

December 5, 2011

WASHTENAW COMMUNITY COLLEGE, ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

washtenawvoice.com

APOLOGY UNACCEPTED:
Detroit's notorious former mayor riffs on second
chances & the city's bad attitude. **A3**

DEVOTING TIME TO EDUCATE:
Profiles in volunteering to help local area businesses
educate the masses. **B8**

HAIL TO THE VICTORS!



MATT DURR THE WASHTENAW VOICE
U-M sophomore offensive lineman Taylor Lewan celebrates with fans after the Wolverines ended their seven-year losing streak to Ohio State.

For fans reaction to the U-M victory over Ohio State see page **B4**.



Washtenaw Voice staff writer Allie Tomason goes undercover to discover the true meaning of giving while volunteering for The Salvation Army.

ALLIE TOMASON
Staff Writer

Ting-a-ling! Ting-a-ling! I think I need a bigger bell.

It's 3:30 p.m. and I've been at this for half an hour. Some people just walk by, mostly averting their eyes somewhere else, anywhere else but on me. Some meet my eyes and return my greeting with a like smile and a promise to catch me on their way out of the store. Others seem uncomfortable being greeted at all.

I am ringing a bell for the Salvation Army at a Kroger store in Ypsilanti, inviting those who are willing to share a little kindness to those less fortunate this time of year. I become very aware that this red bucket intimidates a lot of people and I begin to think it will be a long evening.

I just got my first donation. I smile and wish a heart-felt "Merry Christmas!" There is a renewed vigor to ring the tiny, red bell that I hold in my gloved hand. As more people come to the store entrance, some visit the bucket and some don't, but they all receive the same warm smile and greeting.

For the conclusion of this story and more holiday cheer, see page **B1-2**

Student aims for reform on campus gun restrictions; CSS office opposed

ADRIAN HEDDEN
Features Editor

Jason Hart is qualified and licensed to carry a concealed handgun. He can carry his pistol in shopping malls and movie theaters, but not on campus.

Feeling unsafe anywhere he was stripped of arms, Hart, 34, of Tecumseh, a psychology and English major at Washtenaw Community College, looked to national grassroots organization, Students for Concealed Carry on Campus (SCCC), to answer his call for change.

"What attracts me to the movement is the need for an armed public," Hart said. Pistol-free zones inhibit the rights of law abiding citizens. It's more of an open invitation to criminals."

Despite such pressure, Campus Safety and Security does not support lifting school regulations on firearms. Director of security, Jacques Desrosiers, stands firm that students at WCC are secure.

"Students are well taken care of enough on this campus," Desrosiers said. "I can't see a logical reason to carry a gun."

Desrosiers asserts that, in working with the police, threats to students will be handled timely by the school. He fears that lifting restrictions could put weapons in the wrong hands.



ILLUSTRATION BY HAFSAH MIJINYAWA

"We know we will get very rapid response from local law enforcement," Desrosiers said. "A person untrained with a gun can mean more danger. Violent crime is very low here."

Reid Smith, SCCC's regional director of the Midwest, is concerned with campus crime, but assures that the group's agenda is for the liberties of those within the law.

"Our contention has always been that criminals are not

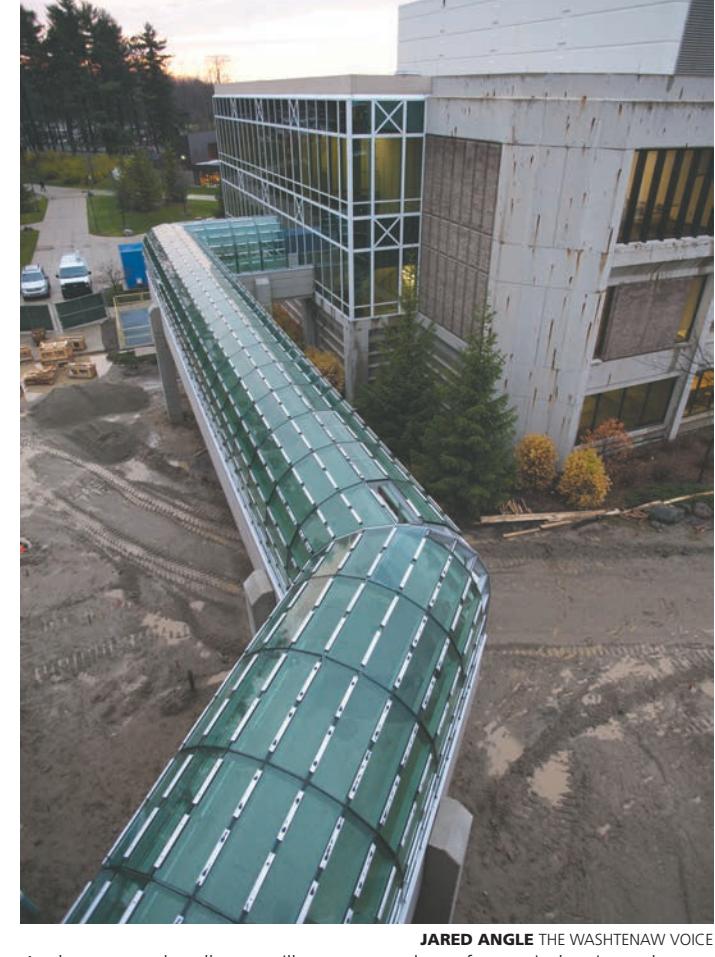
going to bother with licensing," Smith said. "If someone is licensed to carry a gun in public, they are responsible enough to carry it on campus. We look to strengthen the rights of those already licensed."

The SCCC has continued to pursue those liberties since 2007, following the Virginia Tech shooting, without any endorsement from larger establishments. Not to be deterred, Smith is optimistic about

potential law changes his group may bring about through its "open holster" protests, informational tabling and by hosting campus debates.

"We don't have any backing or funding from larger organizations, or have even really been assisted at all," Smith said. "We hope to get legislation passed that allows students to carry guns on college campuses. We're not just protesting, but starting a conversation."

New parking structure will open on time, but new issues await



JARED ANGLE THE WASHTENAW VOICE
A glass-covered walkway will protect students from wind, rain and snow while they walk to the LA building from the new parking structure.

ANNA FUQUA-SMITH
Staff Writer

The \$12.7 million parking structure is scheduled to open at the beginning of the Winter semester, adding an additional 544 parking spots. But instead of Washtenaw Community College students spending their time trolling for parking spaces, they could face frustrating traffic problems.

According to Associate Vice President of Facilities Development and Operations Damon Flowers, the road built to span from Lot 7 at the Liberal Arts building to Lot 1

at the Morris Lawrence building will be completed, but the Washtenaw County Road Commission will not permit opening of the road until some additional construction on Huron River Drive is completed.

"A side to the project was to widen part of Huron River Drive at ML."

Flowers said. "We had the contract, the board approved and we were ready to go, but we didn't get all of the approvals from the road commission in time, leaving only 45 days to complete the project."

PARKING STRUCTURE CONTINUED **A2**



The partially finished stairwell connects the floors of the parking garage to the second-level walkway to the LA building.

JARED ANGLE THE WASHTENAW VOICE

PARKING STRUCTURE FROM FRONT PAGE

Lot 7 will be accessible to enter the structure, but the part of the road leading from the structure to Lot 1 will be blocked off until the road work can be completed.

The entrance coming in from Clark Road will be formed into a T-shaped intersection. Flowers confirmed that there will be a stop sign in place when entering from Clark Road leading up to the LA building, and thru traffic will be coming and going from the structure toward the Gunder-Myran building.

"Just for the winter, entry and exiting the structure will be just from one direction," he said.

Upon entering the structure, there will be two lanes on the LA side and two on the ML side. Traffic will be permitted to enter the structure on the LA side and exit on the ML side, and the road will guide traffic back out to Lot 7, Flowers said.

Due to excessive rain in September, the project was set back by two weeks and the contractor has been accelerating the project by working 10-hour shifts and Saturdays.

"Basically, we're taking advantage of every clear day," Flowers said. "We're getting close to being caught up."

Before completion, both elevators need to be installed, lights on the third and fourth floor need to be mounted along

with signage. A clear sealant has to be applied to the concrete that is weather sensitive before striping and painting can begin.

Workers are in the process of applying the facial finish to the building, called pre-cast, Flowers said.

"Pre-cast is a material that sits on the finished material," he said. "They look like big panels, are polished and look much nicer than raw concrete. The structure will look a lot like the GM building, with boxy windows without glass."

Although the structure will be open starting Jan. 9, the three vegetative roofs located on top of the security area and the two elevator towers will not be planted until spring.

More than 300 trees were uprooted to make way for the structure and more than half have been planted throughout campus in and around the structure and along Huron River Drive. Of those, 105 trees have been planted out behind the campus located near the Business Education building.

For now, the plan is to move forward despite the traffic issues. Flowers confirmed that there are no plans for the project to leak into the Winter session.

"December is a contractual date that was put into place a year ago," he said. "Due to painting, reality is that it needs to be done before that because some of the work has to be done before it gets too cold."



JARED ANGLE THE WASHTENAW VOICE

The outer walls of the parking structure are made from prefabricated panels, of which 15-20 were placed per day.

SHUTTLE IS RETIRED

After more than two years moving students and staff to campus from Eastern Michigan University's Rynearson Stadium lot, the shuttle will no longer run.

With the addition of 544 spaces in the new parking structure, it's no longer needed, campus officials said. The shuttle last ran on Nov. 3.

THINK TRADITION THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Give the gift of education.

