





VOLUME 18 • ISSUE 10 | February 15, 2005

Cultural diversity returns 'Focus Latin America' educates students

By JOHN PARSELL Managing Editor

fter the booming success of the "Focus Middle ■East" project, the Schoolcraft College International Institute is returning for yet another taste of cultural diversity. "Focus Latin America,"

designed to increase the understanding and appreciation of SC students and the community for the cultures of Latin America.

Josselyn Moore, professor of sociology and anthropology, says that the "Focus" project will feature a different global region every year.

"During 2004, we focused on the Middle East," says

sponsored by the SCII, is Moore. "In 2005, we are turning our attention to Latin America."

> According to Moore, "Focus Latin America" will feature speakers addressing a variety of topics including the Aztecs in Mexico, artists such as Frida Kahlo, the multiethnic origins of Caribbean music, opportunities to travel abroad at MSU and even a one week trip in June to

Mexico's Mayan Caribbean, just to name a few.

April Tucker, first year student and general studies major, says that the "Focus" events are a very important part of our society.

"There are so many different cultures in the world," says Tucker. "I think it is important for students to educate themselves on these cultures. The speakers and

the presentations of the 'Focus Project' are so informative; it is hard to walk out of them without more knowledge."

The next presentation is by Osvaldo "Ozzie" Rivera, assistant professor of social work and director of multicultural affairs at Madonna

▶ See "Focus Latin America" on PAGE 3

Online class head count is high

Traditional classroom learning is still at the top

BY HEATHER HYATT News Editor

s technology in our world evolves and gives people opportunities to expand forms of learning, Schoolcraft's online courses have become increasingly popular with students. According to Sherry Matusik, assistant to the registrar, there are currently 2,495 students enrolled in online classes compared to the 1,912 that enrolled for Winter Semester in 2004.

"About one out of every four students is taking an online course," says Matusik. "That's phenomenal."

According to Colette Perugia, coordinator of distance and distributive learning, there are around 140 online classes offered through the college for Winter Semester 2005. Of those 140 classes, nearly every department on campus offers an online class.

"There isn't an online course for welding," says Matusik. "But the number of sections being offered and the variety of classes are increasing."

The Michigan Community College Association has created a virtual learning collaborative, the Michigan Community College Virtual Learning Collaborative, which is designed to allow community college students to take courses from other member community colleges. This means that a student enrolled at SC can take an online course through any other community college in Michigan by logging on to

▶ See "Online classes" on PAGE 3



QUIET PLEASE

Photo by Gerard Knoph

General maintenance employee Joseph Rutecici works on the disassembling of the library bookshelves that are going to be reassembled in the Lower Waterman Wing of the VisTaTech Center.

FOR STORY ON LIBRARY RELOCATION SEE PAGE 2

Officer Profile: Roger Hammonds PAGE 9



News 2 **Opinions.....4** Campus Life..... 8 A & E 12

Sports...... 16 Diversions 20 Photo Story......24

CONTACT US: sceditor@schoolcraft.edu (734) 462-4422



CGT celebration a success

Artwork by CGT Alumni Nicholas Van Wagner

NEWS February 15, 2005

Bradner is on the move

Library coming to the Waterman Wing ahead of schedule

By John Parsell Managing Editor

he Bradner library is beginning to move to the Waterman Wing in preparation for its \$2.5 million renovations.

The library, which will undergo heavy construction to include a café, central circulation desk, dozens of computers and an atrium, was originally scheduled to temporarily relocate to the basement of the VisTaTech Center-Waterman Wing in mid-March.

Recently, library staff members have announced that they are ahead of schedule, and will begin the move over mid-semester break.

On Sunday, Feb. 27, at 5 p.m., Bradner will close its doors to start asbestos

removal and complete renovation of the library.

The temporary library will open on Monday, March 7, at

Student employees and faculty members have been working on the process for quite some time now, getting rid of 30,000 of their near 86,000 books, making way for a more modern type of library.

"The work is very repetitive," says Chris Hall, student employee in the library. "We basically just pull multi-copy and outdated books from the shelf, and then delete them from the database in our computer system."

Hall also states that professors of the college, with extensive knowledge in a certain subject, will help with the process as well. "Sometimes, History professors will come and pull history books and English professors will pull some literature books," says Hall. "It works out good, because if they think that there is an important book that should be kept, they'll let us know."

Plans to convert the outdated library into the core of the campus are much needed, according to Deborah Daiek, associate dean of academic and assessment services.

"The library is very outdated," says Daiek. "It is a twentieth-century, quiet, book-focused space designed for individual learning."

Daiek believes that modern libraries should be designed for collaborative learning, with activity going on and even some noise.

"They become a hub of



Photo by Gerard Kno

Two hundred eighteen boxes of government documents have been organized and packed under the supervision of Kim Fournier.

college campuses, and activity is the sign that they are successful," says Daiek.

Winter Semester hours for the temporary library

will be: Monday-Thursday 8 a.m.-9 p.m., Friday from 8 a.m.-4 p.m., and Saturday-Sunday from noon-5 p.m.

Metro-Detroit Association for the Education of Young Children

Bowling night

The Schoolcraft Chapter of MDAEYC invites everyone to join them at Plaza Lanes on Friday, Feb. 18, at 8:45 p.m. The cost is \$9 and includes three games and shoe rental.

General meeting

The next general meeting of the Schoolcraft chapter of MDAEYC will be on Friday, March 11, at 6:30 p.m. in the Student Activities Office. The SAO is located in the VisTaTech Center-Lower Waterman Wing.

For more information on any MDAEYC events, check the bulletin board inside the McDowell Center, Room 125, or contact club secretary Jan Larente at JLarente@juno.com.

Future Educator's Forum

The Schoolcraft College Counseling Office presents the 2005 Future Educator's Forum on Tuesday, Feb. 22, from 6 -8:30 p.m. in the VisTaTech Center. Students will have an opportunity to hear important information about careers in education, discover programs that transfer from Schoolcraft to senior institutions, discuss transfer requirements with university representatives and talk with educators who are currently in the field about their experiences and recommendations.

For more information, contact Cynthia L. Cicchelli at (734) 462-4400, Ext. 5202.

Winter play tickets for 'Othello' on sale

Tickets for the Theater Department's winter play, William Shakespeare's



"Othello," are on sale now and good seats are still available.

The presentation offers two types of tickets, a dinner theater performance that includes a pre-show dinner, prepared by the Food Service Department, presented in the DiPonio Room of the VisTaTech Center, as well as a show only ticket.

The dinner theater will be on March 25 and 26, and April 1 and 2 with dinner at 6:30 p.m. and the performance at 8 p.m. in the auditorium, located in the Liberal Arts Building. Performance only dates will be on April 8 and 9 at 8 p.m.

Tickets for the dinner theater are \$24, while tickets for the show only are \$12.

If interested in purchasing tickets, contact the Bookstore at (734) 462-4596.

Multicultural Fair

The Multicultural Fair committee is currently recruiting students to participate in this year's Multicultural Fair, which takes place on March 23 and will feature more than two dozen country display tables created by students, language tables and performances every half hour.

For more information, call Laura Leshok at (734) 462-4400 Ext. 5203.

Women's Resource Center

Free financial planner

A certified divorce financial

planner from the Center for Financial Planning will be available for private consultations from 5-7 p.m. at the Women's Resource Center on Monday, March 7, to discuss financial concerns relative to divorce. Sign up is on a first-come basis beginning at 4:30 p.m.

Divorce Support Group

A divorce support group is open to anyone contemplating, in the process of or having difficulty adjusting to divorce. The group meets in the WRC on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month from 7-9 p.m. and is free of charge. Jacqueline Gold, Certified Divorce Financial Planner, will discuss the financial aspects of divorce and how to plan for your future on Tuesday, Feb. 22. A group discussion is scheduled for Tuesday, March 8.

CHIPS information meeting

CHIPS ("Chocolate Chips to Micro Chips to Blue Chips") is a college-credit program for anyone thinking about making the transition from working inside the home to working outside the home to making sound personal financial decisions. For information about classes beginning in May, plan to attend a Thursday information meeting at the Radcliff Center, Room 120, from 2-3 p.m. on Feb. 17, Feb. 24, March 3 or March 10, or call the WRC at (734) 462-4443.

Legal services

An attorney from the law firm of Woll & Woll will be available for private consultations from 5-7 p.m. at the WRC on Monday, Feb. 21, to discuss family and divorce matters. Sign up is on a first-come basis beginning at 4:30 p.m.

VITA

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) will be available to e-file 2004 federal and state tax returns on Saturday, March 12, by making an appointment through the WRC at (734) 462-4443.

Spaghetti dinner

The annual scholarship fundraiser for the WRC will be held in the DiPonio Room of VisTaTech on Tuesday, March 15, from 6-9 p.m. Tickets are available through the WRC.

The WRC is located in the McDowell Center, Room 225. For information about any WRC program or event, call (734) 462-4443.

Financial aid workshops

Students in need of assistance in completing their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) can attend one of several workshops in the McDowell Center, Room 200. There will be a morning workshop from 10-11 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 25, as well as two evening workshops from 6-7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 17, and Monday, March 7.

Students should bring all their financial information for 2004, including tax returns, W2s, non-taxable income statements, child support, social security and asset information. If born on or after Jan. 1, 1982, students will also need their parents' financial information. Workshops will begin promptly, so please arrive early.

Scholarship information

History Scholarships

The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History is offering college sophomores with a serious interest in American history and academic excellence in the field two possible scholarships for this summer.

Fifteen applicants will receive History Scholarships, consisting of a stipend of \$2,400, along with room, board and travel expenses for a six-week research program in New York City that runs from June 19 to July 30. History Scholars will conduct research to prepare historical materials for publication, participate in weekly meetings with eminent historians and visit leading repositories of American historical documents, books and material culture.

