



The Schoolcraft Connection

VOLUME 19 ISSUE 6

SERVING THE SCHOOLCRAFT COMMUNITY FOR 19 YEARS

November 22, 2005

Earthquake relief effort approaches campus

■Cries for help reach open ears

By **MIKE SIEGRIST**
MANAGING EDITOR

Faculty, students and organizations are rallying to meet the need for assistance of the Pakistani people after the devastating earthquake on Oct. 8. The combined actions of those involved come at a time when the need for aid is growing even more drastic.

On Dec. 6 and 7, informative tables will be set up in the Liberal Arts building from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and outside Henry's café in the VisTaTech Center between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. The purpose of the tables is to educate students and to sell raffle tickets; the proceeds for which are intended for the earthquake disaster relief in the Pakistani region of Kashmir.

According to Federal Relief Commissioner, Major-General Farooq Ahmed Khan, in a press briefing held in the capitol city of Islamabad, the death toll has skyrocketed to nearly 87,000. With the seriously injured numbering around 70,000 and 3.3 million homeless, without food, water or shelter, the unforgiving mountainous winter is growing ever closer.

"Our overriding priority at the moment is to save people from the harsh winter," states Pakistani President, General Pervez Musharraf.

The country has received generous financial support from around the world, including \$156 million pledged by the United States, \$150 million from Turkey and Saudi Arabia with \$133 million in relief. The US has also pledged \$70 million in relief goods, promised \$747 million in soft term loans and offered \$122 million to the United Nations call for quake relief, for a total \$2.05 billion aid package.

The numerous amount of villages affected by the earthquake total 2,775; 41 of them have yet to receive any aid whatsoever. There are still 600,000 tents needed in order to provide shelter for the homeless throughout the region.

As the need for further relief is still pressing, the school— spearheaded by Nausheen Khan, managing editor of the MacGuffin and publication assistant of the Community College Enterprise— has committed itself to the effort.

"The project is about creating awareness and hopefully raising money for the relief. We can't all do everything, but we can do something to help," states Khan.

The Scholars Honors Program, Committee

See *Earthquake relief* on **PAGE 2**

Blanket days project partners students with the Red Cross

By **KATIE RUDOLPH**
STAFF WRITER

Schoolcraft has entered into a new partnership with the Red Cross that provides second year nursing students with a unique way to fulfill their 60 hour community service requirement by spearheading a project to collect 1,000 blankets for the organization.

Students from the nursing department have been conducting blood drives for the Red Cross since the winter of 2004. However, this year's new partnership means more students can help the Red Cross in more ways, according to nursing instructor Marlynn Marroso. Student groups such as Phi Theta Kappa and the Scholars Honors Program as well as the nursing department will be helping to run Blanket Days.

PTK Secretary Liz Hasse thinks that their involvement with the Red Cross shows their

willingness to help. "PTK's involvement shows that we're really involved with our community, our service touches all," says Hasse.

Nursing student Julie Fuller likes the idea of the partnership. "It's a very positive, worthwhile learning experience that will promote the spirit of community service that is important in nursing today."

Marroso believes that students should think of others who are less fortunate. "Students should donate because there are so many people who are less fortunate than we are, and often an unexpected event can put any one of us in a similar circumstance."

The drive will be held from Nov. 28 through Dec. 9, and collection boxes for donations will be located in every building on campus. Donated blankets must be twin-sized and in their original packages. The goal for is to collect 1,000 blankets, which will be distributed to shelters and disaster

relief programs in Southeast Michigan. In addition to SC, "many [nursing] students have recruited outside organizations to host individual drives. The students play a major role with outside organizations to assist in implementing these drives," says Marroso.

Second year nursing students held a "Comfort Kits for the Homeless" assembly on Wednesday, Oct. 19. Basic toiletry items were collected and assembled into comfort kits that will be distributed to homeless shelters and victims of disaster in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

The partnership between SC and the Red Cross began as part of the nursing program's requirement for community service. The instructors in the nursing program wanted year-to-year consistency in the community service projects that nursing students do. In

See *Blanket Days* **PAGE 2**



WELCOME BACK TO A WHOLE NEW PLACE

Photo by Rena Lavery

The newly renovated Bradner library serves as a central location for students to read, research, study and learn. Students can check out books, DVD's and videos as well as take advantage of 30 internet computers and 150 databases. For photos of the new library please see our Special Feature spread on page 14 and 15.

ONE FOR \$1
MARDI GRAS BEADS FOR A DONATION
Fundraiser for victims of Hurricane Katrina
Look for Schoolcraft Students in the halls or stop by the Student Activities Office and make your donation.
For more information call (734) 462-4422.

**STUDENT
ACTIVITIES
OFFICE**
CONTACT US
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Photo by Constance Johnson

Students participated in the annual Schoolcraft Blood drive. It took place in the VisTaTech Center - Lower Waterman Wing on Nov. 15. The Red Cross collected 69 pints of blood from the Schoolcraft community.

“Earthquake Relief” | continued from PAGE 1

for a season for Non-Violence, Anna Maheshwari of the English department, Student Activities, the International Institute and Associate Professor of Anthropology Josselyn Moore have offered support in many different areas; most significantly, by providing student volunteers.

The tables will focus on providing information about the tragedy and need for relief to students. Volunteers will be available to answer the questions of individuals who wish to learn more about the disaster and the activities designed to help Pakistani victims. They will sell tickets for a daily raffle, which will offer participants the ability to win a prize for their contributions. Proceeds from the event will be placed in the Human Development Foundation Pakistan Earthquake Fund, which will be used solely to assist victims of the tragedy.

The Human Development Foundation— a Not-For-Profit

Corporation which offers assistance with education and school sponsorship, health and wellness, economic development, water safety and community infrastructure in countries throughout the world— will separate donations to the fund from regular monetary contributions.

“We all know and realize that the needs of these people will go beyond the initial few months and beyond food, medicine and shelter,” states Co-Chair of the HDF Board of Directors, Shaznaz Khan.

The organization— founded in 1974 by Father Joe Maier, a missionary in Thailand— has distributed over 18 tons of food, 4,000 blankets, 550 tents and treated 2,000 patients throughout October. The Pakistani division of the foundation was established in June of 1999 under the name Human Development Pakistan, and has played an integral role in the effort.

The combined national, international and local efforts will offer



relief to the millions affected by the tragedy. On Dec. 6 and 7 students can offer what little they have, in order to ‘do something to help’.

“Blanket Days” | continued from PAGE 1

2004, Marroso and Nancy Palmer, also a nursing instructor, arranged a partnership with the Red Cross so that the students would be trained for and volunteer in blood drives. This year, the partnership has grown to include Blanket Days and Comfort Kits for the Homeless. According to the parameters of the partnership, SC will provide the Red Cross with 60 hours of service per nursing student per year. In exchange, the Red Cross will train students for their volunteer roles.

Volunteering is something that helps others and is rewarding, according to Marroso. “Volunteerism is a paradox... We set out wanting to help others and make our community a better place. What happens along the way, however, is that in helping others, we nurture our own spirit, in teaching others we become more educated, in making our community a safer place, we are all the better for it.”

FOUR YEAR COLLEGE TRANSFER VISITS

For students planning on transferring to a four year university, there are many questions about the procedures, plans, scholarships and agreements between Schoolcraft and their school of choice. The following universities will have a representative on campus in the near future to help students answer some of their questions.

For more information regarding transfer visits, contact the counseling office at (734) 462-4429.



Concordia University

Cathy Skowronski,

Al Martinez and Jennifer Freudenburg, representatives for Concordia, will be available to meet with students on Monday, Dec. 12, from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. in the Liberal Arts Building.



Davenport University

Stephanie Holland, repre-

sentative for Davenport, will be available to meet with students on Tuesday, Dec. 6 and Wednesday, Dec. 7 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. in the LA Building.



Northern Michigan University

Cary Vajda, representative for NMU, will be available to meet with students on Wednesday, Nov. 30 from 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. in the LA Building.



University of Michigan-Dearborn

Denae

Malinowski, representative for U of M-Dearborn, will be available to meet with students Tuesday, Dec. 6 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. across from the Radcliff Center student lounge, and on Thursday, Dec. 8 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. in the LA Building.

Intoxicated Person

On Monday, Oct. 31, at 12:45 p.m., Public Safety was called to the Radcliff Center Administration Office. Upon arrival, the responding officer was told that there was a man asking about class registration who had a strong odor of alcohol on him. The officer spoke to the man and also detected a strong odor of alcohol. The man freely identified himself, but refused to present identification. The officer advised him to leave, and the man complied with no further incident.

Intoxicated/Disorderly Person

On Friday, Oct. 28, at 12:10 p.m., a Public Safety officer was sent to the Liberal Arts building on a report of a group of men harassing female students. As the officer approached on foot, they observed a man accosting females leaving the building, stepping into their path and requesting sexual favors. The officer spoke with the females, who stated that they did not know the perpetrator, and requested not to be identified for fear of reprisal by the perpetrator.

The officer then approached the man and requested identification. The man refused, claiming that he was a student, and pro-

ceeded to verbally abuse the officer. The officer detected a strong odor of intoxicant and observed slurred speech, blurred eyes and an unsteady stance.

After placing the perpetrator into the patrol vehicle and transporting him to the Public Safety Office, the officer notified the Livonia Police. A Livonia Police officer responded and took the man into custody. A check from the Schoolcraft registrar revealed that he is an active student.

Larceny

On Wednesday, Oct. 26, a Facilities Management employee reported that an unknown person(s) had removed two tools from the storage box in his Club Cart. The employee stated that he had first noticed a drill missing around Oct. 1 and that a torch was taken sometime later.

Larceny

On Wednesday, Oct. 26, between 2 and 6 p.m., an employee arrived in the Media Center and placed his wallet on his desk. He then began working in the Media Center and around campus. Upon his return, he discovered that his wallet was gone. The wallet contained one Master Card, one BP gas card, one Sears credit card, a driver's license, a

Social Security card, one \$50 Sunoco gas card and \$16 in cash.

Larceny From Auto

On Tuesday, Oct. 25, at approximately 7:45 a.m., an instructor arrived on campus and parked her vehicle in the North lot. Upon her return to the vehicle at approximately 7:30 p.m., she discovered that person(s) unknown had broken her right rear door window and entered the vehicle.

The center console of the dashboard was ripped out and the radio/navigation unit was unplugged and removed from the bracket. During the removal of the radio unit, the gear shift handle was broken, causing the shift linkage to become disconnected. The total cost of repairing and replacing the damaged parts is unknown.

A witness stated that she had arrived on campus at approximately 10 a.m. and that she did not see any damage at that time. Livonia Police were notified of the incident and that the vehicle was undrivable, and an officer arrived to take a report at approximately 8:10 p.m.

**In case of emergency, contact
PUBLIC SAFETY
at (734) 462-4424.**

UPCOMING CONNECTION PUBLICATION DATES:

December 6

THE GREAT DEBATE

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS:

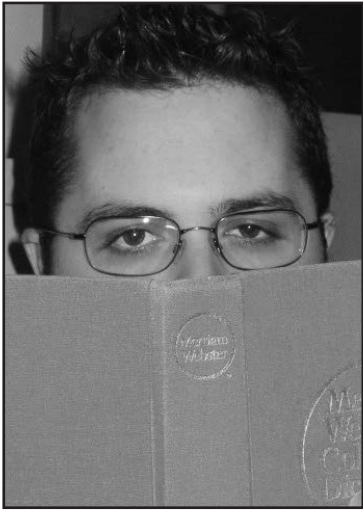
Detroit has been called a modern renaissance city, emerging from the wreckage of its past and stepping into the future. City-wide clean up efforts and new business interest has spread like wild fire. The business districts have seen an influx of more money being invested, with GM spending millions on renovating and adding to the aptly named Renaissance Center, and Compuware spending a significant amount of money on their world headquarters as well. Propositions for new interest have come through while at the same time; the city has gone for broke, investing as much money as possible in revamping streets and highways. Do you feel that this is a step in the right direction for the city, offering a glimpse of better things to come?

GYPSY DAVY: When it comes to Detroit, I think that any forward progress at all is a step in the right direction. It has been my belief that since the addition of Campus Martius, the city has become much safer in certain parts. Also, the transformation of historical buildings in Grand Circus Park is definitely improving the image of our city, giving visitors more than just the impression of “broken-down-shacks,” so to speak.

However, I find it intriguing



Sergeant-at-Arms



Gypsy Davy

V.S.

IS DETROIT'S IMAGE IMPROVING?

that businesses are willing to take a chance on a city that has been in shambles for so long. Furthermore, it doesn't show much for our image that we are finally taking part in “city wide clean-up efforts,” which are noticeably long overdue. Our procrastination is making it look as though we wouldn't be interested in cleaning up our city unless the Super Bowl was coming here, which is coincidentally what is happening.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: You make a very interesting point, with regards to Super Bowl XL, as I am also sure that the city has used this pivotal event to rally around this renovation theme. However,

I do not believe that this is reason to discredit the work being done. The city has spent an unbelievable amount of money on these projects, and an event like the Super Bowl is the only possibility for making these long-needed changes without bankrupting the city. What you see as a sad attempt to cover up and mislead, I see as an opportunity to finally address issues that have been ignored. While residential and industrial areas of the city are not receiving the same amount, they will benefit if the city is able to become self-sufficient. Whether these clean-up projects are overdue, I am reminded of an old axiom; better late than never.

Shame on us all for watching as the city regressed; however, I believe this is a lesson learned for the future.