Steeped in tradition, Madonna University combines career preparation with liberal arts and service learning. Students have access to more than 100 undergraduate programs and over 35 graduate programs, and there are several certificate programs at both levels. Small classes are the hallmark of a Madonna University education. Professors know you by name and are dedicated to your success.

Enroll now for Winter Semester!
Classes begin January 9, 2012



Put one of these majors on your wish list!

Accounting • Addiction Studies • Art • Biochemistry • Biology • Broadcast & CinemaArts • Business Administration • Chemistry • Child Development • Clinical Laboratory Sciences • Computer Science • Criminal Justice • Deaf Community Studies • Dietetics • Education • Emergency Management • Fire Science • Forensic Science • Gerontology • Graphic Design • Hospice • Hospitality Management • Journalism & PR • Marketing • Merchandising Management • Music • Nursing • Religious Studies • Sign Language Studies • Social Work • Sport Management

MADONNA UNIVERSITY
36600 Schoolcraft Road
Livonia, MI 48150-1176
734-432-5339 • 800-852-4951 (ext. 5339)
madonna.edu

WCC returns to CHARTLAND

Educational Services Center

Because of economic conditions that have affected all of us, as a public institution WCC felt an obligation to save costs by consolidating Livingston County programs into one location – Brighton. Although we will continue to hold classes at Brighton, WCC students and Livingston

County residents have told us that WCC was still needed at Hartland as well. So, starting January 2012, the college will again offer some of the more popular classes at the Hartland Educational Services Center.

For dates and times of classes go to
www.wccnet.edu/schedule

Washtenaw Community College
734-973-3543 • www.wccnet.edu

Apology unaccepted

Former Detroit mayor talks redemption at EMU



Former Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick addresses journalists after his speech at the Eastern Michigan University's Student Center ballroom.

BEN SOLIS
Managing Editor

Editor's note: Language in the 19th paragraph may offend some readers.

When disgraced former Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick was invited to speak at Eastern Michigan University about second chances, his first response was skepticism.

"I didn't really deserve this," Kilpatrick said. "I'm on my 12th and 13th chance."

As the speaker of the first installment of "Second Chances," sponsored and paid for by Black Leaders Aspiring for Critical Knowledge (BLACK), an EMU student organization, Kilpatrick saw an opportunity to share his experiences with students like himself.

"What I wanted to show them, that they can have it, whatever they want," Kilpatrick said to reporters after the event. "It's good to come back home and talk to students here that have a much more fitting relationship growing up like me, the schools I went to, and the streets I walked."

Kilpatrick emphasized personal reflection, inner peace and self-reliance when facing scrutiny for one's mistakes.

"When I forgave myself, it was a painful process,"

Kilpatrick said. "But that process is for you. If you forgive that bully who did you wrong, you're not forgiving them for them. It was for you. When I ask you for your forgiveness, and you don't give it, it's ok because I've already forgiven myself."

"Let it go for you," he said. "As soon as I move out your way, just let it go."

Yet Kilpatrick's contrition ended there.

Instead of opening with sincere apologies, Kilpatrick began by blaming everything from the national media to the Detroit's climate.

"People like me in Dallas, or California, or New York," he said. "People are mad at me because of the stuff that they saw on TV. None of you have had a conversation with me. None of you know me."

Kilpatrick even drew parallels of himself to historical figures, like the infamous Spanish conquistador Hernan Cortez and civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"When he said 'I have a dream,' people hated him. And now we have a monument for him, because he's dead," Kilpatrick said. "When he was alive on this earth he was maligned and spit on, but it's OK to like him now. Because someone was telling you then who you

could and couldn't like."

When addressing the city's finances, Kilpatrick claimed that Detroit owes him a bit of gratitude.

"It takes \$4 million a day to run the city of Detroit," Kilpatrick said. "Detroit has \$45 million to work with. It's gonna run out pretty soon. The best taxes that come in are the casino taxes, because it comes in every day. I negotiated the deal. If I didn't, you all would be dead broke."

For Anthony Embry, a 21 year-old mechanical engineering student and a member of BLACK, Kilpatrick's legal troubles, made him the prime candidate to kick off the event.

"This series is all about second chances," Embry said. "It's about making choices and dealing with consequences and how they will affect you all throughout your life."

"He took a lashing and he's still smiling. He's trying to change."

The controversial nature of the event, however, was not met without widespread scrutiny.

"Kwame's a shithead. Why is he here?" asked Sean Kent, 26, an EMU student from Detroit, as he was walking past the Student Center before Kilpatrick spoke. "Why should anyone care what he

has to say? If it was (Mayor Dave) Bing, I might have attended. I'll see if he has something to say after he pays his debt."

EMU took strides to distance itself from the event, issuing various statements to clarify that it did not endorse the engagement.

Kilpatrick did not receive payment for speaking, although BLACK did pay for his airfare from Dallas. Kilpatrick's books, used as restitution funding, were sold and

POINT OF VIEW



I don't think he answered very many of the questions he was asked, I don't hate him, but he just made jokes and talked about his family. As a man he was nice, but he just spoke like another politician.

DARVERTA THOMAS
25, Detroit,
EMU student

signed after the event.

Darvetica Thomas, 25, an EMU communications major and former resident of Detroit, was open-minded to Kilpatrick's words, but heard very little apology throughout.

"I don't think he answered very many of the questions he was asked," Thomas said. "I don't hate him, but he just made jokes and talked about his family. As a man, he was nice, but he just spoke like another politician."

Some called foul before the event took place. Take William Caldwell, 27, for example.

"I don't believe he was the appropriate person to be speaking about second chances," said Caldwell, a psychology major from Detroit. "He's not making an effort to change his ways. We want good role models, not ones that say they're above the law. If he settles and apologizes I'll put my sign away and go make a science project or something but he hasn't. That's why I'm here."

Caldwell held a sign near the entrance of the EMU Student Center building. It read: "Actions Speak Louder Than Words."

Thursday Speed Bingo is from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Student Center cafeteria offering quick rounds of bingo, free snacks and candy prize packs for the winners.

EMU will have a representative on the second floor of the Student Center from noon-4 p.m.

In SC 287 from 3-4 p.m., an interview skills workshop will teach

IN BRIEF

TOYS FOR TOTS

The Marine Corps Reserve is collecting toys to brighten the Christmas of economically disadvantaged children. Those who wish to contribute should bring new unopened and unwrapped toys to the WCC Student Services office, SC 112, and leave them in the Toys for Tots barrel. The deadline is December 16. For more information about the program, visit toysfortots.org.

INTERVARSITY CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP HOMELESS PROJECT

Intervarsity Christian Fellowship, a WCC club, is collecting personal care items to distribute to the homeless in Detroit. To contribute, fill a Ziploc bag with a bar of soap, washcloth, shaver, comb, toothbrush, toothpaste and any additional items you care to include. Clothing in good condition is also welcome. Deposit items in the boxes by the Student Activities office or at the Health and Fitness Center. The deadline is December 9. The items will be distributed to needy people in Cass Corridor, Detroit. For more information, contact Todd Jerdon: tjerdon@wccnet.edu

ACADEMIC SUPPORT NAME CHANGE TO REFLECT CAREER FOCUS

As of Tuesday, Nov. 15, the Academic Skills department, or ACS, has a new name.

Going from Academic Skills to Academic and Career Skills, the department feels the alteration is necessary following the recent inclusion of ACS 121, career planning, and ACS 122, career decision-making.

With no change to the department's acronym, the switch was quickly applied to the website by Linda Blakey, associate vice president of Student Services.

SUNDAYS ARE BACK AT TESTING CENTER

The Testing Center will resume its Sunday hours, starting in the Winter semester.

The center is now open for use Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m.-7:15 p.m., and until 4:15 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, with changes going into effect on Dec. 3.

New Sunday hours are from 1 p.m. to 4:15 p.m., and go into effect on Dec. 22. Tests will not start or end on Sundays or any day when WCC does not hold classes.

CAMPUS EVENTS

students how to research companies and interview successfully.

DEC. 9, JOB SEARCH TECHNIQUES WORKSHOP

From 2-3 p.m. in SC 287, students can learn about job searching strategies and employment resources.

DEC. 13, COLLEGE VISITATION, BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

A representative from Cleary University will be on the second floor of the Student Center from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Board of Trustees meeting, 4 p.m., in ML 150.

DEC. 14, COLLEGE VISITATIONS

EMU and Concordia University will have representatives on the second floor of the Student Center from 1-5 p.m.

There will be a hands-on workshop to learn to develop resumes in SC 287 from 4:30-5:30 p.m.

DEC. 8, SPEED BINGO, COLLEGE VISITATION, INTERVIEW SKILLS WORKSHOP

Thursday Speed Bingo is from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. in the Student Center cafeteria offering quick rounds of bingo, free snacks and candy prize packs for the winners.

EMU will have a representative on the second floor of the Student Center from noon-4 p.m.

In SC 287 from 3-4 p.m., an interview skills workshop will teach

DEC. 15, COLLEGE VISITATION

From noon-4 p.m., EMU will have a representative on the second floor of the Student Center.

DEC. 16, FALL SEMESTER ENDS

DEC. 17, CIRQUE DREAMS HOLIDAZE

Students can purchase tickets to see Cirque Dreams Holidaze at the Fox Theatre from 2-5 p.m. There will be toy soldiers, snowmen, gingerbread men and other holiday characters performing stunts.

SECURITY NOTES



SHOUTING MATCH

Campus Security officer Mark Silverest was sent to the LA building at 11:47 a.m. on Nov. 28 after a verbal altercation at the end of a developmental English class. No other information was available, according to campus police.

To contact Campus Safety & Security, dial 3411 from any school phone, press the red button on red security phones, or use your cell phone to call (734) 973-3411.