Up to 50 runner-ups will be named Finalists, and will be invited to an all-expenses-paid, one week program in NYC from June 4-11. Finalists will participate in field trips, discussions with professionals about careers for history majors and lectures by leading scholars.

For more information about applications, e-mail ahlstrom@gilderlehrman.org, or call (212) 316-5280.

Connection takes General Excellence Award in MPA competition

First place award brought home for the second consecutive year

he Schoolcraft Connection Excellence, at the Michigan Press Association awards ceremony in Grand Rapids, Mich. on Feb. 28, 2005, for the second year in

In addition, editors and photographers racked up several indiviual awards.

Danny Sperry, editor in chief, Sports News article, third place for took first place for General received second place for Best Review; John Parsell, managing editor, received third place for Best Editorial; Zach Norton, arts and entertainment editor, received second place for Best Column; Chris Jackett, sports editor, received five awards, including third place for Best Non-Deadline Story, first place for Best

Best Sports Feature, first place for Best Sports Column and third place for Best Column. Gerard Knoph, photo editor, took second place for Best News Photo.

Martin Smith, former layout/design editor, took second place for Overall Design; Risa Grace Oram, former photo editor, took third place for Best

News Photo and Best Feature Photo; and Chris Crandall, former staff photographer, took third for Best Sports

The Connection competed in Division III of the MPA. Division III consists of college newspapers that publish less than weekly.

"Focus Latin America continued from PAGE 1

Feb. 15, from 1-2 p.m.

The presentation will give a historical perspective on how three primary cultural and racial groups have shaped and continue to influence present day Latin American music and culture.

Some other presentations will include: "Freedom house: An island of hope for immigrants in Detroit," on Wednesday Feb. 23, from

University, and will take place today, 12-1 p.m., as well as "Domesticating the Marshlands in Aztec Mexico: Feeding urban populations from swamps," on Thursday, March 10, from 2:30-3:30 p.m.

> All presentations will take place in room 200 of the Liberal Arts Building.

> "Faculty members of area colleges and universities, as well as leaders of community organizations, have given generously of their time and talents

to share their expertise as a part of our speaker series," says Moore.

The 2004 project, "Focus Middle East," was a huge success, with attendance at some presentations nearing over 200 students, faculty, staff and community members. As a culmination to the inaugural year, SC presented a "Cairo Coffeehouse," an afternoon celebrating the music, poetry, dance, dress and food of the Middle East.

"Capping this year-long celebration of Latin American cultures will be a fiesta in late November," says Moore. "Ozzie Rivera and his musical group, La Inspiración, featuring Hot Salsa and Latin Jazz, will be headlining this event. The Fiesta will also include the art, food and dress of Latin America."

This event will be co-sponsored by the Omicron Iota Chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society at SC.

Online classes" continued from PAGE 1

http://www.mccvlc.org and registering through the website.

"They (online courses) are worthwhile because if you are working two or more jobs it allows you to have more hours in the workplace and obtain credits to transfer and or graduate," says sophomore Leighann Staknis.

Even though online course registration is rising, traditional classroom learning is speculated to continue to be the main source of education.

"Not all students are going to be capable of online study," says Matusik. According to Monica Sullivan, associate dean of sciences, many students still like the face to face relationship they develop with the instructor and with other students. Also, it is difficult to teach certain courses online.

"We are moving to online courses, but we are not trying to do away with student and instructor contact," says Kim Sanders, registrar.

According to Sanders, the percent-

age of students who still register for classes in person when there are the options of call in and web registration, tells her that many students still want to be on campus.

"You get to interact with people (on campus)," says freshman Jenny Bechamp. "Also, being on campus gives you more incentive to go to class."

Distance learning courses were first offered as video courses, classes which are supported by video tape, according to Sullivan. As online learning became widely known as a quality way of learning, SC looked into incorporating the classes into its course offerings.

College officials believe that registration for nontraditional course offerings will continue to rise, allowing students to have a more flexible schedule by working from home. However, many students still prefer coming to campus for the traditional classroom experience.



CAMPUS CRIME REPOR



Larceny

On Jan. 15, between 4-5 p.m., coach Briggs of the basketball team reported to a public safety offic that one of the player's lockers in the men's visitors' locker room had been broken into during a basketball game. The following items were taken from the locker: one Rolls Gold watch approximately valued at \$600, one black leather Pelle Pelle coat approximately valued at \$800, one Nextel cell phone approximately valued at \$150, one Michigan Driver's License and \$200 in cash. The total value of stolen items is approximately \$1,750.

Larceny

On Jan. 18, between 11:20-11:30 a.m., a female student reported that her silver Nextel I-730 cell phone and the clip-on holder fell off of her coat while she was in a stall in the women's restroom in the 200

hall of the Liberal Arts Building. The phone skidded across the restroom floor and an unknown white female then it picked up and left the area. The cell phone is worth approximately \$200.

Disorderly conduct

On Jan. 18, a complainant requested an escort to the South Lot of campus due to the constant harassment and repeated unwanted advances towards her by a white male student. It was reported by the complainant that the harasser had aggressively attempted to touch and physically force unwanted and uninvited attentions upon her. A public safety officer escorted her to the South Lot where she was met by her family and he then directed her to gather information and report it to Lt. John Monge of the Public Safety Office for further investigation. She was also advised to make a formal complaint with the police department.

Felonious assault-motor vehicle

On Jan. 18, at approximately 4:40 p.m., in the Center Lot of the McDowell Center, a male student was struck by and became attached to the left side of a gray Mitsubishi, after arguing with the driver of the car. The driver continued to back up the car and drive away causing the student to fall from the car and hit a parked car. The Livonia Police Department and the Livonia Fire Department were contacted and they responded to the scene. A LPD officer advised him to contact the LPD at a later time to file a report. There is no report at this time.

Stolen purse

On Jan. 20, at 6:30 p.m., a female student contacted the PSO to report that her purse had been stolen from the Physical Education Building. A checkbook, social security card,

Marshall Fields credit card, driver's license and various other items were in the purse. She was advised to file a report with the LPD.

Larceny

On Jan. 24, at approximately 2:15 p.m., Public Safety Officer Rick Lounsbery was notified that there had been a breaking and entering related larceny in the men's locker room of the Physical Education Building. Officer Lounsbery checked the locker and found no visible damage. The complainant stated that person(s) unknown had removed his lock from the locker and taken his wallet and his car keys. The wallet contained identification, credit cards, assorted types of paperwork and approximately \$30. The complainant was advised to file a report with the LPD.

> For emergency, contact PUBLIC SAFETY at (734) 462-4424.

INOUROPINION

Online classes provide alternative for students

Distance learning means more degrees

ccording to Governor
Granholm, only 22
percent of Michiganders
have a college degree,
and only 45 percent of
those who enter college graduate
with a degree.

This is stunning, especially from our perspective, where the number of students attending Schoolcraft increases every semester.

One thing that will help change those numbers for the better is the increased popularity and number of online courses offered at the college.

With busy schedules, full-time jobs, in some cases, children, and many other responsibilities, some see their opportunity of a degree as a distant possibility.

But now, thanks to distance learning, particularly online courses, a degree can be at anyone's fingertips, literally. From busy mothers to factory workers, everyone can find the time to complete a course online.

Some people may believe that an online course can be difficult, as self-motivation is needed. However, many students will find that online coursework can be completed while surfing the web, chatting with a friend and listening to their favorite music.

Granted, the environment is far more relaxed than that of a classroom, due to the fact that the students can surround

themselves with as little (or as many) distractions as they want.

Another concern is that the lack of classroom participation may stunt the students' ability to learn as much. This is also a fallacy, as many students who would be too shy or nervous to raise their hand in class will easily take part in a chatroom as part of a class discussion.

While an online class may be a nice alternative for students (or prospective students) who do not have the time to attend an actual class, the lack of interaction may leave a false impression of the "real world." The complete lack of classroom experience, especially for young students who only take online courses, may hinder one's social relations in the outside world.

Nonetheless, online courses provide a great alternative for busy people with full schedules.

Perhaps it is time to update the old, "When I was your age, we had to walk to school bare foot, uphill both ways..." tale to, "When I was your age, we had to drive to school, up road, both ways, fully clothed." Well, OK, maybe not just yet.

Still, online learning has changed collegiate education in a positive way. It is wonderful how Schoolcraft faculty and students have embraced this educational shift with such enthusiasm.



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK
BY DANNY SPERRY
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Smokers wrongfully fired at Weyco

Firing and refusing to hire smokers needs to be illegal

magine getting fired from your job for eating a bacon double cheeseburger with a side of fries, simply on the grounds that it is unhealthy for you. Sounds infuriating right?

Well a similar circumstance played out at Weyco Inc, an Okemos-based company specializing in employee benefit plans and benefit management. The company recently fired four female employees because they did not quit smoking. A similar tactic was adopted by Kalamazoo Valley Community College, where as of Jan. 1, 2005, they no longer hire smokers for full-time positions.

State Sen. Virg Bernero,
Democrat, plans to introduce a
bill that would protect smokers,
making it illegal for employers to fire and refuse to hire
people for legal activities they
do outside of work. Hopefully,
the bill will pass with very little
resistance, so that smokers will
no longer be wrongfully discriminated in this manner.

Weyko president Howard
Weyers justifies his company's practices by stating that
smokers have higher health care
cost and lower productivity. Yes,
smoking is extremely bad for
your health, but I'm not about
to believe that smokers are less
productive.

Both of my parents smoke and neither have productivity issues at work; they work as hard as anyone else.

Look around you. I'm sure

you'll find lazy co-workers who smoke, but I bet you'll find lazy non-smokers as well.

