







VOLUME 18 • ISSUE 9 | February 1, 2005

Ocelots left in limbo

MCCAA sanctions leave basketball team with little to play for

By Chris Jackett Sports Editor

he punishment never ends, at least for the men's basketball team. More than half way through the season, and holding on to a 16-2 overall record, word has been released that the Michigan Community College Athletic Association announced on Nov. 12, 2004, that the Ocelots were disqualified from participating in the state playoffs, denying them the chance to defend their Eastern Conference crown worn for the last five seasons.

This follows suit from the National Junior College Athletic Association's Oct. 1 announcement, which disqualified the Ocelots from any possible Regional and National post-season tournament play.

Despite all official sanctioning paperwork and appeals being finalized and passed along to both Interim Athletic Director Bill Tolstedt and coach Carlos Briggs by Dec. 7, as well as documented meetings with college officials, Briggs claims to have just recently learned of these events when local Observer-Eccentric reporter Brad Emons confronted him on Jan. 8 about questionable stand-

ings posted on the official MCCAA web site. Emons then made a quick call to the MCCAA and learned of the additional sanction.

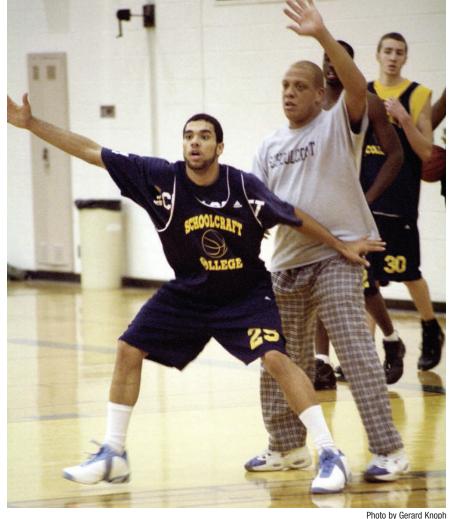
"Brad happened to see that and then he called me and I didn't know," says Briggs. "That's how I found out."

However, according to Marty Heator, director of marketing, the college has kept Briggs informed of all actions by the NJCAA and MCCAA since Oct. 1, 2004. Documentation submitted by the college states that Briggs was made aware that the college had received verbal notification from the MCCAA on Nov. 8 that the team would likely be banned from competing for a conference championship. At that time, in a meeting with Tolstedt, Dean of Student Services Cheryl Wright and Briggs, the issue of whether the college should field a team because of the sanctions was discussed at great length. Briggs insisted on fielding a team knowing the ramifications of no tournament play, but neglected to inform his players of the state sanction.

The sanction comes as a shock to many of the players and a routine punishment to others.

"Anytime you do wrong there's going to be consequences, so I guess

See "Sanctions" on PAGE 19



Coach Carlos Briggs, shown here working with Martin Samarco (left) at practice, denies any previous knowledge of the state sanctions, which disqualifies his team from participating in the state playoffs.

Number of Pell Grants awarded to be reduced

New formula could affect millions of low-income families

By JOHN PARSELL Managing Editor

The federal government has devised a new formula for calculating financial aid which will eliminate Pell Grants for more than 80,000 low-income students.

The announcement came a mere two days before Christmas.

In all actuality, the formula is not being changed, but rather restructured. The formula, which has not been updated since 1988, will be based on data pulled from itemized 2002 tax returns.

The families who need the grants the most will be generally unaffected. However, 1.3 million others will see their awards reduced.

Pell Grants are given out by the Department of Education to students of families with low income. They are awarded to students based on finan-

PRIDE organization returns PAGE 9

cial need and, unlike student loans, do not need to be repaid.

"The defacto effect of this is that it makes the parents look as if they have more money," says Dr. Conway Jeffress, president of Schoolcraft.

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

Women's basketball team ranked 6th in the nation SPORTS PAGE 17



Cherry Commission report released

Possibility of baccalaureate degree in Schoolcraft's future

By John Parsell Managing Editor

he final report of the Commission on Higher Education and Economic Growth, otherwise known as the "Cherry Commission," was released in December of 2004 by Michigan's Lt. Governor, John Cherry. Inside the report, students of Schoolcraft will find something very interesting — a position by the commission that states community colleges should be able to offer baccalaureate degree programs.

Dr. Conway Jeffress, the president of SC, who worked with the Lt. Governor along with an Economic Benefits Group which was chaired by Mary Sue Coleman, president of the University of Michigan, states that currently, the college has no plan of pursuing baccalaureate degree programs, which ultimately would be a decision made by the board of trust-

"With that question (of a baccalaureate degree program) would come many sub-questions," says Jeffress. "The first question being, would this be all kinds of baccalaureate degree programs or certain kinds?"

The commission might say that community colleges can offer a baccalaureate degree in one category, but not offer the degree in some other category, according to Jeffress.

"The second question would be whether or not legislation would occur, and then, if it does occur, is it going to be permissive?"

Jeffress also states that nobody has taken the position that community colleges ought to be forced into providing a baccalaureate degree, meaning every community college's board of trustees would have the right to do it if they felt it was a good move for the college.

Dr. Philip N. Cascade, member of the board of trustees at SC, says that he is generally in favor of the concept of a baccalaureate degree program at the college, should the opportunity become available.

"It would be our fiduciary responsibility, of course, to first carefully analyze the financial implications of the program," says Cascade. "If we decide to go ahead with offering a baccalaureate degree program, we would need to move forward at a responsible pace. However, there would likely be an advantage in being one of the first to offer the program."

Another question raised is that of how the program would be funded, as it is assumed that the college will still have the same three part financing, which includes local taxes, tuition and state funds, that there is at the associate level.



Dr. Conway Jeffress, president of Schoolcraft, addresses faculty members concerning important details of a baccalaureate degree program at a recent faculty breakfast.

Also questioned, will be whether or not the degree will be offered at the same price that a college offers an associate degree.

"Quite frankly, it is my opinion that the principle advantage of having a community college offer a baccalaureate degree is to offer it at a price that is significantly less than the other four-year institutions," says Jeffress.

The decision of offering a baccalaureate degree program is left in the hands of the board of trustees. The concept has not even been discussed with them yet, leaving many questions up in the air.

Cedric Chin, first-year business

management student, says that a baccalaureate program would benefit the campus immensely.

"First of all, it would save me the trouble of having to transfer," says Chin. "It will also benefit me finance wise, as I imagine it would cost a great deal less than at a major university."

If given the chance, Jeffress believes it would be a positive for SC, and helpful for students in atten-

"I would not want to have that opportunity and be a non-player," says Jeffress. "Whenever I show up to the field, I intend to play."

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Blood drive

The American Red Cross will be holding a blood drive in the VisTaTech Center-Lower Waterman Wing on Thursday, Feb. 3, from 7:30 a.m. through 7:30 p.m. To schedule an appointment to give blood, contact the Student Activities Office at (734) 462-4422. Walkins are welcome.

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 and 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 WRC (McDowell Center, Room 225) on Monday, Feb. 7, to discuss financial concerns relative to divorce. Sign up is on a firstcome basis beginning at 4:30

For more information, call the WRC at (734) 462-4443.

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. A group discussion is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 8. For more information, call the

WRC at (734) 462-4443.

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 an information meeting at the Radcliff Center, Room 120, from 2-3 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 10, or call the WRC at (734) 462-4443.

Lost and Found

A large collection of "lost and found" items has accumulated in the Public Safety Office. Students are encouraged to stop by the PSO or call if they are missing personal items. The PSO is located just north of the campus Bookstore.

For more information, call the PSO at (734) 462-4424.

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 work-

shop from 10-11 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 11, as well as an evening workshop from 6-7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 17.

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 parent's financial information. Workshops will begin promptly, so please arrive early.

Henry's discounts

Henry's Café, located in the VisTaTech Center, is offering students discount coupons for their most popular items. Students can choose two slices of pizza and a medium drink for \$3.99 or a hamburger and a medium drink for \$2.99. The latter offer is only good after 4 p.m. The coupons can be found on the flyer boards in every building on the campus.

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.

Michigan Service Scholarships

The Michigan Service Scholars are offering students \$1,000 scholarships for completing 300 hours of community service in one calendar year (10 hours per week). Applicants must be currently enrolled at Schoolcraft and must attend a mandatory training session on Friday, Feb. 4, at Michigan State University, from 2-5 p.m.

For more information, E-mail John Titus, director of career planning and placement, at jtitus@schoolcraft.edu or by phone at (734) 462-4421.