GYPSY DAVY: Whoa, buddy! Let's take a step back for a second. Remember, I said that any step forward is a step in the right direction. I am not discrediting the city for starting the work because obviously, it is still needed. However, when thinking of the situation taking place in Detroit, I am also reminded of an old proverb: diligence is the mother of good fortune. When work is started in advance, it always comes out better. Doing something at the last minute, in reference to something of this magnitude,

is just downright ignorant. And who is being contracted to do this work downtown? I'm sure that they are aware of our attempt at making the city look immaculate by the time the Super Bowl rolls around in February. If I were them, I'd use that mentality to jack my prices up and make a little extra off of the mayor's irresponsibility. I'm sure that's just me though.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: I don't see the Super Bowl as being the deadline for progress in the city. The road of reconstruction will be a long one for Detroit, with many bumps along the way, I am sure. The fact that the entire country will have their eyes on the city in the upcoming year is one that is undeniable; however, it is my opinion that a lot of work has been done, is being done and progress has been made. The accelerated rate of construction may be a result of the upcoming sporting event, but that is not to be unexpected. Michigan has a chance to prove that this is an excellent area to live and dispel many myths and fears about the city.

If we are both agreeing that the changes are needed and a good sign for the city, than I am not sure what else we are arguing about.

GYPSY DAVY: I think it's over the fact that I'm better than you.

Blanket Days for the Homeless

Second year nursing students, along with members of the Omicron Iota chapter of Phi Theta Kappa honor society and the Scholars Honors Program are asking students, faculty and staff to donate new twin-sized blankets in their original wrappers. Blankets will be used by the Red Cross to provide comfort and warmth to the homeless and disaster victims. Collection boxes will be present in every building on campus from Nov. 28 through Dec. 9.

Women's Resource Center

Divorce Support Group

A divorce support group is open to anyone contemplating, in the process of or

having difficulty adjusting to divorce. The support group is free of charge and meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month, between 7-9 p.m. in the WRC.

On Tuesday, Nov. 22, a staff member from the Northbrook Psychological Clinic in Novi will discuss helpful coping skills for the intense emotions triggered by holidays and other special occasions.

Money Matters in Divorce

A certified divorce financial planner from the Center for Financial Planning will be available on the first Monday of each month, from

5-7 p.m., through May 1. Anyone worried about the financial concerns relative to divorce may sign in beginning at 4:30 p.m. on the appropriate day. Clients will be served on a first come, first served basis.

Ask An Attorney

An attorney from the firm of Woll and Woll will be available on the third Monday of each month, from 5-7 p.m., through May 15. Anyone interested in asking an attorney about divorce and family law may sign in beginning at 4:30 p.m. on the appropriate day. Clients will be served on a first come, first served basis.

Fall Luncheon Series

The Phoenix Mill Women's Museum

On Friday, Dec. 2, from 11:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. in the VisTaTech Center, Lyn Bankes will convey the stories of women in the automotive industry. She will discuss Henry Ford's former auto parts factory at Hines Drive and Northville Road and the museum project underway to preserve their story.

Lunch will be served at 11:45 a.m. The cost is \$14, and prepaid registration is required. Seating is limited. For further information

about any WRC events, call (734) 462-4443, or visit the WRC in the McDowell Center, Room 225.

Winter play tickets on sale

Tickets for the Theater Department's production of Thornton Wilder's American classic, “Our Town,” are on sale now and selling fast. Dinner theater tickets are \$24, while tickets for the theater performance are \$12.

Dinner theater performances of “Our Town” will take place March 24, 25, 31 and April 1, with dinner at 6:30 p.m. and the performance at 8 p.m. Theater performances will take place April 7 and 8, at 8 p.m. Tickets can be purchased in the main campus Bookstore or by phone at (734) 462-4596.

LOOKING TO GET INVOLVED ON CAMPUS? JOIN A CLUB

For more information please call (734) 462 - 4422 or stop by the Student Activites Office.

IN OUR OPINION

Fairweather donors fail to fulfill commitment

With so many disasters worldwide this past year, it seems as though now, more than ever, help is needed in every form. While many may not be able to give large monetary donations, one thing most everyone can do is give blood to the Red Cross and it does not cost one “red” cent.

Statistics show that in any given semester there are approximately 30,000 people, including students, staff and faculty, who “cross” the doors at Schoolcraft. One would think with a population this large, holding a blood drive on campus would be extremely successful.

However, on Tuesday Nov. 15, a whopping 69 of those thousands of people showed up at the VisTaTech Center, to donate. We find it pathetic that while the country needs us more than ever, less than 1% of our population on campus cared enough to show up and help out in this time of crisis.

Even worse is the fact that out of 30,000 people on campus, the Red Cross set a goal of 80 people based on previous turnouts. This quota also doesn’t speak to highly of our participation in years past.

Members of Phi Theta Kappa, The Schoolcraft Connection, the

Edgerunner Ski Club, the Student Activities Board and nursing students showed their concern by helping this cause; bringing donors from their respective clubs. Nursing students also volunteered at the drive site and we commend all of these student groups for doing their part.

Furthermore, of the 69 people who donated, 23 were first time donors. This means that 46 donors have donated in the past and will undoubtedly continue to give in the future.

But what does that say about the rest of the campus population? Only a few staff and faculty members could

find time— one hour— in their busy schedule to help the Red Cross in their attempt to save lives. While those who failed to donate may argue that they have given money to numerous charities in the wake of disaster, one statement holds true; money does not buy blood.

The Connection staff did an informal survey with students as to why they did not donate, with the most widely received answer being a fear of needles. We believe that the fear would soon disappear were they laying in an emergency room in desperate need of blood, themselves.

November statistics released by the Red Cross of Southeastern Michigan show that we only have 782 of the 2,334 units needed currently in inventory. Those 69 units of life-saving blood will give 193 hospital patients a chance to regain their health.

For those who found some good reason not to donate, there is still opportunity to fulfill your civic duty. The Livonia Service Center and Blood Donor Center is located at 36650 Five Mile Road in Livonia and can be reached at (313)274-5450 to set up appointments. Just tell them The Connection sent you.

FROM THE EDITOR’S GARAGE

How to fashion a multi-billion dollar business



JOHN PARSELL
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Wal-Mart offers more than a small price to pay

While the economy is recovering from one of the greatest lows of all time, Americans, more than ever, are interested in saving money and lots of it.

Recently, my grandmother informed me that there were plans slated to open a new Wal-Mart in Livonia and that I should inform readers of it.

“This is going to be one of the

best stores,” my grandma told me. “You need to let people know that it’s coming.”

After pursuing her advice and doing some research on the subject, I came to some very astonishing conclusions about the billion dollar retail chain. These conclusions could clench many of our economic problems into a tight fist; pointing a stern finger in the direction of this retail dominator.

Sorry grandma, but Wal-Mart is bad. Real bad.

While most retail chains and small businesses struggle to stay in competition with each other, Wal-Mart has long since crushed competitors with an iron fist, using a merciless business strategy to squash competitors with ease.

Opening multiple chains and slashing prices to an almost unbelievable low, Wal-Mart has managed to create a substantial market for their products. However, at what cost does this come to consumers?

The general population’s addiction to low prices is leading the United States to a two tiered economy with a shrinking middle class and a growing number of low-wage workers. And while the prices

at Wal-Mart may be the cheapest around, I hardly see the positive when people are left with less to spend.

Wal-Mart destroys communities, using their infamous tactics to efface hardware stores, grocery markets, clothing retailers and auto-parts stores. And that’s just on a local level.

Since this billion dollar retailer moved into groceries, 25 regional supermarket chains around the nation have been forced to close or file for bankruptcy, eliminating 12,000 union jobs, according to the Los Angeles Times.

The company has gone to great lengths to stop its employees from organizing. “Our philosophy is that only an unhappy associate would be interested in joining a union,” says Mona Williams, company spokeswoman. “That is why Wal-Mart does everything it can to make sure that we are providing our associates what they want and need.”

Yeah right.

The truth is, unions cannot be established because it would eliminate the company’s capability to manipulate employees, who are treated like garbage. According to

<http://www.uncw.org>, the average number of Wal-Mart employees covered by employer health care is 47% compared to the national average of 67%. On a wage of about \$8 an hour and 29-32 hours of work per week, the average worker would have to pay one fifth of their paycheck for health care coverage.

This seems a little bit excessive, doesn’t it?

According to a report by United States House of Representatives Senior member George Miller (D-CA) called “Everyday Low Wages: The Hidden Price We All Pay for Wal-Mart;” in 2002, the chain increased the waiting period for part-time employees; making them wait two years before they may enroll in the health care plan which then only qualifies them for single, not dependant, coverage.

This is significant, as the company promotes part-time employment, discouraging managers from hiring full-timers.

More than 60% of Wal-Mart employees— which equals 600,000 people— are forced to ask for government assistance, or live without insurance. This is because Wal-Mart hires a large amount of part-time workers— remember the two year deal— and has a 50 % labor turnover rate.

the entire world. Its \$250 billion in sales makes it bigger than General Motors, Exxon/Mobil and IBM. According to Robert Greenwald, filmmaker and creator of the documentary, “Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Price,” the billion dollar company, in an attempt to save its image, spends almost \$4 million per day on advertising alone.

Imagine what could be done with insurance, health care and benefits for employees with an extra \$4 million per day. Such an ad campaign would be unnecessary if they just dealt with these issues.

It is no wonder why the company’s image is smeared when it is estimated that the average community with a Wal-Mart is forced to pay an extra \$36,000 for free and reduced school lunches for the children of 50 qualifying Wal-Mart families, \$42,000 for Section 8 federal housing assistance, \$125,000 for federal tax credits and deductions for low-income families and \$100,000 for Title 1 educational funds based on 50 qualifying Wal-Mart families with an average of two children, according to <http://www.aflcio.org>.

Maybe it’s time that this retail giant gives a little something back to the community, instead of crushing an already crippled economy.

Personally, I will never set foot into a Wal-Mart store again. Well, at least not until they become what they are destined to be— the only retailer in the world. I just hope that grandma can forgive me for my betrayal.

To put it simply, employees are hired in as part-time with no insurance, and either quit or get fired before they have a chance to receive it.

This is pathetic, as Wal-Mart is the largest company in the world.

That’s right, I did not stutter. Wal-Mart is the largest company in

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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

ONE HAND CLAPPING

Live by the truck; die by the truck

American auto industry continues to roll over



MICHAEL SIEGRIST
MANAGING EDITOR

As the battle for dominance in the hybrid automobile market rages between the two Japanese giants, Honda and Toyota, American companies are falling behind. Detroit's obsession with the production of truck and SUV lines may be its demise.

While these lines are keeping the crippled companies in business and functioning, this sliver of the market can not be relied upon for their future. While I am not an expert in this field, it should be apparent to anyone that the current trend must be reversed.

The recent resignation of the director in charge of Ford's plan to build 250,000 hybrid vehicles a year by 2010 is not looking good either. This shows that Ford's attempt to turn around the current trend is in jeopardy as well. The car company, along with its domestic companions, continues to fail in competing against its rivals abroad.

Honda was the first to enter the market with a hybrid, the Insight, boasting just over 60 miles per gallon in the city; however, it was soon beaten out by the Toyota Prius, as the number one selling hybrid. This back and forth has continued between the two companies, with Ford attempting to infiltrate the foreign dominated market with its undeserving Escape hybrid at 36 mpg.

Now, with Mary Ann Wright, the former director of sustainable mobility technologies and hybrid vehicle programs for Ford, resigning from her post, it looks as though the company may not make good on its hybrid promise. It is not about making the world a better place, or trying to clean up the environment— those are perks— it is about technological advances that the world is making, while passing up the United States.

Honda recently leaked information to the "Wall Street Journal" regarding its progress on developing a new type of cleaner-burning engine. This four-cylinder gasoline engine that uses Homogeneous Charged Compression Ignition is another step in the advancement of fuel economy. While these foreign companies have been cornering the sedan and recent hybrid market, domestic companies have done little to combat this takeover.

The future plans for the Ford Fusion hybrid sedan, along with the Mercury Milan, will be great additions; but these releases may prove to be a day late and a buck short. The models, which plan to hit the market in 2008, will not even come close to equaling the fuel economy of its foreign competitors, earning the low rate of just over 30 mpg.

I am curious as to how domestic automakers attempt to compete against companies like Honda, while they fail to even meet the standards these companies set a few years ago.

We should all be concerned with this lack of vision on part of the Big Three. While Americans— especially those in Detroit— have sworn allegiance to horsepower, the auto industry cannot function on domestic sales alone. The fact that by and large, Americans are the only significant demographic for truck and SUV sales worldwide, should be enough reason for concern. American companies are failing to sell their giant automobiles overseas, and foreign companies are penetrating the small car market close to home.

In Detroit, the candle is burning at both ends, while the board of directors stay asleep at the wheel. Domestic automakers can not afford to ride in the wake of foreign competitors if they hope to succeed. The reliance of the American companies on their truck and SUV lines will only keep the companies afloat for so long. The workforce and companies themselves will continue to suffer if changes aren't made.

NEVER TRUST A NAKED
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Bathroom stall graffiti doesn't pay



TRAVIS GRAND
A & E EDITOR

Whenever I have to make use of a stall inside a public restroom, I'm always compelled to observe the bathroom stall graffiti (depending upon the repugnance of my olfactory sense, of course).

Not too long ago here at Schoolcraft, while under the occupancy of a restroom located in the LA building, I came across something fascinating. It was a quote that read as follows: "Hatred is like holding a hot coal with the intent of throwing it at another. The thrower is the one who always gets burnt." At the bottom, there was

a name being attributed to the quote— Buddha.