If Weyers, or others who share his philosophy, need to layoff workers for financial reasons, then they shouldn't just naively chop off employees who smoke. What would make sense and be justified would be to fire those who *are* less productive, based not on statistics, but on an individual basis.

Weyers also states, "We're doing everything we can ... to get our staff healthier."

This guy really needs to learn a thing or two about the horrible nature of cigarette addiction before he goes and fires people because of it, claiming he is doing it for their health.

Again, I'll reference my parents: they are currently trying to quit smoking, but I know that if either one were to get fired because they smoked, the stress would severely halt their efforts.

Perhaps Weyers is just too busy pretending to care about his employees' health to actually take notice on who does good work.

It is not as if Weyers just got up one day and fired all his smokers; he did tell them in late 2003 that they would be fired if still smoking in 2005. Regardless, if he told them a day before or five years before, he should not have the right to.

If all goes well with Sen.
Bernero's proposed bill, he and others won't have the right to.



Staff Writers Wanted

Apply @ the Student Activities Office or Call: (734) 462-4422

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CONNECTION

SCHOOLCRAFT

Arts and Entertainment Editor ZACH NORTON

Sports Editor Chris Jackett

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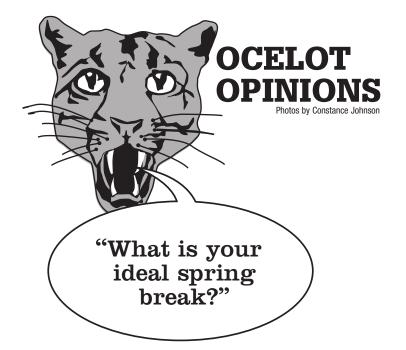
The Schoolcraft Connection corrects all errors of fact. If you have discovered an error, please contact the Editor in Chief, 734-462-4422, or sceditor@schoolcraft.edu.

CONTACT US:

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

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

Via Email: sceditor@schoolcraft.edu

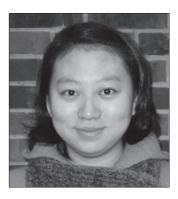




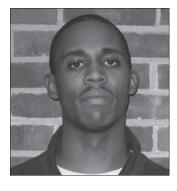
Ciera Reedus
Age: 19
Year: 1st
Major: Forensic Science
"Denver, to cheer on the
Pistons at their game. Go
sightseeing maybe at the
Grand Canyon with some
friends."



Kevin Smail
Age: 22
Year: 3rd
Major: Liberal Arts
"I'd go hiking in the
Smokey Mountains with
some buddies. Also, I'd
like to go swimming,
white water rafting,
wrestle a bear and be at
one with nature."



Nala Han Age: 21 Year: 1st Major: Business "Going to Miami Beach with friends. Hanging out in the sun, warm weather and boating."



James Douglas
Age: 20
Year: 1st
Major: Communications
"Vacation on the beach
with friends and
teammates. To go jet
skiing, snorkeling to see
exotic fish and kick it back
and relax."



Rachel Chetosky
Age: 40
Year: 1st
Major: Dental/Transfer
"Enjoy the time off! Go to
Las Vegas to see shows like
'O'and 'Cirque de Soleil.'
Visit the wax museum, and
relax by the pool, to get
away from school."

POSTCARDS FROM STUPIDSVILLE

By John Parsell

Detroit's stereotype is crumbling

New renovations create friendlier, safer environment



hen I heard that Detroit was undergoing major renovations to prepare for Super Bowl XL, I was, like most suburbanites, quite skepti-

cal. The ideology of taking the crumbling slums of Detroit and creating a friendly, safe environment seemed unreal to me.

It seems I was wrong.

Already, Detroit has started to shed its stigma and become a place that I can be proud to call my home, despite the mayoral mishaps.

The most intriguing aspect of the renovations would have to be the creation of residential lofts in the once shattered central business district. Over 400 residential units have been developed over the past two years in the one-square-mile area of Grand Circus Park, Detroit's central business district.

The best part of the renovations is that most of them involve historical commercial and industrial buildings that have been vacant for years.

The Kales building was once home to the S.S. Kresge Company, K-Mart's forerunner. The building, after sitting vacant since 1986, is now being restored and restructured into lofts. In addition, the new \$20 million Campus Martius Park was opened in November in the heart of the central business district. The park includes an intricate fountain, an ice skating rink and an Au Bon Pain restaurant.

Just being in the area is a huge change. Walking around the park, hanging out with friends or ice skating will make visitors forget that they are in the Detroit that they thought they knew. In just a mere two years, the central business district has transformed from a barrage of abandoned buildings, into an environment that makes you feel secure.

A total of six buildings are expected to be renovated to create almost 200 residential lofts. The fact that it is being done to some very influential buildings from the 20th century is remarkable.

The development should surely give some of the Super Bowl visitors something to talk about while visiting Motown in 2006. The new image of Detroit will give outsiders a clean view, leaving them awestruck.

My parents and grandparents told me that I would never live to see this city be as great as it used to be. Maybe I won't, but it is rising back to its status of a great place to live and it is nice to know that I'm around to see it happen.

HELP THE HUNGRY!!!

Phi Theta Kappa and Student Activities Board are sponsoring a Canned Food Drive from now through May 2005.

Please bring your non-perishable donations to the Student Activities Office and sign up to help at the St. Leo's Soup Kitchen in Detroit on the last Saturday of the month starting in September 2004.

HELLOY MARIT

For more information, please stop by the Student Activities Office located in the VisTaTech Center - Lower WatermanWing or call us at (734) 462-4422.

Ryan's Rants

By Ryan Russell

Friends' advice is not always welcome

Someone's personal life is no one's business but their own



should quit smoking, it's bad for you. You shouldn't drink, it's a

stupid thing to do. You need to..." How many times have you gotten this type of advice from your friends? While their statements may be more in-depth, your pals inevitably feel the need to offer their own two cents on your personal life, whether you like it or not.

Granted, there have probably been plenty of times when you've sought out the suggestions of your friends. There is, however, a difference between offering advice when it's requested and beating someone over the head with your thoughts on some subjects.

It seems that this unwanted advice usually regards one of three areas: smoking, drinking or relationships, and most of the time, your friends are smart enough to avoid relationship debates if they know you honestly care for a person. Unfortunately, on the issues of smoking and drinking, some people seem incapable of shutting up. They feel compelled to badger their buddies about the evils of tobacco and alcohol, and the presumed stupidity of those that use either.

To those people, I can say just one thing: get off your sanctimonious high horse and let your friends make their own decisions. If your friend wants to drink, shut up and let them drink, all right? I'm not saying you should let them become an alcoholic, or let them drink themselves into oblivion, but

66 7 ou if your buddy wants a beer every now and then, deal with it.

> And let's not forget about the anti-smoking crowd. Actually, we can't possibly forget about them, because they won't stop breathing down peoples' necks. If you want a cigarette, you shouldn't have to deal with the guilt trip from hell every time you light up. It sounds harsh, but if your friends refuse to quit criticizing you, then maybe it's time to make some new friends.

> Most of the time, their advice comes only out of how much they care for you. But unfortunately, for every one of these people, it seems as if hundreds more simply feel that smoking or drinking is wrong and think you should be forced to obey their beliefs. God forbid someone be allowed to make their own decisions.

> You could always quit, and seeing as smoking and drinking are both fairly negative influences on your health, it would probably be wise. But I realize how difficult that can be, especially when your friends' constant lecturing angers you so much that you want to keep doing whatever it is you're doing just to spite them.

> So I guess it all comes down to how much you can take. You can quit, you can keep doing it and put up with continued criticism, or you can find some friends that accept every aspect of who you are (it's not that hard).

> To those of you who have the advice problem I speak of: maybe you should give it a rest before your friends

take my advice. Connection

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Season of Nonviolence Opeaker Oeries

Mark Hovey

"Saying No To War A View from a Conscientious Objector" Wednesday, February 16, 2004 - 10:00 a.m. LA 200

Joan Kusak, IHM

"A Peacemaker's Journey to Palestine and Israel" Thursday, February 24, 2004 - 1:00 p.m. LA 200

Gordon Judd

"Nonviolent Conflict Resolution and Mediation" Tuesday, March 15, 2004 -10:00 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. LA 200

Sherri Wander

"Skills of Nonviolence for Everyday Life"

Once you have the skills, you have a choice. Tuesday, March 31, 2004 - 10:00 a.m. LA 200

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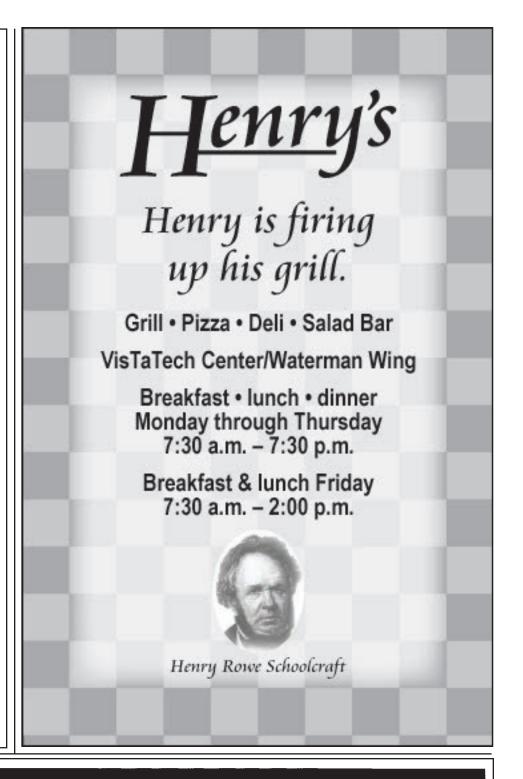
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PROFESSOR PROFILE: Thomas O'Connor

Teaching on a more personal level

Former researcher now professor

BY AILEEN WISNIESKI STAFF WRITER

rofessor Thomas O'Connor has been teaching biology at Schoolcraft for the past 15 years and is still going strong. Though he graduated with a Ph.D. in Physiology and specialized in Neurophysiology at the University of Washington in Seattle, teaching was not what he set out to do, and when he entered into the work force he started as a researcher.