Financial aid" | continued from PAGE 1

hurt some students, especially those whose household income is in the higher brackets."

Michigan is expected to be one of the hardest hit states by the new formula, due mostly to its high amount of middle class families. However, SC has a plan of action, just in case the number of students awarded with the grants begins to drop significantly.

"If we see that the Pell

"The net effect obviously will Grants aren't sufficient to cover the need, then we'll use some college scholarship money to make up that difference," says Jeffress. "Obviously if the burden gets really big, the college will have to shift to mixture of college grants and maybe loans but we're hopeful to minimize an impact."

During the 2003-04 year, over five million students received grants, which ranged from \$400-\$4050. While the students who received the

maximum amount of money should still be eligible, those families that make over \$15,000 per year could see reductions.

Gary Bubar, first year business student, says that while the new formula wont affect him directly, many will be hurt by the process.

"People who need and count. them available," says Bubar. "It is wrong to take something as important as education away from someone

because of how much money their parents make. Many middle class families don't even pay for their children's college tuition."

While bringing our formula up to date may be necessary, gathering information from itemized tax returns could be inaccurate, as higher income families tend to itemize more than lower income families, according to Sandy Baum, a senior policy analyst with on these grants should have the college board and professor of economics at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs,

Furthermore, the numbers

may already be outdated, due to several states raising their taxes in 2004-05 because of the struggling economy.

While the new formula may act, in effect, as cuts, they are far different from any type of federal cuts in the past.

"The principle difference between this and anything else you've seen in the past is that in the past you have a true reduction in funds available at the federal level," says Jeffress. "It is seldom that you get caught up in collateral damage from a change in the way things are calculated."

CAMPUS CRIME

Missing property

On Dec. 16, 2004, at 12:36 p.m. a man reported his thumbdrive missing. He said he was last on campus in the Applied Science Building, Room 320. He checked the lost and found but nothing was found. The thumbdrive was a Memorex brand, valued at \$150.

Destruction of property

On Dec. 20, 2004, someone drove over the turf on the south end of the South Lot, leaving approximately 100 feet of tire marks in

the grass. It is believed that the turf will regenerate after the winter. The imprints are only about two inches deep in most areas, but up to four inches deep in a couple of areas

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

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INOUROPINION

Latest sanctions cause further disputes

Coach's version of the story is questionable

he men's basketball team has been sanctioned by the Michigan Community College Athletic Association and, for some reason, men's basketball coach Carlos Briggs and the college cannot agree on when he was informed. Briggs claims to have found out on Jan. 8, while the college claims they informed him in early November, and that he was part of the appeals process all along.

If Briggs did, in fact, know of the sanctions, which almost all other parties involved say he did, he should be ashamed of himself for keeping the truth from his dedicated players.

It would have been fine had he waited until the appeals process had finished to inform his team of the bad news, but instead he neglected to tell them at all. They found out from local newspapers a month later.

To divert attention, Briggs decided to place the blame elsewhere, stating that, "Other administrators or AD's (Athletic Directors) throughout the league who are trying to win the league, or win the state championship, got together and decided, 'hey, the only way we have a chance to do that is if we eliminate Schoolcraft,' and that's what they did."

This just makes him sound like a conspiracy crier, unable to accept the repercussions of the violations he has admitted to.

If this is about "personal relationships," as Briggs states, and if he did keep the truth from his players, then Briggs does not seem to know what is most important in personal relationships; honesty.

It really is sad that such a great team, one that, without sanctions, stood a good chance of taking the national title, has been repeatedly let down by their coach's actions.

The college's hands are not completely clean in this situation however. Had they stepped up and issued a press release at the time of the MCCAA's sanction appeal denial on Dec. 7, then we would not be in the middle of a "he said/she said" debacle, two months later. At the least, they should have sent letters to the players to inform them of their team's unfortunate fate.

All together, this situation could have been handled better by both parties, but at the core of it all, the main offense is Briggs questionable accounts of what happened; his word goes against documentation provided by the college and statements by college administration.

Unfortunately, once again, his players are the ones affected most.



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK By DANNY SPERRY

Janet Jackson's boob: one year later

What has changed and what have we all learned?

s we pass the one year mark of the most indecent and offending prime time publicity stunt in history - the breast bearing of Janet Jackson during 2004's Super Bowl halftime show – perhaps we should all take a moment and really think about how much that event has changed our world.

OK, don't think too hard. I imagine you won't find much, as it hasn't really changed much

Sure, the FCC has beefed up its fines, and the Grammy Awards will be broadcast with extra delay, but nothing major has changed.

Neo-puritans in Washington sprang into action days after the stunt, or, as it may be referred to as, "The Breast Seen `Round the World," holding congressional hearings and crying war on the decidedly "out-of-control" TV networks. And what for, a boob?

It all seems so silly now (well, actually it seemed ridiculous back then too, but it still provides a good laugh today).

More than half of the world's population has them, breasts that is, so why do we hold them (no

giggling please) to be such taboo body parts. Is it that some people just flat out hate their existence?

Maybe they believe raw violence is much more tolerable for their children to see on TV than a little skin and a barely distinguishable (arguably covered) nipple. I don't know.

So, here we are, one year after the ground-shaking "wardrobe malfunction" of the Super Bowl's halftime show. What has this taught us all?

Pretty much nothing. Well, besides that exposing a breast on national TV will cause people to talk about it for at least a year.

I suppose the main lesson learned from all this is that there is no lesson to be learned. Bare breast on TV or no bare breast on TV, day to day, our lives go on the same, only now with the memory of Jackson's stunt and triviality of its reaction.

Paul McCartney is scheduled to perform at this year's Super Bowl halftime show. Thanks to Jackson, we may all rest assured that FOX will be prepared in case the 63 year-old former Beatle decides to expose his, ummm, never mind; that is just too horrible to



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Arts and

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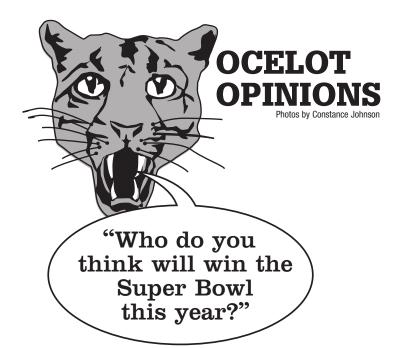
The Schoolcraft Connection corrects all errors of fact. If you have discovered an error, please contact the Editor in Chief, 734-462-4422, or sceditor@schoolcraft.edu

${f CONTACT}$ ${f U}$

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.

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Dan Brenner
Age: 18
Year: 1st
Major: Engineering
"The Eagles. They seem
like an all around good
team. They have a good
offense."



Dawn Dalton Age: 34 Year: 2nd Major: Art/Education Transfer "New England will win because they have a quicker defense, an experienced quarterback and they want it bad."



Timothy Alexander
Age: 34
Year: 1st
Major: Culinary Arts
"Philadelphia Eagles.
They are the strongest
team in the NFL this
year. It will be an all
Pennsylvania Super
Bowl."



Andy Brown
Age: 19
Year: 2nd
Major: Criminal Justice
"The Patriots. They
shut down the Colts and
whoever they play it will
be a good match. They
have experience from
winning in the past, so
they know what needs to
be done."



Cherie LeBlanc Age: 21 Year: 3rd Major: Business "Philadelphia. They have a good team."

POSTCARDS FROM STUPIDSVILLE

By John Parsell Managing Editor

Jack Frost is finally nipping

The cold weather is here



e are facing some of the coldest days yet this winter. It is not uncommon to hear several complaints

per day about the bitterness in the air. However, let us all remember this one thing: We live in Michigan.

Nobody said living in the mitten would be easy. Many times, I've heard the phrase, "I don't know why it is always so cold in Michigan." I can't answer the question with all certainty myself, so I always reply with, "I don't know."

But I'm pretty sure it has something to do with the facts that we live just south of Canada, and we're surrounded by five giant lakes.

The bottom line is, if people don't like it here, they should simply move. Nothing is worse than living in Michigan; it is evident by our current temperature changes. Everyone wants to go somewhere warmer and sunnier.

So go ahead.

Why suffer anymore? Natives of this state have put up with 30 degree temperatures for too long. Why not move to Florida? With the warm weather, the beach and the ocean, it seems like a wonderful place.

Forget about the thousands of people rebuilding their homes because of the

e are facing hurricanes that touch down every year. some of Still, it beats the cold weather.