Visit washtenawvoice.com for security updates and more helpful tips.

EMU students not impressed with ex-mayor's account

PORSHA POE
Contributor

Students gathered at Eastern Michigan University's Student Center ballroom to hear former Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick talk about second chances.

And they weren't impressed.

"He is arrogant," said 21-year-old senior and social work major Kanesha Jones, of Detroit. "He doesn't even care about what he did to the city."

Kristen Floyd, of Detroit, agreed. "I think he's playing a victim, as if he didn't victimize the whole city of Detroit," said the 21-year-old junior and psychology major.

Floyd was referring to some of the comments made by Kilpatrick in reference to his jail time and treatment from law enforcement and citizens of Detroit.

"I had no prior offenses,

and they threw me into maximum security and solitary

confinement," Kilpatrick said, who argued that he had been incarcerated for something that no one in the state of Michigan or history of the United States had been incarcerated for.

Although his visit provoked controversy within the campus community, newly founded organization BLACK (Black Leaders Aspiring to Critical Knowledge) was still passionate about making sure that the highly controversial

ex-politician got to explain his side of the story that has been the city of Detroit's focus for the past few years.

"I'm proud of the organization for fighting so hard in the face of controversy, but I think Kwame's presence serves no purpose," said Kenneth Rose, 33, of Lansing. "It almost seems as if he doesn't take the situation seriously. He's making light of the situation."

Kilpatrick greets supporters on his visit to EMU.

JARED ANGLE THE WASHTENAW VOICE

EDITORIAL**As money gets tight, administrators face tough decisions**

It's no secret that Washtenaw Community College has to work within the constraints of a budget. And for years that budget has been pretty loose, allowing for the college to make many updates and upgrades to the campus.

Now that the economic downturn has caught up to WCC, the administration and the Board of Trustees will have to make some difficult decisions as to where to cut funding.

In April, budget cuts were made to many departments and clubs. *The Washtenaw Voice* was one of many that faced drastic cuts to our budget. And while we were not happy to lose the money, we understood the reasoning.

As tax dollars dry up, and funding from state and federal government gets smaller and smaller, WCC may have to start cutting more than just budgets. Programs may go, too. Unfortunately, those in charge may have to take drastic action and cut some of the academic programs that are not as popular with students.

To the best of our knowledge, no programs have been officially nominated to be cut, and by no means are we suggesting that administrators want to make these cuts. Again, we understand. Despite what we and students may think at times, the people in charge have our best interests at heart and sometimes that means making some tough choices.

While we understand that tough choices must be made and spending on various projects and programs must be cut, we can't help but think about the \$13 million parking structure that is about to open and the \$1.7 million that will be spent to update the Student Center. That money would go a long way right now toward keeping academic programs alive.

And in the end isn't that what WCC is supposed be about?



JOSH CHAMBERLAIN
Staff Writer

Occupy has huge potential for progress

Occupy Wall Street (OWS) will succeed because of its lack of direction – not in spite of it. The movement has been criticized from all sides as lacking a precise focus: a bill to fight or promote, a specific figurehead to rally around, or a set of demands.

Its lack of any of these, however, may be its greatest asset. If a figurehead backs out or makes a mistake, the occupiers and supporters around the nation could easily become segmented or lose motivation to continue protesting. The figurehead is instead “the 99 percent” and the broad idea that the movement combats is economic divide between the high upper class and the rest of Americans.

Using a huge number of people as the central proponent of an idea is unorthodox, but leaves room for more people to weigh in with their ideas for progress and correcting the fact that the richest one percent of the nation hold about a third of the wealth and all of the political power in the country.

An example of a powerful voice contributing to the movement: Michael Moore recently proposed a list of demands to the OWS general assembly. The controversial liberal activist and documentarian presented a fairly moderate list of 10 ways to strengthen the middle class,

which would benefit conservatives, liberals and everyone in between. Instead of speaking for the movement, however, Moore’s voice simply contributes to the many voices involved already.

His ideas will strengthen the movement, but the group can decide which demands it wants to pursue. If demands specific to a law are met when that law is passed or vetoed, the fight still isn’t over; there are many other items on the list.

The biggest effect of not having a single spokesperson is the huge amount of support and coverage that OWS has gained. Just by existing as an American under the one percent, you are being represented by the movement. As a result, every act of police brutality or ignorance from the media inflames people everywhere, even those who have never been to an Occupy gathering.

“Occupy” is even a meme, cropping up in hundreds of colleges and appearing as other events such as ‘Occupy Black Friday’ and ‘Occupy Thanksgiving’.

The fact that it’s rooted in the vast majority of the population as opposed to a singular figurehead or small group of angry extremists means that the only way Occupy will fail is if it’s abandoned by its supporters.



NATHAN CLARK
Staff Writer

Occupy this!**But it needs a leader**

Becoming ever more concerned with what is happening around me, I can no longer idly sit and watch so many good people have their First Amendment rights ignored.

Does this mean I’m going to storm out of my apartment and join the movement? No. For me, joining the movement now has about the same effects as me adding a pebble to a pile of rocks.

While I do support what the movement is trying to do, I believe the movement lacks some of the elements it needs in order to be successful. Some say it lacks a plan or a clear message. I say it lacks a face.

From what I’ve seen on the Internet and television, peaceful protesters get beaten, pepper-sprayed and arrested while violent protesters get beaten, tear gassed and arrested. So what is stopping so many good people from abandoning their peaceful ideals and instead supporting a violent uprising? The movement hasn’t turned violent because of the good people in it, and that’s the problem.

The movement has a lot of good people involved in it, but it doesn’t have a definitive leader who speaks for the movement as a whole. Some would argue that the movement doesn’t need a leader because that would seem like a contradiction to the cause.

I agree that everyone’s voice

should be heard, but you know how hard it is to hear anyone when everyone is talking? Without a figurehead speaking for the movement, all I hear is a word storm of idealistic chaos coming from the protesters.

For the movement to be successful, it needs an intelligent, charismatic figurehead to speak for the cause. Every movement has had a few. The civil rights movement in the 1960s had many notable individuals in it, but there is one individual who everyone in America and the world can quickly identify with it, Martin Luther King Jr.

King’s speeches moved millions and opened America’s eyes to the deplorable injustice that should not have been allowed to exist in the land of freedom. Without MLK, would anyone have noticed or cared about the Civil Rights movement?

So who does Occupy Wall Street have? I can’t think of a single person who has been able to speak to the group as a whole. Some people have foolishly identified Michael Moore with the movement, which might be okay if he wasn’t actually part of the one percent acting like he’s part of the 99.

If the movement is supposed to represent 99 percent of Americans, surely there must be somebody charismatic enough to speak for all of us, right?

The Washtenaw Voice

Volume 18, Issue 8

4800 E. Huron River Dr.

TI 106

Ann Arbor, MI 48105

(734) 677-5125

thewashtenawvoice@gmail.com

The Washtenaw Voice is produced fortnightly by students of Washtenaw Community College. Student publications are important in establishing and maintaining an atmosphere of free and responsible discussion and in bringing matters of concern and importance to the attention of the campus community. Editorial responsibility for The Voice lies with the students, who will strive for balance, fairness and integrity in their coverage of issues and events while practicing habits of free inquiry and expression.

The Voice is committed to correct all errors that appear in the newspaper and on its website, just as we are committed to the kind of careful journalism that will minimize the number of errors printed. To report an error of fact that should be corrected, please phone (734) 677-5405 or e-mail thewashtenawvoice@gmail.com.

A copy of each edition of The Washtenaw Voice is free to everyone. Additional copies are available at the Voice office for 25 cents each.

The Washtenaw Voice does not represent or endorse the accuracy or reliability of any of the information or content in advertisements contained in the newspaper or its website, thewashtenawvoice.com, nor the quality of any products, information or other materials displayed, or obtained by you as a result of an advertisement or any other information or offer in or in connection with the services or products advertised.

EDITOR
Matt Durr
mdurrwcc@gmail.com

MANAGING EDITOR
Ben Solis
bensolis1@gmail.com

FEATURES EDITOR
Adrian Hadden
adhidden@wccnet.edu

PHOTO EDITOR
Jared Angle
jared.angle@gmail.com

DESIGN EDITOR
Josh Chamberlain
josh@vkids.com

DESIGN EDITOR
Ashley DiGiuseppe
ashley.digiuseppe@gmail.com

AD MANAGER
Becky Alliston
bealliston@wccnet.edu

WEB EDITOR
Jesse Glacken
jesse@glacken.us

STAFF WRITERS
Nathan Clark
Jael Gardiner

Anna Fuqua-Smith
Allie Tomason

CONTRIBUTORS
Porsha Poe
Beau Keyes

Jamie Fletcher

Amy McMichael

Tucker Biallas

ADVISER
Keith Gave
kgave@wccnet.edu



JOSH CHAMBERLAIN
Staff Writer

Occupy has huge potential for progress

VOICE BOX

With holidays around the bend, students prepare to enjoy their break and party with their friends. Many worry about their peers who may go too far. Where is the line drawn for party excess? How do students stay safe, despite their habits?

Winter break approaches. Students caution against substance abuse, stranger danger.

INTERVIEWS ADRIAN HEDDEN FEATURES EDITOR
PHOTOS JARED ANGLE PHOTO EDITOR

JAKE AUTRY
21, Brighton, nursing

I eat a lot before I drink. Don't drink on an empty stomach.

ELIZABETH HEAD
34, Ypsilanti, nursing

Don't get into a car with someone who's drunk.

FAMATA BOULAMA
17, Ann Arbor, science

No drugs, except a little bit of weed. Not enough alcohol to get drunk.

