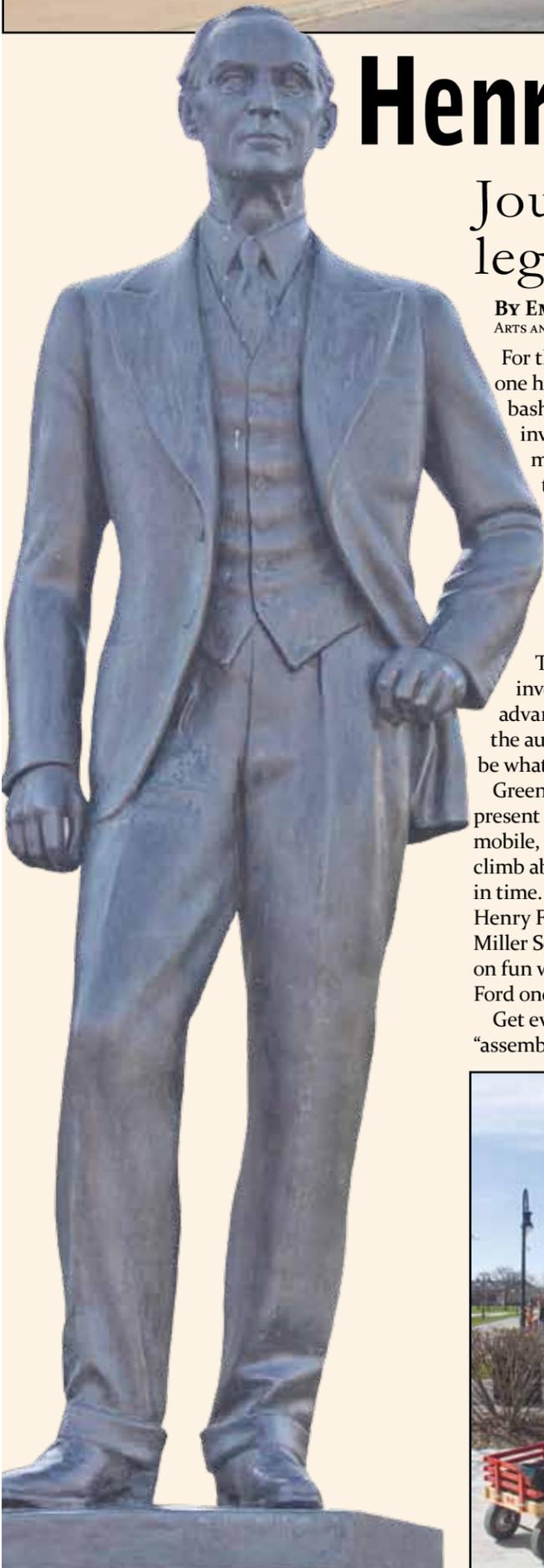


Arts and entertainment is endless at the annual Ann Arbor Summer Festival. In a three-week event June 14-July 7, the city of downtown Ann Arbor offers dozens of performances, activities, events, parties and more to the general public. Don't miss out on historical attractions of diversity in music, dance, comedy, film, arts and more. The venue is located in downtown Ann Arbor surrounding the University of Michigan campus. Ticket prices vary. Visit a2sf.org for updates and details.

Ann Arbor Street Art Fair



July is art season in the city of Ann Arbor and thousands will gather downtown to cherish the works of over 300 local artists. The city is hosting the 54th Street Art Fair July 17-20. Located at the heart of the city and stretched throughout the streets of downtown will be hundreds of booths, demonstrations and live entertainment. Come out this summer to appreciate the beauty displayed throughout the city. Visit artfair.org for more information.



Henry Ford's 150th Birthday

Journey back in time and celebrate the legacy of an American icon this summer

BY EMILY PODWOISKI
ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

For the legendary man's upcoming one hundred and fiftieth birthday bash this July, Greenfield Village invites everyone to explore the museum's brand new exhibitions featuring the birthday boy himself: Henry Ford.

A pioneer of the automobile industry, Henry Ford changed the world forever with his groundbreaking invention of the Model T automobile. Without the invention of the Model T and the advancement of the assembly line, the automotive industry would not be what it is today.

Greenfield Village is proud to present their very own Model T automobile, which visitors are welcome to climb aboard and go for a ride back in time. Visitors can also step into Henry Ford's world at the brand new Miller School, which provides hands-on fun with various machines that Ford once worked with.

Get even craftier at the year-round "assembly line," in which anyone can

create a miniature wooden Model T car. And don't miss the "Driving America Exhibition," which features several Ford automobiles, fascinating stories and more souvenirs of the past. Beginning in May, a fifteen-minute play will also be presented on the story of Ford's inspiration behind his Model T for those history junkies out there.

"Greenfield Village and Henry Ford Museum were very special to Henry," Melissa Foster, Media and Film Relations Manager of Henry Ford stated, "He thought it was important that people learned about the ordinary people who went on to do something extraordinary and change how Americans lived. We still capture that notion on our campus today, hoping to spark the imagination of our guests by showing them the wonderful innovations that helped shape America."

Will Henry Ford still be remembered on his 250th birthday? Foster thinks so. "The same goes for other famous inventors like Thomas Edison and the Wright Brothers. While their inventions, or what brought them

into the foreground of American culture might have changed drastically, their innovations are still important to us today, and I don't see that changing. Those inventions/creations might have evolved over time, but I think that people are still interested in how things work and how the people involved helped change the way we look at them." It's safe to say that Henry Ford left a ginormous footprint on our world.

The Henry Ford museum and Greenfield Village stands for everything Henry Ford believed in. Above all, Ford believed in the importance of education. "Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young," Ford once said.

Come experience the innovations of Henry Ford at Greenfield Village, located on 20900 Oakwood Blvd. in Dearborn. Tickets are \$24 adults, \$22 senior and \$17.50 for youth. Children under four receive free admission. Call 313-982-6001 for more information.



PHOTOS BY MANDY GETSCHMAN

Also this year, Greenfield Village's Herschell-Spillman carousel celebrates a century of thrilling and whimsical rides.



The Real American Heroes return to the big screen in "G.I. Joe: Retaliation"

By COLIN HICKSON
STAFF WRITER

Hasbro's number one military fighting unit returns in "G.I. Joe: Retaliation," the high octane sequel to 2009's "G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra." When we last left our heroes, they had just captured Cobra Commander and Destro, and foiled their plans ... or so they thought. Unknown to the Joes, Zartan, the organization's ever creepy master of disguise, had been surgically altered to resemble the President (Jonathan Pryce in dual roles here), and what-ever plan Cobra Commander had up his sleeve was just beginning.

For those who may have hated "The Rise of Cobra," this film may be a welcome change. The actors really bring their characters

to life, especially Ray Park, whose role as Snake-Eyes is every bit as faithful to the character as possible. Robert Baker, who voices Cobra Commander, is also notable, giving a wonderfully chilling performance. Bruce Willis is also a great casting choice, playing the original G.I. Joe, Joseph Colton, and being every bit the gun-toting hero we all know and love. One also has to just love the action in this movie, which happens in true G.I. Joe fashion (sans the laser rifles). The film does have a major weakness, though, in that it doesn't really seem to have much continuity from the first movie. It's never explained what happened to Scarlet, Hawk, Tunnel Rat, Heavy Duty and Ripcord, or how Storm Shadow managed to survive being stabbed by Snake-Eyes and falling into

the ocean. It doesn't even mention Roadblock being Heavy Duty's cousin, which is a major fact of franchise history. There's also the fact that the public now seems to know G.I. Joe exists, whereas in "The Rise of Cobra" they were top secret. Again, it's never explained how this is possible at all – not one throwaway line whatsoever is given to explain this change in status quo. Although, all things said, this is still better than the "G.I. Joe Sigma 6" anime flick that makes good use of the G.I. Joe license. If witnesses the battle between Joes and Cobras sounds like fun to you, then travel over land, sea and air in your Dragonfly, use a MASS device to teleport yourself, or just head to a nearby theater and see "G.I. Joe: Retaliation."

Yo Joe!