If you're not into devastating 155 mph winds, maybe you could move to California. The weather is great, there are palm trees, an ocean, beaches and celebrities. Sounds like a good deal.

Yeah, a great deal, except for those mudslides, earthquakes and sinkholes. Those might do some damage to something. But hey, it beats the cold weather.

If you're not into hurricanes, earthquakes, mudslides and sinkholes, you might want to move to the Midwest. While it is clearly not as warm, you are free from all of the disasters mentioned above

You might want to pack a raft though, just in case the floods come in and wipe out your vehicle, home and land. But hey, it still beats the cold weather.

I hope you're catching my sarcasm, because I'm laying it on pretty thick.

All those people who say we have it so bad in this state really need to peek their heads out from their borders and expand their horizons.

There are people around this country in other states who have lost their possessions, their homes and their family members to natural disasters.

And we're going to complain about a little cold weather.

A word to the wise: You live in Michigan. Get some mittens and suck it up.

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.

ELLUOY MAAIT

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

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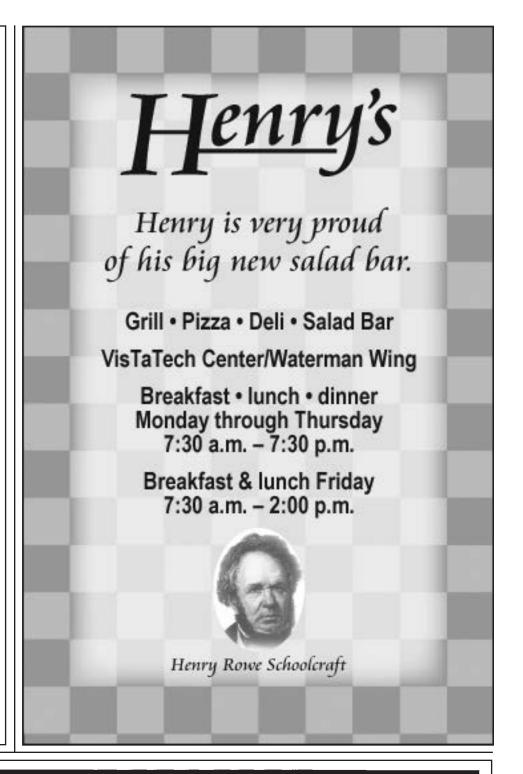
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By Amanda White STAFF WRITER

rom Mandarin to motorcycle skills, the Continuing **Education Service** offers such a variety of classes, one would be hard pressed not to find something up his or her alley.

CES classes are not reserved specifically for students but are open to the community and do not offer traditional college credit. Most of the classes are held in the evenings so many working adults can take advantage of them, and about 50 percent of CES students are professionals who are maintaining or enhancing their skills for the work place. The average age for CES students is 43, but there are classes available for all ages from infants to seniors.

"These are classes for people who don't want or don't need a college degree. They may take them to enhance their life, whether personally or professionally," says Sherry Zylka, assistant dean of CES. "We have a little bit of something for everyone."

To keep students happy and coming back, every semes-

ter 25 percent of the classes offered are new. This winter semester there are 46 new classes and seminars offered, including Computer Games: An Introduction, Basic Trail Riding, Physical Therapy Aide and many more. To learn more about the new classes offered during this winter semester refer to the "Try Something New" category in the CES schedule.

Physical fitness classes are among some of the most popular CES courses taken. There are a wide variety of classes, including instructional and non-instructional

Stephanie Birch, who is taking Cardio Karate Kickboxing, says, "I took the class because I wanted to try it and it's cheaper than a similar class at a gym. It's a very fun class because it's upbeat and there are people my age in the class."

The Foreign Language Institute at CES offers the chance to learn many different foreign languages. These classes are for anybody who is planning a trip to a foreign country, getting back to family roots or just wants to enlighten themselves. Some of the many different language classes offered are



Instructor Shirley Rebeck (left) leads her Tap Dance I class through a fun and stylish dance

Photo by Michelle Metz

Mandarin, Chinese, French, German and Italian.

Ceramics classes are among some of the more popular art classes available through CES, with basic, intermediate, and advanced classes offered. An interesting Raku Ceramics class is also offered, teaching students about spectacular Japanese style firing techniques.

"I've been taking these classes for some time now," says veteran student Bob Sheridan. "After a hard work

▶ See "Continuing education" on PAGE 10



Bruce Goldsmith has been enrolled in the Continuing **Education Personal** Training course for five years. Goldsmith says,"I'm 100 percent satisfied with the Personal Training course, and computer classes I've had through Continuing **Education and** would recommend them to everyone."

Photo by Gerard Knoph

Students asked to keep campus clean

By Muhammad S. Khan Staff Writer

he college seems to be infested with an old, reoccurring insect. One the "Orkin Man" cannot eradicate: the proverbial "litterbug."

Unfortunately, an influx of new students brings a rise in littering, as many new students are not accustomed to the campus rules and regulations. Some students, new and old, however, know the rules, but still choose to ignore them.

The littering includes cigarette butts on the sidewalks, candy wrappers in the hallways and fast food trash from students' cars in the parking lots.

While accidental trash is not a big problem, it is the intentional disregard for using the trash containers the college provides that upsets many students and faculty.

"Some trash is going to happen, but what we are talking about is taking your ashtray and emptying it into the parking lot, as well as full bags of fast food containers," says Utility I Leader Robert Hudson of the Facilities Management Department.

Hudson explains that to decrease the number of cigarette butts thrown on the sidewalk, the college invested a sizable amount of money to create cobblestone seating areas around every building with cigarette urns around those areas so that butts can be disposed of properly. These centralized areas serve to get smokers away from the doorways and act to limit the litter of cigarette butts to



Photo by Gerard Knoph (Not an illustrated photo)

Despite the many trash recepticals on campus, garbage still pollutes the campus.

specific areas. In addition, these urns are cleaned regularly.

There are also numerous trash cans located in every building and in the parking lots.

Student Matt Kunka feels that every student should feel responsible for keeping the campus clean.

"You wouldn't just dump trash in front of somebody's house so why would you come here and do that. The cleaner we keep the campus now the more the future students here will be able to enjoy the same beautiful campus," says Kunka.

Most students are pretty sensitive to the need to keep the campus

clean by following proper disposal rules. However, not everyone shares the same opinion. One student who wishes to remain nameless has a different view on picking up after them-

"I don't think there is anything wrong with throwing cigarette butts on the ground or not putting a wrapper in the trash can. After all isn't that what maintenance is supposed to be doing?"

While there are people working at all times keeping the campus up to shape, there are not enough workers to look after everyone if they decide to litter. "There are only so many people that can pickup trash. If you look at my staff there are only really about four people for the whole 88 acres of land for all different types of services such as trash removal, cigarette urn cleaning, snow removal and so on," Hudson explains.

While their services are everpresent, Hudson encourages students to try their best to reduce their workload for something preventable like litter.

"If you want your campus clean then you need to take an active roll in keeping it clean," states Hudson.



Photo by Gerard Knoph

New president of PRIDE David Budzisz hosts their weekly meetings on Thursday nights at 5:30 p.m. in the VisTaTech Center-Lower Waterman Wing.

PRIDE organization returns to campus

Group promotes acceptance of all sexual identities

By Ryan Russell Campus Life Editor

fter a six month hiatus, PRIDE is making its return to Schoolcraft. Headed by its new president, Dave Budzisz, PRIDE is a group that allows gay, lesbian, transgender, bisexual, questioning and straight students to openly talk with a group of their peers without fear of prejudice, as well as promoting tolerance and acceptance.

According to Budzisz, organizations such as these play an important role in today's society. In a world where many individuals are afraid to be open about their sexuality, and even more individuals are intolerant or hateful of those they view as a negative portion of our culture, it is important that there be at least one place where everyone can get along.

The group is advised by Dr. Steven Berg, Instructor of English and director of the Writing Fellows program, and Sherry Springer, coordinator of Student Activities.

"We are glad to see the group up and running again," says Springer. "It provides a valuable service to an important segment of our student population."

According to Budzisz, PRIDE's essential function will be to act as a sort of support group, where the focal point will be on the issues facing many gay, lesbian, transgender, bisexual, questioning and straight students. Each meeting will center on one the many problems confronting students today: Proposal 2, "coming out," stereotypes and the influence of gay, lesbian, transgender, bisexual,

▶ See "PRIDE" on PAGE 10

Free student tax service

VITA program returns for third year

By John A. Schwanik

ax Day is approaching and, for many students, this means filling out confusing tax forms and rushing out to the post office before April 15. Fortunately, the Women's Resource Center is eliminating some of the hassle by offering free tax assistance for students who earn less than \$35,000 per household/per year, for the third consecutive year.