"The Buddha?" I wondered. "But I thought he died?"

I'm not a Buddhist myself, but I do happen to agree with some of the philosophy I have read. And although Buddha's words were insightful, I couldn't help but feel resentful-toward Buddha for defacing school property in an attempt to indoctrinate college students for his own personal and religious gain. Surely, Jesus wouldn't have been so gauche.

In retrospect, I regret not filing a complaint.

Soon thereafter, with my bathroom endeavors yet unanswered, I chose to find another stall on campus with less graffiti. However, the second stall I occupied had been tagged even worse than the one before. Amid sketches of pornographic artwork and the exasperating amount of comments pertaining to marijuana, there was another quote: "We are not afraid to entrust the American people with unpleasant facts, foreign ideas, alien philosophies, and competitive values. For a nation that is afraid to let its people judge the truth and falsehood in an open market is a nation that is afraid of its people."

This time, the perpetrator's name down at the bottom read: John F. Kennedy.

"Was he the one who got assassinated?" I asked myself. "Or was that Bobby? Maybe it was John Kennedy, Jr.? I know it's not the fat one; he's still alive. What about Jackie?" There are so many Kennedy's to keep track of; I couldn't remember which one was which. Regardless of whomever the quote belonged to, I objected to the implication.

Traveling around from college to college as a campaign tour is one thing, but lobbying for votes in a bathroom stall? The low some politicians stoop to is down right despicable.

The bathroom is neither the time nor place for political propaganda, and consequently, I needed to find another place to carry out my bodily wishes.

Sprinting across campus, I went to the McDowell building to use the bathroom there; and to my advantage, the handicap stall happened to be vacant. The handicap stalls are always clean and free from any kind of bathroom stall graffiti too, or so I thought.

Written in bold block letters was a disclaimer stating: "THE HANDICAP STALL IS FOR THE HANDICAPPED ONLY!"

Now, I'm a sympathetic guy, but I thought this disclaimer was being a little too unreasonable. Clearly the handicap stalls are designed for the handicapped; their luxurious spacious-convenience and handy side-railings provide great comfort and wheelchair accessibility— I'll grant that.

But why should all that perfectly good space go to waste when left uninhabited? It just doesn't seem fair to me.

I became so embittered by the remarks posted throughout the bathroom stall walls that I lost my urge to go to the lavatory all together. There had to be a way to articulate my anger and direct it at the people who were responsible for my troubles (both bodily and moral).

That's when a light bulb went off in my head— bathroom stall graffiti post-it notes!

Who could go wrong with a post-it note? It's a compact piece of paper that takes down important messages and sticks to surfaces without tape; they come in several colors and can easily fit in a person's pants pocket (not the fifth pocket, of course).

Hopefully soon, after my patent gets approved, people will get to use the bathroom and be able to express their thoughts and beliefs in a well-mannered commentary, and the spirits of Buddha, John F. Kennedy and others will finally be put to rest and kept untainted within their sacred bathroom stall headquarters.

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FROM ANGELA'S ANGLE

Lack of insurance threatens humanity

Young adults account for highest percentage of uninsured Americans



ANGELA BELCHER
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

One of the biggest problems facing America today is the lack of a nationwide health care system. Accounting for the largest portion of the uninsured are young adults— those ages 18 to 24. According to The National Coalition on Health Care, in 2003, 30.2 percent of young adults did not have health insurance.

The NCHC also reports that a “Lack of insurance compromises the health of the uninsured because they receive less preventive care, are diagnosed at more advanced disease stages, and once diagnosed, tend to receive less therapeutic care and have higher mortality rates than the insured.”

As a student who only recently obtained health insurance, I can confirm that not having it is both frightening and costly. It means ignoring ailments which would normally require doctors’ care, not participating in the more risky activities like skiing, biking, etc. and paying unreasonable sums of money if you must seek care. Ignoring the ailment only makes the condition worse. The worse the condition becomes, the more money it costs when doctors care is finally sought.

The price of prescriptions and doctors visits are only increasing, making it harder to afford. If the government regulated through offering state- sponsored health care, they could investigate and regulate to make sure these prescriptions and goods are worth their charge. This would result in policies against charging \$200 for the use of a pair of surgical scissors. Doctors costs would be less money and easier for the government to afford.

Many students and people I know are uninsured. This is due to a variety of reasons including being taken off their parents’ policy, employers not offering insurance and obtainable insurance being too costly. Premiums have been rising faster than wages and only two-thirds of employers offer packages.

The threat of being uninsured does not end with the passing of young adulthood. Coverage becomes unstable during all life transitions including a change from full-time to part-time work, loss of employment, self-employment, retirement and divorce.

The government needs to adopt a policy in which health care is provided to all, paid for by all and offers comprehensive coverage. This solution would be most effective and morally sound. Americans should have the compassion to contribute to the sum of the people, including children, of which 11.4 % are not insured.

Not only is it the right thing to do, it is the economically sound thing to do as well. Medical debt is one of the most significant reasons people file for bankruptcy in this country. I don’t think there is any question as to who fits the bill when these people can not. This hit is absorbed by the system, the government and the hospital as well, raising costs for everyone. It only follows that the proper response is to offer coverage for all individuals, instead of fueling out of control costs. Countries such as our wise northern neighbor, Canada, have successfully adapted policies that ensure all of their citizens have the benefit of insurance. America should follow in their lead and adapt such policies if our country cannot come to an agreement in which all can receive fair and necessary health coverage, we should just follow the advice of comedian Dave Chappelle- “fake Canadian ID’s for all!”

A LITTLE R & R

Not everyone's a terrorist

Civil liberties jeopardized by racial profiling



RYAN RUSSELL
NEWS EDITOR

Put yourself in this scene: you practice a religion that requires daily prayer at certain times. While out with some friends enjoying a New York Giants football game, it comes upon one of those times. You and your friends, not wanting to be in the way of other people, duck out of the main flow of pedestrian traffic and begin your prayer ritual.

You finish your prayer, and head off to enjoy the rest of the game free of hassle...oh, wait. That doesn't happen.

What happens is that you get detained and questioned by the FBI. Why, you ask? Because this is America, and in America, if you practice Islam or come from a country where Islam is the main religion, then you are a terrorist.

What sets me off on this topic, you ask? Simple. A little over a month ago, five Muslim men, out enjoying a Giants game at Giants Stadium, had this exact thing happen to them after other fans witnessed them bowing to the ground as part of their prayer. According to Sami Shaban, a 27 year-old law student, he and his friends were questioned for 25 minutes. Upon their release, an FBI agent told him that they had been victims of racial profiling.

And what, pray tell, was the FBI's reason for detaining five men who had done absolutely nothing wrong? Well, obviously it's because they congregated near an air duct, which is the FBI's official story. So, who wants to call the FBI and explain that everyone in a sports stadium is near an air duct? Have you ever been in Joe Louis Arena? Air ducts are everywhere.

Two of the detained men, Shaban and Mostafa Khalifa, held a press conference on Nov. 2 to discuss the incident. “As Muslims, we just have to pray when it's time to pray,” said Shaban. “We thought nothing of it. I pray in malls, I pray everywhere.”

“Let's be real here, if anybody with my description even scratches their ear, people get nervous,” Khalifa told the press.

So, what good could possibly come of this? Shaban says that the more people learn, the more tolerant they will become, and that he has made giving Muslims a good name in the U.S. his life's purpose.

Rather than become embittered against America or get entangled in long-running lawsuits, the men instead plan to use the incident as a tool to teach Americans about the true meanings of Islam and its traditions.

Funny...most Americans would just sue their fellow citizens or government into bankruptcy.

OCELOT OPINIONS



Amanda Robinson
Age: 20
Year: 1st
Major: Criminal Justice

“The new library is phenomenal; it is very big and offers great help from the staff.”



Wallace Hall
Age: 30
Year: 2nd
Major: Undecided

“I think the new library is bigger and better.”



Venice Tanzo
Age: 21
Year: 2nd
Major: Health

“I like that it's nice and newly done. It's odd to get used to the new entrances though. I also like that there are many computers that can be used.”



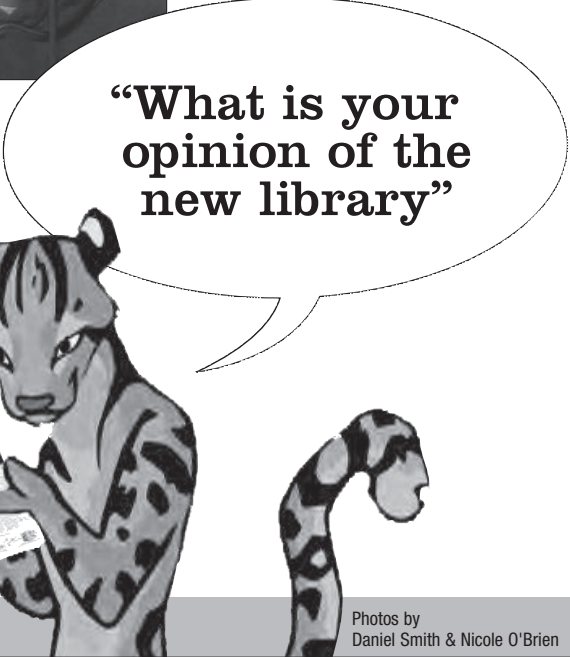
Phillip E. Huah
Age: Withheld
Year: 1st
Major: Nursing

“I feel the new library has better privacy, high-speed internet access is very conducive which increases the students research.”



Sarah Bliss
Age: 21
Year: 2nd
Major: Performing Arts

“I think the library is a really nice place to relax, and meet with friends to work on projects.”



Photos by
Daniel Smith & Nicole O'Brien



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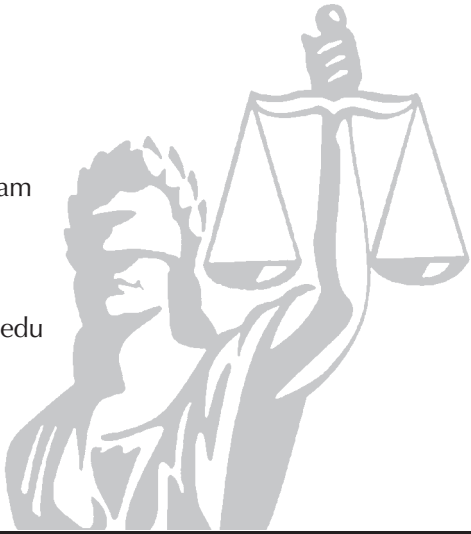
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The 'Options' are endless

■ Radcliff's convenience store receives national coverage

By JOHN PARSELL
EDITOR IN CHIEF

When thinking of Schoolcraft College, not much credit is given to the small Radcliff campus in Garden City. However, the satellite location that offers courses in Criminal Justice, Correctional Science, Emergency Medical Technology and Fire Technology plays a vital role in providing a well rounded education to college students.

Which is why a small, 562-square-foot convenience store located on the Radcliff campus is equally important to students that attend classes there.

The Options Store opened six years ago and provides students with an assortment of lunch— well— “options.” Offering freshly baked pizza and pepperoni rolls twice a week, fresh sandwiches from a local vendor and a selection of fresh salads catered by the Food Service Department of the Livonia Campus,

students have a wide variety of foods to choose from.

“Usually, students that visit the Options store are here every day,” says Ruth Rice, manager of the store. “Variety is important so that our choices do not become boring.”

Other items in the store include frozen foods, grab-and-go burgers, popcorn, cookies and just about anything else that can be imagined on convenience store shelves. For these reasons— not to mention the \$133,500 yearly sales— the Options Store has received national recognition, in the magazine “C/Stores On Campus.”

“It feels great to be recognized,” says Rice. “Hopefully this means that SC’s best kept secret is out and business will increase because of it.”

The magazine, which focuses their attention on campus convenience stores, has a six month circulation of about 9,215 and has



Photos by Randy Rorabacher

The Options store provides a variety of items for students to purchase from snacks to candy to band-aids and deodorant.

featured articles on such shops as the C-Lion Convenience Market at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles and the District Market at George Washington University in Washington D.C.

“While we cannot compete [with four year colleges] in business sales, this shows that we do compete in quality customer service, variety and convenience for our customers,”

says Rice. “We provide students of SC with a service that many community colleges don’t have.”

While the article may have come as a surprise to Rice, it is very well deserved. The store offers convenience and more impor-

See Options Store on PAGE 10

Service learning used in communication arts classes

■ Dr. Bowers rewards her students for helping feed the hungry

By ANGELA BELCHER
CAMPUS LIFE EDITOR

For over fifteen years, Dr. Anne Bowers, a professor of communication arts has been collecting canned foods from her students for points towards their final grade.

Last year alone, her classes collected over 2,000 cans. Over the years one can only imagine how many hungry people this compassionate professor has helped feed.

Students in Bowers’ class receive two points out of the total 100

Possible class points for donating twenty cans of food each semester, although most donations exceed the minimum. “Every year when I see the number of cans that come in, I cannot help but become choked up. We

have wonderful, giving students attending Schoolcraft” says Bowers.

Cans are collected every year between the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday seasons. They are then donated to the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, which in turn are donated to charitable foundations such as St. Leo’s Soup Kitchen, Cross Roads and local families in need at Christmas time.

“In a time when the world is facing several problems, it is always nice to see someone reach out and give back to the community,” says Nicole Nader, president of PTK. “I know there was a time when my family was in need, so I am grateful for people like Dr. Bowers.”

Bower’s students are also encouraged to give blood to the Red Cross. Any student who donates blood on campus receives one extra credit point, as well.