SEVRYN CLAYBRON
17, Ann Arbor, sports medicine

No sex, at least safe-sex.

MATT TRIPP
21, Ann Arbor, construction management

Make sure you're with friends, stay together. Keep your cellphone on you at all times. Avoid drinking and the drugs.

MATT GULDI
21, Saline, business

Think ahead, and plan things out so that nothing gets screwed up. Have a designated driver, but if not, drink a lot of coffee.

MARISA THILMAN
17, Ypsilanti, film

Keep others safe as far as drunk driving and illegal activities. I host parties at my house. If my friends are at my house, they're a little safer.

PATRICIA TAYLOR
60, Ypsilanti, liberal arts

Stay at home, no drinking, no drugging. Keep to the family and put God first.

BLAIR FLEMMING
22, Ypsilanti, business administration

Watch each other when you're out and about. Drink responsibly and drive safe.

LINDSEY GOTHARD
20, South Lyon, marketing transfer

Get a cab if you drink too much, or walk with a friend. Don't go to the bathroom alone if you're a girl and cover your drinks.

JOE TAYLOR
19, Ann Arbor, radiography

When you're partying, be careful of the things you put into your body and the people you associate with. If you're gonna do something crazy, keep it familiar.

RACHEL LOFGREN
19, Howell, nursing

The number one thing is that designated driver. Girls, stay in groups and always have your phone. Only you can know your own limits.

FROM THE WEB:

I so agree with your article. In addition to Joe Paterno going to jail, so should the rest of the group that knew about the molestations by the monster named Sandusky. Why is Jay Paterno not in trouble and fired? How does he expect anyone with two brain cells to actually believe that he knew nothing about any of it? His dad and other members of the coaching staff all seemed to know. Doesn't Jay talk to his dad? Doesn't Jay talk to other members of the PSU coaching staff? What a joke that he is still permitted to be on staff at PSU! That whole group deserves prison time – and not at a “fluffy jail”. For all of the horrors that happened to many kids because of the PSU staff looking the other way they should shut down the football program for at least 10 years. In addition, how many of the football players did horrible things to people (beatings, etc.) where they weren't punished? NCAA needs to place the worst penalty in the history of collegiate sports against PSU.

Concerned Citizen

GETTING IT STRAIGHT:

The caption under the photo of the story “Hitchin’ a ride” on B1 of the Nov. 21 issue of The Voice should read: Left, Angela McCommons and right, Santonya Thomas. A quote near the end of the story on B5, “I have actually used her service a couple of times myself. My husband and I both work,” should have been attributed to Rashonda Arnold.

WTMC vies for larger student body

BEN SOLIS
Managing Editor

Over the next three years, the population of Washtenaw Technical Middle College students may grow by 50 more students, according to a formal recommendation that could add as much as \$350,000 in state revenues by 2014.

Proposed on Nov. 22 by WTMC Dean Karl Covert before the Washtenaw Community College Board of Trustees, the charter school hopes to expand its student body and open its doors gradually to more students as early as next Fall.

The WTMC program allows high school students to integrate into the college's social fabric by taking full-time college credit courses in lieu of the typical high school experience.

With this proposed growth, adding 50 students annually over a three-year period, the WTMC's

enrollment would grow to 450 students by 2014.

The admission process for WTMC begins in the Spring semester, Covert said. In order to add the new students before Fall, the board would have to take action in this month.

"If voted on in December, we would have between 20-25 more students by next Fall," Covert said.

The proposed change in population would allow more students to apply for admission and would allow a greater number of high school students to take part in the experience. And while it is true that last year WTMC program only accepted 145 of the total 250 applicants, according to Covert's executive summary presented to the board, the proposition is as equally the byproduct of lowered state funding.

"As our regular numbers decrease, this increase of students would help drive up our

numbers," said Trustee Richard Landau, a presiding member of the WTMC board.

The additional students would increase the college's bottom line. State funding for K-12 and charter school education has dramatically decreased over the past few years, according to Covert, and with extra students comes extra funding.

"Our students pay the same college tuition rate as other students," Covert said. "There is a benefit there."

Current funding from the state's coffers for an individual high school student stands at about \$7,000, according to Covert. By changing the contract, the additional 50 students would mean nearly \$350,000 worth of additional funding – money from local schools these students would otherwise be attending.

"They would prefer that we didn't do it," said WCC President Rose Bellanca, speaking to how

this could affect the relationship the college has with the surrounding area public schools. "But we do pull from charter-school funding as well, and we help out the K-12 community other ways."

Bellanca did not specify in which ways the college assists area schools, but her assertion stood correct about pulling funding from them.

"I think at this point any loss of a student is something that is a bitter pill to swallow," said Ypsilanti Public Schools Superintendent Dedrick Martin. "It would be interesting instead, to see in what ways WCC and the program would be able to partner with the public schools. We all have the same goal, and it is very similar to ideals that most schools believe in anyway. Instead of competing, we should be working together to build a quality program that both our students can benefit from."

While an increase in funding would be ideal, BOT Chair Pamela Horisny raised the issue of how the continued growth of the program would affect college resources and facilities.

"Class sizes would remain the same and won't grow," Covert said.

The program is currently housed in the Technical Industrial building, and if the program did grow too large, further recommendations would be made.

Yet another important issue looms over the WTMC expansion – discipline.

The college's contract limiting the number of underage students was put in place because of some disciplinary issues in past years. These include behavior problems and poor attendance.

WTMC also garnered a high dropout rate, with students either returning to their original high schools or transferring to

a different one. Other problems included inappropriate behavior in the Bailey library, congregating en masse in certain high traffic areas of the college's buildings and smoking.

Covert said WTMC has worked diligently to resolve those issues.

"We've just been very cognizant of what is going," Covert said. "We're working with them closely and letting them know that they're college students and that we expect them to act like college students."

Disciplinary problems have decreased dramatically, and the students' success and graduation rate stands at 97 percent, according to Covert.

"The WTMC population are fine contributors to the WCC population," Covert said. "They don't stand out in a negative way."

With its students growing up, he said, the program has earned the right to grow as well.

WTMC, another option for high school students



WTMC administrative assistant Pat Sahakian, third from left, and guidance counselor Tamika Riley, fourth from left, with WTMC students on the second floor of the TI building.

JAEI GARDINER
Staff Writer

For Gertrude Daly, Washtenaw Technical Middle College is the place that she believes is going to allow her to achieve all of her dreams.

She reclined in her seat up in the WTMC office in TI 214 and smiled as she explained how WTMC gave her the edge to do anything she wanted to, and how her experience at the school was going to help her achieve her dream of becoming a millionaire.

"WTMC is a high school program for high schoolers to get college credit," said Daly, an 18-year-old liberal arts student from Plymouth. "We want to do something with our lives. Getting an associate's degree puts us on another level."

However, many students around campus have a fuzzy understanding of what this school does. Some aren't even

aware that lurking within many of their classes are much younger students who are still high school sophomores, juniors and seniors.

While they are the same age as many of the dual-enrolled students, there is a difference. WTMC students don't have to take high school classes during their entire time here, often only during their first semester. The other dual-enrolled students attend local high schools.

POINT OF VIEW

WTMC is a high school program for high schoolers to get college credit, we want to do something with our lives. Getting an associate's degree puts us on another level.

GERTRUDE DALY
18, Plymouth,
Liberal Arts

"Some come here because it is a more mature environment," said Karl Covert, dean of WTMC. "Some come because they want credit. Students always tell me when they leave how happy they are to have gone through this."

The program is becoming well-known in the community, according to Covert. Last year the program had 250 applicants for the 140 slots that were available. WTMC had a graduation rate of 97 percent last year, and 85 percent of its students go on to higher education. Another 10 percent stay at WCC or go onto another two-year institution, according to school officials.

In order to apply for WTMC, a charter school, students must have first taken at least one year of high school. During the first semester at WTMC, students take a semester of their high school classes as a way to prove that they have the maturity

and academic skill to succeed in college classes. After their first year of the program, most of these students are enrolled full-time at WCC. The school is gaining attention with more applicants than ever before.

Although these students are younger than most WCC students, many think that they still fit in fine.

"I think that it's a 50-50 thing. Not everybody loves us and not everybody hates us," said Robert Hays, 16, a broadcasting arts student from Saline and WTMC student. "People shouldn't choose to hate us just because we're WTMC students."

However, it is often difficult to tell if students are in WTMC. The secretary at WTMC, Patricia Sakahian, thinks that students don't stand out at all. "We just blend in so well people think we're college students," Sakahian said.

Community college route. It'll suit the kids where the need is greatest."

Conversely, an affordable college like WCC is exactly what 3.5-level students are looking for, according to Kimberly Pennington, the lead counselor for Ann Arbor's Pioneer High School.

"Over the last couple years, I've seen more 3.5 students choose Washtenaw simply because of its affordability," Pennington said. "Some students go to four-year colleges, hate it, and come back to go to WCC. Then they will go back out and to the four-year college and be successful."

Aside from counseling departments, the public schools' administration views the change as crucial.

scores as well.

"I had a friend who dual-enrolled," Heren said. "My mom said I should look into it. It was a lot of paperwork, but I did it. My school pays for it."

Some students are aware that there is more than one type of high school student on campus, but those who know are generally supportive of their presence on campus. In fact, some students say that they had no idea many of these students were even high school students.

"I think they do belong here. I usually can't tell they're high school students," said Hannah Stadelman, 18, an undecided major from Ann Arbor.

There are probably more dual enrolled students than regular college students think. According to Courtney Sommerfeld, the enrollment services coordinator, there are usually several hundred dual enrolled students around campus during the year.