Scheduled to take place on March 12, the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program is a collabora-

tive effort by the students in the the mail of all the required materials Accounting courses, as well as faculty from the Accounting Department, the Scholars Honors Program, the WRC and the IRS.

"The benefit of this service," says Nancy Swanborg, director of the WRC, "is that we can prepare and then electronically file income tax returns free of charge. If you go to H&R Block one would pay nearly \$300 for the same work."

Funding is provided by the IRS, which also supplies all the necessary materials and training for the student workers. In addition, the college receives a small grant from the Michigan Compact to help out with the costs of advertising and student assistant work hours.

"Students can make appointments starting Feb. 1," says Swanborg. "When you call and make an appointment, we will send you a checklist in needed."

Materials needed include W2 and/ or 1099 forms, a copy of last year's return and social security numbers for anyone listed on the return.

All filing will take place on Saturday, March 12 at the WRC, located in the McDowell Center, Room 225, and students must have an appointment. Married couples who file jointly must both show up.

Students should allow two hours to complete the process. There is no drop off service available.

All student workers preparing income tax forms are certified by the IRS. Additionally, accounting faculty and a representative of the IRS are on hand to oversee the work.

Tim Nyquist, first-year Liberal Arts major, sees the advantage of this program.

"This provides a wonderful oppor-

tunity for a student, such as me, to learn about the proper process to complete my returns without the confusion and/or hassle."

Many students with families are not aware of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and therefore do not receive the credit. Working with the IRS, VITA filers explore all possible credits for the clients.

"We filed 81 returns last year and in the process returned \$52,000 in EITC back to the community," says Swanborg.

"By taking advantage of this program, we have a win/win situation, for the student/clients, accounting students and faculty, and IRS," says Swanborg.

Students interested in taking advantage of this service must make an appointment by calling the WRC at (734) 462-4443.

"Continuing education" | continued from PAGE 8

week it's basically my therapy."

Sheridan has been taking ceramics classes at CES for 10 years now. He is the studio assistant and keeps the studio open on Saturday and Sunday from 1-5 p.m.

"Both class time and studio time are an outlet for a little bit of creativity, and very relaxing," Sheridan adds.

CES also offers motorcycle safety courses. Sufficient passing of one of these courses waves the need for the Secretary of State road test. Basic Rider, Performance Based and Experienced Rider courses are avail-

Daniel Lyons, who has taken the Basic Rider class says "If you've never driven a bike it's a great course to take."

Golf classes are also offered. Courses for all levels of experience are available as well as Golf Chi, which combines the mechanics of golf swing choreographed to music. These

classes are held at the colleges on site driving range.

Andrea Robertson, who took Recreational Golf in the past, says "It was very informative and I made the golf team the next year. They showed us how to hold the golf club and proper swing techniques."

There are many reasons why people take CES classes, whether it is for personal enlightenment, career obligations or physical fitness. Whatever the reason, people seem to be enjoying them.

For more information concerning any of the classes and seminars mentioned, or on the many that are not listed, check the CES winter schedule available on the Net at http:// www.schoolcraft.edu/ces/default.asp, or call CES at (734) 462-4448.

Registration is ongoing and classes start weekly through April.

"PRIDE" continued from PAGE 9

questioning and straight individuals in today's culture will all be topics of discussion.

Budzisz also plans to explore the "nature vs. nurture" debate; whether people are born into their sexuality or made to be a certain way through upbringing and environment.

"Basically, it comes down to when I was going through this, I had no one to talk to, and I know there are others out there right now without someone they can talk to," says Budzisz. "This club will be a place where you

can talk about these things without being judged. There's no discrimination here."

Budzisz also states that while he would like to plan activities for the group, as well as have PRIDE work with similar groups outside of SC, "that all depends on how many people are interested."

PRIDE's next meeting will be on Thursday, Feb. 10, at 5:30 p.m. in the VisTaTech Center-Lower Waterman Wing. Everyone is welcome to attend.

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Thursday, February 3, 2005 7:30 am -7:30 pm



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For more information stop by the Studenct Activities Office located in the VisTaTech Building - Waterman Wing or call (734) 462-4422

Finally, A Party In Westland With Some Balls



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



Life in the suburbs can be a little mundane. But there's nothing predictable about our 18th Annual Polar Beach Bash, with bands, bikini girls, limbo contests, sand dance floor and much more. Stop by and have a ball. Beaver Pride!

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

CLUB EVENTS

Edgerunner Ski Club

The Edgerunner Ski Club is in need of officers. There are currently three positions available, and applicants will be placed according to their skills. Officers receive free trips, as well as expense money based on sales, and will have opportunities to visit many different areas of the country. For more information, contact the Student Activities Office at (734) 462-4422.

Student Activities Board

Scraftstock

The SAB will be hosting a free local rock show, Scraftstock, on Friday, Feb. 4, from 7:00 -10:30 p.m. in the VisTaTech Center-Lower Waterman Wing. The featured bands are Javelins, The Pop Project, The Recital, El Boxeo and The Word Play. Free refreshments will also be offered, so come enjoy the show.

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. 12, from 5-10 p.m. in the VisTaTech Center-Lower Waterman Wing. Anyone with an interest in anime is encouraged to attend. Feb. 12 is also Goth Night, so feel free to dress up.

The screening schedule is available online at 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. The next meeting is on Feb. 7.

All students interested in journalism or photography are encouraged to attend and will be paid for their contributions to the Connection.

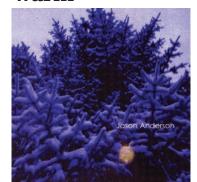
For all club information, contact the STUDENT ACTIVITIES OFFICE

at (734) 462-4422





Jason Anderson's new album is simple, warm



'The Wreath' explores the beauty in melancholy

By Zach Norton ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

o fully enjoy Jason Anderson's new album "The Wreath," one must see him live. His short simple pop songs take on a life of their own after seeing him play them in the most stripped-down fashion, just his voice and guitar, and usually a group of indie rockers crowded around him, singing along.

That is not to say that his recordings have no impact otherwise.

"The Wreath," released by Olympia, Washington based K Records, is a great album all the way through. Despite his optimistic attitude, the album is more of a downer, though Anderson's lyrical portraits are always familiar and touching.

"If I'm Waiting" is easily the album's highlight. It starts off with acoustic guitar and a soft piano that brightens up as Anderson goes into the chorus, "I don't know if I'm waiting/Or if it's over/It's probably over." Trumpets come in on the bridge as Anderson sings his own back

The track features poignant lyrics that are very clever at the same time, like "My Houdini lover, you've escaped and vanished/The Bermuda Triangle, sunk to Atlantis."

As far as his lyrical capabilities have come, Anderson has not lost his love for the dirty sound of early '90s rock, found on his earlier releases. "The Wreath" features two Guided By Voices-esque rockers, "Citizen's Arrest" and "Our Winter."

See "Anderson" on PAGE 14





Miles (Giamatti) teaches his friend Jack (Church) the fine art of wine tasting in the Golden Globe winning film "Sideways."

New comedy features absurd humor, real drama

By Zach Norton

ideways" is one of those films that comes out of left field, with an off-beat premise (previews were packed with wine-tasting jokes to entice audiences) and no big names (Paul Giamatti and Thomas Haden Church), but somehow word of mouth and some film critics awards carry it to the masses.

"Sideways" even took home two Golden Globes, for best comedy and best screenplay.

The plot and storyline are not all that unique in "Sideways," but the perspective is. There have been plenty of movies about bachelors doing stupid things at their bachelor parties, or going on some vacation and letting loose a little too much, but rarely is it presented like this, in such a real-life fashion.

By the end of the film, both of its stars are barely tolerable, let alone likeable. Though they grow as characters as the film progresses, from beginning



Jack and Miles, joined by Stephanie (Oh) and Maya (Madsen), enjoy some red wine on a picnic.

to end, Miles (Giamatti) is uptight and annoying, and Jack (Church), as charming and funny as he can be, is completely unsavory.

However, that is where "Sideways" succeeds, because as much as the audience dislikes this comedy's anti-heroes, they cannot help but keep rooting for them.

The story begins to take shape as Miles and Jack get on the road to wine country in northern California. Miles, the jittery, pudgy high school English teacher is taking his best friend Jack, the aging, yet charming actor and voice-over man, on vacation for the week before his wedding.