Alternate Frequencies



The Strokes

"Comedown Machine"

Genre: Indie rock



BY BLANDELIA PAYNE
STAFF WRITER

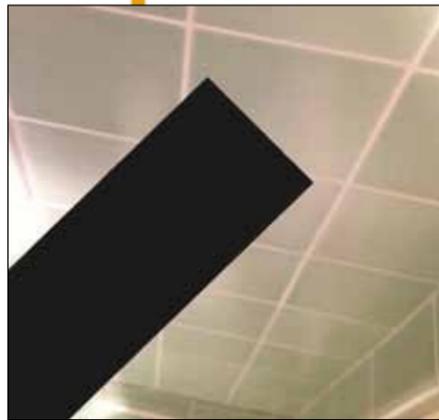
The Strokes' recently released album, "Comedown Machine," is not necessarily the comeback everyone expected. Trudging their way up the slippery slope of musical acclamation has been a long ride for this American indie rock quintet. "Is This It," their first debut studio album released in 2001, set the bar at universal favorability, according to the review aggregator Metacritic. But from album to album, many listeners began to question if the band had hit their peak with that album. The release of their fifth studio album on March 26 proved that The Strokes have yet to regain an enthusiastic approval from music fans all over.

Titled appropriately, The Strokes' new album is a time machine blasting back to the groovy days. "Comedown Machine" consists of eleven poppy tracks injected with a heavy dose of '80s synth. The album opens up with a funky guitar groove mixed with a classic grunge vibe. Unfortunately, "Tap Out" sounds like an El DeBarge track tinged with a typical Strokes guitar solo. Lead single "All the Time" starts off with a cool summer feel but heaves into a somewhat obnoxious grunge-pop chorus that won't seem to quit. "One Way Trigger" treads still waters with Julian Casablancas' unimpressive falsetto. Luckily, the album is somewhat redeemed with the sexy, dark tone of "80s Comedown Machine." But out of eleven synth-heavy tracks, "50/50" has the most potential in drawing forth a crowd. The classic grunge appeal in its driving melody followed by Casablancas' vocal distortions gives the album the color it needed from the start.

"Comedown Machine" proves to be trite and unimpressionable. The majority of The Strokes' new album is lost in its journey to the past, which explains reviewer's complaints about bringing back the "raw magic" expressed in "Is This It." Considering the personal downfalls that this band is slowly overcoming (e.g. drug addiction, inefficient communication during recordings and frustrating production styles), the lack of edge in "Comedown Machine" is forgivable. Optimism for a future masterpiece is still alive because behind personal experience is an opportunity to rise to something greater. The Strokes have enough potential to do just that.

Bottom Line:

The Strokes' appreciation for '80s music is excessively clear on this album. But the mixture of '80s music and contemporary pop was merely an inglorious attempt to bring back the good old days.



Death Grips

"No Love Deep Web"

Genre: Experimental hip-hop



BY HALEY BABIJ
STAFF WRITER

Death Grips has gained critical acclaim (and scrutiny) for their music that combines alternative, industrial and experimental hip-hop with confrontational, abstract lyricism. Currently consisting of vocalist Stefan "MC Ride" Burnett and the production/percussion of Zach Hill, the group is infamous in underground circles for being the first band to "unmake themselves over the internet," as Spin.com put it.

Death Grips' latest album "No Love Deep Web" was controversially leaked for free in October 2012. The group leaked the album themselves due to complications with their now former label, Epic. Nonetheless, expectations were met, as "No Love Deep Web" depicts a downward spiral of hedonistic indulgences that lead to nihilistic abandonment.

"No Love Deep Web" is psychologically invasive and challenging to say the least. Incredibly minimalistic and beat-centered with heavy, aggressive and versatile vocal expression courtesy of MC Ride, it's a harrowing experience. Cycling through verses of questionably pathological and blatantly drug-induced paranoia, the album's layered sounds are reflective of screaming into a void that, instead of swallowing the sound, echoes it and reinforces the isolated dissociation presented in the lyricism.

This paranoia is immediately introduced with the first track on the album, "Come Up and Get Me." The track opens with a buzzing electric beat, reflecting the desperation and aggression inside the mind of the vocalist. This set-up portrays MC Ride as a refugee against a socio-cultural environment (perhaps of his own psychological or drug-induced creation) that is stalking his downfall. The track grows more desperate, feverish and confrontational with each verse as the speaker challenges that, if he goes down, he is taking everything with him — the audience included.

These themes carry throughout the entire album, with multiple allegorical meanings and expertly stripped-down verses. The unwanted, invasive influence of internet media is also reflected strongly.

The Bottom Line:

"No Love Deep Web" is a devastating and brilliant album that will challenge even the most seasoned listener. A release not to be missed, "No Love Deep Web" is essential material for anyone interested in all that experimental music has to offer.



Jimi Hendrix

"People, Hell & Angels"

Genre: Classic rock



BY EMILY PODWOISKI
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

"I don't believe in God, but if I did, he would be a black, left-handed guitarist," said Matthew in the 2003 film "The Dreamers." Matthew certainly had that right, and you don't have to be a dreamer to find the magic in the guitar legend's posthumous album release, "People, Hell & Angels," 43 years after the legendary musician's death.

"People, Hell & Angels" contains a total of twelve previously unreleased, hypnotically seductive tracks that will truly convince (or remind) you that Hendrix is indeed a God.

The masterpiece opens up with "Earth Blues," a soulful depiction of life during the late 1960s. The guitar riffs speed along with the fast drum-beat, a song that is purely rock 'n' roll. Back up singers belt out "Love, love, love," adding power to the song as Hendrix declares, "Love must be the answer."

"Mojo Man" is distinctively funk, as the Allen twins of the Ghetto Fighters take on the lead vocals. Hendrix's guitar solo takes over towards the end of the song, overwhelming the audience with divine electricity.

"Hey Gypsy Boy" truly stands out from the rest of the tracks on the album. Made up of a sexy slow-paced beat, the tune will give you a high of its own. The track also demonstrates Hendrix's impressive vocal range, as his smooth singing seems to meld into the electric guitar.

Another long seductive intro of electric guitar leads the audience into the bluesy track, "Bleeding Heart." What seems to be an everlasting bluestastic guitar riff leads us through the entire tune as Hendrix belts out, "Every mornin'/ I can hear out of my window/ The blues come winning/ I can hear the blues call my name baby." Whether blues or rock was calling his name, Jimi always got it just right.

The Bottom Line:

So much more could be said on listing the pure magic that exists in each song, but sometimes the magic is simply indescribable. Even though Jimi Hendrix is no longer with us, his soul can be found on each and every track of "People, Hell & Angels." The entire album is a piece of history, a souvenir from the days of Woodstock and free love. Come on, it's Jimi Hendrix. What more needs to be said?



Eiffel 65

"Europop"

Genre: Eurodance



BY MICHAEL KING
STAFF WRITER

Formed at the end of the 1990s, this Italian trio, Eiffel 65, made a brief splash on the US charts with their hit single "Blue (Da Ba Dee)." However, after that hit, the trio vanished from American airwaves. But do not assume that this band is a one-hit wonder before giving their debut album a listen. 1999's "Europop" proves the band has much more to offer than just riding on the popularity of a single song.

"Europop" opens with the band's aforementioned hit and is immediately followed by their other best-selling single, "Too Much of Heaven." As the album continues, listeners will be barraged with tracks with similar compositions yet drastically different purposes. Some tracks, such as "Now Is Forever," opt to tell a story while tunes like "The Edge" exists simply to dance to. The album wraps up with an extended mix of "Blue (Da Ba Dee)" that really just repeats some of the lyrics a couple more times.

The album isn't too grand in the lyrical department. For example, "My Console" is a song about the Sony PlayStation, but the lyrics are nothing more than naming PlayStation games. The idea behind the song is cool but, "Tekken 3/ Metal Gear Solid/ Resident Evil/ Gran Turismo," does not qualify the track as a well-written song. Also, there is little emphasis on actually rhyming lyrics with one another in the majority of songs. Despite the silly lyrics, many of the songs seem to have deeper meanings. Some themes include mankind's overdependence on money, not falling back into a bad relationship and expanding one's horizons.

In the end, this album emphasizes its catchy beats over its writing and in that regard it exceeds all expectations with "Move Your Body" being the most obvious example. Some songs can be broken down and examined, but the album's main purpose is to get listeners on the dance floor and shake what their mothers gave them. While not as great as other similar albums — i.e. Daft Punk's "Discovery" — "Europop" is still a fun little excursion that's worth a listen or ten.