Bowers and her family always take an

See Bowers on PAGE 10



Photo by Michael Siegrist

John Meriman sorts through recent donations during Professor Bowers Interpersonal Communications class.

Cedric Chin; world traveler extraordinaire

■VP comes from far and away

OFFICER PROFILE

By MICHAEL SIEGRIST
MANAGING EDITOR

The Student Activities Board's Vice President, Cedric Chin, is not your average student. This leader has traveled great distances, only to end up here at Schoolcraft.

Born in Miami, Cedric lived out the first year of his life in the bustling Florida beach town. Before he could remember any details about the energetic city, he moved to Jamaica, the island his parents call home. It is here that Cedric attended school at St. George's College in Kingston, where he took up performing arts and choir. He was involved in many organizations while at St. George's, including, the debate team, environmental club and Christian fellowship club. He also performed African styled moves with the schools dance team.

Cedric left Jamaica at the age of 13 and moved to California to live with his sister in Culver City. He stayed there for three years, finishing up his education at Culver City High School. While in California, Cedric got involved with sports, joining the tennis team and becoming co-captain his senior year. He joined the student council, robotics club and

participated in a theatrical production of "Footloose."

"I was a total geek in high school," states Cedric.

After graduation, he moved to Westland MI, to live with his brother, sister-in-law and their two children. It was not long before he found himself enrolled in classes at SC, the very same school his brother and sister went to. Cedric remained at home and took online classes his first semester.

With a successful semester under his belt, Cedric decided that he would enjoy attending classes on campus and finding out what SC had to offer. He went to the Student Activities Office in the Lower Waterman inquiring about what student clubs and organizations were on campus.

Cedric was directed to SAB, where he soon found himself volunteering spare time to help the club with events. At the last concert of the year, former Vice President Chris Hall informed Cedric of the open position, and insisted he apply.

The vice president's job is to oversee everything and to step up and take the responsibilities at any notice, as well as to assist the President in any way possible, and to fill in if need be.

Cedric turned in the application and the rest was history. He was soon taking a full 16 credit schedule, working 25 hours a week at Bray's Hamburgers and serving as second in the chain of command of SAB.



Photo by Michael Siegrist

Vice President Cedric Chin commands attention during an officer meeting of the SAB.

"Spare time! What is that?," asks Cedric when questioned about his interest outside of the commitments.

When he is not attending Music 105, Economics 201, Math 129 or Psychology 201, Cedric is going out with his friends to movies or church.

"[He] fuels the events we sponsor with a lot of energy. His excitement really helps other members get motivated," says SAB President Leighann Staknis.

This business administration major has intentions of transferring to a four year uni-

versity after he is finished at SC. Cedric has expressed an interest in studying accounting at the University of Michigan and Michigan State University. He has not ruled out the possibility of moving back to California to live with his sister, and go to school there.

While Cedric is not quite sure what the future has in store, he is still able to focus on what he can offer the club today.

According to Student Activities Technician Todd Stowell, "Cedric has a lot of enthusiasm. He keeps the meetings lively with his sense of humor."

The passion-minded professor

■Cheryl Vatcher-Martin's motivation is contagious

PROFESSOR PROFILE

By REGAN BYERS
STAFF WRITER

Some women are teased for having too many pairs of shoes. Instructor Cheryl A. Vatcher-Martin wears them all out— teaching journalism, English, creative writing and French.

Vatcher-Martin has been writing since she was eight years old, expressing that she "got lost" in writing short stories. More interested in photography, Vatcher-Martin never shared her writing with anyone until submitting a poem to her high school magazine.

The rest is history, as she has become a passionate writer who has earned the respect of many critics.

For the 2005 "Artists Among Us Exhibition" of Wayne County, Vatcher-Martin submitted nineteen poems based on different works of art, and took first-place with her poem, "Woman Reclining," which was inspired by Donna Jackson's painting with the same name.

Vatcher-Martin also put a number of Haiku— a short Japanese poem constructed of three lines of five, seven and five syllables— together to submit to Lowell, Michigan's "Water Wonderland: Michigan's Fragile Resource." While Lowell's council originally told her they would take two of her Haiku, they instead decided to put four on display.

"I was floored," says Vatcher-Martin. She would be one of thirty-two artists recognized in a statewide competition. She loves Haiku,

as she says it, "can be a great tool for those who like to write."

This is the focus of Vatcher-Martin's teaching. She likes to give her students knowledge from experience, not just the textbook.

"You have to combine life and books to make a complete experience," says Vatcher-Martin. "It is important to pay attention to the writing style of your students to recognize any problems."

In addition to this philosophy, she also stresses the value of working with fellow students.

"Mrs. Vatcher-Martin keeps the class interesting and informative," says Sarah Baker, a second year journalism student. "She really shares her interests and tries to get students to share theirs as well."

Vatcher-Martin is driven in her quest to prepare students for the real world and make a positive impact. She also runs Pero Inc., a business specializing in writing, tutoring, editing and photography.

"She's very helpful, she'll help any student or faculty member," says Matthew Sypniewski, a part-time faculty member. "She'll go out of her way to help somebody get published."

While being in the public eye, Vatcher-Martin still considers herself a shy person. She says that joining the Army helped her change that a little bit. Training at Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indiana, she became certified as a legal assistant.

She is also quite efficient in grenade throwing, admitting to be "one point shy of being an expert." Fluent in both French and German, she once considered becoming a spy.

Vatcher-Martin has a real passion for the written word and tries to apply that to all aspects of her life. She has been selling Avon



Photo by Regan Byers

Journalism instructor Cheryl Vatcher-Martin uses experience and unconventional methods to teach students.

for 22 years and loves history from the veteran's point of view.

She is currently working on books drawing from both perspectives, stating that everything she has started informally has become a formal occupation.

"To write as good as I do, I write about as much as I can," she says.

Vatcher-Martin has two Associates Degrees in Science from Madonna University and

from Vincennes University in Indiana, a Baccalaureate Degree in Science from Madonna, and a Master of Arts from the University of Michigan.

"My writing is about teaching," says Vatcher-Martin. "There's always a meaning to it, and I try to convey a message whether it's an article, poetry or a story."

Video Production Club establishes outlet for many

■Students have fun and gain real world experience

By BRIAN CRANDALL
STAFF WRITER

It is not necessary to live in Los Angeles or New York to pursue a hobby or even career in video production. Now there are opportunities for those interested in video production, as Schoolcraft has recently established a club dedicated specifically to such interests.

The Video Production Club will be responsible for recording thirteen Whaler's games this year. Their goal is to extend coverage to the basketball and soccer games coming up.

Samuel Gooden, the Director of Media, expressed the need for motivated participants saying, "one of the problems we had is that the students are so excited about doing video [production], but once they get into it they realize it is a lot of work. We need some people that are really committed." The Video Production Club is looking for stu-

dents who are willing to put in the extra effort.

Access to professional equipment is an opportunity that anyone serious about video production should take advantage of. A complete production van was donated by Bright House Cable Company and is equipped with professional cameras, audio equipment and a brand new generator.

"This is an opportunity for students...to get hands on real world experience that can enhance their skills [and] get comfortable with the technology," said Gooden.

Recording live Whaler's games is a serious task, but this does not mean the club will only admit experienced students. One of the main purposes of the club is to teach interested students the necessary skills for video production. Gooden also expressed his willingness to train anybody interested in the club.

"You don't need to have any experience. You may just have the inkling or the curiosity to see what it's about."

In addition to gaining experience in live production, members of the club will also have the opportu-

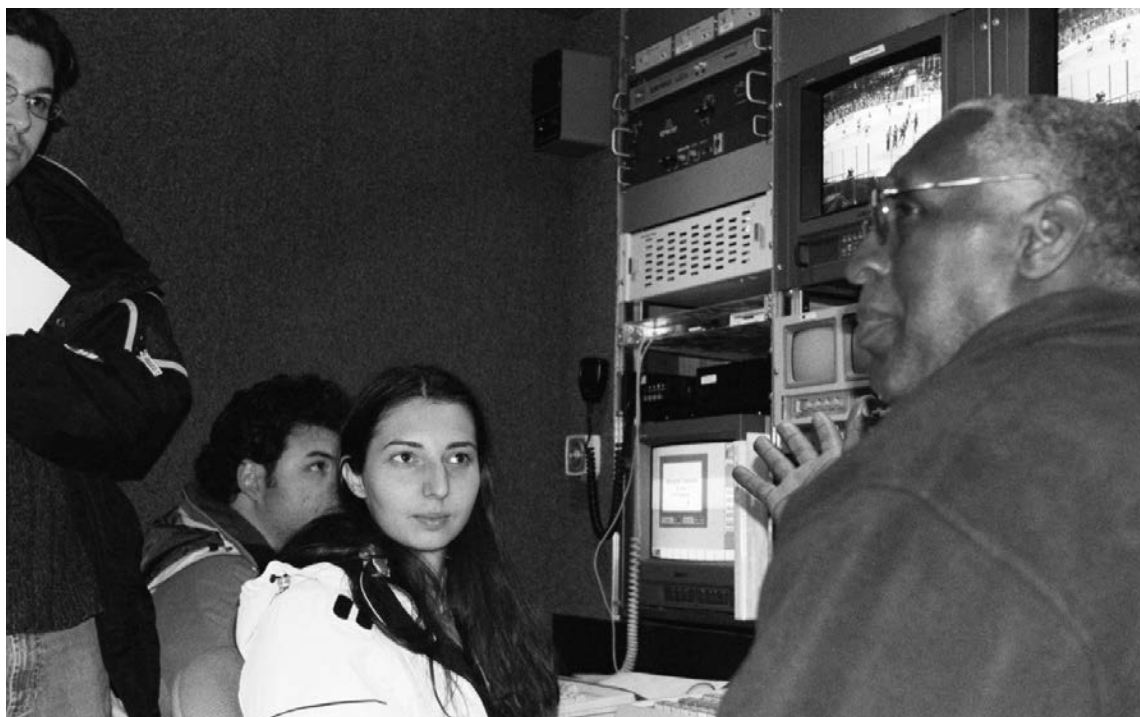


Photo by John Parsell

Student Activities Technician, Todd Stowell (left) and Video Production Club Member Maria Makeski (center), listen as Director of Media, Sam Gooden (right) explains the fundamentals of video production.

nity to edit and produce material. When asked if students may have the opportunity to perform independent work and throw in a few original ideas, Gooden responded by saying, "It's a possibility that students can actually do some of the

ideas that they have. The biggest problem with that is getting the resources and the time to do it."

The Video Production Club had their first meeting on Nov 3. It is still in the creation process and is open to new ideas. All interested

students can find more information about the Video Production Club by contacting Todd Stowell in the Student Activities Office located in the Lower Waterman wing of the Vistatech center or by calling (734) 462-4400.

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"Bowers" continued from PAGE 8

active part in these donations and community services. In addition to donating cases of canned foods each year, they also bring all of the cans back to their house to sort and box. They are also involved with donating to many groups and foundations throughout the year, including several animal organizations and making large contributions to "Toys for Tots."

"I was an older returning student, single parent, and very poor; I remember the days well," says Bowers. "My family and I want everyone to have food on the table for the holidays."

A few years ago, Bowers' students collected almost 200 shoeboxes of items to donate to "Feed the Children." These shoeboxes were filled with mittens, dental items, small toys, personal items and more. "It was a real tearjerker to see all of the donations that came in. It was awesome," says Bowers.

If you would like to assist in helping Bowers and her students along with PTK feed the hungry, please drop off your canned donations to the Student Activities Office located in the Lower Waterman Wing of the VisTaTech Center.

"Options Store" continued from PAGE 8

tantly, great service. Students love the store, saying that it is a "life-line" for them if they cannot go to the grocery store, Rice told C/ Magazine.

"Most of our students are employed full time or are full time parents," says Rice. "The busy schedule of our students sometimes makes everyday errands like grabbing a snack for the kids' lunch tomorrow a monumental task."

According to C/ Magazine, Rice says that she works with the vendors and shops at local competitors to

see what they offer. She says that if she spots something new that is selling well, she tries to bring it into the store.

Most importantly however, Rice states that talking to students and knowing what they want is a major key to the success of the store.

"Without customer input, our choices may not meet their needs or desires," says Rice. "We have a very casual atmosphere here. Because of that, we are able to really talk to our customers and learn about what they would like to see in the store."

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CLUB EVENTS



Video Production Club

For students interested in working in media, hands-on opportunities are available through the new Video Production club, where gaining real world experience is a major feature of the group. Members will be trained to work with editing, sound, computer graphics, camera work and production. Interested students should contact the Student Activities Office at (734) 462- 4422 for more information.

EdgeRunner Ski Club

Steamboat Trip

Time is running out to reserve your spot for the EdgeRunner’s annual trip to Steamboat, CO, which will take place Jan. 2-7, 2006. This trip will include hotel accommodations, four lift tickets and bus or flight transportation. The cost is \$529 for the bus package (\$559 for non-students), and \$769 for the flight package (\$799 for non-students). For more information, or to reserve your spot, call the SAO at (734) 462-4422.

Boyne Highlands Trip

Sign up now for a weekend of skiing or snowboarding in Boyne Highlands. This trip will take place Feb. 10-12 and costs \$179 for students and \$209 for non-students. This price includes two nights of lodging at Heather Highlands hotel, breakfast and 21 hours worth of lift tickets to Boyne Highlands and Boyne Mountain. To sign up, contact the SAO at (734) 462- 4422.

Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society-Omicron Iota Chapter

Reptiles of Michigan

Phi Theta Kappa presents Reptiles of Michigan, the next show in their wildlife science series. This event will feature live turtles, salamanders, lizards, snakes and frogs accompanied by educational discussion of these cold blooded vertebras. “Reptiles of Michigan” is free of charge and will take place on Monday, Dec. 12 at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. in the Lower Waterman Wing of the VisTaTech Center.

Giving Tree

Help spread holiday cheer to those who cannot afford the basic necessities we take for granted. The Omicron Iota chapter has set up two Giving Trees—one in the Lower Waterman Wing of the VisTaTech Center and the other at the Radcliff Center. Each tree will feature paper ornaments with specific items or gifts written on them. If you would like to donate these items to families in need, simply remove the ornament of the gift you would like to contribute and bring the gift unwrapped to the Student Activities Office, located in the Lower Waterman Wing of the VisTaTech Center. Contributions are greatly appreciated.

Breakfast With Santa

Bring your children for a pancake breakfast with Santa on Dec. 17 from 10 a.m. to noon. Kids will play games, win prizes, enter coloring contests and receive gifts. Tickets sell out fast and are \$16 per child and \$13 per adult. For more information, or to purchase tickets, call the SAO at (734) 462- 4422.

Student Activities Board

General Meetings

Students who would like to expand their leadership skills and become actively involved in the college community should join the Student Activities Board. The SAB holds meetings every Friday at 12:30 p.m. in the SAO, located in the Lower Waterman Wing of the VisTaTech Center. All students are invited to join. There will be no meeting held Nov. 25.

Holiday Heckfest

Come to a free concert show comprised of local bands. The SAB will sponsor Holiday Heckfest, the second show in their free concert series. Everybody is welcome and admission is free. Refreshments and snacks will be provided. Holiday Heckfest will take place Friday, Dec. 9 from 7 -10:30 p.m. in the Lower Waterman Wing of the VisTaTech Center.

Cosmic Bowling

Bring your friends and make new ones while cosmic bowling with the SAB on

Friday, Dec. 2 between 11 p.m. and 2 a.m. \$11.50 will buy you three games and shoes at Novi Bowl. The money is due to the SAO by Nov. 28. For more information call the SAO at (734) 462-4400.

St. Leo’s Soup Kitchen

Help the SAB and PTK feed the less fortunate at St. Leo’s Church in Detroit. All volunteers should meet on Saturday, Dec. 10 at 8 a.m. in the Lower Waterman Wing of the VisTaTech Center. This special weekend will feature a Christmas party for the children of the soup kitchen. Donations of gifts will be accepted for the Giving Tree.

Christian Challenge Club

Attend a Bible study and eat free pizza with your fellow students. Christian Challenge meets every Monday at 7 p.m. in the student lounge of the Radcliff Center and Thursdays at noon in the Livonia campus’ Henry’s Food Court.

The Schoolcraft Connection

The Schoolcraft Connection invites all those interested in journalism or photography to attend staff meetings, which are held every Monday at 4 p.m. in the Student Activities Office, located in the Lower Waterman Wing of the VisTaTech Center. Students will be assigned articles and paid for their contributions. The next meeting is Monday, Nov. 28.

Otaku Anime Club

Attend a social gathering where you can watch anime (some which are not yet released in the U.S.) on a projector screen. Admission is free and membership is not needed. The anime club will meet Dec. 3rd, from 5 to 10 p.m. to watch “Yakata Japan,” “Escaflowne,” “Naruto,” and “Da Capo.”

For all club information, contact the
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Photos by Rena Laverly

A panoramic view of the new and improved Bradner Library.

New and improved, Bradner Library re-opens for 2005

Upgrades help move Schoolcraft into the 21st century

BY RYAN RUSSELL
NEWS EDITOR

After 40 years, \$3.5 million and a few construction delays last summer, the new, updated Bradner Library is finally open and ready for student use. With study rooms furnished like professional offices, 30 computer stations and numerous online databases, students finally have access to a modern library.

"The databases will make our library competitive with most university libraries," says Associate Dean of Academic and Assessment Services Dr. Deborah Daiek. "The former library was out-

dated, obsolete and unused. The new library is learning centered and innovative."

The modernized library also features a new central circulation desk, two classrooms and a beautiful glass atrium with couches, chairs and space for group studying, as well as a new home to the Learning Assistance Center.

The new location of the LAC should prove convenient to students, who will no longer have to run from the McDowell Center to the library and back when they need research materials. The new LAC will also be able to provide help to more students than before. "The new tutoring center is three times the size of the old one," states Daiek.

Students will also need to get their library cards,



The library offers comfort with many couches and chairs for relaxing.



Quan Webb (left) and Lindsey Wegryan are studying together at one of many work areas. There are also private group study rooms that students can use for up to three hours by signing up at the circulation desk.

available at the circulation desk to anyone with a student ID. These will be necessary to check out books, request books from the library and eventually access the Michigan Library Exchange.

Not included with the new library is SC's participation in the MiLE system, which would have allowed students to request books from 160 other libraries. "The system was hacked very badly back on Oct. 17," says Roy Nuffer, librarian. "And it was discovered that the people running MiLE had no backups, and really didn't know how to run that kind of system."

Run by The Library Network, which links many public libraries in much the same way as the system, MiLE requires an entirely different kind of security, which TLN was unfamiliar with. MiLE is currently being rebuilt from scratch, and TLN is optimistically calling for a Dec. 1 completion date.

Many students returning from last fall/winter may remember reports of a café/coffee court being included in the renovation plans. This particular aspect of the plans sparked a large amount of debate amongst students as to whether it was necessary or wanted. After a survey of students' opinions revealed that it was low on the list of student priorities, the college instead approved the money slated for the coffee court for use in purchasing additional databases.

"Students did not want it, and the college agreed with them," says Daiek. "We didn't want

the library to be in competition with Henry. Frankly, it would have been very expensive to put in...and even more so to operate."

Besides the new features and the bigger, brighter building, the re-opening is also a place in that students using the library will no longer be subjected to the blaring sounds of the Lovell Waterman student lounge. With a big screen television, video games, pool tables and students playing music on their laptops, the high level of noise prompted a lot of students to just stop using the library.

"It was just too noisy. I mean, I hang out in the lounge with my friends; we make our fair share of the noise," says Jason Mendelssohn, a second-year psychology major. "But I don't think it's unreasonable for what the lounge is—a place to relax and hang out between classes. I completely stopped using the library, because it was just too distracting, trying to read or study with all that going on just past a temporary wall."

"It's good to see the library back in its old building," says Michele Kos, a first-year student. "I've only been here since September, but I stopped to see that the temporary library wasn't great. They didn't have very many books at all, and with only eight or so computers, there were times when they were all full. The noise didn't help when you were trying to study, either."

The most important thing, of course, is how students feel about the new library, and so far



Professor Steve Berg gives a Focus on Writing lecture in the new LAC during the open house on Nov. 10.



Becca Maxam searches the shelves for the perfect book.

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Katrina Suhre is searching the internet for information for a project. The library now has thirty internet computers with USB's, DVDs and MS Office software for students to use.



Bridgette Nicholas (left) gets some help with her studies from Riche Lewthwaite in the LAC. The LAC services offer free tutoring, Writing Fellows, University Bound, Disability Services, Academic Coaching, Peer-Assisted Learning and International Student Support.

The library offers comfort with many couches and chairs for relaxing.

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most of them seem to enjoy the new building, new features and the return to calmness offered by leaving the student lounge.

"I really like the new library," says Jacky Seybert, a third year finance major. "The study rooms are great, and there's a computer in each one, so no more running between a computer and a study cubicle. I do most of my research by computer, and sure, there's a wireless connection for laptops in the Waterman; but with the noise, you just can't work down there."

"Now that it's back where it should be, I'll go right back to using the library," says

Mendelssohn. "They have a lot of books that a public library might not bother with or keep in great condition, and plus, it's just a much better place to study than the lounge area."

Graphic design student Steven Lewis Fernando Asmat Escalante seems to best sum up the campus' overall attitude regarding the library: "I was all for the project from the first day I heard about it. The old library just didn't cut it; this is exactly what the college needed to do, and it was done right. The new library is just what the doctor ordered."



The Weather Man:

Touching in content, traditional in style

Conrad and Cage progress while Verbinski lingers

BY BRIAN CRANDALL | STAFF WRITER

Amidst the sea of trash polluting the American film industry, one movie sticks out as a pillar of non-trashiness. "The Weatherman"—while not necessarily valuable for its greatness, but for its unique characters and unconventional storylines—is a movie that will relieve viewers of cliché characters and a boring plot.

However, it fails to provide an escape from that genuinely American style of film making that everyone is so used to.

Gore Verbinski ("Mouse Hunt," "Pirates of the Caribbean") directs another textbook picture in "The Weatherman." Verbinski attempts to be artsy in his so-far most serious film, but produces nothing movie-viewers haven't already seen. It is Steve Conrad ("Wrestling Ernest Hemingway"), a nearly anonymous writer, who really achieves progression away from the trendy money-driven blockbusters. Conrad conceives a story about life's disappointments and how one man, David Spitz (Nicholas Cage), deals with them.

Upon introduction of the film, viewers will find the theme distant, as some may be able to relate to a famous weatherman; however, by the mid-point of the movie, viewers will find themselves immersed in the drama. "Weatherman" is not a dark comedy. It is a moving story about one man's attempt to find the meaning in life despite its unexpected tragedies.

Like most of Cage's films, "Weatherman" begins with a monologue. The audience gets a surreal glance into the life of David Spitz, a local weatherman. When Spitz is offered a career opportunity too good to be true—a chance to work for "Good Morning, America,"—he seeks the approval of his family. He initially searches for the attention of his father, Robert (Michael Caine), a successful author and winner of the Pulitzer Prize. Robert's ambivalence towards his son's achievement forces him to contemplate his own worth. Hurt in the attempt to fill his father's shoes, Spitz tries to obtain the approval of his wife (Hope Davis) with whom he already has a tattered relationship. Reminded by his wife that he still has two children to take care of, Spitz seeks to revive a relationship with his two children.

Halfway through the movie, Spitz must face tragic dilemmas in his life

while pursuing a more elevated position in his career. He soon realizes the trivial nature of his job when the news of his father's fatal disease becomes evident.

Spitz also must face the fatal nature of his marriage. His wife's annoying boyfriend (Michael Rispoli) is an antagonist whom both Spitz and the audience will despise. Spitz must eventually throw certain things out of his life to give more attention to the damaged parts of it. He attempts to rejuvenate his marriage and become closer to his children, but he can not do it his way. Spitz must choose to alter both his practices and his attitude before he can rectify the broken relationships in his life.

The movie initially takes place on an icy crust undulating atop the Chicago River. This is a salient clue throughout the movie. The story is meant to be both cold and chaotic. Every scene in the movie is uncomfortable, physically and emotionally. The winter weather of the Chicago area also reflects the tone of Spitz's character. He searches for meaning in his life when everything around him appears cold and pointless.

"Weatherman" can neither be labeled a comedy or a tragedy. It is an existential drama in the most literal sense where the movie-viewers must decide if they can accept the irregular harshness of the conclusion because certainly, they will not be satisfied. The conclusion leaves its viewers begging for more, so that when the story ends the emotions and lessons learned will be carried on into their lives.

While "The Weatherman" is a decent stride from Cage's last film, "Lord of War," Cage has achieved an advance in his career from a literary standpoint. Conrad has achieved a slight literary accomplishment having played the Hollywood marketing game and insured at least some intuitiveness into the movie industry; however, Verbinski can look forward to a thriving career in the movie business juggling the blockbuster genre. Just like in the movie, everything is fatal. "The Weatherman" will most likely fade into obscurity, just like its writer.



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Coheed and Cambria: A musical tale on epic proportions



Good Coheed, Apollo is pleased

BY ANDY BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Coheed and Cambria have once again

delivered an impressive masterpiece. In their third album, "Good Apollo, I'm Burning Star IV - Volume One", the New York band expands their musical talent to another level, setting them apart from the bland, vague and predictable mainstream alternative music.

Their two previous albums, "In Keeping Secrets of Silent Earth: 3" and "Second Stage Turbine Blade," began a tale that chronicles a sci-fi story on a grand scale. "[Good Apollo] continues what will end up being a five album saga," according to their record label Equal Vision Records, "based around the story of a doomed married couple who are convinced they must sacrifice their children in order to save the world from being infected by a virus that is embedded in their genes."

A concept rarely touched by modern musicians, the band delivers an unconventional approach to music. Track by track, small pieces of the puzzle form into a giant picture,

while often addressing potent emotions, questioning parental ethics, and embracing various character perspectives.

Accompanying Claudio Sanchez (guitar/lead vocal) in the sci-fi musical adventure is Travis Stever (guitar), Mic Todd (bass), and Josh Eppard (drums). The quartet spins a powerhouse performance with every song, often abrupt and dramatic in nature. A gorgeous intro incorporates violin chords and piano that set a dreamlike tone, which leads into an acoustic song "Always and Never" that gently awakens the listener into a plethora of musical artistry.

Track three follows in step, titled "Welcome Home," and stands out as their first single off the third album. The six minute song is characterized by distinct high pitched dueling guitars; and a harsh, throbbing drum that steers the song into various levels of intensity.

Lyrically, Sanchez addicts the listener,

dragging them deeper into each song. Often described as conceptual and challenging, he merges raw style and exceptional vocals into a thrill ride.