It is Jack's last week of

freedom and he plans to enjoy it to the fullest.

Despite his beautiful fiancée back home, Jack makes it very clear to Miles that he plans to get some action before he ties the knot. Of course, Jack is nice enough to help his friend get some, as well.

As they peruse the local wineries, wine-pourer Stephanie (Sandra Oh) catches Jack's eye. He pursues her, eventually pulling in Miles and Maya (Virginia Madsen), the waitress Miles has had his eye on for some time, though he has always been too scared to actually pursue her.

In an effort to inflate Miles' ego, he tells the ladies that Miles' novel is getting

published, adding to the list of lies he is already maintaining.

Inevitably, the truth comes out and Miles and Jack are left with two very angry women. Along the way Miles and Jack have some very strange encounters with colorful locals, putting a layer of ridiculous humor over the otherwise dramatic plot.

The ending will likely leave moviegoers with many mixed feelings. In that sense, the movie is very real; there is a lot of gray area in this film. No cheesy, cut and dry Hollywood ending, but an uneasy, some might say unfair, temporary resolution. What could be more real than that?



Detroit to host music conference

Motor City Music Conference brings music industry to downtown

By Zach Norton ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

vent organizers recently announced plans for a four-day music festival in downtown Detroit, similar to New York City's CMJ conference or Austin's South by Southwest fest (SXSW).

The Motor City Music Conference, dubbed the MC2, will last from April 20-24 and feature 400 bands from Detroit and beyond, as well as a trade show and discussion panels featuring record execs, entertainment lawyers, musicians and more.

Scheduled to attend are executives from RCA, Island Def Jam, Jive/Zomba, Octone Records and

more. Also attending will be Brian Vanderark of the Verve Pipe, Vinnie Dombrowski of Sponge and local rapper Paradime, now a member of Kid Rock's Twisted Brown Trucker Band.

Rock poster artist Mark Arminski will be in attendance and will curate a show of rock poster art to coincide with the event.

Other possible non-music happenings include showings of Detroitcentric music films, such as "True Testimonial," the MC5 documentary, and "It Came from Detroit."

The real story is the four nights of showcases the event will feature.

The Detroit Music Awards will kick off the MC2 at the State Theatre on April 20. The next three nights will feature rock, hip hop,

techno, R&B, urban, soul, gospel, country and blues in over 40 downtown venues. Among the confirmed venues are the Hard Rock Café, St. Andrew's Hall, the Majestic, Small's, the Lagerhouse and downtown art gallery CPOP.

The lineup of bands, planned to be 40 percent local, 60 percent national, will feature hot "up and comers" as well as established acts.

Artists will be selected by a wide range of local promoters, booking agents and artist managers. Among them are techno pioneer Derrick May, Greg Baise (booking agent for the Magic Stick) and Mark Hicks (works with D12, Paradime and Jaguar Wright).

Local artists are excited but somewhat uncertain.

"I think anything that brings people to Detroit is sweet, but I'm skeptical that there's the need for another one of these festivals," says Will Yates, guitarist of Detroit band The Singles. "With SXSW and CMJ already being huge, I can't imagine that MC2 will reach that kind of stature. I'd be more than happy to be proven wrong, however." Last year his band played both CMJ and SXSW.

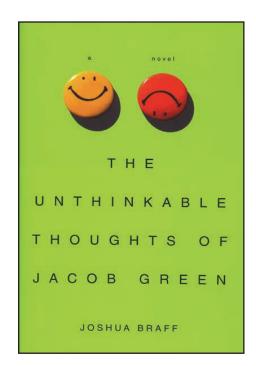
"I think festivals like CMJ and SXSW are great for independent music," says Yates, "because, in bringing together so many different bands, they attract more attention to the music than the bands could attract on their own."



BOOK REVIEW:

Braff captures friction between family-ties in new novel

'The Unthinkable Thoughts of Jacob Green' provides laughs, sentiment



By Travis Grand

nveiling his first published novel titled "The Unthinkable Thoughts of Jacob Green," Joshua Braff elegantly captures family dysfunction while perverting

unfortunate grief into moments of hilarity.

"The Unthinkable Thoughts of Jacob Green" tells a comically earnest story about a young, Jewish boy and his struggle to find peace of mind throughout the strange and impossible surrounding that he calls home.

Residing in suburban New Jersey during the '70s, Jacob Green is the second oldest of four at age 13. Since being expelled from Hebrew school for inadvertently ripping the Rabbi's tzitzit, an undergarment accessory that is used for morning prayer Jacob is attending public middle school for the very first time.

However, despite Jacob's creative imagination and his sublime ability to read Hebrew like it is a first language, he has naively been deemed a "slow learner."

Jacob holds great adulation toward his older brother Asher, a punkrocking rebel-type who has chosen not to adhere to the Jewish faith. The fact that Jacob is a sluggish learner and wants to emulate his older brother does not sit well with his father, Abram.

Abram is a stringent, over-loving perfectionist that will lavish his children with affection until the brink of fatigue, but with the drop of a hat he can belittle them to mortification.

Jacob's mother is rarely in the picture because she continually goes out on work duty with a doctor-friend who happens to be "just a colleague."

As things start to fall apart in the Green family, Abram's demand for devoted friendship becomes more and more taxing on Jacob, and Abram soon becomes his adversary.

Bounded by all the chaos that makes up his life, it is Jacob's unthinkable thoughts that throw him into such debacles like breaking his wrist while warming up for an after school-fight, getting caught in Hebrew class covering up his older brother's pornographic art and formulating a planned escape to Rhode Island solely on Bar Mitzvah money.

Braff wraps up the story with a compelling conclusion that exudes ambiguity in the character of Jacob and allows the readers to decipher his outcome.

Because various jokes and anec-

dotes revolve around Jewish-based satire, some of the laughs may be lost on those not familiar with the Jewish faith. For instance, while showing a screening of the comedy classic, "Annie Hall," Abram splits a side when the character Annie orders pastrami on white bread, claiming that only a Jewish person would get the jest.

Even so, "The Unthinkable Thoughts of Jacob Green" is tender with humor and will be sure to rattle anyone's funny bone. The characters in the story embrace attributes that will remind readers of their own friends and family, which helps to build a soothing intimacy and keeps the pages turning.

Audiences searching for a meaningful tale that provides depth and, at its best, touches both their comical and empathetic side will fancy "The Unthinkable Thoughts of Jacob Green." Braff has successfully prepared a smart and original piece of literary-fiction that is worth purchasing with no regrets.

The Secret Machines and Moving Units hit the Magic Stick

Indie rockers The Secret Machines and The Moving Units make a stop at the Magic Stick on Thursday, Feb. 3, at 8 p.m.

The Secret Machines, bringing their critically-acclaimed spacey rock, are sure to go over big at the Magic Stick. The Moving Units return to Detroit to support their new post punk, dance rock-filled album, "Dangerous Dreams."

Autolux will open the show. The Magic Stick is located at 4140 Woodward Ave. in Detroit.

Tickets are \$13 and can be purchased at the Majestic Café, by phone at (313) 833-9700 Ext. 202, or at any Ticketmaster outlet.

The show is all ages.

For more information, visit http://www.majesticdetroit. com/stick.asp.

Compuware Sports Arena hosts 'Skate-Aid for Tsunami Relief'

Friday, Feb. 4, the Compuware Sports Arena will feature "Skate-Aid for Tsunami Relief," starting at 7 p.m.

The amazing figure skating show will showcase Olympic medalists Victor Petrenko

and Timothy Goebel, as well as US ice dancing champions Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto. All proceeds will go to the Red Cross

International Response

Fund.

Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for children, and are available at the Compuware box office.

For more information, or to purchase tickets, call the Compuware box office at (734) 453-6400.

'Sesame Street Live' at the Fox

Catch Sesame Street's newest show, "Out of this World" at the Fox Theatre from Feb. 3 to 13. Call for show times.

Join Big Bird, Elmo and Grover as they teach their new Martian friends all about Earthlings.

The Fox Theatre is located at 2211 Woodward Ave. in Detroit.

Tickets range from \$10-\$20 and are available from Fox Theatre box office, by phone at (248) 433-1515, on the Net at http://www. OlympiaEntertainment. com or from all Ticketmaster outlets.

For more information, call the Fox Theatre at (313) 471-6611.

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

Disney Theatrical's new musical "On the Record" will run from Feb. 8-27, 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.

Venetian glass works on display at the DIA

On display in the Detroit Institute of Arts' Kresge Court are glass artworks from the island Murano, near Venice, from now until Feb. 27.