The Bottom Line:

"Europop" was a revolution that was a major contributor to popularizing Eurodance across the world. With that being said, while Eiffel 65 never quite blew up in America, this is one of the finest debut albums a band such as this could hope for.

A horror classic, reloaded

This reboot/remake offers a much bloodier, less funny take on "The Evil Dead"

By RAMON RAZO
NEWS EDITOR

Lots of factors have to be considered when remaking a franchise. One of the biggest considerations is fandom backlash. Apprehension would only heighten after it was brought to light that the new "Evil Dead" would be less humorous than the original, even though "Juno" writer Diablo Cody would be onboard to pen the script. But what "Evil Dead" lacks in laughs it more than makes up for in sheer, nerve-racking, nail biting, gross-out horror.

Most of the elements for this "Evil Dead" remake are in place. You got your abandoned cabin in the woods. (Note, kids, that "Cabin in the Woods" was an homage to "The Evil Dead.") You have your "Book of the Dead." Possession abounds, and blood and guts are everywhere.

Some elements detour from the familiar formula, and end up conforming to the new status-quo formula of horror clichés, like paper-thin character interactions, forgettable performances (except when it comes to screaming, because everyone is good at losing their minds in horror films) and people making really stupid decisions. The activating of the necronomicon is especially cringe inducing, as the character of Eric is given ample warning to *put the damned thing down*. Whatever. We wouldn't be here if every character acted safely. The movie also invests a little more in its characters than Sam Raimi's original, shallow as it may be. This movie tells the story of how Mia (played by Jane Levy from Showtime's "Shameless") is brought to this secluded cabin by her brother, David, his girlfriend, Natalie, and their two friends Olivia and Eric. (You know; the guy who *dooms them all*.) They're hoping to try and get her off her heroin addiction, cold turkey. So naturally, when things go crazy, they're reluctant at first to believe her. It's a tad shame that Ash is nowhere to be found. We'll all miss him, as he seems to be the only character in horror history who knows what to do.

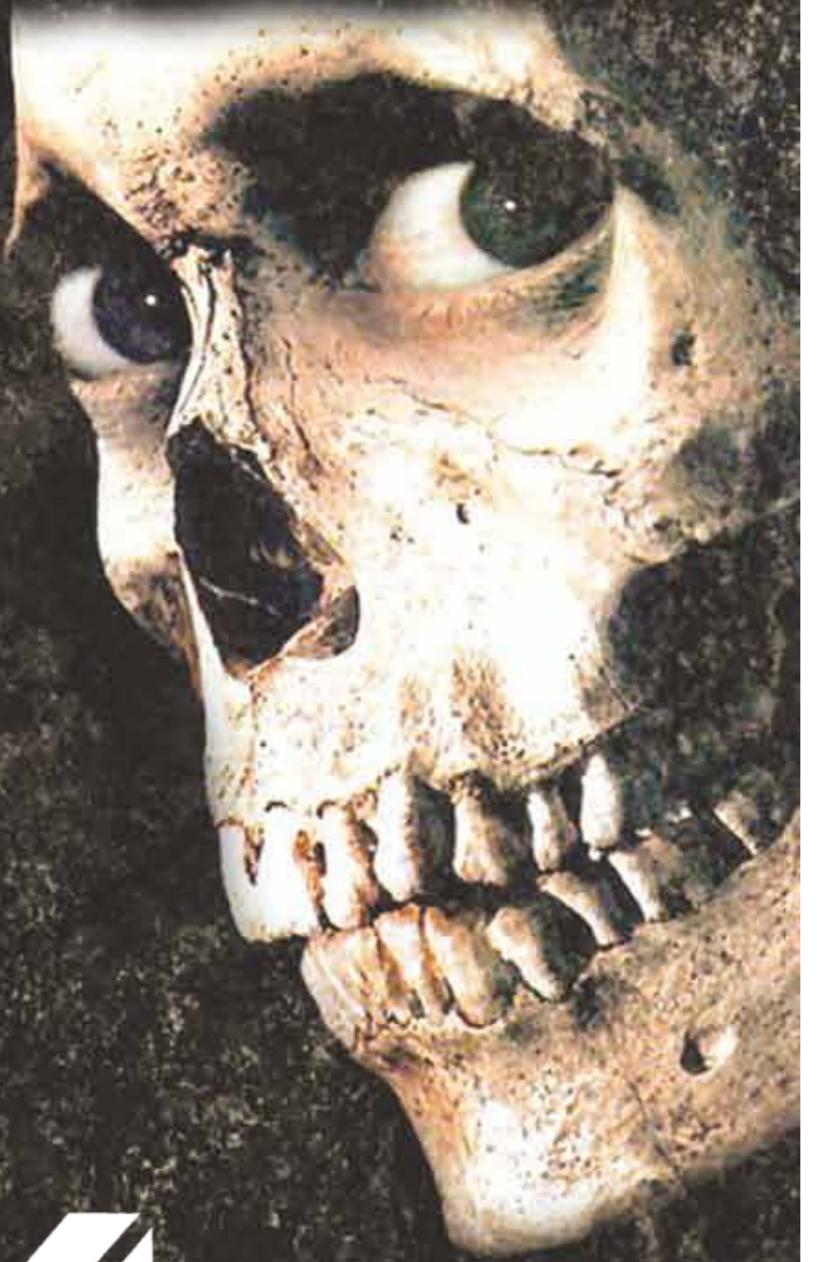
Regardless of its stumbling into modern horror staples (once again, something that "Cabin in the Woods" brilliantly exploited), "Evil Dead" has its greatest strengths in getting a rise out of its audience through some really grossly horrifying stuff, with the scenes often drawing out each reveal and each scare as long as it can for optimum fright.

Best of all, the film rarely relies on jump scare, at least not the way they're usually pulled off. The film's effects further heighten this.

It goes without saying that CGI creations, while they can create magnificent imaginary worlds (as in "Avatar" and "Prometheus") don't hold the punch that prosthetics and real stuff does. That's why "The Thing" will always be really, really scary and the remake of "The Haunting" will always be really, really silly. "Evil Dead" rarely relies on blatant computer imagery for a majority of its scares, and they're rarely ever distracting. Some effects are even very reminiscent of the original "Evil Dead" films, implementing some true creativity into the demonic grimness.

It's also worth noting that the film has just enough references to the older films, which are all just obvious enough to be organically implemented into the film. Instances like the recordings during the credits, similar lines of dialogue and similar visuals show that the filmmakers actually know the film they are remaking/rebooting.

"Evil Dead" is a terrifying gore-fest that pays reverence to a horror classic. Despite the fact that it feels very much like a product of modern scary movie making, the flick is intense and sometimes painful to watch, and a lot of fun, just like the original. While some fans are likely going to miss the campy humor that made the original films classics, the rest of you primitive screw-heads would do best to check it out.



EVIL DEAD



Welcome to Rapture

A "BIOSHOCK" RETROSPECTIVE

By **CARLOS RAZO**
STAFF WRITER

After finishing college, Ken Levine jumped from job to job trying to put his liberal arts degree to good use. After writing a few screenplays, Levine landed a job at Looking Glass Studios where he became a game designer and script-writer. One of his biggest accomplishments with the studio was the action-adventure RPG "System Shock," which would lay the foundation both technically and story-wise to his next massive success.

Interested in exploring both moral and social ethics within the context of a video game, Levine set out to create a world inspired by the works of Ayn Rand and George Orwell while still providing a compelling and enjoyable gaming experience. The result was 2007's game of the year, "BioShock," a highly innovative and immersive first-person action RPG that Levine considers to be System Shock's "spiritual successor."

Set in 1960, "BioShock" puts the player in the dystopian city of

Rapture, an underwater civilization led by Andrew Ryan who, seeking refuge from oppressive government censors, control and restrictions, created a place where religion and politics would not get in the way of mankind's free will in regards to science and art. But the utopia fell when a young scientist discovered a substance she named ADAM, which allows those who take it to develop abilities such as telekinesis, electrical powers and other dangerous powers. However, the substance is destructively addicting, transforming the users into "splicers," one of the game's most common enemies.

The player receives several of these power-ups throughout the course of the game including the ability to control fire, electricity and the ability to launch a swarm of wasps from their hand to name a few. The player can also wield several firearms and melee weapons, though ammunition is extremely scarce.