A passage from track 11, "The Willing Well I: Fuel For The Feeding End," peers into his narrative perspective of the musical story: "Watching his tale with the words he unfolds/Conscience and cold we'd never know/They scream as he laughs off the dust from his eyes/These words will now learn of the dreams in his mind"

"Good Apollo..." is essentially an ambitious chapter to an impressive story that transports the listener to an entirely different world, offering an escape from the blasé, choreographed music the modern world has accepted. However; some may not be ready for such a trip.

See Coheed and Cambria on PAGE 17

Animation Festival embraces Schoolcraft

Pixilation at it's finest

By **ANDY BROWN**
STAFF WRITER

On Tuesday, Nov. 29, the VisTaTech Center will become transformed into a stunning gallery, displaying local and international computer graphic talent. With doors opening at 7:00 pm, the fifth annual SEMAFX Animation Festival will introduce students to a world where pixels are elegantly manipulated and imaginations manifest onto the computer screen.

The festival provides the opportunity for Schoolcraft students pursuing computer graphics to correspond with respected professionals within the field of computer graphic technology. With the professional support and advice, students will have the chance to explore real world application principles of their computer studies.

Sponsored by Schoolcraft and SEMAFX, the festival is a competition as well as an educational resource. "SEMAFX is a professional organization of graphic designers and animators with multiple capabilities in the graphics industry," explains CGT professor Mike Mehall. "[Schoolcraft] has been interfacing with them for the past 4 years...we are trying to find a way for our students to interface with professionals, to get contact with the industry and learn." Faculty members Coleen Case, Mike Mehall, Dennis Summers, Jake Pollok and Stephen Wroble are key members of the local SEMAFX organization that is a segment of the international group, Siggraph. "We are now part of the educational portion of [SEMAFX]...the educational aspect of that organization," Mehall clarifies, "We are responsible for the competition [at Schoolcraft]."

The theme of the animation festival/competition is a space-time concept, which is



File Photo

Students, professionals and community members enjoy the variety of animations shown last year at the fourth annual SEMAFX Animation Festival.

subdivided in specific categories: print, animation and interactive. Receiving honorable mention in the print category, Schoolcraft student Justin Goodreau, delivers local talent among international contestants.

Much of the artwork conveys multiple skills, each student delivering a unique standpoint of computer imagery. There is a broad range of submissions; some works are simple and some are complex. Others lean towards photo realism, while some stress a specific technique, or play into the audiences emotions. Not only will beautiful artwork be present, but the Festival is free and open to all students. Free food, drawings and prize giveaways that include packages of graphic computer software such as Adobe

Illustrator, Premier and After Effects will be present. To be eligible for prizes students must register and print a ticket online at schoolcraft.edu/evolveCGT/main.html "The whole thing is to try to get students aware of what is being done in the industry, get students aware of what is being done in the academic level so that they have some bench marks that they can evaluate their work against...it gives them the perspective that they need," says Mehall.

The College accomplishes this feat by incorporating and merging the classroom with the festival. The practical application class, CGT 250, is responsible for the event. "We have web designers, 3D modelers, motion graphics people and print people. In

a normal production we need all those people working together and [the festival] definitely gives them that opportunit.

The festival supplies a new outreach for an ever changing and always interesting CGT field. "[The College] is trying to bring professionals here to see these events," Mehall concludes, "it accomplishes a means for them to connect Schoolcraft with innovative ideas."

On an academic level, groups such as SEMAFX and Siggraph provide an attainable goal; a link between the CGT department and Pixar. It allows students to see the building blocks used by animators, a glimpse into a complex world unfamiliar to most, yet captivating to all.

"Coheed and Cambria" continued from PAGE 16

Sanchez maintains an awkward high pitched tone throughout the album, many times distorting words, turning sections of songs into lyrical guessing games. He seems to accentuate his words according to the emotion and power of the song, rather than conforming to a predictable pattern.

However, the longevity allows for

Coheed's creative aspect to come out in full force. Swinging from an intense dark mood into an immediate pop-esc crescendo, gives the listener an unexpected whiplash.

Coheed and Cambria may not be the drink of choice for many; nevertheless, if a listener is willing to have a taste, they might be pleasantly surprised.

Crossword 101 Answers

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M	A	R	C		I	M	A	M	S		E	L	M	S
I	D	E	A		K	O	R	E	A		G	A	E	L
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For Crossword Puzzle see **PAGE 24**

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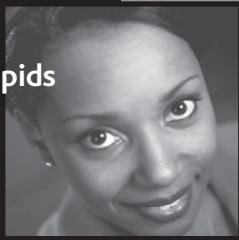
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What's the BUZZ

COMEDY

New 'Curb your Enthusiasm,' season five

Don't miss the highly anticipated fifth season of HBO's original series, "Curb your Enthusiasm." Watch as Larry David, co-creator of "Seinfeld," meanders through his seemingly lavish life; having acquired the wealth most people only dream about, Larry always finds a way to make his world more difficult than it really should be. From adopting a "racist" dog, to getting his own sandwich named after him (and not even liking it) and scalping tickets at Temple, Larry just can't seem to keep himself out of trouble.

"Curb your Enthusiasm" airs every Sunday night at 10:00 p.m. on HBO. For more information, visit <http://www.hbo.com/larrydavid/>.

If you do not have HBO and would like to order it, contact your local cable company.

Improv Inferno

Get down to the Improv Inferno and come see all the fun.

The Improv Inferno is Metro-Detroit's newest and most hip venue for comic relief. Open to all people ages 18 and up, the Improv Inferno hosts some of the best and well known improvisers in the state. For a hilarious night out on the town at minimal cost, come and check out the Improv Inferno.

Ticket prices range from \$5-10 and can be purchased at the door.

Located on 309 S. Main St., Ann Arbor, MI, Improv Inferno is open Sunday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. Shows start as early as 7 p.m., and as late as 12 a.m., however, show times do vary each night.

For a complete schedule, log on to <http://www.improvinferno.com> or call (734) 214-7080.



The Second City presents 'In iPod We Trust'

After the long anticipated

reopening of the newly located Second City of Novi, 'In iPod We Trust,' the 26th comedy revue is now playing to the public every Friday at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m., Saturday at 7 p.m., 9 p.m. and 11 p.m., and Sunday at 8 p.m.

The Second City is located on 42705 Grand River Rd. in Novi. Tickets cost \$15-20 and can be purchased at the door.

For more information, visit <http://www.seconddcity.com>, or call (248) 348-4448.

NIGHT LIFE

Altered State

Make your way downtown to Altered State and see what everyone is talking about. Altered State is open to everyone 18 and up.

Voted Detroit's best club night 2004 & 2005, consider it a private party for you and your 1,500 closest friends.

Every Saturday night the hottest hits are spun by DJ Bizzy and hosted by Detroit's very own Tic Tak from channel 95.5.

For more information, call (313) 961-5451 or visit <http://www.AlteredStateClub.com>. The State Theatre is located in Downtown Detroit on 2115 Woodward Ave.



The Blind Pig

Throughout the years, The Blind Pig, a popular local nightclub and concert venue, has played an instrumental role in the ushering in and showcasing of this musical activity. Since its incarnation almost 30 years ago, The Blind Pig has gone through several phases, each being equally notable in the annals of Ann Arbor's cultural diary.

The Blind Pig features concerts almost daily. Come down on Nov. 28 at 9:30 p.m. to catch an intimate performance from Dinosaur Jr. and the Scars. Tickets are \$17 at the door 18+.

The Blind Pig is located at 208 S. First St. in Ann Arbor. For more information or to purchase tickets visit <http://www.blindpigmusic.com> or call (734) 996-8555.

Attic Bar

Watch local blues artists in a friendly and comfortable atmosphere. Voted by Metro Times to be the best place in Wayne County to hear the blues in 2000 and 2001,



patrons are sure to have a great time.

The Attic Bar is located at 11667 Jos. Campau St. in Hamtramck, and is open daily from 5 p.m.-2:30 a.m. For more information call (313) 365-4194.

ART EXHIBITS

University of Michigan Museum of Art

Italian Renaissance Prints at UMMA

Enjoy a collection of art works consisting of wood and cooper engravings from the Italian Renaissance during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. This exhibit looks at several works of art from Florence, Mantua, Venice and Rome crafted by such artist as Domenico Campagnola, Marcantonio Raimondi and Diana Scultori.

This exhibit is currently showing until Dec. 11, 2005.

The University of Michigan Museum of Art is located at 525 S. State St. in downtown Ann Arbor, MI.

For more information call (734) 763-UMMA or visit www.umma.umich.edu

UMMA Presents Major Exhibition of Groundbreaking American Artist Betye Saar

This fall, join the UMMA for, **Betye Saar: Extending the Frozen Moment**, a major exhibition that surveys the artistic accomplishments of one of the most distinguished figures in American art today. This monographic exhibition is the first to focus on the sustained presence of photography—"the frozen moment"—as a defining element that unifies Saar's career.

Saar is best known for her richly evocative assemblages, which incorporate found objects and photographic fragments that reflect her interest in nostalgia, memory and history, and serve as a vital metaphor for the African American experience. Including more than 60 works dating from 1967 to 2004 drawn from public and private collections nationwide, the exhibition offers fresh perspectives on

contemporary art, feminism American culture and politics.

Camille Claudel and Rodin: Fateful Encounter

From now through Feb. 5, 2006, the Detroit Institute of Arts will be hosting Camille Claudel and Rodin: Fateful Encounter. This exhibition features over 130 masterworks by these two leading sculptors, considered artistic geniuses in their own time.

The DIA is the only U.S. venue that offers this exhibition bringing together two great artists for the first time in America.

Tickets range from \$8-14 and can be purchased at the door, or also on the DIA's website at <http://www.dia.org>.

FAMILY FUN

Behind the Magic: 50 years of Disneyland®

Come to the Henry Ford Museum Exhibit Gallery from now until Jan. 1, 2006, and see how Walt Disney's creation came about, how it continues to grow and feel the memories that Disney has shared. On hand will be an amazing display of never before seen artifacts, sculptures, artwork, photographs and much more.

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Tickets are \$10 for member adults and \$6 for member children and can be purchased at <http://www.hfmvgv.org/museum/disney/>. Tickets are also available for non-members at \$24 for adults and \$16 for children.

MUSIC

Javelins

On Dec. 1, head over to Alma College and check out the Javelins, Those Transatlantics and Anathallo.

Javelins, formed in 2003 by

Matt Howard, Julian Wettlin and Matt Rickle blend catchy and angular post-rock anthems with intelligent songwriting.

Those Transatlantics are a pop-fueled group that speaks a musical language immediately familiar to those who have at any point in their lives been captivated by the honesty of well-written pop melodies.

What began as a youthful post-punk ensemble in the spring of 2000, utilizing horns, guitars, and a collection of dumpster-retrieved drums, has since expanded outward crossing genres with an ever increasing sense of purposeful risk, and fluidity. Two dead vans and 11 independently booked U.S. tours later, Anathallo continues to bring its intensely celebratory and theatrical 'marching band gone wild' performances to a growing grassroots fan base across the nation.

The show will take place at 8 p.m., for more information visit <http://www.javelinsmusic.com>.



Dave Matthews Band

Come down to the Joe Louis Arena on Dec. 3 and catch one of the most influential groups of all time: Dave Matthews Band.

Sharing sounds similar to Paul Simon, Sting and the Grateful Dead, The Dave Matthews Band are sure to enlighten crowds with their "Jam-Band" approach and multi-platinum selling songs.

Tickets are \$52 and can be purchased at all Ticketmaster outlets.

The Joe Louis Arena is located at 600 Civic Center in Detroit.

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A successful trip to Illinois

■ Women's soccer team claims District title

By MIKE SIEGRIST
MANAGING EDITOR

Riding high off of their Regional title win, the women's soccer team claimed the National Junior College Athletic Association District Championship as their own. The dual Championship wins bolster the spirit of the team, getting them ready for Nationals.

The Ocelots traveled to Illinois on Nov. 5 to challenge the Elgin College Spartans on their home field. The team earned their third consecutive District win when they overcame the Spartans by a score of 4-1. The scoring began shortly after the whistle, when defensive midfielder LeighAnne Myers planted the ball in the Spartan net within the first minute of the game. The teams went back and forth, both failing to notch another goal, until Elgin answered back scoring a goal within ten minutes of play. The Ocelots regained the lead with a goal from Kara Jean on a fast break, assisted by Nicole Saigh and Shari Trandell.

"Kara used her speed and composure to put a well placed ball past a sprawling Spartan goalkeeper into the net," says head coach Bill Tolstedt.

The goal by Jean and the superior conditioning of the SC players did not allow for any regained momentum for the Spartans. Saigh claimed one for her very own; just five minutes before the half, giving the Ocelots a 3-1 lead.

"There hasn't been a team that can run with us in the second half this year," states Tolstedt.

After returning to the field, Stephanie Squires earned her second assist of the day, getting the ball to Jessica Saba, who scored the fourth and final goal of the game. The defense only allowed two shots on goal in the second half. The Spartans were sent home, while the Ocelots advanced to the National level on a 4-1 victory.

"We opened up the field by playing the ball to the corners. Even though we started off slow, we were able to pick it up," says outside defender Chelsea Wagner.

With the District title in their possession, the team advances to the NJCAA Championship tournament in Phoenix, AZ, on Nov. 17. The victory is notched onto the Ocelot's impressive record of 15-2-4, moving the team up from eighth to the fourth ranked seed in the National Soccer Coaches Association of America and fifth in the NJCAA polls.

"Darton is the only team that hasn't been beaten. I think we have a good chance to take it," states Wagner.

Four of the top teams were knocked out of the running for the National title at Regionals, opening up the tournament to six new teams. However, Darton College and Monroe Community College remain ranked in the top two positions in both polls.