The exhibit includes over 300 exquisitely colored Murano island glass works. The DIA is located at 5200 Woodward Ave. in Detroit.

Tickets are \$10 for the exhibit and can be purchased on-site, at the DIA box office or online at http://www.dia. org.

For more information, call the DIA at (313) 833-7900.

'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

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 it.

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.

"Anderson"

"Citizen's Arrest," a song that has appeared on several of Anderson's previous releases, is similar to the version he did with a full band on the International Pop Exchange split. However, this version is augmented with energetic trumpet blasts, as well as female backing vocals.

About halfway through, "The Wreath" slows down with the introspective "My Balancing Act." Anderson explained the song at a recent performance in Ann Arbor, as having to deal with the fact that people have to go to work or write Emails, basically live day to day, "But sometimes," explained Anderson, "it's just like 'f*\$@! We live in a solar system!" The explanation is purposely humorous, but the resulting song is slow, serious and somber.

Keeping with his eternally opti-

continued from PAGE 12

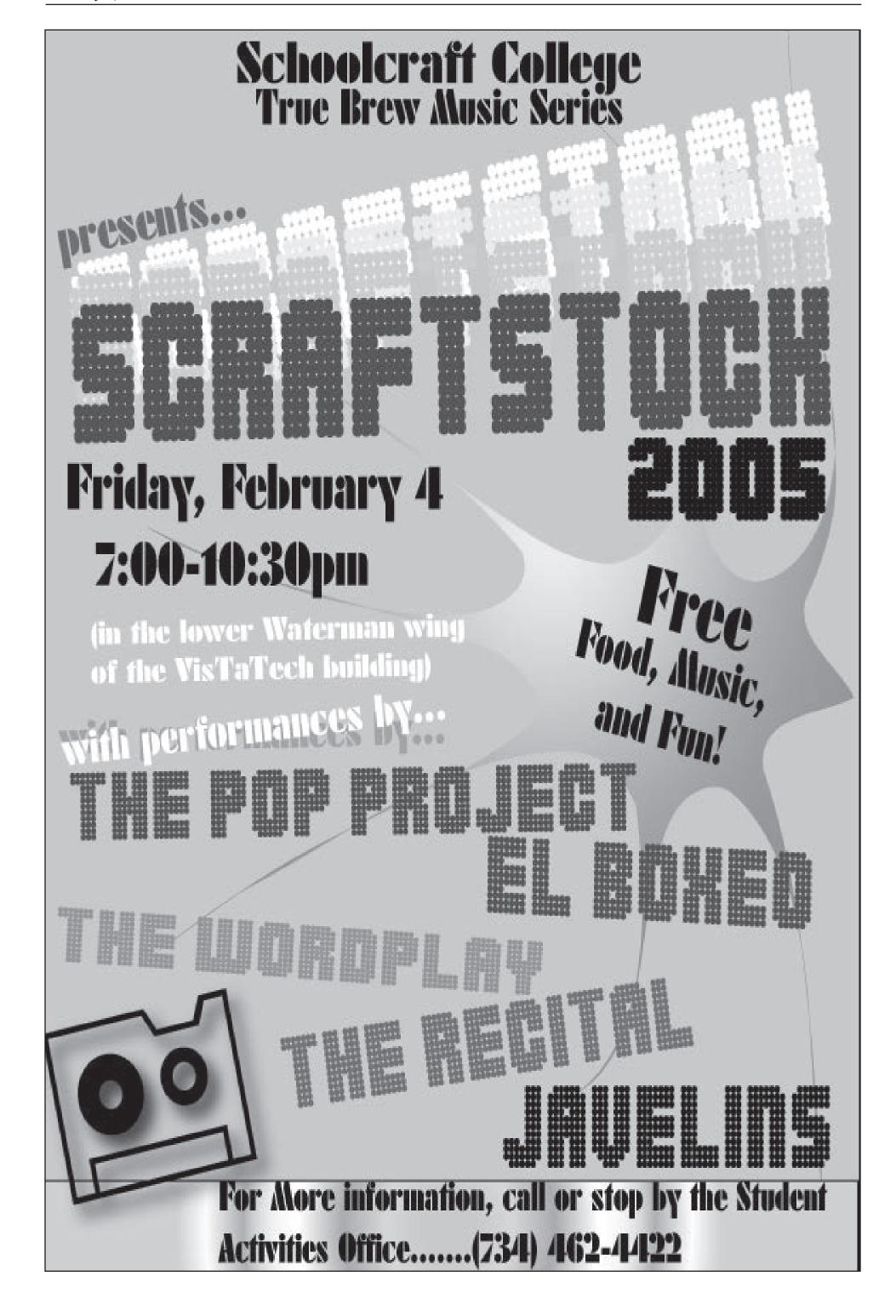
mistic attitude, Anderson ends "The Wreath" on a high note, with the untraditional love song "When Will You Say." It starts with an up tempo guitar, driving beat, and distant piano, and ends with Anderson screaming, "When will you say/Oh, Jason Anderson you are so awesome!" before trailing off with a chorus of "Halleluiah, I love you."

In context, it is obvious that he is talking about making love, but he does it with such sincerity and sweetness that it does not come off as tacky or crude.

"The Wreath" is mostly sparse and reflective, but at times it is bursting with joy. Anderson shifts effortlessly between the two extremes, blurring the lines and changing listners' per-









MEN'S BASKETBALL

More players, more victories

Ocelots have the best record in the Eastern Conference, but cannot win title

By Chris Jackett

he winning ways of the men's basketball team continue as the Ocelots have rolled to a 16-2 record to start off the new semester. The team has had a damper put on their season however, as they are no longer allowed to win the conference or participate in the state tournament. This hurts the Ocelots greatly, seeing as they currently have the best overall record in the Michigan Community College Athletic Association's Eastern Conference, just ahead of Mott, Henry Ford and Kirtland Community Colleges.

"(We've) played hard, we're playing together and (we've) played smart, and that's what it takes to win," states coach Carlos Briggs.

With James Douglas (Detroit Harper Woods Notre Dame) and Marcus Moore (Mt. Clemens) back in the lineup, the Ocelots recently pulled in a 102-60 victory against Macomb Community College while being led by Martin Samarco (Belleville) with 24 points.

"We played good defense. We played together. When we play like that, we're tough to beat," states sophomore Courtney Williams (ML King).

Prior to the Macomb victory, the Ocelots were ousted for only their second loss of the season by HFCC (10-4) in a tough 79-72 defeat on Jan. 12.

"We didn't have any energy and didn't play with any heart, and that's the way we usually play," says Briggs, "and we'll lose on the road if we don't play with toughness."

The HFCC game was the Ocelots third in five days. Having an eight-man roster, the Ocelots had used most of their energy up by the time they traveled to Dearborn to play Henry Ford. The energy they had used went to good use however, as the Ocelots defeated both Kirtland (Jan. 10) and Delta Community Colleges (Jan. 8) by scores of 106-85 and 88-75, respectively.

"Against Henry Ford, we didn't play the best that we could," says Williams.

Most impressive of the Ocelots' recent victories was against Alpena Community College on Jan. 5. The Ocelots managed to wrestle away a 100-66 victory despite only having one player on the bench. Chris Gandy (Detroit Mackenzie) and captain Tyrone Scott (Highland Park) sat the game out for disciplinary reasons. The sixman squad was led by Williams' 31 points and 20 rebounds. Samarco put in 22 points and Jarred Axon (Jackson) played well, dropping in 17 points of his own.

"I thought the six guys put in a lot of effort and played well together," states Briggs.

Due to sanctions from the MCCAA against the team, their victories will not get them their sixth consecutive Eastern Conference Title, and their league matches will not be counted in the official conference standings.

The Ocelots' next game is at home against Delta, who they defeated 88-75 earlier in the season, on Feb. 2 at 7:30 p.m. The team will have a chance to avenge their loss to Henry Ford on Feb. 9 at 7:30 p.m. in the Physical Education Building.



Marcus Moore contributes to the 102-60 victory over Macomb Community College by scoring 12 points, improving the Ocelots record to 16-2.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Ocelots rise to the top

Team continues unchallenged winning strea \overline{k} in conference



The fighting Ocelots trample over Macomb Community College with a final score of 95-33, improving their record to 14-3. Shown here, Tracey Winkler stutter steps around a Macomb defender and drives it to the hole.