Students who are interested in taking a college class should talk with their school officials and contact the WCC counseling department.

It isn't for every high school student, and it is the choice of each school whether or not these classes will count toward high school credit. High school students who take skill classes can get a head start on the programs they want to take in the future. The classes they take in their high school can be articulated and transfer to WCC.

STEPS TO DUAL ENROLL:

Be at least 15 and in the 10th grade or higher
Prove reading and writing skills are at college level
Have forms signed by parents and principals or counselors
Complete orientations online and in person

STEPS TO ENROLL AT WTMC:

Attend an Admissions Invitational meeting
Take COMPASS tests
Fill out application materials, sign forms and write an essay
Turn in application in February
Students must complete at least one year of high school before entering

WCC scholarship policy would lower GPA minimums, widen accessibility

BEN SOLIS
Managing Editor

A proposed change for two Washtenaw Community College Scholarships would allow more students to apply for and renew the scholarships as early as next Fall.

The impending changes would affect the grade-point-average requirements for the college's President's Honor Scholarship and would modify the renewability of the Anthony J. Procassini Scholarship.

"There is still a strong need for the scholarships," said Linda Blakey, associate vice president of Student Services. "This change will allow more students to apply for and renew the scholarships."

The policy changes were proposed on Nov. 22 by the WCC Board of Trustees, and detail two main changes to the scholarships.

The first modification would adjust the current minimum 3.5 GPA requirement of the President's Honor Scholarship to a minimum 3.2 GPA on a 4.0 scale.

"Adjusting this GPA will allow us to better acknowledge the students who have been successful in Washtenaw county," according to the BOT recommendation. The college offers the President's Honor Scholarship to five students annually, and that number will not change, according to Blakey. The scholarship can be renewed if the student is able to maintain a minimum 3.0

GPA while completing 24 credit hours in an academic year.

This won't change either, Blakey said.

In addition, the board recommended amendments to the Anthony J. Procassini Honor Scholarship. The Procassini scholarship is offered once a year to an "outstanding graduate who exhibits leadership qualities and scholastic achievement."

While there is no listed GPA requirement, the amendment would make the non-renewable scholarship renewable if a student maintains a 2.3 GPA and 24 credit hours are completed.

Both policy changes are to be voted on by trustees at their Dec. 13 meeting.

Although the Procassini

scholarship is not granted based on stringent GPA requirements, changing the renewability of the monies puts it more in line with the President's Honor Scholarship, according to the BOT. The lowered GPA's would ensure the equalization of the two scholarships.

However, lowered standards don't exactly mean lowered expectations, according to Dennis Brunzell, a counselor for Ypsilanti High School.

"I wouldn't consider it lowering the bar. I think there are a significant number of students that it will help," Brunzell said. "(WCC) will get a lot more worthy students that it can help. Kids that are in the 3.5 GPA range aren't the ones that usually go the

community college route. It'll suit the kids where the need is greatest."

Conversely, an affordable college like WCC is exactly what 3.5-level students are looking for, according to Kimberly Pennington, the lead counselor for Ann Arbor's Pioneer High School.

"Over the last couple years, I've seen more 3.5 students choose Washtenaw simply because of its affordability," Pennington said. "Some students go to four-year colleges, hate it, and come back to go to WCC. Then they will go back out and to the four-year college and be successful."

Aside from counseling departments, the public schools' administration views the change as crucial.

"Clearly I think it will do exactly what the board is intending," said Ypsilanti Public Schools Superintendent Dedrick Martin. "It will qualify students, who in some cases do outstanding work, but do more things outside school. It would help those that would have been excluded because of their involvement in marching band or volunteering."

Despite the fact that WCC may not be as glamorous as a four-year university, Brunzell does avidly recommend the advantages of a WCC education to his graduating students.

"We send a billion kids to WCC that do extremely well," he said. "We have nothing but good things to say about it."

DROWNING IN DEBT

Experts and administrators advise benefits of financial aid – and a budget – over bank loans and credit cards

BEN SOLIS
Managing Editor

Financial life coach Sharon B. Jones remembers a middle school student in Washington D.C. who once worked three jobs in one school year. He managed his own money, Jones said, and had nothing to show for the next summer.

"He was a pet groomer, he washed cars in his neighborhood and he also helped out his grandmother who owned a day care," said Jones, a graduate from Temple University and a credit expert who has had 30 years worth of experience counseling and teaching money management classes.

"But the student had no money in the bank for all that that he was making. But he dressed well. And that's partly where his money went. He also liked gadgets, and he had those. So how unfortunate is that to be such a successful entrepreneur – with little to show from the profits?"

Jones helps educate young students in D.C. and Baltimore area schools about money management, a side-saddle activity to her regular gig counseling adults and college graduates on how to manage the same money problems.

While younger people may

be able to get away with frivolous spending, college-age students often do not get off that easy when it comes to mismanaging their money.

Without proper education on credit and money management, Jones said, many newly graduated students will fall into excessive debt from credit and loans after graduation.

While the average Washtenaw Community College student is 27 years old, age has nothing to do with knowledge and expertise regarding credit and money management, according to Bayyinah Ballard, assistant director of financial aid at WCC.

Ballard and four other financial aid staff often run education and counseling sessions available before a student even begins to inquire about financial assistance. This is done to ensure that the student inquiring has been educated on all the bells and whistles of federal assistance.

"We go through a number of things, the most important being 'have they borrowed a loan' to see if they have the knowledge of what it means to borrow a loan," Ballard said. This is done because there is a 30-day hold for any student who is new to college, and the Financial Aid Department needs to know who

they are dealing with, based on student knowledge.

"We have a lot that think they know, but from experience, when they look at when it is time to start paying loans back, you'll notice that some are either not paying them back for a few reasons."

Those reasons include everything from losing track of other bills to not having the financial aid in the forefront of their minds.

Once the department feels that students are sufficiently educated on the subject of their own financial aid, Ballard said that her staff is trained to advise them throughout their academic careers at WCC.

Her advice falls into two main points: borrow only what you need, and stay away from lifetime loan options.

"Don't borrow anything that you can't pay back," Ballard said. "These are your loans and you still have to pay them back. Whether or not you need it, you shouldn't borrow something that you shouldn't pay back."

"And for us, our tuition is lower than a lot of schools. Very little loans would pay off their tuition and book cost."

Lifetime loan options, Ballard said, disallow students from taking out any more financial aid

monies after they leave WCC, leaving them no other option than to acquire financing elsewhere.

The third, and admittedly most important point, according to both Ballard and Jones, is stay away from banks lending high-interest student loans.

For the amount of tuition, books and other college expenses, Ballard insists that financial aid monies are more than enough to cover WCC expenses. Borrowing too much, she said, only opens the floodgate to more debt and financial despair.

"A person who will earn \$50,000 a year, they would have \$302 payment. That's like a car note," Ballard said. "So keep in mind, if you're going to have a hefty payment like that, you still have to pay a car note, or a house note, or insurance on top of all this."

Not paying it back she said, can spoil a bright future.

"It will ruin your life and it will ruin your credit. You can't get a car loan, a home, you can't get cable and in some cases you can't get car insurance," Ballard said. "Even if you file bankruptcy, it doesn't disappear."

In spite of lower tuition compared to other local universities and colleges, students of WCC

are not immune to amassing large amounts of debt while attending classes.

Much of it, however, occurs as a byproduct of high-interest student loans and daily living expenses paid with credit cards.

Nearly 91 percent of college students have an active line of credit, according to recent statistics collected by Credit.com, a website that offers free tools and advice on student loans and debt.

Meanwhile, the same students carry up to \$3,173 in debt, with the average senior graduating with \$4,100 in credit card debt alone, according to Credit.com. After tuition and other expenses like books and housing, graduates will borrow and owe \$20,000 in student loans.

Aside from bank loans and credit cards, Jones suggests simple measures in budgeting, and knowing the difference in types of credit accounts and cards.

"A secured credit card is an excellent way to establish credit. Building good credit, that is," Jones said. "It also allows you to be more prudent because it allows you to get your money used as collateral and even though it is secured, how you use that card still shows up on your credit report."

The main difference between

secured cards and unsecured cards, the main type of cards many companies will push toward students, is the amount and limitations of credit available, Jones said.

An unsecured card allows an almost limitless amount of credit, whereas a secured card offers a low credit limit. This type of card, according to Jones, is most suited for those just starting off with credit.

Most important, establishing good credit and learning money management go well beyond knowing the ins and outs of a student's credit history. It all comes down to buying habits and personal responsibility, Jones said.

"If you have a loan that gives you more money than you need, don't use that money other than the purpose that is intended," Jones said. "Sometimes students say that 'Well I can buy a new outfit or I can furnish my room.' But there is an interest rate attached to those loans, and at a certain time you're going to have to pay it back."

"These (loans) are trying to take you forward. You're getting loans so you can get a college education, so you can maintain or improve your lifestyle. Those items will not do that for you."

ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIPS
up to **\$11,000** for qualifying students!



Opportunity U
SIENA HEIGHTS UNIVERSITY

admissions@sienaheights.edu • 517.264.7180 • www.sienaheights.edu

A sound mind and a healthy body

The Health & Fitness Center
AT WASHTENAW COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Live life to the fittest

WCC students can enroll in PEA 115

and use the WCC Health & Fitness Center all winter semester while earning half a credit.*

TH&FC has all the latest exercise equipment, group exercise rooms, two pools, luxurious locker rooms and is right across the street.

Register now. For more information call the Student Connection at (734) 973-3543. Don't pass up this opportunity for a healthier you!