One of the only ways to receive more ADAM in the game is to

take it from the Little Sisters, orphaned girls biogenetically altered to produce and collect ADAM. Protected by scientifically engineered guardians called Big Daddies, the player must first battle and kill the Big Daddy. After that, players have the choice to either "harvest" the Little Sister, which will grant then more ADAM but kill the Little Sister, or save her, which will turn her normal, but grant the player less ADAM.

"BioShock" was a massive success upon its release and is credited as one of the best reviewed games of all time. It has received numerous game-of-the-year awards and sold over five million copies, which quickly lead to a sequel.

"BioShock 2," released in 2010, was very similar to the first game, following much of the gameplay mechanics that made the first game such a smash success. There was just one big twist; the player was now playing as a Big Daddy. The game added a few new ideas, including the ability to use powers and firearms

simultaneously, but failed to exceed the original on any major level and was criticized for being just more of the same. Still though, the game was met with mostly positive reviews and sales on par with the first game.

A third game titled "BioShock Infinite" was released in March of 2013, and has already received fantastic sales and reviews, with many critics praising the bold storytelling and departures from the most common gameplay elements while still feeling like a game in the franchise.

Since the series' beginning in 2007, "BioShock" has become one of the most ambitious and original titles available thanks to an interesting and engaging setting, tight gameplay mechanics and endless replay value. With a fourth installment to be released on the PlayStation Vita, hardcore and casual gamers alike will continue to look towards Irrational Games to take them on another visceral and exciting adventure somewhere beyond the sea.

Beyond the sea and into the clouds

"BioShock Infinite" offers an exciting and unforgettable action-adventure

It is all too common for video games to get brushed off as nothing but mindless entertainment, regardless of their artistic depth. Since the franchise's beginning in 2007, the "BioShock" series has received unanimous praise for transcending this criticism by mixing literary philosophy, fast-paced gameplay and an involving and fascinating storyline. The latest entry in the series, "BioShock Infinite," takes this idea even further with an experience that is part science-fiction horror story and part swashbuckling adventure, while still maintaining all the classic gameplay elements that put the series on the map.

Instead of the underwater city of Rapture, "Infinite" puts you on the floating city of Columbia, where you assume the role of Booker Dewitt, a private investigator sent to rescue a mysterious young girl named Elizabeth who is being held captive. As Dewitt arrives at Columbia, he is quickly recognized by the citizens as the "False Shepherd," prophesized by Father Zachary Comstock, founder of Columbia and the game's main antagonist. For the rest of the game,

Booker, along with Elizabeth, are hunted by the city's police force, we well as a giant, mechanical guardian called "The Songbird," which served as Elizabeth's main captor.

In true "BioShock" fashion, "Infinite" gives the player both traditional firearms as well as special powers (called "vigors" instead of "plasmids"), which are designed to be strategically combined throughout battle situations, allowing for endless possibilities during combat. A few new features have been successfully added to the flow of the action, the most notable being the use of the skyhook, a tool that serves as both a melee weapon and also gives the player the ability to use metal railings that connect the city and serve as both a means to quickly escape or attack unsuspecting enemies from above. Elizabeth, who within the context of the story is being escorted and protected by Dewitt, is never once at the risk of being killed, completely avoiding the ever so annoying "escort mission" that plagues many games. In fact, Elizabeth assists you in combat, supplying you with extra ammunition, health and money. Oh

yeah, she can also rip open portals in the space-time continuum and grant you access to things like gun turrets that don't exist in the games' immediate dimension. Not bad for a girl who has spent her entire life trapped in a tower.

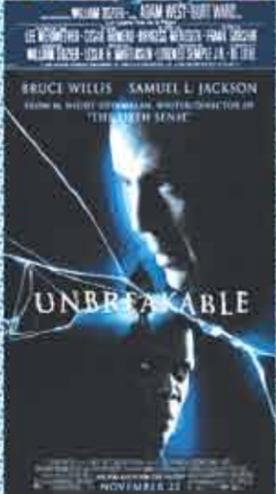
The audio and visuals of the game are as grand as ever, with exceptional art direction and musical score. Arriving at Columbia for the first time is just as breathtaking (albeit just as terrifying) as first arriving in Rapture almost six years ago. The scope of the game (in particular thanks to the skyhook mechanic) is unprecedented, and the storyline is just as enticing and shocking as fans would hope. While at times it does dabble in generic science-fiction jargon, the ending, while not extremely original on its own, definitely will make jaws drop and serves as an interesting twist on the established franchise.

"BioShock Infinite" is a stellar gaming experience that should not be missed. While it may depart from some of the aspects BioShock fans have grown to love (sorry, no Big Daddies), there are enough new ideas and bizarre concepts to leave this franchise open to infinite possibilities.

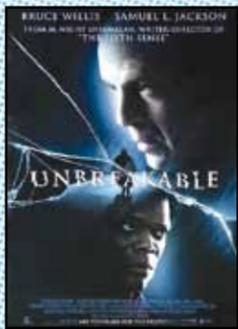
By MICHAEL KING, COLIN HICKSON, JOSIAH THOMAS, JONATHAN KING, & RAMON RAZO
CONNECTION STAFF

Friday Night Rentals

SUPERHERO FLICKS



"Unbreakable" (2000)



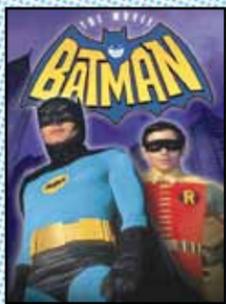
Oh, M. Night Shyamalan. How could such a promising director fall so far? Most know Shyamalan as the brainchild behind such steaming piles as "The Village," "The Happening" and "The Last Airbender." And yet, before Shyamalan was little more than a walking punch line, he produced a pair of truly phenomenal thrillers in the span of only two years.

One was 1999's "The Sixth Sense," which has now become a cultural landmark in film, and the other is the lesser-known but still brilliant "Unbreakable."

Bruce Willis plays security guard David Dunn, who survives a train wreck and comes to believe he may have super powers. This idea is seeded in Dunn through Elijah Price (Samuel L. Jackson), a man with a rare disease which makes his bones extremely brittle. Drawing on his knowledge of comic mythology, Price figures that if he exists, the extreme example of frailty, someone must exist on the other end of the spectrum, someone unbreakable.

The film plays with the mythologies of superheroes and how they translate to the real world in an incredibly effective and original way. Willis and Jackson are both excellently cast and the twist – yes, of course there's a twist – is shattering. "Unbreakable" is a dark, tense and wonderfully unique take on superheroes, and is definitely worth a watch.

"Batman: The Movie" (1966)



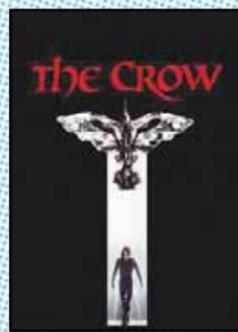
It was a simpler time before Christopher Nolan's action-packed and psychological take or Tim Burton's dark and gritty interpretation on what is arguably the greatest superhero of all time. Before the Dark Knight evolved into the complexities that make him who he is today, we had Adam West as the Caped Crusader. Based on the 1960s television series, "Batman: The Movie" is an underrated bundle of joy.

When an important commodore and his revolutionary new invention disappear, the dynamic duo quickly realizes that it's the work of an evil alliance of super criminals: the Joker, Catwoman, the Riddler and the Penguin. Now they must race against the clock before the fearsome foursome kidnap the members of the United World Alliance.

The movie contains everything that made the TV series great: over-the-top acting, half-baked ideas that work out way too well and enough absurd bat-equipment to make one's head spin. One infamous scene at the beginning features Batman fighting off an obvious rubber shark with a can of "Shark Repellent Bat Spray."

"Batman: The Movie" is cheesier than Switzerland, hammier than every butchery in the nation and, in the end, is probably the closest cinema has ever come to painting a Silver Age comic book on screen. It is an absolute delight and is a must-see for anyone looking to have themselves some laughably stupid fun.

"The Crow" (1994)



Starring Brandon Lee in his final role before his death, "The Crow" is widely considered to be one of the greatest cult films of all time, which is odd considering its initial success. One year after he and his fiancé are killed (on Devil's Night, nonetheless), Eric Draven rises from the grave; guided by a mysterious crow that grants him invulnerability.