The team is following this wave of momentum that has been building all season to Phoenix, where they will have a shot competing for the number one spot in the country.

As of press date, the results for the National title were not available.



Photo by Rena Lavery

Schoolcraft forward Stephanie Stephens (right) battles for the ball against an opponent during a game this season.

Ocelots Tamed

■ Soccer team is stopped before a shot at nationals

By ANDY BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Under the glow of stadium lights, the men's soccer team wrapped up their regular season in standard fashion, earning a victory over Macomb Community College. Playing at the Plymouth Canton Educational Park, the Ocelots shutout the Monarchs 2-0, concluding an impressive regular season with an overall record of 9-2-2, sending them to Regionals.

Changing gears, the Ocelots shifted their attention to the National Championship waiting in Tyler, Texas. Unfortunately, the Ocelots released the clutch prematurely, which brought their dream to a grinding stop.

A bold sense of optimism had taken hold among the Ocelots players as they looked far ahead into the post-season. National tournament experience and multiple season victories had sang a comforting tune while the team prepared for a long and challenging road. However, the night of Oct. 29, down in the plains of Cincinnati, the Ocelots fell 1-0 to an unexpected underdog, unranked Owens Community College.

The Ocelot's dedication, talent and performance could never be considered sub-par during the match. Schoolcraft maintained composure and control from start to finish, playing their game once again, as the Owens Express struggled to equal their skill.

"We did step up but we did not dominate," explains Owens head coach, Art Johnson, "the game was very exciting and it was very intense ... [the game] could have gone either way, I feel very fortunate."

The Ocelots quickly found their attack strategy and exploited Owens fanatically from the start. "We had about 28 shots to their two, hit the post seven times...we had easily about 90% possession." Ocelot defender Tim Oswalt describes, "when I was marking the forward he would run by me and say 'I can't believe the score is still zero-zero, there is no way we are going to win,' he was actually saying that to me. I watched the film the day after, and we sliced through them like butter. It was just a matter of us being unlucky."

Owens shared a similar feeling. "Player for player, Schoolcraft [guys] were better," Johnson admits. Hypothesizing, Johnson offered a key perspective, "[I] believe the Ocelots were looking too far ahead...not considering whether or not they could get by us" The Ocelots played 90 regulation minutes, only to find the scoreboard empty. The tie led into two ten minute overtimes, which again did not yield a victor. With frustration growing on both sides, a shootout was called, which was followed by a sudden death shootout. At that time, Owens felt at ease, "we were well prepared for the pks," explains Johnson, "when it got to the shootouts...we had practiced them throughout the season, the guys knew exactly what order they were



Photo by Rena Lavery

Schoolcraft forward Simon Zahra (left) focuses intently on the ball as he maneuvers his way past an opponent earlier this season.

shooting in, we were very confident during the shootout." In the end, a single precisely placed shot, slammed the Ocelots reign to a halt.

The NJCAA Division I Tournament was taken by Owens the following day, boasting a 1-0 win over Cincinnati State, ranked fifth in the Nation. Similarities can be drawn from both Cincinnati State and Schoolcraft losses. Owens toppled both giants with an awkward strategy, placing eight players on defense, and

attacking with a hail-mary mentality. Thus, an Owens attack was often characterized by a lack of structure, support or attack plan. Both matches both went into multiple overtimes and shootouts, all the while Owens stubbornly shutting out their top ranked opponents. A freshman goalkeeper, Logan Anderson, was a keystone in Owens weekend victories.

See Men's Soccer on PAGE 22

Ocelots out from behind

■Cross country underdogs end season on high note

BY RYAN RUSSELL
NEWS EDITOR

With crippling injuries and disappointing losses on their record for the season, the cross country team looked like the underdogs going into the national championships on Nov. 5. The team came from behind, however, and with the philosophy that running through something makes them stronger, the Ocelots placed 13th out of 34 competing teams at Rim Rock Farm in Kansas.

Those outran by the Ocelots never saw them coming; the team managed to overcome the problems that plagued them in September, when they performed below their own expectations in the University of Detroit – Mercy and Saginaw Valley State University Invitationals. Head coach Jennifer Furlong said at the time, “we have a lot of work to do.”

And work they did, with freshman Danielle Malone finishing at 20:26 for 37th place, emerging from the season with better times and more confidence, both of which were expected by Furlong.

Sophomore Ashley Hoffman clocked in next, placing 59th with a time of 20:57, and Kristian Tyler and Kristyn Green held their own at 21:36 and 21:48. Nicole Widak, punching in at 21:59, and Melanie Anderle at 22:21 rounded off the team.

“We may not have run our best,” says Anderle, “but we had a good time. Everyone ran a great race, on a really hard course, and we all helped each other out. I’m really proud of our performance and of every member of the team.”

Team captain Julie Murphy ran as well, despite an injured foot that has been plaguing her all season. Despite her injury Murphy still helped keep the team motivated, and she is justifiably proud of their nationals finish.

“I was happy to have run myself, and our team did well. We could have done better, but it’s hard when you’re up against schools that can house their runners; the better runners tend to flock to them,” said Murphy.

Injury seems to have been an unfortunate theme for the Ocelots this season, as Murphy’s foot injury came before the team’s first race and Katie Donzilla had a stress fracture in her shin that left her unable to compete until Oct. 1. Fellow sophomore Hoffman also raced despite injury, running through part of the season on a damaged knee.

“I didn’t even run for the first half of the season,” says Murphy. “And when I started running again, I was really running just to run. My times were down; I wasn’t at all happy with my performance this season.”

At season’s end, the Ocelots once again resembled the dominant team they were at the start. They performed very well at the Crim Festival of Races in Flint, MI on Aug. 27, before being plagued by injuries and the disappointments of the U of D- Mercy and Saginaw races.

By October, they pulled out of the slump, with respectable performances at the Loyola University Invitational on Oct. 1 and the University of Wisconsin- Parkside Invitational on Oct. 15, as well as a second place finish at the NJCAA region 12 championship on Oct. 22.

The season started well, and while they may have tripped



File Photo

Ashley Hoffmann goes toe to toe with an opponent at a meet earlier this season.

a few times, the Ocelots ran through injuries, bonded with one another and overcame their obstacles, proving once again that in sports, the underdog can win.

Volleyball team shows heart

■Ocelots keep on rolling despite loss

BY RYAN RUSSELL
NEWS EDITOR

Despite having a five game winning streak broken by the Lansing Stars at the MCCA state tournament, the Ocelots proved that they will not quit, answering with a 3-0 victory over the Owens Community College Express on Nov. 1. Although Owens made an aggressive bid for victory, Schoolcraft proved that they were more than up to the challenge.

The match ended with a home court victory for the Ocelots and game scores of 30-25, 30-23 and 30-26.

“I felt really good about that match,” says head coach Tom Teeters. “It showed that we had improved faster than some other teams we had faced.”

The loss to Lansing at the state tournament in Grand Haven was equally hard fought, resulting in a final score of 3-1 when the Stars proved to be better prepared. After taking the first game 23-30, Lansing gave up the second when the Ocelots made a ferocious comeback attempt for a score of 30-27.

Unfortunately, the Stars would not be denied, and took the final two games 25-30 and 24-30. Despite the loss, SC played extremely well, proving that qualifying for the tournament was no fluke and showing what an outstanding team they have built this year.

“We weren’t as prepared as we should have been,” says Teeters. “We were having difficulty with serving and blocking, and we were unsuccessful in taking advantage of free ball and down ball situations. We were creating the situations, but we weren’t capitalizing.”

Only two days before, the Ocelots scored 3-0 win over the Delta Pioneers. The team took an early advantage, handily winning the first two games 30-21 and 30-17. Captains Ashley Cecil and Teneika Fellows took control of the team, encouraging the younger players to step up and setting a perfect example with their aggressive blocking and scoring.

However, Delta came back strong in the third game, and things began looking grim for SC. Despite trailing in points for almost the entire game, the Ocelots managed to dig in and refuse to let go of the match. Finally managing to hold the Pioneers’ score at 27,

the team was then able to build their way to a game and match winning 30-27 finish.

“I expected to win going in,” says Fellows. “When we played them in September, we only lost one game. We played well as a team,

and we didn’t play down to their level like we were at the start of the season.”

The Ocelots also competed in the district/regional tournament in Grand Rapids from Nov. 3-5. As of press date, results were unavailable.




Photo by Rena Laverty

Teammates observe as Marcie Hill spikes the ball past a defender.

Chris Terry's shootout goal gives Plymouth a 3-2 victory over London



A REASON TO CELEBRATE
Plymouth Whalers players gather on the ice in celebration after winning in dramatic fashion in the shootout.

 For the second straight Saturday night, Plymouth rookie Chris Terry scored the deciding goal in a shootout. Tonight – before 2,947 at the Compuware Sports Arena – Terry gave the Whalers a 3-2 shootout victory over the London Knights.

The Plymouth victory – coupled with Saginaw's 3-0 loss in Belleville – moves the Whalers into a first place tie in the Ontario Hockey league's West Division with Saginaw. Plymouth's record is 12-6-1-1, good for 26 points; Saginaw's record is 13-5-0-0 and also has 26 points. London had a five-game winning streak snapped and stands at 13-6-0-0, good for second place in the OHL's Midwest Division.

Mike Letizia (7th of the season) and Dan Collins (16th) scored power play goals for Plymouth. Rob Schremp (19) scored both London goals.

The evening belonged to the goaltenders. Plymouth's Ryan Nie stopped 44 of 46 London shots through 65 minutes and three more in the shootout for his eighth win of the season. London's Adam Dennis stopped 43 of 45 Plymouth shots and two of four in the shootout to take a tough loss.

After a scoreless first period, Letizia scored at 4:27 of the second period when he scored on a scramble in front of the London goal. London tied the game when Schremp wired a shot from the left wing over Nie's shoulder at 15:41 of the period. But Collins scored from the left dot on a power play at 6:58 to regain Plymouth's lead at 2-1.

Schremp tied the game at 2-2 at 8:11 of the third period when he batted home a rebound by Nie off a Frank Rediker shot from the left point.

After nobody scored in the five-minute overtime, Dave Bolland scored on London first shot in the shootout. But Nie stopped Dylan Hunter and Schremp and Sergei Kostitsyn lost the handle on the puck and never did get a shot.

Dennis stopped John Vigilante in the first shot and Dan Collins ripped his shot over the London goal. But Letizia scored on the Whalers' third shot and Terry sent the crowd happy when he faked backhand and went forehand to beat Dennis to give Plymouth the victory.

WHALERS' BALANCE LEADS TO A 4-3 VICTORY IN SARNIA

SARNIA – The Plymouth Whalers used excellent goaltending, good penalty killing and just enough offense to up-end the Sarnia Sting, 4-3, in an Ontario Hockey League game played Friday night before 3,386 at the Sarnia Sports and Entertainment Centre.

With the win Plymouth (11-6-1-1, second place OHL West) keeps pace with division-leading Saginaw (13-4-4-0), who beat Oshawa, 4-2, on Friday night. Plymouth remains three points behind Saginaw.

Dan Collins (team-leading 15th of the season), third-star John Vigilante (7), first star James Neal (6) and Jared Boll (6) scored for Plymouth. Michael Haley (2), Chad Painchaud (team-leading 14th) and Harrison Reed (4) scored for Sarnia, now 10-9-0-0 and in third place in the OHL West.

Plymouth goaltender Ryan Nie allowed two Sarnia goals early in the game and buckled down the rest of the way, stopping 33 of 36 shots for his seventh victory of the season. Whaler penalty killers did their part as well, allowing just one Sarnia power play in 10 attempts.

Sarnia took a 2-0 lead early in the



Photos by Rena Lavery

ALL SMILES

Plymouth center Chris Terry celebrates his game winning shootout goal victory over the London Knights.

first period on goal by Haley (4:32) and Painchaud (6:54), outshooting Plymouth 7-1 during the period in the game. But Plymouth started to turn the game around in the second half of the first period. Collins scored when he snapped a shot through traffic from the left wing from a pass from behind the net by Ondrej Otcenas to cut the Sarnia lead to 2-1 at 15:28 of the first period. Then the Plymouth power play went to work and the Whalers took the lead on Vigilante's equalizer (snap shot from the hash marks) at 17:31 and Neal's goal (skated out of the right corner and scored from in front of the net) at 18:08.

Boll scored the eventual game-winning goal at 3:10 of the second period when he followed up his hard slap shot from the left dot and stuffed the puck by Sarnia goaltender Jeff MacDougald when MacDougald couldn't find the rebound in his crease area. Reed cut

the Plymouth lead to 4-3 on a power play at 11:51 of the second period.

The third period was scoreless but not uneventful. Plymouth killed off four Sarnia power plays and were two men short with 1:06 remaining in regulation when Sarnia head coach Shawn Camp called time-out and pulled MacDougald, giving Sarnia a 6-on-3 manpower advantage. Although the Sting had the play in the Plymouth end much of the remaining 1:06, Whalers defenders blocked five shots during that time to seal the win.

Plymouth is home Wednesday when they host the Sarnia at 7:30 pm at the Compuware Sports Arena. Tickets are available by calling the Compuware Sports Arena box office at (734) 453-8400.

Press release courtesy the Plymouth Whalers

“Men's Soccer” continued from PAGE 20

Johnson praises “[Anderson] made countless saves and came out of the net and scored during the penalty kicks...he was key.”