* must also be enrolled in at least 3 WCC credits for winter semester

"I LOVE the fitness center. It has honestly changed my life!"

Annika Kramer, WCC student.



Washtenaw Community College

I'm a published researcher.

I'm 19.

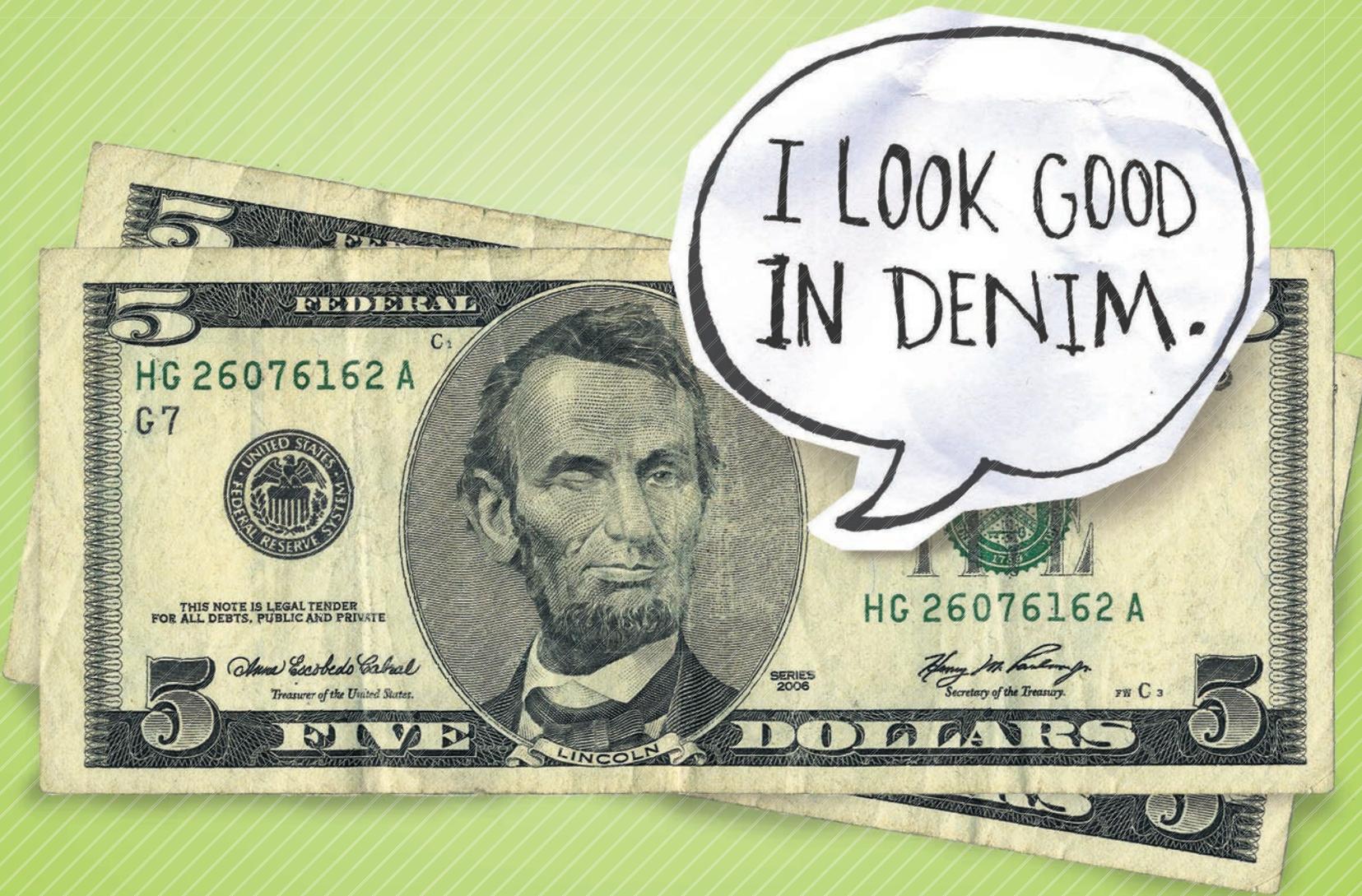
Just one reason why *U.S. News & World Report* has ranked us in the top tier of our category for more than a decade.

Visit us.

Take our virtual tour anytime at www.udmercy.edu/virtualvisit.



We want great things for you.
udmercy.edu/great



Pocket more presidents
when you sell back your books.



TEXT 'CBS2' TO 22022
TO GET AN EXTRA \$10 WHEN
YOU SELL \$50 IN BOOKS*

*Offer valid on buybacks of \$50 or more. Expires 12/31/2011. Not valid with any other offer.



BEST PRICE GUARANTEE
We'll beat any local or online quote by 10%.*

*Excludes Student-to-Student deals.

**CAMPUS BOOK
& SUPPLY**

Powered By **Neebo®**

1078 Huron River Drive
campusbooksupply.com

Recruiting Healthy Participants



We are looking for healthy women ages 21 to 40 to participate in a study about how life studies (including sexual ones) affect immunity.

For more information, contact sexresearch@umich.edu or (734) 763 7121



van Anders Lab
HUM00025973



You've asked for more parking and now you've got it!

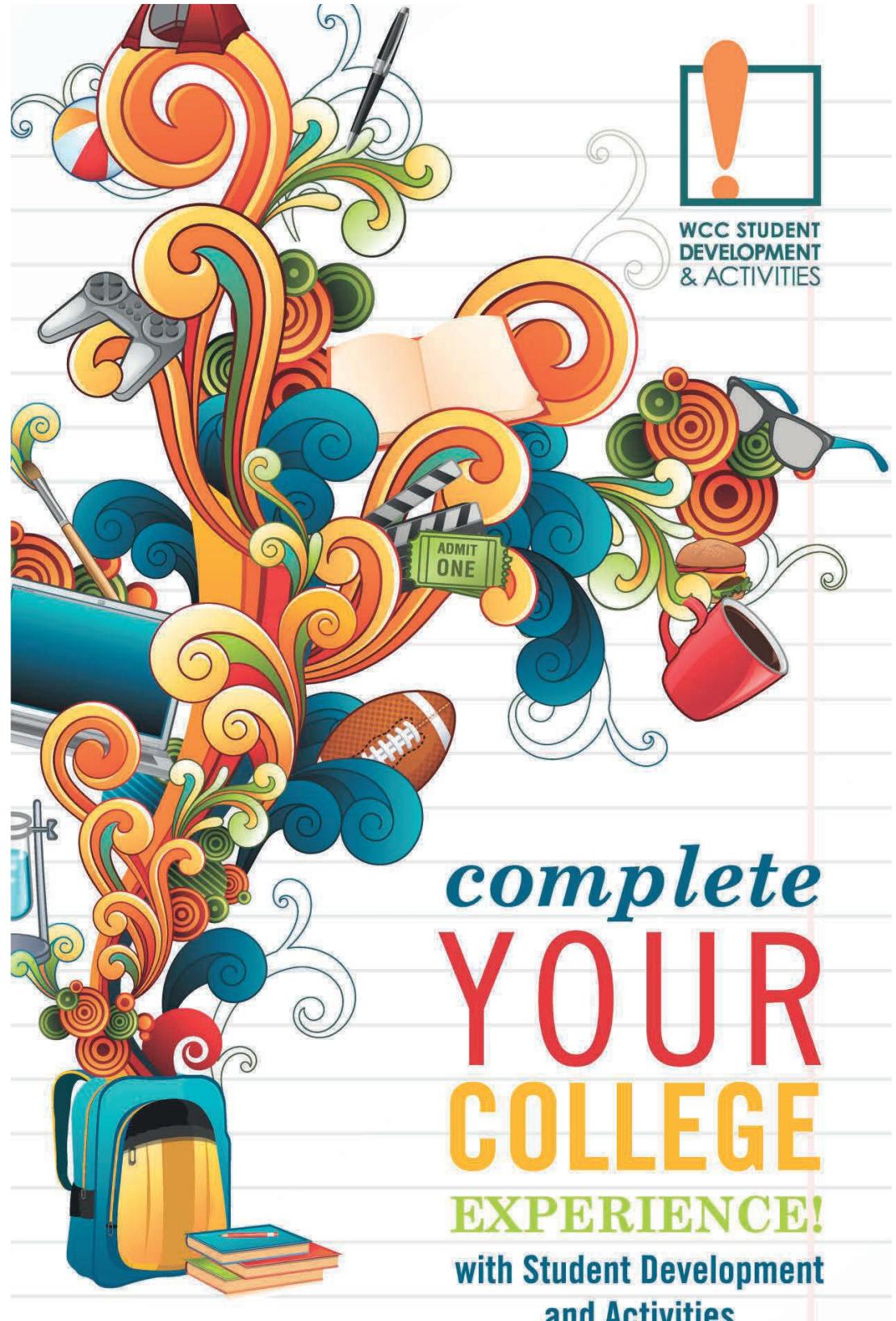
Beginning Winter semester 2012, the new WCC Parking Structure will be open to the public.

The four-level parking structure will offer:

- 473 inside spots and 56 outside surrounding spots
- Heat and lights on motion sensors
- Covered walkway into the second floor of the Crane Liberal Arts and Science Building
- Security offices located in the structure
- Security monitors 24/7
- Signs to tell you when the structure is full

Questions? Please visit <http://www.wccnet.edu/about-us/visiting>

Smoking is prohibited anywhere on WCC's campus



UPCOMING EVENTS

Finals Fuel-Up

Wednesday, December 14 & Thursday, December 15, 2011
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Grab some goodies to get you through those finals!