O'Connor's first job was at the University of Washington, where he recorded the electrical signals from nerve cells from the brains of Rhesus monkeys. "What we were trying to do with the monkeys that were awake was see how the Rhesus monkeys reacted to sound in the nerve cells in their brains," says O'Connor.

He ended up at the University of California in Irvine, Orange County, were he continued to conduct research in neurology. He worked there as a Post Doctoral fellowship, but when funds were cut significantly the department was told to lose most of their fellowships that they had working for them. That is when he decided he was not really interested in being a researcher. He had taught part-time in the past and enjoyed that more.

After seeing an ad for a teaching job at SC in the Chronicles of Higher Education in 1990, he sent his resume to SC.

"I didn't have any knowledge about Schoolcraft," states O'Connor. "I needed the job since not many were available at the time, and when I visited the campus during my interview, I liked it."

O'Connor is originally from the area and has family in the Midwest. O'Connor is currently teaching Biology 050, Biology 101, Biology 237 and Biology 238. In his classes, students are open to talk about important issues in their lives or their families. This helps him teach the students on a more personal level and gives him insight on how to teach future classes. He says that he feels prepared for the classes he teaches and hopes he gives that impression to his students.

Nicole Sobolak, a third-year medical/lab science student, says she enjoyed having O'Connor as an instructor. "I think he is an excellent teacher. He makes the material easy to learn and understand," says Sobolak. "I would certainly take one of his classes in the future."

Before coming to SC, there were some unique experiences at his first teaching job in California.

"I walked into class the first night and held up a red textbook for the class and I said, 'everyone should have this book.' Everyone in the class held up blue books instead; it turned out that the faculty had changed the textbook and I was the only one that was not prepared for class that night."



HEART TO HEART

Photo by Gerard Knoph

Dr. O'Connor, profesor of biology, dissects a human heart, showing his class an up close view of the inner workings of the heart.

In his free time, O'Connor enjoys camping, hiking and cross country skiing. His current teaching job does not allow him to participate in these activities because in the winter and fall terms he teaches mores classes than his contract requires him to. With his current class load he has time only to walk his dog and read about science and history. He also

enjoys jogging and running. He has family in California, however, and hopes to go camping with his brothers this upcoming summer.

O'Connor feels that he has learned a lot from his students, in addition to teaching them. "I really enjoy the classes here, and I'm glad I have such a positive relationship with my students."

Ski Club in search for new officers

Opportunity for the coolest job on campus

By MUHAMMAD S. KHAN

ooking for some fun and excitement in the snow? The Ski Club is currently looking for students to fill the officer positions vacated last semester. These officer positions not only provide great leadership opportunities to students but as an added bonus, officers get to go on all the Ski Club trips for free.

Student Activities Technician Todd Stowell says, "We plan and organize ski trips. There are two ski trips a year plus a white water rafting trip in the summer. I would like to look for students that want to serve as officers this year, are willing to help with these trips, and to return in the fall."

Last semester the Ski Club president was Curt Bonn. Since then,

Bonn has left Schoolcraft, but he views his time as an officer as a great experience.

"Becoming an officer of the Ski Club was an unforgettable experience. I was constantly surrounded by other great students and staff. As an officer you really get a chance to develop skills that will help in any field of work. I was committed to about eight to 10 hours a week which is great for working around school and work."

Students are expected to work about eight to 10 hours a week but only during the time leading up to the events. The time between trips does not require as much of a commitment.

While an officer position is a great leadership opportunity, Stowell explains that there are added benefits to becoming a Ski Club officer.

▶ See "Ski Club" on PAGE 10



Mark Addy poses on the snowy slopes at a recent Ski Club trip to Steamboat, Colorado. Photo courtesy of

Ski Club

OFFICER PROFILE: Roger Hammonds

Phi Theta Kappa vice president enjoys his leadership duties



Photo by Gerard Knoph

Omicron Iota vice president of recruitment Roger Hammonds and Omicron Iota advisor Sherry Springer look over literature on the dangers of smoking, as the two set up a smoking dangers awareness table outside of Henry's.

BY RYAN RUSSELL CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

f one were to see Roger Hammonds walking through a hallway, one would probably think he was just another student.

But Hammonds, an accounting major planning to transfer to Michigan State University, is now the vice president of recruitment for

Schoolcraft's Omicron Iota chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society.

Hammonds is proud to be a member of Phi Theta Kappa, and he enjoys his leadership duties as well. Why? "Because of the sense of belonging," says Hammonds. "I like being a part of school activities, helping people and being recognized for my academic achievement."

His responsibilities include helping to organize and run events and fundraisers, communicating with both current and prospective members, and helping uphold the four Hallmarks of Phi Theta Kappa.

These Hallmarks (scholar-ship, leadership, fellowship and service) are used as the basis to decide which events Phi Theta Kappa will hold or participate in. As a vice president, Hammonds also assists in writing essays on the Four Hallmarks, which are judged in competition at the international level for different awards.

Out of all of his Phi Theta Kappa duties, however, Hammonds says his favorite part of it all is being able to help people. "I like helping others, particularly with St. Leo's Soup Kitchen and the children's events," he says. "The great thing is that you know you're helping someone in need, making a difference in their lives, and you can see the smiles on their faces."

Hammonds also enjoys the fact that he can be a leader to others, helping to get them involved with Phi Theta Kappa events, as well as giving the same recognition he received to other students who achieve their academic goals. He also helps students reach those academic goals, working as a tutor in the Learning Assistance Center.

"Roger is an exceptional student leader," says Sherry Springer, Omicron Iota advisor. "His commitment to fulfilling his duties and helping others is unsurpassed."

Just like any college student, Hammonds has hobbies and activities outside of the college as well. Besides the usual things, such as hanging out with friends or working his part-time job as a purchasing clerk for Golich Building Supply, he visits the gym often and plays the popular card game "Magic: The Gathering." Hammonds enjoys the strategy involved in "Magic," and recently participated at a pre-release tournament (a tournament held to promote upcoming booster set releases) at Birch

See "Hammonds" on PAGE 10



CAMPUS SNAPSHOTS



Music fans gather around the stage and soak up the night's rocking, high energy performances.



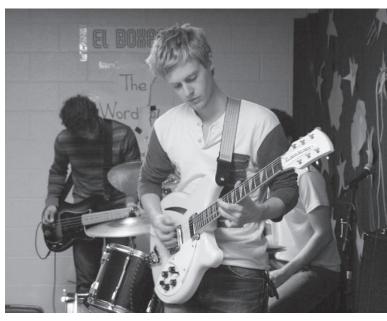
Dave
Lawson
(left) and
Will Yates
(right) of
The Pop
Project
treat the
crowd
to their
delectable
pop tunes.

SCRMFTSTOCK 2005

Photos by Rena Laver

Buburban Sprawl Music artists, Javelins, The Recital, The Pop Project, El Boxeo and The Word Play all rocked the Student Lounge on Feb. 4. The concert, Scraftstock 2005 was organized by the Student Activities Board as part of their True Brew concert series. Music lovers filled the Student Lounge, enjoying rocking tunes, hot and cold drinks, and food.

True Brew's final concert of the semester, Rock the Waterman, will take place on April 1.



Matt
Howard
(front) of
Javelins
wows fans
with his
intricate,
yet rocking
guitar
parts.



Skiers socialize in front of the Gendola Thunderhead Lodge on Mt. Werner in Steamboat, Colorado.

"Ski Club" continued from PAGE 8

include free trips. Sometimes, depending on the sales of the trips, there is expense money given to the officers to use for the trip. Also, it's a great opportunity for students to learn how to coordinate and market large scale events."

Aside from officer positions, the Ski Club is always looking for new members. Some students might not want to join the club as members because they do not know how to ski or have never been to a ski slope before. However, Bonn assures interested students that no prior experience is needed.

"The Ski Club welcomes beginners with open arms. In fact, instructors from local ski areas frequent our trips and are always willing to hand out advice," says Bonn.

Bonn also thinks that the trips

"The benefits of being an officer are quite worth it. "The ski trips are just incredible. We typically travel to Steamboat Springs, Colorado, and one other prestigious ski destination in North America every year. The views, the villages, the culture; they all add up to a perfect winter vacation."

> While it is too late to go to any other ski trips this semester, there is still the white water rafting trip coming up in June.

> Stowell says, "Our white water trip is usually the biggest trip we plan. We raft the New River in West Virginia and we typically have about 150 people going every year."

> Students interested in becoming a Ski Club officer or member should contact Todd Stowell at $(734)\ 462-4422.$

"Hammonds" | continued from PAGE 9

United States. Some of his favorites include one of the Netherlands' most popular destinations, Amsterdam, and Curacao, an island in the Caribbean.

As far as his future, Hammonds wants to become a Certified Public Accountant and work for one of

He enjoys traveling as well, the big four accounting companies, and while his favorite place is Ft. preferably KPMG (Klynveld, Peat, Lauderdale, Florida, he has also been Marwick and Goerdeler). In the to numerous destinations outside the meantime, he is content with his duties as a Schoolcraft student and Omicron Iota vice president.

> Hammonds encourages anyone interested in Phi Theta Kappa to contact him in the Student Activities Office at (734) 462-4422.

CLUB EVENTS

Phi Theta Kappa

Soup kitchen

Phi Theta Kappa will be volunteering at the St. Leo's Soup Kitchen on Saturday, Feb. 26. Volunteers will meet in the VisTaTech Center-Lower Waterman Wing at 8 a.m.