Utilizing this second chance at life, Draven takes to the streets of Detroit with the mission of finding who is responsible for his and his beloved's death.

The film has dark and gothic atmosphere, much like Tim Burton's "Batman," but this movie separates itself in its plot. For much of the movie, Draven is indestructible, forcing the movie to rely a great deal on character development since he is able to come out on any dangerous event unharmed. But that doesn't stop the film from having intense action sequences that keep the audience on the edge, even up to the final bone-tingling climax.

Due to an accidental gunshot wound he sustained towards the end of filming, Brandon Lee never lived to see the movie's release. If he had, he would no doubt be pleased with the final result. While it isn't the most well-known film today, "The Crow" still holds a place in many peoples' hearts and just goes to show that you don't need a cape and a mask to be a superhero.

"The Phantom" (1996)



Lee Falk's "Ghost Who Walks" comes to life in this thrilling adventure set in 1938. For centuries, the Phantom has protected Africa from the forces of evil, under the illusion of being immortal. In truth, it's merely a title passed down from father to son for generations, with each mentor relaying their skills through the ages.

The Phantom is sworn to devote their life to the destruction of greed and piracy in all its forms. But when evil billionaire Xander Drax plans to harness the powers of the Skulls of Touganda, the current Phantom (Billy Zane), may be in for the adventure of his life. Swept up in this is the ex-girlfriend of the purple-suited vigilante, Diana Palmer (Kristy Swanson), who was looking into claims of Drax's activities at the behest of her uncle.

"The Dark Knight" this ain't – Billy Zane in purple spandex should have tipped you off – but for fans of campy action, "The Phantom" is a bunch of fun. For thrills, romance aplenty and a chance to see a guy in purple with a cool skull ring fight bad guys; check out "The Phantom."

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Skating On



Whalers punch ticket to OHL Western Conference Finals, eliminate Owen Sound in semis

By **JOSEPH KOCH**
STAFF WRITER

It took six games to determine a winner in the OHL Western Conference semifinals series and the Plymouth Whalers were able to eliminate the Owen Sound Attack. The team now advances to the Western Conference finals to face top seeded London with game one starting April 19 at London.

The Whalers had one goal in mind entering game six and that was to send the Attack packing for the offseason. In front of a crowd of nearly 3,225 fans, Whalers left winger Matt Mistele set the tone for the game early on, scoring two goals leading the Whalers past the Owen Sound Attack 3-1. The Whalers captured back to back victories after the series was tied at two, winning four games to two.

Mistele, just recently coming off a six game suspension, led the Whalers offensive attack. His first goal of the game came at 2:33 into the first period when he fired a snap shot through bodies to get past the Owen Sound goaltender Jordan Binnington.

The Whalers managed to fend off the Sound Attack while on a penalty for high-sticking from Sebastain Uriva. The play extended as the Whalers controlled the puck in the Owen Sound zone before Mistele scored his second goal of the game on a backhand with just over a minute left in the first. After twenty minutes of play the Whalers had built a 2-0 lead.

During the second period, a crucial Whalers penalty provided a spark to the Attack as they finally hit the back of the net at the 2:13 mark in the second on a power play. Owen Sound's Cameron Brace slapped home a rebound cutting the lead to 2-1.

"Owen Sound's a really good team and they don't make many mistakes so when they do, you want to capitalize on them," said Mistele.

Owen Sound continued to pressure during the period, outshooting the Whalers, 19-11. However, they could not capitalize on the Whaler defense.

The third period brought about a defensive battle seeing each team only get six shots on goal. "We just tried to focus on defense (in the third) and get the puck deep. We wanted to pressure them still but we always wanted to have a guy high (on defense)," said Mistele of their game plan.

In the final minute the Attack pulled their goaltender Binnington to get an extra attacker in hopes of extending the game. Owen Sound called a time out with 42.2 seconds remaining, trying to set up a strategy to score. The Whalers held off the Attack and called their own time out with 19.6 seconds left. After play resumed, Whalers forward Vincent Trocheck, blocked a shot and found an open Mitchell Heard who hit the empty net making it 3-1.

The 3-1 victory punched the Whalers ticket to the Western Conference finals in which they will face the London Knights. The seven-game series begins Friday April 19 at London, Ontario.



(Above) Plymouth Whalers leave the ice with glory from adoring fans after their 5-0 playoffs victory over Owen Sound.

(Below) Forward Stefan Noeson scores the first (and game-winning) goal at 6:41 in the first period.



4-12-13, Game 5

Owen Sound (0) vs. Plymouth Whalers (5)

The Whalers got hot early with three goals in the first and added two more in the second as they cruised to a pivotal game five victory, taking a 3-2 lead in the series. Whaler's goaltender Alex Nedeljkovic rebounded from being pulled in game four to shut out the Owen Sound Attack.

4-10-13, Game 4

Plymouth Whalers (3) vs. Owen Sound (4)

The home ice advantage in game four gave the Owen Sound Attack a boost, as they stormed to a quick 4-0 lead in the game. After the giving up the fourth goal, Mike Vellucci pulled rookie Alex Nedeljkovic and put veteran Matt Mahalak into the game. The Whalers cut the lead to 4-2 by the end of the second period. The Whalers were held scoreless until they pulled Mahalak in favor of the extra attacker and forward Vince Trocheck scored 17:47 into the third, making it a one goal game. The Whalers couldn't capitalize in the final minutes and dropped game four 4-3, tying the series at two games apiece.

* For up to date coverage and scores on Whalers playoff please visit www.plymouthwhalers.com.



Forward Mitchell Heard celebrates as he is recognized as the first star of the game.

The Boys are back in town



PHOTOS COURTESY OF WWW.BUSINESSWEEK.COM AND WWW.FIRE-EYES.ORG

(Above) Sunny day in Comerica Park. (Left) Tiger righthander Justin Verlander firing his fastball.

Detroit Tigers offer summer fun in the sun to fans

BY NICK RENDE
STAFF WRITER

The boys are back in town. The 2013 baseball season has arrived and the Motor City is pumped up for another great season. With the addition of Torii Hunter, the return of Victor Martinez, and the brilliance of Justin Verlander and Miguel Cabrera, the Tigers are poised to make not just a strong playoff run, but also contend for a World Series. Such an exciting team makes many, if not all, of the games worth attending. While most of you will not look to attend all of the games, here is a short list of games that you should definitely look into attending:

- 1) Saturday, April 27 (1:05 p.m.) against the Atlanta Braves is Negro League Weekend. Come watch interleague play when the talented brothers Justin and B.J. Upton and the Braves come to Comerica Park and take on the Tigers. The three-game weekend series is Negro Leagues weekend, held annually by the Tigers to celebrate the Negro leagues. First ten thousand fans receive a Prince Fielder fathead.
- 2) Friday, May 24 (7:08 p.m.) against the Minnesota Twins is the 43rd Annual Polish-American Night. Don't miss Friday night fireworks on Polish-American Night following the game against central division foes the Minnesota Twins. Come enjoy traditional Polish music, and dancing, and the honoring of Polish dignitaries. First ten thousand fans will also receive a free Tigers' rally towel.
- 3) Saturday, June 8 (4:08 p.m.) against the Cleveland Indians features the 3rd Annual Classic Car Show. At noon on this game day is the third classic car show and display; where outside of Comerica Park will be parked over one hundred classic automobiles. You can even enter your own car in to be judged with a chance to win prizes. See the team's website for more info on how to enter and where to go.
- 4) Friday, August 30 (7:08 p.m.) against the Indians features the "Going, Going, Green!" Night. Join the Tigers as they help to bring awareness towards "going green" by

offering ways to become more energy efficient and to reduce our carbon footprint. First ten thousand fans will also receive a Justin Verlander fathead, and stick around after the game to enjoy the fireworks.

5) Friday, September 13 (7:08 p.m.) against the Kansas City Royals – 2 Annual Pink-Out the Park. It is going to be a "pink-out" at Comerica Park on the thirteenth, as the Tigers host the second annual "Pink-out the Park" in order to bring awareness to and recognize survivors of breast cancer. The first ten thousand ladies will receive a special pink "breast health awareness" handbag. Fireworks will, again, be held post-game.