By MICHAEL SIEGRIST Staff Writter

ith the start of conference play, the Ocelots have dominated every team put in front of them, earning them a 5-0 league record. The women entered the holiday break with an overall season record of 13-3, giving them the confidence needed for these conference match-

The Ocelots trampled Macomb Community College on Saturday, Jan. 15, with an overwhelming score of 95-33. The 62-point victory over the Macomb Monarchs is a result of the team's communication and cohesive style of playing. The women came out strong and finished the first half scoring 54 points, while breaking a team record with 35 steals.

The team was led offensively by co-captain Sara

Tyree, who scored 20 points, and by Charlese Greer who scored 19. Co-captain Ashley Gibson tied Greer with six steals, leading the defensive

"My teammates gave me the ball when I had a scoring opportunity. I gained confidence when I realized the confidence that they had in me," offers Tyree in response to questions about her performance.

The game on Jan. 12 was cancelled due to a forfeit on behalf of Henry Ford Community College. The Henry Ford Hawks will not be competing the rest of the season because of a lack of players.

The Ocelots were slow building momentum against Kirtland Community College on Jan. 10. However, the women broke open in the second half to overcome the Kirtland Firebirds with an impressive 90-56 point victory.

The large victory almost mirrored the results of the Jan. 8 game against Delta College; the team



Coach Karen Lafata runs through plays during a time-out.

was able to overcome the Delta Pioneers with a triumphant score of 89-54. The Ocelots came out strong from the start, never giving the Pioneers a chance to win.

"Delta has excellent guards. By controlling their guards we controlled the game," says Greer.

Recovering from the holiday break may have proven to be harder than the girls had expected, when they faced off against Alpena Community College. The winless Lumberjacks held the Ocelots to an 11 point lead at the end of the first half.

However, the women wasted no time in turning up the heat after the half. Freshman Amantha Combs stole the show and the ball, with 16 points and nine rebounds. Combs forced multiple turnovers, helping to gain the edge that the team needed.

The Ocelots attacked from outside with cocaptain Shareece Cosby scoring four out of five three-pointers. Erika Mims completed three for an additional nine points to add to the list of 30-footers. Mikiko Williams offered additional support for the team, adding 14 to the 60 point run in the second half. The Ocelots held the Lumberjacks to an overwhelming score of 96-47.

"We have always had the goal of winning the conference, however it is important to not overlook any other teams. That is how you get beat," says coach Karen Lafata.

The team dropped from the lofty fourth seed to sixth this past week, due to uncontrollable circumstances, when Kirkwood Community College (Indiana) accomplished the impossible by defeating the first seeded Monroe Community College (New York). Regardless, the girls have performed beyond expectations throughout the season.

Though the ratings may have changed, one thing stays the same; this Ocelot team has



PLYMOUTH WHALERS HOCKEY

Whalers keep on top of West Division

Recent victories widen the gap on division lead



Photo by Rena Laverty

Whalers right winger Dan Collins skates down the ice, trying to avoid Guelph Storm defensemen Ryan Parent. Collins scored the game winning goal on a power play 2:41 into the third period. The Whalers went on to defeat the Storm 7-4.



By Chris Jackett Sports Editor

he Plymouth Whalers have plenty to smile about these days. They are riding atop the West Division of the OHL's Western Conference with a 19-17-4-3 record, have acquired players Ryan Lee, Mike Looby, Ryan Stephenson and Steve Ward through trades, and are looking at their 13th straight playoff berth. Now, their main concern is to both improve on the ice and remain on top of the West Division so that they can make a successful playoff run.

"We're going to have to keep winning. Everyone else is going to be chasing us," states right winger

Dan Collins. "It's going to be a lot harder now that we're on top."

Endurance seems to be a major factor in the Whalers' game. As of late, it has been the deciding factor between a win and a loss.

In a recent stretch, the Whalers played three games in four nights, and could not keep their endurance up as they dropped two of the three games. The team hopes to increase their endurance as the season continues, which should help by leaps and bounds as they move towards the playoffs.

"When we do play the full 60 minutes I think we can beat pretty much every team in this league," says goaltender Ryan Nie.

On Jan. 16, the Whalers were ousted 3-2 by Owen Sound (30-7-3-2) despite two goals from James Neal, the second coming with only 21 seconds remaining in the game.

They were also defeated 5-2 on Jan. 13 by Windsor (15-22-4-4) after ending the first period with a 2-0 lead, after two additional goals were called back.

"We figured we were all over them and thought it would be easy, but they came back hard and buried us," states Nie.

Over the next two periods, Windsor roared back with five unanswered goals from five different Spitfire players.

"We came out hard in the first, and they just

came out real hard and we didn't adjust," says Collins.

On Jan.15, however, the Whalers held strong throughout the entire game to defeat Guelph (14-20-8-1) by a score of 7-4, with Collins getting the game winning goal on the power play 2:41 into the third period. Five different Whalers scored in the route of Guelph. Collins, Stephenson and Cory Tanaka all banged one into the net, Vaclav Meidl and Jonas Fiedler tallied two apiece and Neal contributed with three assists.

"We don't have a lot of league leading goal scorers, so we've got to work hard and outwork the other team every night," states Nie.

Prior to the three game weekend, the Whalers pulled in a 3-0 win on Jan. 9 over Sault Ste.

Marie, who is second in the West Division with a 17-21-5-1 record. The Whalers also defeated Sudbury 3-2 in overtime and Saginaw 6-3 in regulation. In between those two games they dropped a 3-1 loss to the Colts of Barrie.

"If we stay in second, I think we're going to put together a good playoff run," says Nie.

The Whalers' next game is at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 4, at Kitchener and their next home game is at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 5, against Toronto at Compuware Arena on Beck Rd. in Plymouth.

States Collins of finishing off the regular season, "(We need to) just keep on (playing) hard."

"Sanctions" | continued from PAGE 1

we'll have to just deal with it," says sophomore basketball player Courtney Williams. "It was disappointing, because we came into the season ranked fourth in the country."

Both the NJCAA and MCCAA announcements were a result of an infraction on rules and regulations which the Ocelots violated over the summer at the University of Indianapolis' JUCO All-American Challenge summer camp in Indiana. The charges stated that Briggs had provided transportation and meals for the team in direct violation of NJCAA rules. The MCCAA just followed suit upholding the NJCAA's decision.

The college decided not to appeal the NJCAA sanctions after an internal investigation proved the allegations to be true. However, they did appeal the MCCAA ruling but were denied.

Fixing the problem

"The administration was well aware of the impact the sanctions would have on the players," states Heator. "However, the administration is responsible for maintaining the college's good standing with all sanctioning organizations. Accepting responsibility for the violations,

although painful in the short term, is a constructive step that we hope will benefit the program in the long run."

However, Briggs differs in opinion, feeling that the college should have taken more action to help out his

"If we had appealed the national sanctions and they had made our sanction lessen (as was the case for the other colleges receiving similar sanctions), then they couldn't put us out of the state or the league," says Briggs. "To me, you've always got to protect your character, and we didn't do that. One thing we've been trying to do is just move on and get by it, but sometimes it's not about the kids, sometimes it's not about sports. Sometimes it's about personal relationships, and it's sad that these kids have been affected."

Effects on the team

The two separate sanctions against the Ocelots have put an irreparable dent in their planned run at a national title. After the first sanction, they set their goals as high as possible, aiming for the state title alone. The only thing they are playing for now is pride and a winning record.

"I think it's really the death

penalty," states Briggs. "Other administrators or AD's (Athletic Directors) throughout the league who are trying to win the league, or win the state championship, got together and decided, 'hey, the only way we have a chance to do that is if we eliminate Schoolcraft,' and that's what they

After the first sanction, many of the players left the team in order to preserve their eligibility for the next two years. The rest of the team is currently enjoying a successful season despite the inevitable end results.

"I think I would have still played no matter what," says Williams. "I think everybody would just because we enjoy playing."

Despite the team's optimistic approach as a whole, this not only hurts their season, but their overall careers.

"They come to Schoolcraft because they have goals of winning the league, the state and the national tournament," states Briggs. "(Now), they don't have it. It (was) taken away from everybody. These kids' lives will go down a different road, depending on their successes or their failures here at Schoolcraft. Hopefully, we want everybody to have success, and that's why Schoolcraft is a community college, to help support kids that have certain needs and different things like that. I hope we get to

where we remember we make decisions. It's about the student athlete."

It hurts off the court

Briggs also asserts that the effects of the sanctions not only hurt the player's basketball careers, but has also posed as a distraction to their academic progress. The overall team grade point average has dropped to around a 2.2 overall at the semester break, due largely in part to their minds being focused and worried about the sanction situations rather than their classes.