General meetings

Phi Theta Kappa will be holding general membership meetings on Tuesday, March 8, at 7 p.m. and Saturday, March 12, at 10 a.m.

Fundraisers

The deadline for orders for Phi Theta Kappa's Morley Candy Sale is Monday, Feb. 21. Little Caesars Pizza Kits will be delivered for pick-up on Tuesday, Feb. 22.

Student Activities Board

Movie night

SAB will be holding a movie night on Friday, Feb. 18, at 6 p.m. in the VisTaTech Center-Lower Waterman Wing. The movie will be "Napoleon Dynamite," and all students are invited to attend.

General meetings

General meetings are held every Friday at noon in the VisTaTech Center-Lower Waterman Wing. Students interested in joining SAB should fill out a membership application, available in the SAO in the VisTaTech Center-Lower Waterman Wing.

Otaku Anime Club

Anime screening

The Otaku Anime Club will have an anime screening on Saturday, Feb. 26, from 5-10 p.m. in the VisTaTech Center-Lower Waterman Wing. Anyone with an interest in anime is encouraged to attend.

The screening schedule is available online at http://www. otakuanime.org.

The Schoolcraft Connection

The Connection holds weekly staff meetings Mondays at 4 p.m. in the conference room in the VisTaTech Center-Lower Waterman Wing. Articles are assigned and general information is given to reporters and photographers. All students interested in journalism or photography are encouraged to attend and will be paid for their contributions to the Connection.

> For all club information, contact the STUDENT ACTIVITIES OFFICE (734) 462-4422.

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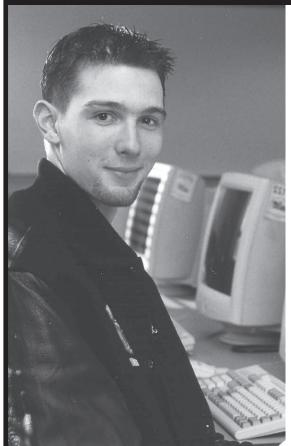
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CGT celebration a success

Students honored at CGT event

By Zach Norton Arts & Entertainment Editor

he Computer Graphics Technology department's 10th anniversary celebration is seen as an enormous success. In addition to the party, six students were awarded "Best of Category" honors for their artwork.

"The event was great," says CGT student Noelle Dragun, one of the event organizers. "Food Service ran out of plates; there was a lot of people, loud music, funky lights and everybody had a

The CGT department estimates that 250 people attended the event.

"It was a diverse group, from alumni to people interested in the program, along with faculty and students," says CGT instructor Mike Mehall. In addition, there were also students and instructors from other institutions in attendance.

Mehall teaches the Practical Applications class, which organized the event. Though the event took place during the Winter Semester, most of the planning was done in the fall. Two Fall Semester students, Dragun and Valerie Lemieux, volunteered to see the event to its finish.

Though the class had planned other events including the Semafx Animation Fest and a recent Adobe presentation, the 10th anniversary celebration was their biggest undertaking.

The scale and importance of the event caused some nervousness, but according to Dragun, the nerves subsided early on.

"At about 7 p.m. he started grinning ear-to-ear, and he was grinning for the rest of the night," says Dragun of her instructor Mehall.

The night featured artwork by students, faculty and alumni in a wide array of printed and video media. Six students were recognized for their work (see box below).

Their work and others' will be on display for several weeks in the CGT hall of the Applied Science building.



TUDIO 118 Marina Martyenenko "Cherry" Illustration **Pixel**





Terri Jameson "Self Portrait" **Photography** THE STREET Dawn Tappen "Self Portrait" **Illustration Vector**

Best of Show

Dawn Tappen "Self Portrait" **Illustration Vector**

Kay Estredo "Snapshot Newsletter" Publishing

Marina Martynenko "Cherry" **Illustration Pixel**

Terri Jameson "Self Portrait" Photography

Amy Hartrey "Architectural Fly-through" 3D Animation

Michael Seizew "Underground" **Motion Graphics**

Adobe motion graphics presentation

On Thursday, Feb. 17, from 7 - 9 p.m., Steven Whatley from Adobe will be doing a presentation on Adobe's video capabilities in the Presentation Room of the VisTaTech Center.

The seminar will feature the latest Adobe advances

in software for video, animation and motion graphics. Art from students, as well as local artists, will be on display.

For more information, visit the CGT website at http://www.schoolcraft.edu/ evolvecgt/default.htm.



MUSIC REVIEW:

Isis' 'Panopticon' is a dark, conceptual journey

New album expands sound in unexpected ways

> By Zach Norton ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

n their past album "Oceanic," Isis seemed to be moving in a more nonmetal direction; as if they were taking conscious steps to soften their sound. They maintained their signature sparse drumming style and low growl vocals, but had less of their wall-of-sound guitars.

Fans expecting a continuation of that movement on "Panopticon" will be surprised from the very heavy opening notes of "So Did We."

However, the second track "Backlit" opens with an almost uplifting instrumental introduction, like some-

thing off a pop/rock record. Soon, though, the heavy tones come and it starts to feel like an Isis song leaving all remnants of the intro behind.

"In Fiction" features guitar tone reminiscent of The Cure, before building up to Isis' trademark wall of sound, but instead of the growled lyrics, listeners get actual singing, albeit coarse. And instead of the subtle harmonic changes of the crushing guitars, "In Fiction" features some tasteful, straight-up metal riffage.

A layer of noise serves as a transition from track three into track four, "Wills Dissolve." With a soft intro with a very sinister, uneasy edge, this is a song that should have listeners looking over their shoulders. The drums kick in and the guitars spend several minutes in technical interplay, before the distortion comes

▶ See "Isis" on PAGE 14



Isis' current lineup, from left to right: Cliff Meyer (electronics coordinator), Aaron Turner (guitars/vocals), Aaron Harris (drums), Mike Gallagher (guitars) and Jeff Caxide (bass).





'Million Dollar Baby' is born to fight

By John Bisoski

lint Eastwood directs and stars in his new knockout hit "Million Dollar Baby," entering the box office ring just in time for the Oscars. Avid movie goers are flocking to theaters as they do this time of year to see who is who among the Academy Award nominees.

In its first two weeks at the box office, the film has racked in \$21 million in ticket sales and has garnered seven Academy Award nominations, including, best director and actor.

Eastwood is most likely doing back

flips in the living room of his posh country ranch, while Martin Scorsese is sweating losing his seventh nomination of an Academy Award to Dirty Harry, leaving his Oscar cabinet empty.

Take the better third of "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly," add some gray hair and an affinity for learning Gaelic, along with a few other traits of a proud Irishman, and Frankie Dunn (Clint Eastwood) is born.

Dunn, a gruff and hardened fighter who lived in the ring, now spends his retired "golden years" as trainer and manager, minus the shuffleboard.

After years of blaming himself for the injuries of a fighter he coached decades back, he has become introverted and his only family, his daugh ter, is no longer on speaking terms with him.

Maggie (Hillary Swank) is a 31-year-old waitress, who shares the same struggles as Dunn and a family straight off a 24 hour marathon of Blue Collar TV. Finding boxing as an easy getaway from life, it was not long before Frankie notices her lack of talent perusing around his gym. The hardened, facially emotionless Dunn is taken in by Maggie's unshakeable perseverance and sacrifice for boxing. Hesitant at first, Dunn's shilly-shally is overcome by Maggie's infatuation of the sport.

The tooth-chipping, nose-breaking, bloody gauntlet to glory is swiftly attained by Maggie's quick-fisted thinking. The art of hand, flight of

See "Million Dollar Baby" on PAGE 14



In "Million Dollar Baby," Swank plays 31 year-old Maggie, a waitress struggling to make it as a boxer.

BOOK REVIEW:

Twain is still alive and funnier than ever

'Mark Twain's Helpful Hints for Good Living' provides etiquette, amusement

By Travis Grand Staff Writer

hough Mark Twain has been dead for almost a century now, some of his classic pieces, published, unpublished and out of print, are indeed alive and well and have been compiled into the latest volume of irreverent, comical writings titled "Mark Twain's Helpful Hints for Good Living."

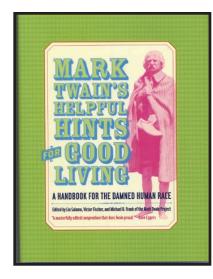
Having a structure that is famil-

iar to a self-help book, this directory contains a collaboration of writings taken from essays, journals, letters, speeches and out of print novels, designed to coach readers through a life of decorum, while at the same time, revealing the innermost thoughts stirring inside the head of the great Mark Twain.

There is a certain pompous edge that Twain possesses that can only be revered with a sense of humor. For instance, in a letter of complaint titled "About the Proposed Street Widening," Twain argues to the city about the street-widening proposal because he feels that, since he has the highest residential seniority in town, it is in his authority to intervene.

Twain's humor has always taken on an acute form of satire; not surprisingly, in a letter simply titled "To the Next Burglar," Twain addresses all burglars, politely telling them where his valuables are hidden and asking of them one small request, "please close the door when you go away." As if this lampoon was too subtle, Twain

▶ See "Twain" on PAGE 14



Soweto Gospel Choir at the Hill Auditorium

The Soweto Gospel Choir will appear at the Hill Auditorium on Friday, Feb. 18, at 8 p.m.

This South African choir is embarking on its first tour of the U.S., and will be performing their program "Voices From Heaven."

The Hill Auditorium is located at 825 N. University Avenue.

Tickets range from \$10-\$36 and can be purchased by phone at (734) 764-2538, in person at the UMS ticket office at 911 N. University Avenue, or online at http://www.ums.org.

For more information, visit http://www.ums.org.