6) Friday – Sunday, September 20-22 series against the Chicago White Socks features Fan Appreciation Weekend. The Tigers realize they have one of the most ardent fan bases in the majors, and this weekend is dedicated to you, the fan. Take a day out of the weekend and enjoy a game against their central division rival, the White Socks. On Friday, the first ten thousand fans receive a magnet schedule for the 2014 season. On Saturday, the first ten thousand fans ages eighteen and up receive a free 2013 team photo. Finally, on Sunday, the Tigers will hold the "shirt off our back" giveaway, where forty fans are selected to receive, literally, the jersey off of a Tigers player's back. All kids also receive a free knit hat.

Making the case for LeBron



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By ABDALLAH CHIRAZI
SPORTS EDITOR
chirazi26@gmail.com

Who thinks LeBron James is better than Michael Jordan? I have to admit I'm one of those obnoxious guys in the back of the room with my hand raised eagerly in the air every time this question is asked. There's a considerable backlash dished out from the basketball Gods as they strike upon thee with great vengeance on whoever dares to mention any player in the same sentence of "His Airiness," Michael Jeffery Jordan.

In the aftermath of Jordan's fiftieth birthday extravaganza, the debate of who is the greatest player seemed

to be overwhelming. Jordan was untouchable. Most of the media had declared Jordan the greatest, but they didn't anticipate emergence of something special. As LeBron was trying to show them something, they simply weren't watching. In making the case for LeBron, he is the closest thing to a real-life superhero. Extraordinary leaping abilities, faster than the Flash and more powerful than a locomotive.

Understandably, Jordan worshippers will always seem to point respectively to his six rings. The more rings you have, the greater you are. However, Jordan ranks tenth on all-time NBA rings won. Surely fans don't believe Jordan sits behind those superstars in career achievements. Therefore, the ring argument is nullified. To compare LeBron's ring total to Jordan's is unfair. There are many factors discounting the greatness comparison between these two athletes.

Anything LeBron does is magnified and scrutinized; not even Jordan had to face that much criticism. We all remember "The Decision," the television event where LeBron announced his decision to leave Cleveland to join

the Miami, in which his jersey was burned on national television, which is just one of the many examples.

The constant analysis of how LeBron had to join Dwayne Wade and Chris Bosh to ultimately win a championship is absurd. Although basketball is a game of superstars, it's ultimately a team sport. Jordan had Dennis Rodman, Scottie Pippen and Steve Kerr. He definitely never would have won without them.

Sure, Jordan had slightly better scoring numbers than LeBron (LeBron averages less shots per game). Yet nobody puts a higher collection of points, rebounds and assists combination than LeBron. His versatility is unmatched in the sport today and his accumulation of ridiculous stats is placed under a different stratosphere. The frightening part is he continues to improve in all facets of the game. His field goal percentage has improved every year to an incredible 56.0 percent this season, a number Jordan hasn't come close to reaching.

Of course, many will find flaws in LeBron's career, seeing how he went 0-2 in his first two NBA final appearances, but people seem to look over the significance of his early career. LeBron

led a team of less-than-stellar supporting players to the finals, something Jordan was not able to accomplish in his career. Jordan reached 6 NBA finals and never lost – a benchmark that may never be duplicated. Yet he was removed three times in the first round of the playoffs, and LeBron has never been eliminated in the first round of playoff contention.

LeBron is a late bloomer in regards to reaching his full potential. It took LeBron 10 years to win a championship at the age of 28; Jordan won his first ring at the same age. It's safe to say that LeBron is on a similar pace to too match Jordan's career accolades, if not better.

Remember LeBron's Nike endorsement slogan? "We are all Witnesses." Nike was on to something. While the media and fans marveled at the past (Jordan), a new prodigy was rising.

The road to everlasting immortality for LeBron runs through the NBA Finals. If he wins, he will forever be known as the greatest basketball player of all-time. Lose, and he may never be able to silence the critics. But for now, this is LeBron's world and we are all living in it – even Michael Jordan.

Dazed and Blue

Michigan falls short of a national title



76

82



Heartbreak shows on his face as Trey Burke walks off the court after losing to Louisville. Photo courtesy of www.baltimoresun.com

BY ABDALLAH CHIRAZI
SPORTS EDITOR

Confetti covered the Michigan Wolverines as they walked off the court, but for all the wrong reasons. The Louisville Cardinals were able to squeeze out an 82-76 victory over Michigan to capture their third national championship.

The Wolverines were able to make a run midway through the first half without the consensus player of the year, Trey Burke, due to foul trouble. Spike Albrecht, Burke's replacement, sparked the team with his heroic bench play, giving the Wolverines a 33-21 advantage. Louisville quickly answered back behind Luke Hancock's four 3-point shots. In a matter of two minutes, the Cardinals turned a 12-point deficit on a 14-3 run that left them down by one at the half.

The second half featured a Michigan

team that played from behind. Down three with 5:41 left in the game, Burke was able to get a clean block on Louisville's Peyton Siva, but a blown call by the referees awarded Siva two foul shots and eventually spotted the Cardinals a 5-point lead.

"I tried to tie [the ball] up," a despondent Burke said according to Yahoo! Sports. "I guess the ref thought it was a foul. I thought I had all ball and tied it up pretty good." Burke led the Wolverines scoring 24 points in 26 minutes.

The Wolverines never recovered. They simply ran out of gas. Their defensive effort had faded and was out-muscled on the boards. Michigan gave their worst defensive performance of the season, allowing 1.26 points per possession.

"I hope when we get on the plane [Tuesday] that there will be some

smiles on those faces," John Beilein said according to Yahoo! Sports.

What did we learn?

Michigan had a secret weapon off the bench. Albrecht, the seldom-used back-up point guard shocked the world and his team when he was able to score 17 points with an array of shots from beyond the 3-point range (4-4).

With Burke most likely declaring his name into the NBA draft, we learned that the cupboard isn't bare. Even with freshmen Mitch McGary and Glen Robinson III on the fence on whether they want to return, Coach John Beilein has a recruiting class ready to fill the voids. (See break-out bar for the roster.)

We learned Michigan is ready for the big stage. Although they failed to capture a title, they had the youngest team in the tournament. They gave a remarkable comeback win and some

Coach Beilein's new recruits

Michigan now drops 1-4 in national championship games, including the two that were played by the Fab Five. Derrick Walton Jr. is a 6-foot tall point guard from Harper Woods Chandler Park Academy and a possible replacement for Burke, if he does in fact decide to depart.

Zak Irvin is a 6-foot-6-inch guard small forward from Fishers Indiana. He was named the Mr. Basketball in Indiana.

Michigan Pledge, Nick Doyle (6-foot-9-inches, 235 pounds) out of Fort Meyers, Florida. A 2014 commitment.

disheartening losses. They proved to be the second best team this year and gave credibility to a program that has suffered a 20-year drought, dating back to the controversial Fab Five days.

Lastly we learned is that the best team won. Louisville was able to exert their strength and snatch any hope of the Wolverines claiming a championship. Although there was some dreadful officiating that perhaps would have changed the complexion of the game, there are no moral victories in college basketball and Burke understands that.

"A lot of people didn't expect us to get this far," said Burke according to CBSSports. "A lot of people didn't expect us to get past the second round. We fought. We fought up to this point, but Louisville was the better team today, and they're deserving of the win."

Kick-start

Schoolcraft Women's Soccer team prepare for 2013 season

BY ABDALLAH CHIRAZI
SPORTS EDITOR



The Schoolcraft Women's Soccer team fell short of making the National Tournament last season but has used this off-season to minimize any possible shortcomings. The determination to reach their championship goals began right when the season finished.

"This weekend we are scrimmaging both Marygrove and Lawrence Tech," said Captain Rachel Blackney. "We are doing as much as we can to prepare for next season because we are determined to go to Nationals in Melbourne, Florida."

Players have been given workout packets to follow on their own free time and have made a conscious effort to gather teammates together to ensure they are continuing with off-season training and conditioning.

"As for preparations, we have given each player a workout packet, and we leave them alone to focus on their studies," said Coach Deepak Shivraman. "Some of them meet up and workout together."

Last year, the Ocelots posted an overall record of 14-4-2 (7-0-1 MCCA standings) but were eliminated in

the NJCAA Region Semi-final game. Delta was able to overcome a scoreless game by defeating Schoolcraft 3-1 on penalty kicks.