"This is probably the worst season we've had since I've been here, academically," says Briggs.

This season will also cause Briggs' impressive coaching resume, featuring a 216-34 record, five state titles and five conference titles in the last eight year's he has been coaching at Schoolcraft, to diminish by not allowing for any additional title runs this

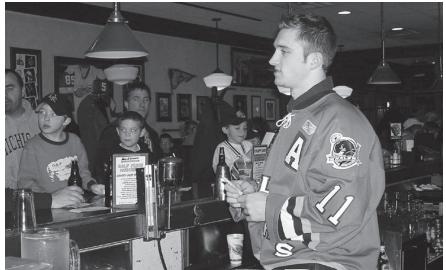
"Smart people learn from their mistakes. Obviously, our basketball program will learn from transporting kids from a hotel to a playoff. It will never happen again," states Briggs. "I still continue to work towards our goal, and our goal is to win every game and graduate every kid I have



SAY CHEESE

Photo by Gerard Knoph

Guy Price captures a Kodak moment of his two sons Wade (left) and Gibson (right) posing with Cory Tanaka and Tom Sestito during the "Skate with the Whalers" event on January 16.



CELEBRITY SERVERS

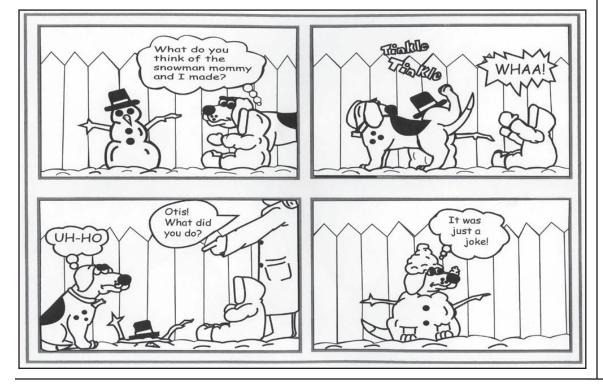
Tim Sestito works the bar during celebrity server night at Max and Erma's, which helped to raise money for the Karmanos Cancer Institute.



DIVERSIONS

Schoolcraft Connection

BABY AND THE BEAGLE BY STEVE MARKEY



KING CARSON BY JOHN JACKSON



Shape Up

Across

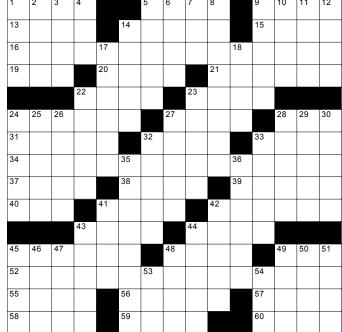
- 1 Party serving
- 5 On
- 9 Culinary Inst. grad
- 13 British title 14 Fauna's cousin
- 15 Will subject
- 16 London landmark 19 Cackler
- 20 Donna from It's a
- Wonderful Life
- 21 Gun enclosure 22 Prophet
- 23 Facial expression
- 24 Spreads out
- 27 Collect
- 28 Fuss
- 31 San Antonio chapel
- 32 Squad
- 33 High-hat
- 34 Mysterious maritime area
- 37 Gentlewoman
- 38 WWII group 39 Boot parts
- 40 Before tee
- 41 Hinge?
- 42 Select
- 43 Sty residents
- 44 Kind of roast
- 45 Adams, for one
- 48 Wildcat
- 49 Terrific serve
- 52 A jury, perhaps
- 55 Greek god of war
- 56 Fiddler's need
- 57 Tractor trailer
- 58 Computer memory unit
- 59 Anon
- 60 Shutter part

Down

- 1 Elizabeth to her friends
- 2 Steak house order
- 3 Contra Affair sales place
- 4 Gremlin
- 6 Amphibian

5 Author Horatio

Crossword 101



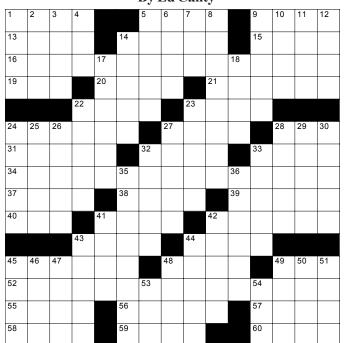
- 14 Takes flight

- 23 Found on ten speeds
- 26 Cooking fats
- 27 Secure the shoes again

- 32 Dorothy Parker's *Death*
- 33 Eavesdropper

- 42 Herb

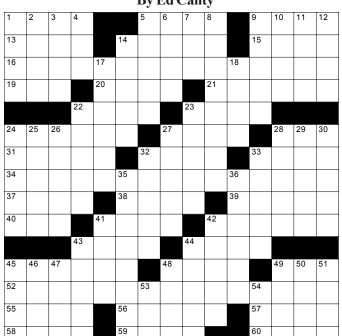
By Ed Canty



- 8 Deli offering
- 9 Stir vigorously
- 11 Republic of Ireland

- 18 Wisecrack
- 25 Defendants' answers

- and
- 36 Chimney sweep perhaps 41 Ukraine capital



- 7 Bruin Hall of Famer

- 12 Guitar bar
- 17 " serious?"
- 22 ____ Sosa
- 24 Soot black

- -Saxons
- 29 Senator Bob & family 30 Corpulent
- 35 Earrings, perhaps

- 43 It's found at the Doctor's office
- 44 Spat
- 45 An attempt
- 46 Cockeyed
- 47 Track get-together
- 48 Pedro's allowance
- 49 Early victim
- 50 Unconsciousness
- 51 Way out
- 53 Overheard in the barnyard 54 Jenny

Quotable Quote

The trouble with jogging is that, by the time you realize you're not in shape for it, it's

too far to walk back.

• • Franklin P. Jones

Schoolcraft Connection



Aries Mar 21- Apr 19 Make sure to check your

messages, whether Email, voice mail or even hand-written, because an old friend may be trying to get in touch. This

friend could bring you joy and good fortune.

Taurus Apr 20- May 20 Though thoughts of your New Year's resolutions may be long gone, now

may be a good time to re-apply those goals to your life. If you are feeling especially motivated, why not run

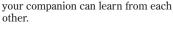


with it!

Gemini

May 21- Jun 21 Spend a little time with that special someone you have been thinking about. Sit down, have a heart-to-heart,

you may be shocked at what you and





Cancer Jun 22- Jul 22 If you feel like you have

been living through someone else lately, make an extra effort to step out into your own. Your accomplishments may not be as extraordinary right off the bat, but they can be just as



meaningful.

Leo Jul 23- Aug 22 If you are afraid you

are slipping into your new routine too quickly, seek out some additional intellectual stimulation. Go to the library and get a book on an exotic subject, or even sign up for a recreational CES class

to get your mind moving.



Virgo Aug 23- Sept 22 If it feels like it's time

for a change, make it!

Do not spend your usual time mulling over your ideas, just trust your instincts and do what you have been putting off for so long.

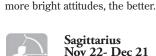


Libra

Sep 23- Oct 22 If you are getting the urge to re-evaluate your way of doing things, go deep with it. Spend some time looking at all aspects of your life and you just may



Scorpio Oct 23- Nov 21 Things are looking up, or at least you are. Go with optimism in the coming days and things will continue to go



Sagittarius Nov 22- Dec 21

Patience is a virtue, and vours will definitely be tried this month. Keep your cool, as tough as it may seem. and vou just might impress someone

important, with your professional

your way. Try to pull some friends

over to your point of view as well, the



Capricorn
Dec 22- Jan 19
You may be facing a difficult transition in your life.

Just remember to trust

yourself, and not to get caught up in

what others think. It is your life to



live, not theirs.

Aquarius Jan 20- Feb 18 It is time to take a little time off for you. Relax and treat yourself, the



benefit.

results will likely overflow into all aspects of your life. Work, school,

even your social life could stand to

Pisces Feb 19- Mar 20 If you have been feeling down, try getting in

some physical activity to lift your energy levels. The extra motivation could do more for you than you

For Answers to Crossword see PAGE 23

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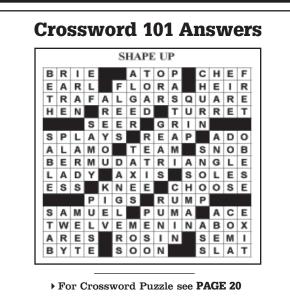


PHOTO STORY