Darden Smith plays the Trinity House

Darden Smith and the Hummingbirds will play the Trinity House Theatre on Saturday, Feb. 26, at 8 p.m.

Texas singer/songwriter Darden Smith brings his expansive, branching rock to the intimate setting of the Trinity House. Known for his ambitious, adventurous

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

Compiled by Zach Norton

experimentation, Smith's show will please fans of many styles.

The Hummingbirds will open the show.

The Trinity House is located at 38840 W. Six Mile Rd. in Livonia.

Tickets are \$10, \$7 for theatre members.

For more information, contact the Trinity House Theatre at (734) 464-6302.

Disney's 'On the Record' plays at the Fisher Theatre

Disney Theatrical's new musical "On the Record" will run through Feb. 27, at the Fisher Theatre. Performances are Tuesday through Saturday at 8 p.m., with Saturday matinees at 2 p.m., and Sunday performances at 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Featuring over 60 Disney hit songs spanning the last 75 years, "On the Record" is sure to please fans of all Disney films.

The Fisher Theatre is located at 3011 W. Grand Blvd. in Detroit.

Tickets range from \$32.50-\$72.50 and can be purchased at the Fisher Theatre box office, all Ticketmaster outlets, or online at http://www.nederlander.com.

For more information, call the Fisher Theatre at (313) 872-1000.

'The Other Auto Show' art and design show at CAID

The Contemporary Art Institute of Detroit is showing "The Other Auto Show," now through March 12. Gallery hours are noon to 6 p.m., Thursday to Saturday.

In contrast to the NAIAS, "The Other Auto Show" is exclusively focused on Detroit-Area artists and designers, and their contribution to automobile culture. The CAID is located at 5141 Rosa Parks Blvd. in Detroit. There is no charge for the event.

For more information, visit http://www.caidonline.org.

'Intimate Apparel' plays at the Detroit Repertory Theatre

"Intimate Apparel" runs now through March 20, at the Detroit Repertory Theatre, with performances on Thursdays and Fridays at 8:30 p.m., Saturdays at 3 p.m. and 8:30 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Taking place at the turn of the 20th century, "Intimate Apparel" is the story of an African-American woman whose gift for sewing lingerie has afforded her a rare success. However, she takes a big risk on a Caribbean lover and jeopardizes all of that.

The Detroit Repertory

Theatre is located at 13103 Woodrow Wilson, in Detroit.

Tickets are \$17 for all performances and can be purchased at the Repertory Theatre box office or at all Ticketmaster outlets.

For more information, or to purchase tickets by phone, call the Repertory Theatre box office at (313) 868-1347.

Catch 'Taste of Chaos Tour' at Cobo

The Used will headline the "Taste of Chaos Tour" at Cobo, on Friday, March 11, at 6:30 p.m.

Featuring The Used, My Chemical Romance, Killswitch Engage, Senses Fail, Under Oath and A Static Lullaby, this tour will showcase the hottest young metal and screamo acts.

Cobo is located at 301 Civic Center Drive in Detroit.

Tickets are \$27.50 and can be purchased at all Ticketmaster outlets, by phone at (248) 645-6666 or online at http://www. Olympiaentertainment.com.

For more information, call Cobo at (313) 471-6616.

"Isis"

continued from PAGE 12



crashing down. Guitarist/ vocalist Aaron Turner goes into his recognizable growl as Isis plays at their heaviest.

With only a minute and half long intro, relatively short for an Isis song, "Syndic Calls" seems to jump right into it. Unfortunately, the opening vocals are dragging and off-key, an album low point. However, Palm-muted guitars quickly bring the

song to a devastating peak, with Turner's low bark back on track and dominating the onslaught.

The guitars quiet and slow down, and start on a build-up, reminiscent of so much of "Oceanic," with the subtle interplay of guitars, sampled noises and keys keeping the song interesting and intense. Nine minutes in, vocals emerge again (better sang than the opening lines) and carry the song to its final climax.

"Altered Course" is dominated by its stark snare/bass drum beat, giving it an almost hip hop feel. Moments of bright guitar are undercut with eerie sampled noise and ominous keys, until the latter eventually takes over and carries on into the closing track.

Easily the heaviest offering on "Panopticon," "Grinning Mouths" is infused with intense, metal down beats. It gives way to a gloomy guitar melody, before being overwhelmed with the full weight of Isis' sound.

Overall, "Panopticon" has enough of Isis' signature sound to be familiar, but a surplus of new textures keeps it very interesting. Although they have moved in a different direction than "Oceanic" hinted at, "Panopticon" is a cohesive, weighty album, which will keep listeners enthralled.

"Million Dollar Baby"

foot and concentration of a modern-day gladiator is told through the training of Dunn's rough character, with the guidance and lightened attitude of ex-fighter, Scrap (Morgan Freeman).

Scrap is the janitor at the gym and a long time friend of

Dunn. Freeman delivers an awesome performance with smooth flowing narration and Dunn's collected consolation similar to "The Shawshank Redemption."

This ends a powerful round one.

Tragedy inevitably strikes,

continued from PAGE 13

as it is a Clint Eastwood film, typical of his former projects "Mystic River" and "The Unforgiven." The passionate embodiment of a skilled fighter so positively energized onscreen takes a nosedive into gloom. Eastwood accurately acknowledges the champagne sprayed achievements and the losses that balance the world of boxing.

The final round of the movie finishes up quite unexpectedly, but fulfills this boxing drama. Although packed with powerhouse acting, it is a long-winded down-trodden Academy Award-harlot ordeal when

the audience was anticipating a more fist-filled action closing.

"Million Dollar Baby" has great momentum and talented actors but a depressing, drawn out, over dramatized ending that spoils an otherwise solid film.

"Twain"

continued from PAGE 13

closes out the letter with a sincere "Very truly yours," signing his name at the bottom.

In the essay titled "About the Effect of Intemperate Language," Twain exposes his rare, soft side, admitting his complete vulnerability toward his wife while losing his head in a fit of temper.

One morning, Twain is overheard cursing in the

bathroom because a button fell off his shirt. Because his wife, Olivia, does not allow profanity inside the house, when Twain is finished in the bathroom, he walks out only to be greeted by an ear full of scorn, which shrinks him down to infant-size and forces him to apologize.

Acting as though he is a fasion correspondant on a red-carpet, Twain undresses his strong opinons on style in a section called "Clothes, Fashion, and Style," saying about the subject, "If I had been an ancient Briton, I would not have contended myself with blue paint, but I would have bankrupted the rainbow," just one of the many arbitrary pieces spread throughout the book.

"Mark Twain's Helpful Hints for Good Living" is filled with Twain's traditional cynicism and observational comedy that has and will continue to entertain readers.

Though some might diagnose Twain as having "bitter-old-man" sydrome, his cunning wit oozes philosophy that riles the mind and humors the spirit; readers searching for even the slightest hint of insight will not be disappointed with this book.

To compliment his eloquent story-telling, there are over two dozen photographs of Twain and his family provided. Some are portraits, while others are snapshots taken by "paparazzi," capturing Twain in the privacy of his own home, among other places.

"Mark Twain's Helpful Hints for Good Living" is yet another model for Twain's impeccable literary quality. This book just serves as one more reason for his status as one of the most studied and admired authors in America today.

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Ocelots go untamed, rally all opponents Briggs' boys bury opposition

By Chris Jackett Sports Editor

ot many people would dream of jumping into a cage with a lion or tiger (or bear, oh my), so why would an Ocelot be any different? This wild beast, despite its smaller stature, can hold its own. One might say that the men's basketball team is the same way. Dubbed the Ocelots, they are also a little smaller as far as the number of players they have coming off the bench. With an impressive 20-2 record, they continue to defeat every team that crosses their paths.

Earlier in the season, the Ocelots destroyed Alpena Community College 100-66, a 54-point margin of victory. On Jan. 29, the team did the same by defeating the Lumberjacks (5-12), this time by a score of 89-65.

"(That game was) really not a competition," states captain Tyrone Scott.

Just three days before, on Jan. 26, the Ocelots ran through Oakland Community College (9-12) in a hard earned 70-56 victory. Sophomore center Courtney Williams (ML King) made sure the Ocelots stayed in the game, pulling down a season-high 24 rebounds along with sharing the team-high in scoring for the day with Martin Samarco (Belleville). Both scored 15 points.

"We started off slow, but we pulled through," says Scott.

In a match rescheduled from Dec. 22 due to snow, the Ocelots faced off against Lorain Community College (Ohio) on Jan. 24. The Ocelots played one of their best games of the season in a 123-85 route of Lorain's cagers. The team set several team-highs in their victory.

"I think we shared the ball well. We had 31 assists, which was a team-high this year," states coach Carlos Briggs. "We put five guys in



LEFT

Tyrone Scott (left) applies some heavy fullcourt pressure on Darrell Drake of the Delta Pioneers as he brings the ball up court.

BELOW

Genois Safford shoots over the towering Delta defense just outside the key.

Photos by Gerard Knoph

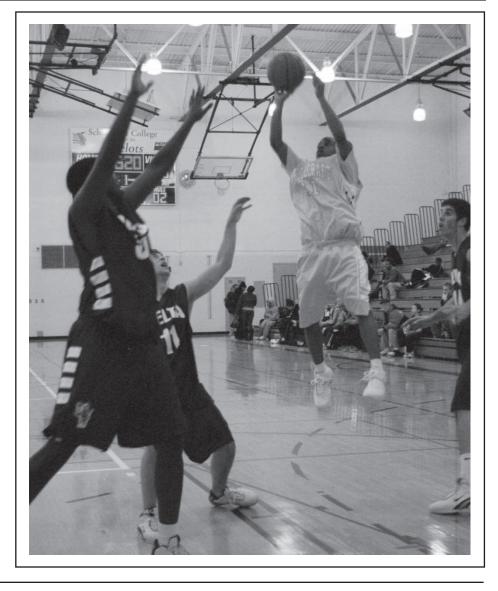
double figures, which is a team-high this year."