Cirque Dreams: Holidaze

Saturday, December 17, 2011
2:00 p.m.
Fox Theatre, Detroit, MI
\$25 for students
\$35 for staff/faculty

Whirlyball Social Night

Thursday, December 15, 2011
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
ONLY \$5 FOR STUDENTS!
You might even bump into your new best friend!

Much Ado About Nothing

Thursday, January 26, 2012
8:00 p.m.
Arthur Miller Theatre, Ann Arbor, MI
\$5 for students
\$7 for faculty/staff

Tickets are on sale at the Cashier's Office, 2nd floor of the Student Center Building, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Club News:

The WCC Corps of Student Veterans is now recruiting WCC veterans and active military personnel. Get involved: <http://tinyurl.com/wccvets>

UPCOMING SPORTS

Women's Club Volleyball Tryouts (for winter semester)

Who: WCC Students registered during the winter semester (18 and older, 2.0 gpa, taking at least 3 credits at WCC)
When: Thursday, December 8 and Monday, December 12, 2011 from 9:30 p.m. -11:00 p.m.
Where: Health and Fitness Center at WCC
Cost: Free

Men's Club Volleyball Tryouts (for winter semester)

Who: WCC Students registered during the winter semester (18 and older, 2.0 gpa, taking at least 3 credits at WCC)
When: Tuesday, December 13 and Thursday, December 15, 2011 from 9:30 p.m. -11:00 p.m.
Where: Health and Fitness Center at WCC
Cost: Free

WCC will be holding tryouts for the women's volleyball team who will play in the Ann Arbor Rec and Ed league on Tuesdays from January-March. Students will need to be enrolled during the winter semester to play. Practices will be held on Mondays and Thursdays.

WCC will be holding tryouts for the men's volleyball team who will play in the Ann Arbor Rec and Ed league on Thursdays from January-March. Students will need to be enrolled during the winter semester to play. Practices will be held on Mondays and Tuesdays.

DROP-IN FUN!

Drop by the WCC Sports Office to learn about upcoming sports and have a little fun!

CHECK OUT OUR NEW:

- Foosball Table
- Basketball Free Throw
- Ping Pong Table

Student Activities: SC 112
WCC Sports: SC 118



STAY CONNECTED!

HTTP://TINYW.CC/SDA

Be the first to find out about new tickets and activities!





The perfect tree is out there... take the family and go find it.



JAMIE FLETCHER
Contributor

"Timber!" my sister and I cheer as we watch the giant snow-crusted Douglas Fir fall to the earth.

Some people may have traditions involving caroling through the neighborhood, or covering their home in thousands of light bulbs. The Fletcher family has a tradition straight out of "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation".

We all gather together in full winter gear and travel about an hour and a half away to a place called "Happy Holiday Tree Farms," near Sheridan. Once we get there, we break out the video camera and start the hunt for the perfect Christmas tree.

After we all agree on one tree, the boys in the family work on sawing the beast to the ground. As soon as the tree hits the snowy earth, it is everyone's responsibility to yell "Timber!" as loud as they can.

Later, after warm hot chocolate dusted with marshmallows, and perhaps a few well-aimed snowballs, we wrap the tree in string and work on the project of immobilizing by tying it to the family vehicle.

Upon the arrival home, we all work on the final mission: unleashing the tree and fitting it through the front door. I could say that we've always been able to fit it through, but that would be toying with the truth.

Like the Grizwolds in the "Vacation" movies, sometimes you don't realize how big your tree is until you take it out of its environment.

If you want to adopt my family's tradition, but maybe find something a little closer to home, here's a list of several tree farms in the area:

Area tree farms

Braun's Tree Farm, Warren Road, Ann Arbor, <http://braunstreets.com>, (734) 663-2717

Westman's Tree Farm, Dexter, <http://westmantreefarm.com>, (734) 426-2476

Urquhart's Tree Farm, Chelsea, <http://urquhartsreefarms.com>, (734) 433-8733

Waldock Tree Farm, Howell, <http://waldocktreefarms.com>, (517) 546-3890

Broadview Christmas Tree Farm, Highland, <http://broadviewtreefarm.com>, (248) 887-8733

Addison-Oaks Christmas Tree Farm, Oakland Township, <http://addisonoakstrees.com>, (248) 814-0583

Cool's Christmas Tree Farm, Webberville, (517) 349-0999

Country Christmas Tree Farm and Gifts, Greenwood, (810) 560-0102

Happy Holiday Tree Farms, Sheridan, (989)261-4242

Operation Christmas Child delivers help, love — in a shoebox

AMY McMICHEN
Contributor

Christmas is not about dreams of sugar plum fairies for Megan Scott, a former Washtenaw Community College student. For Scott, it's about making dreams come true for hundreds of children around the world, in a shoebox.

"This is my favorite thing to be a part of," Scott said.

The 21-year-old human resource management major from Brighton is referring

to Operation Christmas Child. A charity event run by Samaritan's Purse, the benefit serves children living in areas hit hard by poverty, natural disasters and war. The organization, led by Franklin Graham, annually delivers more than 8.1 million shoeboxes worldwide. Shoeboxes contain gifts, school supplies, hygiene products and candy.

Residents from all over southeast Michigan are involved in trying to beat last year's count of more than 43,000 shoeboxes. This year giving is up, too. Relay center volunteer Sue Cole, of Highland, is seeing a 25 percent increase from last year.

"We get all our family and friends to contribute boxes every year from our church," Cole said, referring Highland United Methodist Church.

Suzie Aheimer, of Northville, is a community relations coordinator for the Southeast Michigan Area Team of OCC and works to increase awareness and participation for the project.

"I am hoping to increase the number of collection and relay centers across the area," Aheimer said.

Presently, the only relay center in Washtenaw County is Keystone Community Church, located in Saline on Waterworks Road.

Although collection locations are scarce, volunteers come from a wide array of people. The Eisenhower Center, a residential rehabilitation



CHRISTMAS CHILD CONTINUED B2

'Corp of Veterans' off to fast start

Providing a lifeline for veterans seeking a new beginning at WCC



Robert Nelson, left, 24, president of the WCC Corps of Student Veterans, and Matthew Keller, 26, vice president, encourage student veterans to join.

Photos and words by
ADRIAN HEDDEN
Features Editor

Education hasn't always come easy for Ryan Finch. Serving in the military only made it harder.

"Going to school is a big deal for me," Finch said. "I wasn't good at it before I went over. For some people it's hard to make the transition."

Initially struggling to return to his education when he arrived back home, the 25-year-old, former Marine corporal was relieved this year when he discovered the newly established WCC Corps of Student Veterans. Now working toward a business transfer degree, Finch hopes that members of the corps sharing his plight

will shed some light on what it takes to get through school.

"I came here to find out more information for the transition. I need to know what the next step is," Finch said. "It's great to have someone who's gone through it to show you what to do next so you're not just shooting off in the dark."

Robert Nelson is that "someone." A former sergeant in the Marines, Nelson started the corps earlier this year when he found that WCC was lacking a veterans' club. Not to be ignored, Nelson promptly began establishing his own group, over the following three weeks. The corps had its first meeting on Nov. 16.

"They're kind of under-represented anyway, veterans are," Nelson said. "Because they kind

of shove it under the rug, the whole veterans thing. There's a negative stigma that's not so apparent with veterans. It's a stigma that's under the radar, but it's still there."

Despite public dissent with the recent war efforts in the Middle East, Nelson remains firm.

"There's the whole stigma that anyone who served in Iraq or Afghanistan has PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) and they're crazy, just war dogs. They make it seem like it's our fault," Nelson said. "I don't agree with the reasons we're over there, but guess what? I love my country and I want to protect it."

Nelson is fearful of the

WHAT: WCC Corps for Student Veterans

WHEN/WHERE: Meets at 3:30 p.m. every other Wednesday in LA 275

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Email ronelson@wccnet.edu

FOR MORE HELP: Learn about how to apply for Veterans' Health Administration medical or mental health treatment by meeting with VA Rep Brittany Powers, Mondays from noon to 4 p.m. and Wednesdays from 9 a.m.-noon. For more information, phone (734) 548-3452 or email brittany.powers@va.gov

VETERANS CONTINUED B3

Useful smartphone and tablet apps for WCC students

BEAU KEYES
Contributor

With Christmas right around the corner, many Washtenaw Community College students are either getting, or are hoping to get, a smartphone or tablet in their stocking this year.

Part of the fun of using such a device is downloading cool or useful apps to increase the item's functionality. As a student, how better to make the most of a new tool, or convince a loved one of the value of such a present in your college career, than by outlining the many helpful apps available to strengthen your educational experience.

The various iPhones and iPads are designed to only use apps made for and placed in the Apple App Store, while Android phones and tablets (including some Blackberry models and the new Kindle Fire) only function with apps available through the Android Market. Although some apps are strictly platform specific, many developers now create both Apple and Android versions concurrently.

Below are a handful of useful apps that can make a smartphone or tablet ideal for use at WCC:

MOBILE WCC:
This app is created specifically for smartphones and is available free for both Apple and Android systems. With content formatted for

a phone's limited screen size, it is easier to locate specific information than by using a phone's browser to access the full WCC site. It also avoids heavy image use and extraneous content that will slow browsing.

IANKI FLASHCARDS:

This free app is ideal for students who need to learn a lot of information quickly or simply prefer studying with flashcards. It's easy to create flashcard decks on the phone. Cards can be marked once memorized so that they will not appear again, but can be activated again as necessary. The app supports creating multiple decks for use with many different classes, and is available for Apple and Android Devices.