In preparation for the future, the Ocelots will have to adjust with six leaving seniors: on defense Tim Oswalt, forward Richard Godfrey, goalkeeper Luke Panecasio and midfielders Navarda Heath, Patrick Kolodziejczak and Devin Stenrose. Fortunately, the Ocelots are still comprised of a solid core of players, an untapped potential that remains to be seen. This unfortunate

end to a talented team may inspire the next squad of Ocelots to come back with vengeance unlike before, in attempt to take the ultimate trophy down in Texas.

“We have a huge amount of talent, even though we have six seniors who are graduating...the other guys have a years worth of experience.” Oswalt clarifies, “they know how to play with each other.”

The men's soccer team acquired impressive statistics throughout the season: they finished with a 10-3-2 overall record, with

10 shutouts, forward Richard Godfrey was ranked fourth among leading scorers putting 26 goals in opponent's nets and assisting on ten more. In addition, goalie Luke Panecasio was ranked seventh in goalkeeping, obtaining a goal against average of less than one per game. The Ocelots outscored their opponents 92-10, a feat complimenting their offensive and defensive capabilities respectively.

The early post-season elimination was the anti-climatic finale nobody expected. “Of course everyone is feeling underachieved,” Oswalt concludes, “but the next day you have to move on.”



Any Men's Soccer players interested in a CD of photos taken from games this season can stop by the The Connection office located inside the Student Activities Office located in the VisTaTech Center-Lower Waterman Wing or call (734) 462-4422 and ask for Rena.



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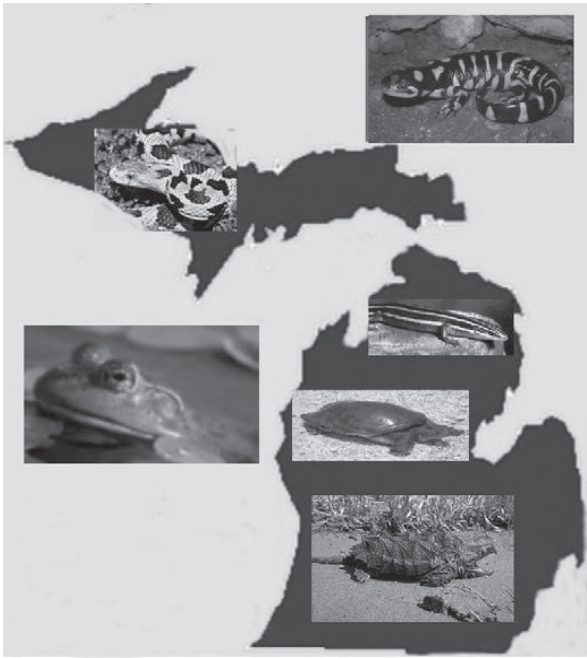
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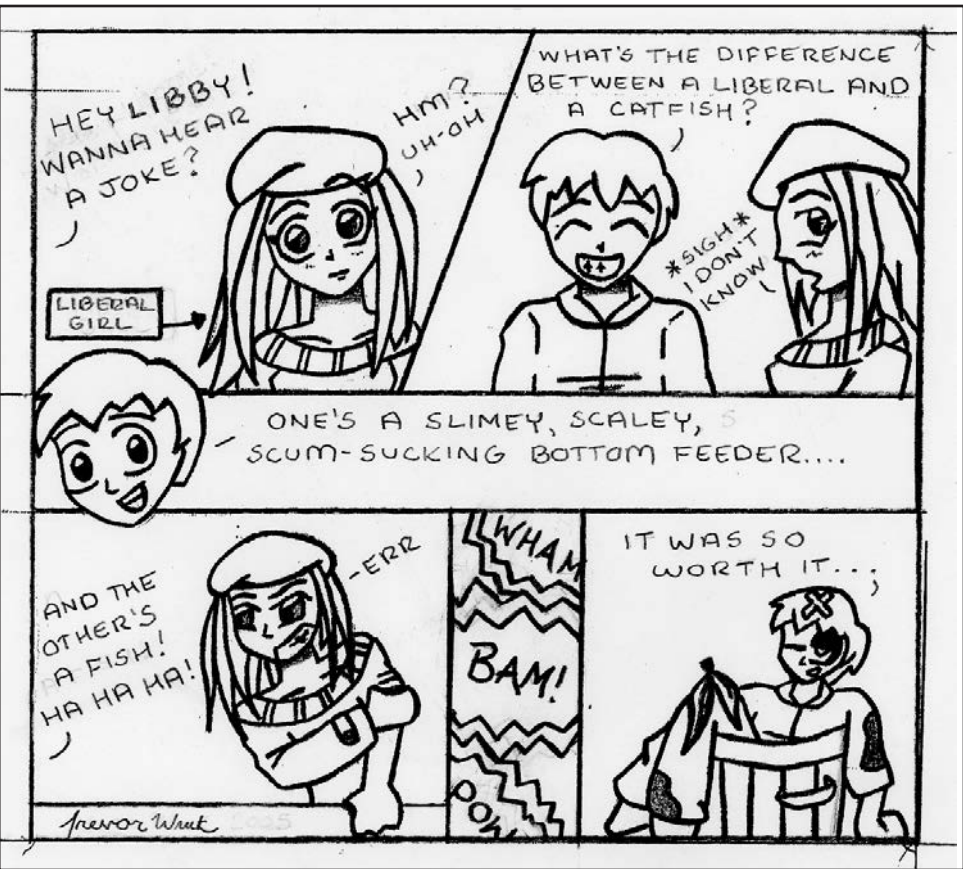
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COMICS:

SHOP TAILGATING BY JOHN JACKSON



BIPARTISAN BY TREVOR WNUK



Crossword 101

By Ed Canty

Using Your Noggin

Across

1 Singer Anthony

5 Muslim leaders

10 Shade providers

14 "What's the big _____"

15 It has Seoul?

16 Celt

17 Noggin wake-up fix?

19 1990 Blues Traveller hit

20 Region of Southeast England

21 Supplement

23 Autumn abbr.

26 Scandinavian capital

27 D.A.'s org.

30 Watched the rerun

32 Nap locales

36 Mattress supporter

38 Indiana's hat

39 Hawaiian island

40 Prague dough

42 Barnyard baby

43 The perfect spot

45 Type of party

47 Be silent, musically

48 Brief argument

49 Madrid Mrs.

50 Got up

52 Sounds of awe

54 "Oh my _____"

58 "No more!"

62 Take back

63 Noggin picnic treat?

66 Tiny particle

67 Express feelings

68 Mark's replacement?

69 Not less

70 Polish the car again

71 Cincinnati nine

Down

1 Rodents

2 Fusses

3 Some whistle blowers

4 Coffeehouses

5 50's Pres. nickname

6 Crowd

7 Zone

8 Lea

9 Tiny grains

10 Italian cooking noggin?

11 Put down

12 Food list

13 Grand _____

18 Apply (as in pressure)

22 Alternative

24 _____-boo

25 Bygone Russian ruler

27 Regarding

28 "I hate to _____ dead horse"

29 _____ committee

31 Big name in software

33 Equine youngsters

34 Knight's protection

35 Native Israelite

37 Noggin found in New Orleans

38 Ipso _____

41 Def. coalition

44 "Blame _____ the Rain"

46 Unexciting expression

48 Precedes Street or seed

51 Thread user

53 Look of contempt

54 Western Pacific isle

55 Aware of

56 Scent

57 Put away

59 Hint

60 Lady's partner

61 Slaughter of the diamond

64 LAX abbr.

65 Spot's cousin

By GFR Associates ••• Visit our web site at www.gfrpuzzles.com

For Answers see PAGE 17

HOROSCOPES:

Aries

Mar 21- Apr 19

Don't expect your loved ones to be anything but completely intense now and persistent, too. They're trying to get your attention, and like little kids they'll do whatever it takes to have it.

Libra

Sep 23- Oct 22

Hard work may not be the spice of life, but it's certainly a great way to pay the bills. It's important that you impress the higher-ups now for just that reason, but it won't be easy.

Taurus

Apr 20- May 20

Volunteer at a homeless shelter or do some good deeds. Not only will you feel better, but you'll make long lasting friends in the process.

Scorpio

Oct 23- Nov 21

Romantic news may arrive, but you won't expect it. Think of how many times something unexpected happened and started you off on a path toward the best things that have ever happened to you.

Gemini

May 21- Jun 21

As the days get colder and gloomier, visit an old friend or two. Not only will it make their day a little brighter, but you may just rekindle an otherwise lost friendship.

Sagittarius

Nov 22- Dec 21

Things are probably going quite well for you at the moment, even if you happen to be experiencing what one might call a rather startling awakening. It's time for a whole new start, and you're more than ready.

Cancer

Jun 22- Jul 22

That dark cloud that's been following you around is starting to disperse. A lucky hunch could put you in the winner's circle and an academic achievement will make you proud.

Capricorn

Dec 22- Jan 19

You're famous for taking risks, even if they're supposed to be secrets, so that's what others expect. That goes double for what they'll expect from you now, so if you're not in the mood for games, make that clear right away.

Leo

Jul 23- Aug 22

Your attention-loving personality will soon get you in trouble. Lie low and keep quiet. Otherwise, you may be in for a bumpy ride on the road of confrontation.

Aquarius

Jan 20- Feb 18

Something big has just ended in your life. Don't feel sad, for the best is yet to come for those who wait. You'll also have friends and family around you the whole time.

Virgo

Aug 23- Sep 22

Dress up nice at a social gathering later in the month, and you will leave a strong first impression on a new acquaintance. This newfound acquaintance will soon lead you into many adventures.

Pisces

Feb 19- Mar 20

When you least expect it, someone will come along and change your life. Just remember, there are no small roles in life, only small people.

Quotable Quote

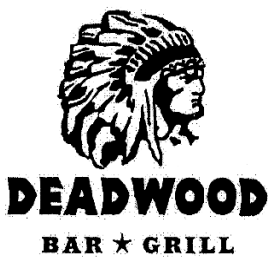
Here's something to think about: How come you never see a headline like 'Psychic Wins Lottery'?

• • • Jay Leno

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With a Drink
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Wed. Night Before Thanksgiving



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Wed. Night Before Thanksgiving



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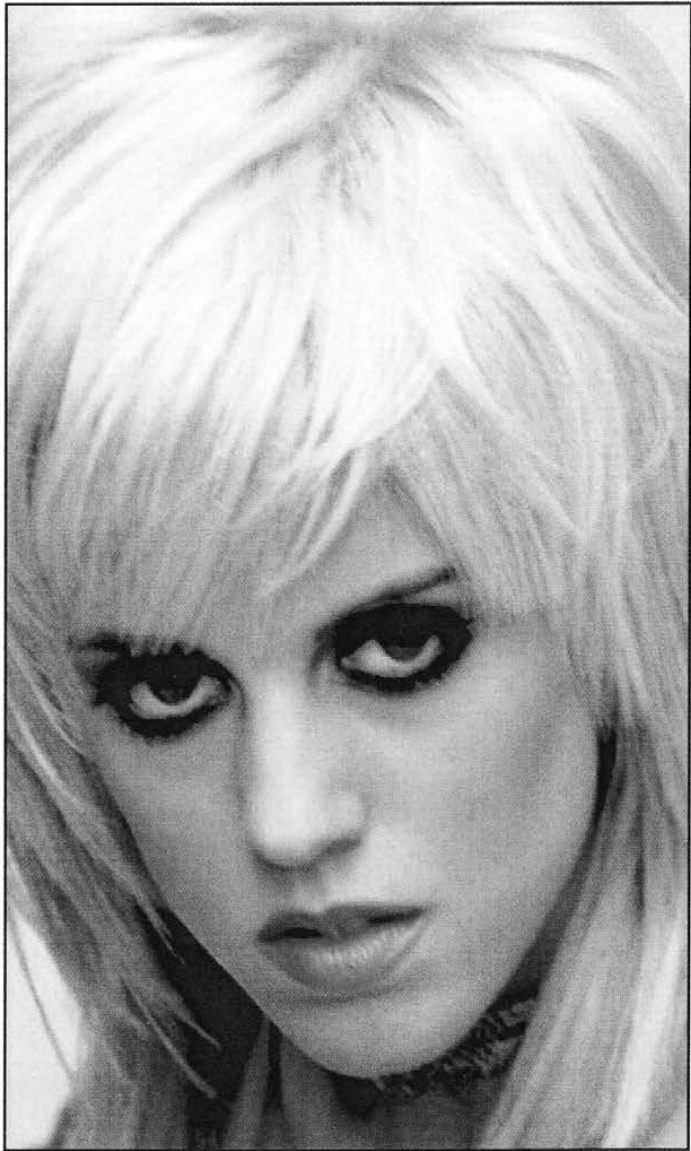
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BATS OF THE WORLD

WILDLIFE SCIENCE SERIES

On November 14th, Students, faculty and community members were treated to a presentation featuring live Bats from around the world. The event, sponsored by the Omicron Iota Chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society was hosted by Dale Smart of the Organization for Bat Conservation. This organization takes care of bats from around the globe and nurses them back to health. They also inform students on such topics as sound waves, ecosystems, food webs and conservation.



Penelope the Egyptian Fruit Bat looks on into the audience. Her toenails are painted for identification.



Ziggy the Jamaican Left Nosed Bat chews on the glove of Dale Smart. Obviously, not to thrilled to be there, Ziggy is, unlike Penelope, a wild bat.



Boomerang the Straw Colored Fruit Bat poses for the camera. Boomerang performs special tricks for the audience, such as opening and closing his own cage.



Dale Smart and Boomerang demonstrates the "bow tie" trick.



Dale Smart shows off the wingspan of Boomerang to the audience.



Dale Smart answers questions concerning Penelope, keeping audience members involved in the show.