A Jan. 22 game against Wayne County Community College was rescheduled, so the Ocelots got a little extra rest from their Jan. 19 victory at St. Clair Community College. The Ocelots played hard on the road at St. Clair, and earned themselves a 91-80 win over the Skippers.

The team has been steadily improving over the course of the season, and with the addition of Marcus Moore (Mt. Clemens) in January, the Ocelots have yet another solid force under the boards.

"We're rebounding the ball better, with the addition of Moore. (He is) an inside force for rebounding the ball and can score inside," says Briggs. "I think rebounding has been our forte in our victories, and when we (have) lost, we haven't been rebounding at all, or we haven't kept other teams from rebounding the ball."

The Ocelots will continue their impressive run when they face off on Feb. 16 at 7:30 p.m. against St. Clair in the Physical Education Building.



Men's basketball program receives donation from Cleveland Cavaliers

 $Professionals\ give\ back\ to\ their\ collegiate\ past$

BY CHRIS JACKETT

hat do Schoolcraft College and the NBA's Cleveland Cavaliers have in common? Try Brian Williams, Ira Newbill and a rich past of playing together. The men's basketball team just received a generous donation from Newbill, with some assistance from Williams.

Williams and Newbill heard of the recent and unfortunate events with

the basketball program and decided that such a donation would lift the team's spirits. Each of the nine players and three coaches on the Ocelot team received an And-One brand sweat suit, warm-up shirt, gym bag and two pairs of shoes courtesy of Newbill.

"I appreciate (the donations)," says men's basketball captain Tyrone Scott. "It's good (when the pro's establish a connection like this). It helps the guys." Newbill is connected to Schoolcraft through Williams, who is a former Ocelot basketball player and currently does marketing for the Cavaliers. Both Williams and Newbill make regular trips to the gym over the summer to practice or work out alongside the next generation of Ocelot players.

"I think it was a great deal for the college. I think it was great for the kids," states coach Carlos Briggs. "I think it says a lot about our men's

basketball program, how our name is out there and how the kids we have put out there in the past have done well."

With the bad news of numerous sanctions against the men's basketball team this season, the donations and support from others is a welcome occurrence. The team is grateful, as this adds an uncommon and positive event to their season, and hopes that such generosity will be applauded.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Women's team collects three more

Ocelots total 8-0 conference record



Photo by Gerard Knoph

Delta Pioneer Juliana Fuciarelli attempts to shoot over Ocelot Charlese Greer. The Ocelots went on to defeat the Pioneers 82-71.

By MICHAEL SIEGRIST STAFF WRITTER

s their schedule progresses, so does the women's basketball team's performance. With three wins over the past two weeks, the Ocelots remain at the number two spot in the Eastern Conference, shadowing the Mott Community College Bears who have a 9-0 record.

The team squared off against Alpena Community College, on Jan. 29, for the second time, overcoming the Lumberjacks in an 82-49 victory. The Ocelots came out strong and never gave Alpena a chance to get in the game. Charlese Greer led the team, scoring 21 points, while cocaptain Sarah Tyree offered a lofty 20 points. Leading the defensive attack was co-captain Ashley Gibson with 17 points and five steals.

"We came ready to play. We went out strong and never let up," offers offensive guard Mikiko Williams.

However, the Ocelots were not as fired up when they faced off against Oakland Community College on Jan. 26. The team got off to a slow start, gaining momentum at the half. The women returned to the court focused, allowing for a defensive blockade that ended the game with a score of 65-42 in their favor. Tyree and Greer managed to dominate the boards, coming down with the ball in rebound after rebound. Greer has managed to lead the team defensively all season,

averaging 8.3 rebounds a game. Tyree, the team's center, has played an important role, averaging five rebounds a game, with a total of 25 blocked shots.

The Jan. 22 game against Wayne County Community College was postponed to Monday, Feb. 7, a result of the 11 inches of snow that covered the metro Detroit area.

The team slid past St. Clair Community College in a nail biting performance on Jan. 19. The Ocelots staggered into the game, trailing the St. Clair Skippers by three points at the half. The women returned to the court lead by Greer who, not only scored 18 points, but grabbed 14 rebounds as well. The Ocelots sailed ahead of the Skippers with Williams offering 17 points to bring the lead to 13 points, with five minutes left in the game.

"That was the longest five minutes ever," admits Greer.

The Skippers turned the tables bringing the Ocelots lead to within five points, but were unable to gain the victory. The team overcame St. Clair with a 79-74 win.

"The girls have stepped up to meet every challenge one game at a time. I am very proud of them," says coach Karen Lafata.

The game against St. Clair, although a victory, is a reminder that the team cannot afford to overlook any teams on their way to the conference finals. At this point, it is anyone's game.



Photo by Gerard Knoph

Mikiko Williams soars over Delta defender Alisha Daniels for the skillful lay up.



PLYMOUTH WHALERS HOCKEY



Eye on the prize

Photo by Rena Laverty

Whalers center Tim Sestito and Windsor Spitfires center Sean Courtney focus intensely on the puck in anticipation of the drop during a faceoff.

Whalers hold off Saginaw and gain important points

Playoffs in sight, just a month away



By Chris Jackett Sports Editor

he playoffs are nearly a month away, and the Plymouth Whalers are on top of the OHL's West Division with a 21-20-5-3 record, good for 50 points. They currently hold a three point edge over the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds (20-23-6-1) and a five point lead on the Windsor Spitfires (17-22-6-5). However, the Whalers major competition this season will be the London Knights (43-4-2-0) and Owen Sound Attack (31-10-5-2) of the Midwest Division.

"We're confident. We played a couple of good games against them (London and Owen Sound), and in the playoffs anything can happen," states right winger Jonas Fiedler.

The Whalers recently endured two consecutive weekends where they played three games in three days; Friday, Saturday and Sunday. On the weekend of Jan. 28-30, they faced off against Saginaw twice and against Windsor once.

On Jan. 30, the Whalers had been drained by games the previous two nights, but still managed to pull out a 4-4 tie with the Saginaw Spirit (15-28-2-4). Steve Ward saved the day with a scramble in front of the net late in the game. With only 2:01 remaining in the game, Ward pulled the team back into it to tie the game with Saginaw.

"I think we've been doing good as a team," states defenseman Steve Ward. "I think we've just got to play together out there."

The night before, on Jan. 29, Windsor prevailed and defeated the Whalers 3-1 in a hard played game. On Friday, Jan. 28, the Whalers blanked Saginaw 5-0, thanks largely in part to 33 saves from goaltender Ryan Nie. John Mitchell led the night with two goals, his 18th and 19th of the season, and three assists; a total of five points for the night.



Whalers
defenseman
Zack Shepley
(left) reaches
toward Spitfires
left winger Paul
McFarland,
attempting
to hault the
Spitfires
offensive
efforts.
Photo by Rena Laverty

Ward also had another good game for the Whalers, scoring two of his own goals. John Vigilante broke open the scoring with his 16th goal of the season, 12:22 into the game.

"We pretty much dominated play in the first game," states Fiedler. "The second game they came out flying. We had to come from behind the whole game."

The Whalers did not have quite as successful a weekend the prior week, Jan. 21-23. The Whalers defeated

the 13-29-5-3 Sarnia Sting 5-3, but came out on the wrong side of 2-0 and 5-2 scores against Barrie (22-17-7-2) and Mississauga (23-15-9-1), respectively.

The Whalers' next game is at Guelph (Ontario, Canada) on Friday, Feb. 18, at 7 p.m. Their next home game will be at Compuware Arena in Plymouth on Saturday, Feb. 19. They will be facing off against division rivals Sault Ste. Marie at 7:30 p.m.

ALL HE WROTE

BY CHRIS JACKETT SPORTS EDITOR

Will the Pistons repeat?

Sub-par first half still shows promise



adies and gentleman, your 2005 NBA Champions... the Detroit Pistons!" That is what many Detroiters hope to hear come

mid-June this year. At the beginning of the 2004-05 season, fans were positive that the new brand of Bad Boys would repeat their title run. After all, the entire starting lineup either returned or renewed their contracts. With the split of the Kobe Bryant and Shaquille O'Neal duo that made the title series' opposition, the Los Angeles Lakers, so strong, many thought that the Pistons could take on any other Western Conference opponent.

However, as this season does not quite match up to last season at the mid-point, it has caused much unneeded skepticism. The Pistons' record is not far off from last season, as they boast a 23-18 record instead of 28-13. Coach Larry Brown has been criticized because the team averages 0.5 fewer points per game and allows their opponents an extra 4.4 points per game in comparison to last season. After 41 games, neither of these statistics seem like such a huge downfall to the point where it would disqualify the Pistons as repeat title defenders.

Some contribute the total 4.9 point deficit per game to the loss of key bench players, such as Mike James, Mehmet Okur and Corliss Williamson. However, the additions of Carlos Arroyo, Carlos Delfino and Antonio McDyess have proven to help develop the defending champions' bench in a similar manner as the three former Pistons had.

Many of last year's biggest opponents, such as Indiana, New Jersey and the LA Lakers all face point

deficits. Indiana levels out worst of all, averaging out 7.6 less than last season. New Jersey averages 6.8 less and LA 4.3 less.

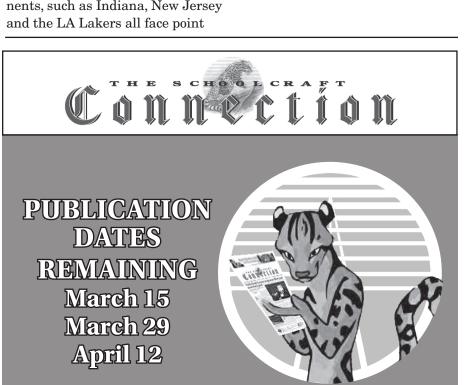
The Pistons may have to set their sights on more up-and-coming teams, such as Cleveland and Miami. Cleveland averages 5.8 more points than last season, and Miami 4.6 more.