The Ocelots aren't looking for a sliver lining or moral victories but they have not forgotten about their painful early exit.

"It was definitely hard on us losing in a shootout to Delta," said Blackney. "I think it made us realize that we need to come out and play at a high level every game. It really has become our motivation to come out stronger."

The team is also looking forward to introducing some new, highly-touted incoming freshman.

Alexi Cano, Riverview: Cano led her team with 17 goals and 9 assist this past season playing for the Pirates. She also led her team in scoring.

Jessica Parry, Waterford: Parry plays both basketball and soccer for Waterford. She has been a big part of their three consecutive Lakers basketball state-titles. Parry is listed as a midfielder. Parry also scored the game-winning goal against Riverview giving the school its first Catholic League title.

Kelly McKay, Summit HomeSchool: McKay was named captain for Junior and Senior year team. She was also part of the team that won the state tournament 3 times. McKay has been a starter since the beginning of her freshman year.

Kate Farthing and Remi Houtaker are also key freshmen that should make an immediate impact. With a new influx of incoming recruits, each prospect will bring something unique to the Ocelots season this fall.

"I think the freshman coming in will only make our team better offensively," said Midfielder Chelsea Meador. "Since we have more returning players than incoming freshmen, it should be easier to come together and have good chemistry."

The Ocelots will enter the 2013 season with the same expectations as last year, even after a re-shuffled roster. However with the combination of key returning players like Alexis Smith, Tara Geisler, and Samantha Jarrett, Schoolcraft should be able to make a major splash as a major contender come post season.

Tradition & Excellence

BY ABDALLAH CHIRAZI
SPORTS EDITOR

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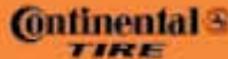
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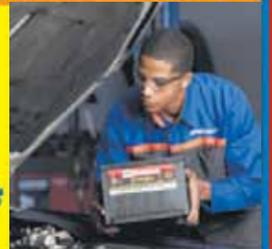
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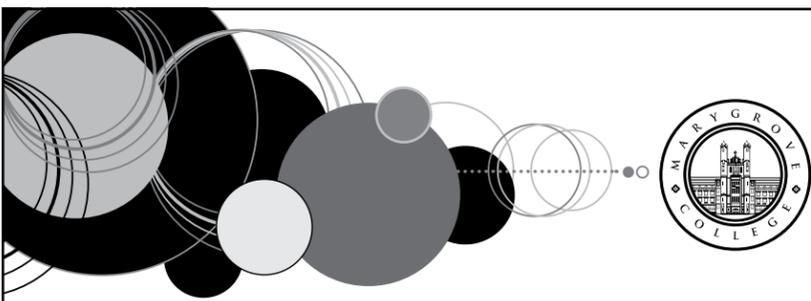
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FRIDAY NIGHT RENTALS

continued from PAGE 29

"Mystery Men" (1999)



From the get-go, "Mystery Men" strives to be a satirical comedy that promises campy yet likeable characters, good cinematography and originality to boot. Loosely based on a graphic novel of the same name, "Mystery Men" takes us to the cyberpunk-esque world of Champion City, free of all crime and criminals. The city's main hero, Captain Amazing, is so bored with all this peace and happiness that he releases Casanova Frankenstein, a criminal mastermind played by Geoffrey Rush. The Mystery Men, an inept group of wannabee heroes not explicitly named, seek to prove themselves to Captain Amazing. At the same time they, for the little recognition received in their endeavours, are consistently mocked and discredited. But when the Captain goes missing, Casanova plots to destroy the city in the fashion of a typical-comic-book-bad-guy.

With this reality, Champion City is faced with no other choice than to rely on the makeshift team.

The team consists of the Shoveler (William H. Macy), a father well-practiced in wielding a shovel, the Blue Raj (Hank Azaria), a mama's boy who flings forks and is obsessed with Colonial-era Indian culture, and Mr. Furious (Ben Stiller), an impulsive yet comical ragemonger. As their resolve to fight evil grows, they recruit more members to their ranks: a telekinetic bowler, a literal fart machine, a youth who only turns invisible when nobody is watching and a cliché-spewing philosopher.

Though unsuccessful in the box office, "Mystery Men" has gone on to become a cult film among camp and comic book fans alike. Its over-acted cast, cheesy special effects and niche-oriented novelties have an eccentric charm that appeals to comic film buffs and the casual viewer with a sense of irony.

"X-Men" (2000)



Hollywood and filmmakers have come a long way in their appreciation for comic books and superheroes. Richard Donner demonstrated that Superman could be treated like a sci-fi epic, Tim Burton showed audiences how characters like Batman could be mature subject matter and 1998's "Blade" illustrated comic book adaptations as stylish and cool. But it was Bryan Singer's "X-Men" that really catapulted the superhero film into not just a gimmick, but a genre all its own.

The film concerns the struggle of "Homo superior," also known as mutants, who have begun to make their existence known to mankind. The government is understandably worried about these incredibly powerful new life-forms, some so powerful that they can "enter our minds and control our thoughts." In an attempt to combat "mutant-phobia," Professor Charles Xavier and his band of mutants, known as the X-Men, strive for mutual understandings of peace between human and mutant-kind. On top of that, the X-Men must also deal with battling the forces of the Brotherhood of Mutants, led by Magneto, an exceptionally powerful mutant who can manipulate magnetism and who uses fear and violence against Homo sapiens in the name of mutant-kind.

"X-Men" doesn't stand up that well nowadays in regards to both accuracy of the comics and delivering a full story. The film seems more like an overly-long pilot for a serial. The story concerning Wolverine's mysterious past (which would go on

to fill up three more films) and Magneto's devious plot are not fleshed out well enough to fill an entire movie. But the characters are strong, the effects are dazzling and the respect and intelligence leveled at Stan Lee's legendary band of merry mutants stood as a foot-hold for a terrific series of films, not to mention superhero movies as a whole.

"Watchmen" (2009)



Put on hold for years due to the fact that it was deemed un-filmable, director Zack Snyder was finally successful in bringing the project of adapting the most celebrated graphic novel of all time to life. The nuts and bolts of what "Watchmen" is about are extremely complicated. Set in an alternate 1985, we're introduced to an America that won the war in Vietnam, where Richard Nixon has run for his fifth term and, through all of this, superheroes had a hand in crafting the way the world is today. The film follows the exploits of a collection of vigilantes such as the ink-blot masked Rorschach, the caped crusader Night Owl and the near-omnipotent Dr. Manhattan as they try and unravel the mystery of who has been trying to pick-off costumed heroes.

The film was praised by fans for being a dead-on adaptation of Alan Moore and Dave Gibbon's legendary work, on-par with "Sin City" and Snyder's previous work, "300." Fans were still split, however, on some major alterations, such as the ending.

Regardless of the qualms, "Watchmen" does a bang-up job of adapting a gigantic and complex plot, is full of top-notch talent (with each actor being the spitting image of their comic counterpart) and is a visual marvel. It does major justice to a brilliant story of heroism, science, progress, truth and the price of peace, life and compromise, even in the face of Armageddon.