Claims of a lazier defense and a weaker bench have all been excuses since day one. Many have said that the team does not work as well together as they had last season. The list of excuses goes on and on. It can be applied to almost any team within the league

What many people do not note, is that this team has the same key ingredients as last season and can still pull out a win in a big or season-ending game. When the Pistons faced off against the firstplace Phoenix Suns on Jan. 17, the bookers and sports critics were against the defending champions. However, the Pistons came out and proved many of their critics wrong, dominating Phoenix and defeating them 94-80 with playoff hero Tayshaun Prince leading the way and dropping in 26 points.

The Pistons are not all that far behind their pace from last season. A little improvement to bring back last season's chemistry and defense should do the trick.

Switching off the division lead with the Cleveland Cavaliers, it seems as if they have another playoff run ahead of them as well. Knowing how our guys operate in an intimidating playoff situation, based on last year's performance, I would have to say that there is a pretty good chance of another NBA title parade down Woodward Avenue for our Bad Boys



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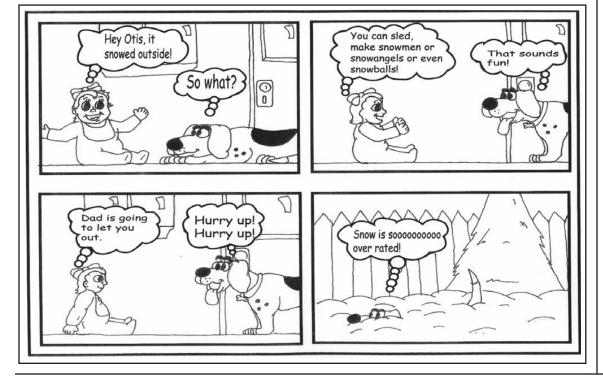
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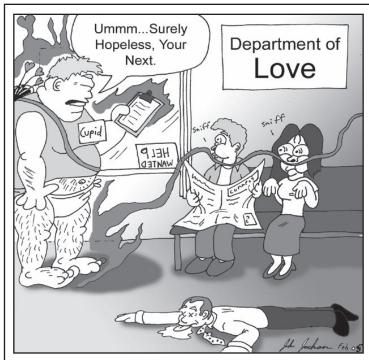
DIVERSIONS

Schoolcraft Connection

BABY AND THE BEAGLE BY STEVE MARKEY



LOVE DEPARTMENT BY JOHN JACKSON



Crossword 101

Some Songsters

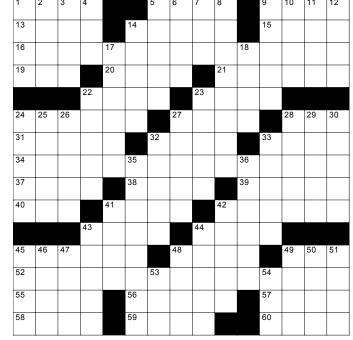
Across

- 1 Fish order
- 5 Power system
- 9 Farmer's place in song 13 Affirm
- 14 Queen's mate
- 15 34 Across perhaps
- 16 Ray's song
- Taylor Stores
- 20 Huck's boat
- 21 Pound fractions 22 Gasp for breath
- 23 Troubles
- 24 Series of eight
- 27 Dairy product 28 Kind of pipe
- 31 Duplicate
- 32 Afternoon events
- 33 Follows coat or family
- 34 John's song
- 37 Fertilizer ingredient
- 38 Flog
- 39 Musical show
- 40 Marvelous:Slang
- 41 Revolutionary loyalist
- 42 Plunderer
- 43 Actress Foch
- 44 Alum
- 45 So-called
- 48 Galway fuel 49 Cooperstown Mel
- 52 Denver's song: Variation
- 55 Republic of Ireland
- 56 Creek at times
- 57 Greenish-blue
- 58 Positive
- 59 Resident of 55 Across
- 60 Door sign

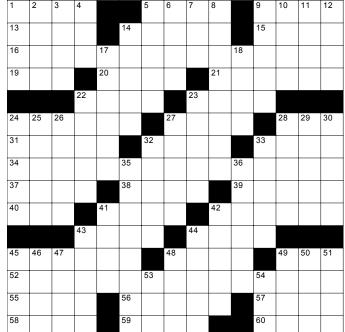
Down

- 1 Adventure story
- 2 Emeril's need
- 3 Heavyweight Spinks
- 4 Slip up
- 5 Illicit gain 6 Beet or carrot

By Ed Canty



- 9 Curses
- 11 Hook and sinker connector
- 14 Keaton of Something's Gotta Give
- 17 Mixture of rock fragments
- 18 Precedes log
- 22 Star of Eats Shoots and Leaves?
- 24 Come to pass
- 25 Ms. Barton
- 26 Precedes up
- 27 Standup comic Jack
- 28 Latrine
- 29 Scene of an event
- 30 Yielder
- 33 Tammany Hall's Boss 35 Precedes growth and
- theory 36 List of corrections



- 7 Public lodging house
- 8 Defeat soundly

- 10 Guitarist. Clapton
- 12 Young men

- 23 Angry

- 32 Jewelled headdress

- 41 Neat as a pin
- and Whitney
- 43 Microwaves 44 "Citizen ____":1793 French diplomat
- 45 Precedes school
- 46 Plant need
- 47 Beige
- 48 Drag
- 49 Gemstone
- 50 Bangkok resident
- 51 Shade
- 53 Unmatched 54 Cool down

Quotable Quote

"Playing 'bop' is like playing Scrabble with all the vowels missing."

• • • Duke Ellington

Schoolcraft Connection



Aries
Mar 21- Apr 19
Humility is the underlying theme for

your future. Do not let your desire to take charge and lead carry selfishness with it. Keep an eye out for your tendency to be insensitive when asked to be honest.



Taurus Apr 20- May 20 Opportunity will present

itself in the near future, rewarding you for your reliable nature. Act wisely; your ongoing generosity will be followed with further benefits.



Gemini May 21- Jun 21 The temptation to gos-

sip will present itself in many different forms. It is important that in conversation you remain mindful of this, as it will cause you more harm than good.



Cancer Jun 22- Jul 22

Have your insecurities been holding you back? Knowing these feelings to be irrational may not be enough to

overcome them. They will haunt you until you do something about them. It is time for action!



Jul 23- Aug 22
There is an old saying,

"You can't see the forest

for the trees." Take a step back from your situation to see the big picture. Flexibility will prove to be an important tool in making your intentions become reality.



Virgo Aug 23- Sept 22 If you were to practice an eye for an eye, every-

one would be stumbling around in the dark. Forgiveness will be the most freeing decision you will be able to make in the near future.



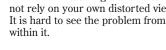
Libra Sep 23- Oct 22

Always being the calm and considerate one in the group will become tiresome. Reflect on the benefits of your ability to create harmony. When the time comes, when you feel like acting out of these feelings, your introspection will help you to weather the emo-



Scorpio Oct 23- Nov 21

Go to your most trusted friends for advice before tackling a dilemma. Do not rely on your own distorted view.



Sagittarius

Nov 22- Dec 21 Always the curious one; do not stick your head

in the beehive looking for honey. A little caution over the next few days can save you a lot of



Capricorn Dec 22- Jan 19 Do not be afraid to

loosen up and reap the rewards of your hard work. The hardest thing for you will be letting go. It will also prove to be the most beneficial.



Aquarius Jan 20- Feb 18

The attitude of "It's just the way I am; deal with it," will get you in to trouble. Find a unique way of adapting to your surroundings, without losing

that which makes up who you are.



Pisces Feb 19- Mar 20

Being back at school creates more pressure than usual. Do not sit idly by

as your friends around you struggle under the weight of the new semester. Be open and compassionate, you will not be the only person to benefit from your talents.

For Answers to Crossword see PAGE 23



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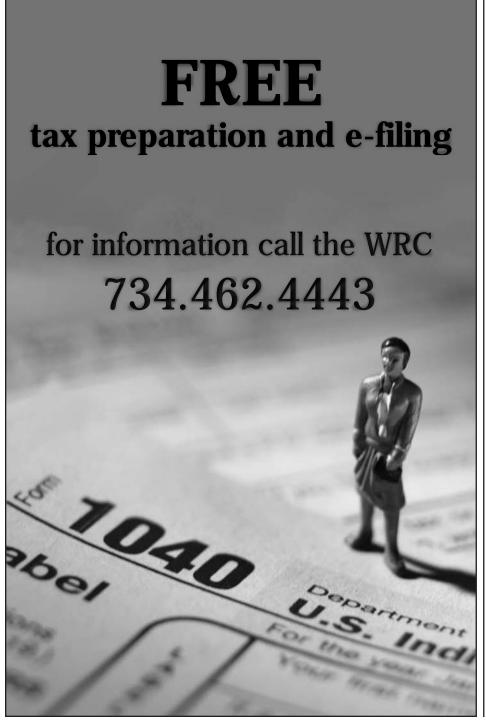
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Annual Polar Beach Bash Feb. 18, 19, 25 & 26



With grass skirts, live bands, coconut bras and free Bull Rides, we're sure to attract all sorts of people for our Beach Bash. And remember, Westland girls are "friendly".

Beaver Creek is located on Wayne Rd. 1blk. S. of Ford Rd. in Westland 734-722-5330

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Women and minorities are encouraged to join the team.



EOE/AA



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Crossword 101 Answers



For Crossword Puzzle see PAGE 20

PHOTO STORY