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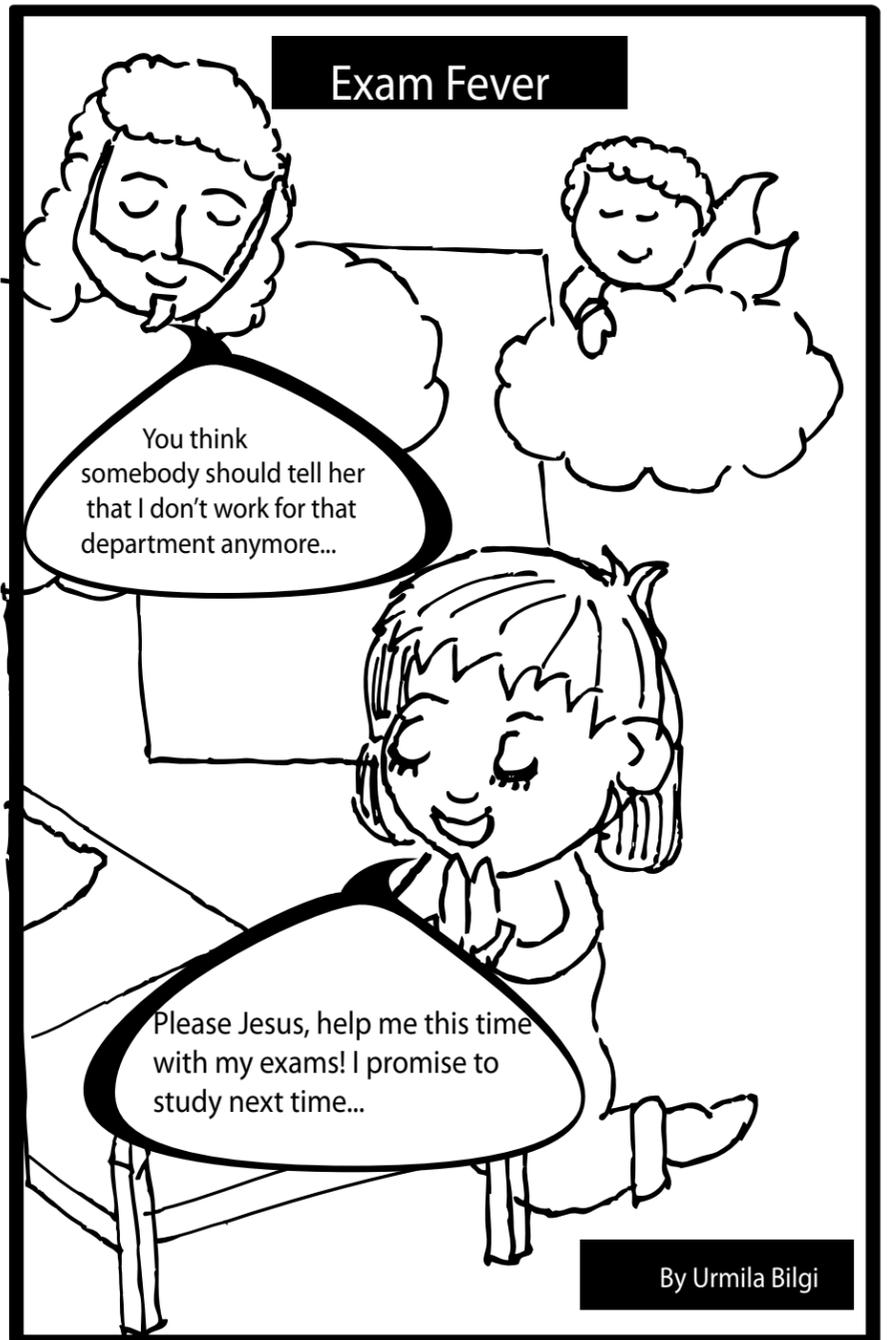
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BUGDOKU



HAVE A GREAT SUMMER! 

BIRDOSCOPES

BY MADAME MYSTIQUE
STAFF PSYCHIC

Blue Jay

3/21-4/19
Spring has you feeling a little blue, but it is nothing that you cannot take. Do not allow this sadness to overcome your hopeful spirit. Summer has a lot in store for you, dear blue jay. Keep your chin up and remember that great events are in store.

Dove

4/20-5/20
Drama generally does not enter your life, dear dove. However, when drama does come your way, you are unable to deal with it due to your peaceful ways. Hold on to this peaceful mind-set, but remember that it's okay to engage in conflict. Conflict isn't always terrible.

Owl

5/21-6/20
Owls keep to themselves, remaining silent in the loudest situations. This collective calmness will take you far in life, owl. Others may mistake you as shy, but disregard this. Keep your eyes wide and your ears open. Listening and observing is your strength.

Hummingbird

6/21-7/22
Lately, you have been on the quest for the nectar of love. Love will come your way, as long as you are patient. Do not move so quickly into situations, dear hummingbird. Your impulsiveness can get you into trouble. Practice meditation and deeply think about your own actions and desires.

Cardinal

7/23-8/22
Your bold actions and behavior may come off as domineering to others, dear cardinal. Perhaps it is time to reflect on your behavior. While you should always keep your voice, remember to allow others to speak. They may have something marvelous to offer.

Sparrow

8/23-9/22
Lately, you have been feeling lost, dear sparrow. You have been busy pleasing others instead of pleasing yourself. It's time to put YOU first. Take time out of each day and do something nice for yourself. Perhaps this summer is the time to reinvent yourself and start anew.

Flamingo

9/23-10/22
Flirting is a skill of yours, flamingo. In fact, flirting is almost a sport for you. Be wary of those you may attract. Some may get the wrong idea, so it's important to be clear that you are not looking for a relationship. Being single this summer may open many doors.

Peacock

10/23-11/21
Lively and colorful, peacocks have the ability to brighten up anyone's day. But sometimes they don't let their spectacular feathers show. Lately, you have been feeling depressed, causing your colors to dim. Try to get out of this funk by getting out of the house. Go outside and let your true colors shine.

Emu

11/22-12/21
Dear emu, you have a strong desire to fly away from your hometown this summer. Your sense of wanderlust urges you to experience new environments, but it's important to remain practical. Traveling this summer is absolutely possible, but getting the money will take hard work. Work hard and travel your heart out.

Canary

12/22-1/19
Your remarkable voice captivates those around you. Canaries hold the power to command an entire room with their determination and charm. Never hold back this voice for it will take you far in life, especially this summer.

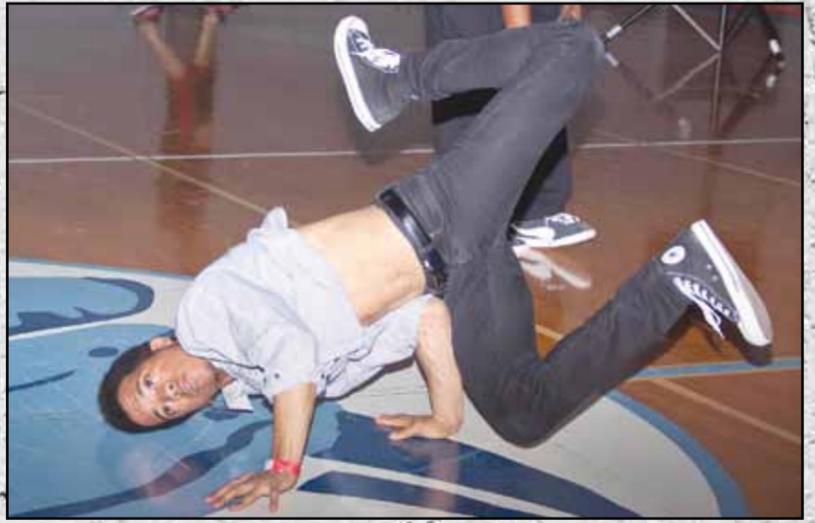
Swan

1/20-2/18
Graceful and caring, your presence is likely to intrigue many. Be wary of who you befriend this summer. Some are only after your beauty, while others truly want to know your heart. Trust your instincts, dear swan, and you will befriend the right people.

Heron

2/19-3/20
Bold and aggressive, your natural leadership skills will finally be put to the test this May. You possess great potential to become a leader, but you cannot let your ego get in the way. Sometimes being a leader means listening to those around you.

Mehdi Arshed of Wayne State spins on the floor with some wild moves.



(Below) Keegan Seoul Lye of Grand Rapids balances on one hand for several long moments.



KINGS of the craft

Breakdancing pros showcase their skills on campus

BY BRAD MILLER
STAFF WRITER

On Saturday, April 6, the Schoolcraft Breakdance Club hosted the Kings of the Craft breakdancing competition in the Physical Education building. Doors opened at 5 p.m. and the battles started around 7:30 p.m. There were dancers from all over Michigan, with some of the dancers traveling from as far away as Canada and California. Several hundred of dancers, fans, and enthusiasts were in attendance. Break Dance Club President, Mario Hernandez, organized the competition, which culminated in a final two on two round for a cash prize of \$500.



Thirteen-year-old Rachel McVey of Grand Rapids proves that girls have just as much as skill as the guys.

(Below) Schoolcraft's own Ryan Baugh twists his body in time to the beat.



(Above) Grand Rapids' Brian Urbane balances on his palm while warming up for the show.

(Right) A crowd gathers on the gymnasium floor to watch the battle of Michigan's finest breakdancing pros.