MERRIAM-WEBSTER'S COLLEGIALE DICTIONARY:

Look up lengthy and accurate definitions from this respected dictionary quickly and easily for free on Apple and Android smartphones and tablets. Additional features include access to synonyms, antonyms and example sentences.

You will always have the right word when needed to finish that paper, homework assignment or just to improve your vocabulary and spelling.

BLACKBOARD MOBILE LEARN:

Available for both Android and Apple devices, it allows students to access their Blackboard account in a way

that is formatted for smaller viewing sizes and uses the existing username and password. Blackboard Mobile Learn gives students and teachers access to their courses and content, including viewing grades, post to discussion forums or viewing attached documents in a number of different formats.

The app is enabled to work for the WCC campus version of Blackboard, but at present is only free for use on the Sprint Network.

EVERNOTE:

This versatile note taking app is perfect for capturing lectures in class. You can create written notes, take photos and link them to notes and record voice memos that enable you to go back and review parts of the lecture later. Notes are accessible from an easy-to-understand user interface and may even be synchronized to a PC for further modification. Evernote is available free of charge for Apple, Android and Windows Mobile devices.

EBOOK READER:

Download free apps for any device operating system to enable reading of Kindle, Nook, or other eBook reader content. All major readers have apps to access free or purchased book and magazine content. Whether you want to just read a novel to pass time between classes, or research something for an upcoming class, you will have access to a wealth of content at any time.



The WCC app in action on an iPhone.

CHRISTMAS CHILD FROM B1

facility for brain trauma victims in Ann Arbor, encourages its residents to pack shoe boxes as a yearly project. Area scout leaders bring boxes put together by Girl Scouts earning community service patches. Members of several area churches bring boxes as well as individuals learning of the project online.

The Whaley Center, a home for abused children in Flint, encourages juveniles who are accustomed to being cared for as wards of the state to participate in creating shoeboxes for those less fortunate than themselves.

"They put together 114 boxes in one day for the first time, knowing that they too can make a contribution to society," Aheimer said. "Showing love outside of themselves is amazing, and to be a part of that is very special. God is opening the doors. The eyes should be on him and we are just planting

seeds through a shoebox."

Aheimer said that the recipients of the shoeboxes are typically youngsters 2-14 years old. Donations are purely need-based, with no family discriminations. The needs change each year, and locations are determined by Franklin Graham and his national team as it travels worldwide assessing the need.

"Samaritan's Purse is often the first Christian relief organization on the ground in any national disaster supplying medical supplies, shelter, and food," Aheimer said.

Countries receiving boxes over the last few years have been Japan, Haiti, Sudan, Iraq and Uganda.

Of the 8.1 million boxes, 5.5 million came from the United States; all 50 states and Puerto Rico participated in the effort. The remaining 2.6 million boxes were supplied by Austria, Australia, Canada, Finland, Germany, Ireland, New Zealand, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

How you can help

The national collection week is usually the third week in November and concluded Monday, Nov. 21. If you are still interested in sending a box, go online and build a virtual box for \$35. Thanks to the website, you can pick the items to go in your box as well as cover the transportation costs.

Simply visit <http://samaritanspurse.org> to send a box this year before Dec. 15.

Persons or groups interested in being a relay location should contact Aheimer by email at aheimer@wowway.com.

THE UNIVERSITY OF FINDLAY

Be REWARDED

It's easy to transfer to Findlay!

- Choose from nearly 60 bachelor's degrees, eight master's degrees, a doctor of pharmacy and a doctor of physical therapy.
- Receive up to \$14,500 in merit scholarships.
- No out-of-state tuition.

WWW.FINDLAY.EDU, KEYWORD: TRANSFER

BELL RINGING FROM FRONT PAGE

Ting-a-ling! Ting-a-ling! I still think I need a bigger bell.

A gentleman comes out to endow my bucket and to chat. He tells me that he used to "ring the bells" sometimes, but doesn't have much time for it anymore. We chat for a couple minutes and then he leaves. By now it's four o'clock, and it's getting cold.

I listen to some passers-by muttering about how they hate shopping during the holidays and being pan-handled by the Salvation Army.

Still, I am ringing my tiny bell with enthusiasm as I am going through a gamut of emotions: sadness, fulfillment, delight, bewilderment, curiosity—and a little annoyance.

As people keep passing me, I am watching them and smiling through teary eyes as I think of all the people who will be helped by what I am doing and how amazing it feels to give. I am also deeply saddened by what appears to be repugnance at my willingness to do so.

Suddenly, I was reminded of something. I had spoken with another bell ringer earlier, Amanda Gale, 41, a resident of Canton.

"I think of it this way," she said. "If I'm not collecting from them, maybe I'm collecting for

them."

It made me feel better.

My thoughts are put on hold when a woman stops and says to me, "I have a sister who is an alcoholic, and I could never just throw her out on the street." She drops a few dollars into my bucket. "This is for the ones that they throw out on the street."

Again, I have a renewed energy to cheerfully ring my tiny bell. It's five o'clock, getting colder and it's starting to rain.

Ting-a-ling! Ting-a-ling! I really need a bigger bell.

I start to wonder if that is what real "rose-colored glasses" would be like. Suddenly, a man comes up to me and tells me that he remembers how his mother struggled to support six children, and thanked me for standing out in the cold and rain to remind him of where he came from.

I want to cry, but I don't. Instead, I smile and wish him a "Merry Christmas" as he walks away.

It's seven o'clock, time to go home. I stop ringing my tiny bell and when it is quiet, I find myself smiling as I realize that my bell isn't so tiny after all.

For more information, or to volunteer to ring the Salvation Army bells visit: <http://registeritoring.com>

Meat on holiday

For vegans/vegetarians, meals for the holiday can be confusing — where to go, what to do to enjoy the holidays

ANNA FUQUA-SMITH
Staff Writer

For novice vegans or vegetarians, the holidays can be quite confusing and create a lot of pressure. From being a beginner in the kitchen to telling your family about your new diet, vegans and vegetarians may struggle to satisfy their holiday appetites.

For newly transitioning vegans and vegetarians living in and around the Ann Arbor area, help is just a mouse-click away.

VegAnnArbor, an online meeting place for vegan and vegetarians with more than 400 members, was created in 2008 to help with sharing recipes and experiences.

Organizer of VegAnnArbor, Nicole Leffler, 30, of Ann Arbor, says the best strategy when attending holiday parties this year is to be prepared.

"It saves you a lot of disappointment if you bring your own dish to pass," she said.

By bringing cooked vegan food to your holiday dinners, Daniel Earle, 43, of Dexter, believes you can avoid the worst part of being a vegan at Christmas dinner.

"Someone slaves over something especially for you during

the holidays and one ingredient turns out to be not vegan," he said. "You're caught where you want to be gracious, but you have to turn it down."

Temptation can occur at the dinner table to deviate from one's belief system. Earle says it depends on personal values.

"If you're a vegan for ethical reasons, it won't cave in my belief system," he said. "If it's for health reasons, you may be tempted to have a piece of cheesecake just that one time."

Accounting major Kristy Lawless, 24, of Ypsilanti, finds it easy to stick to her beliefs in the local market. Lawless would rather cook her own meal because it keeps the family tradition alive.

"It's much easier around here being that I'm from Flint," she said. "You can get a Tofurkey at the Ypsilanti Co-Op, the Ann Arbor Co-Op or Whole Foods."

For the traditional celebration, the Washtenaw Voice has compiled some places to pre-order meals and some traditional recipes to get out of the kitchen quickly for your special day.

Josh Chamberlain contributed to this report.

Places to go for pre-ordered meals:

WHOLE FOODS:
3135 Washtenaw Avenue, (734) 975-4500 and 990 West Eisenhower Parkway, (734) 997-7500

Closed on Christmas
To see complete menu, visit: <http://wholefoods-market.com/stores/MW/downloads/MW-holiday.pdf>

Pre-ordering must be done 48 hours in advance at either location or online at: <http://wholefoodsmarket.com/>

ARBOR MARKET:
2103 West Stadium (734) 996-8111
Closed on Christmas

To view complete menu, visit: <http://arborfarms.com/>
Arbor Farms will take order 48 hours in advance either at the store or by phone.

Vegan Green Bean Casserole

Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 pounds fresh green beans, trimmed and cut into 1-inch pieces
- 1 Tbsp olive oil
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 cups chopped fresh mushrooms
- 1 tps dried savory
- 1/2 tps dried thyme
- 1/4 cup flour
- 1 cup vegetable broth
- 1 Tbsp soy sauce
- 1 1/2 cups unsweetened soy milk
- 1/4 cup nutritional yeast (optional)
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 1 (3-ounce) can of French fried onions

Directions: Cook the green beans in a pot of boiling salted water until tender. Drain well and set aside. Preheat the oven to 375 F. Heat the oil in a large skillet over medium heat.

Add the onion and garlic, cover, and cook until softened. Stir in the mushrooms, savory, and thyme, and cook until the mushrooms are soft. Combine the vegetable broth and soy sauce in a small bowl. Whisk in the flour until smooth and add it to the mushroom mixture. Simmer and continue stirring until the liquid thickens.

Stir in the Soymilk and nutritional yeast (if you decide to use it) and simmer until thick, about 7 minutes. Season to taste with salt and pepper and add the reserved green beans, stirring to coat. Transfer the green bean mixture into an oiled casserole dish.

Cover and bake for 25 minutes, then uncover and top with the French fried onions. Bake uncovered until browned and bubbly, about 10 minutes longer.

Washtenaw's new Video Club to host movie showcase night

ANNE DUFFY
Staff Writer

The newly formed Washtenaw Community College Video Club is planning a free display of its members' work on Dec. 8 at 6:30 p.m. in the Liberal Arts and Science Building, room 275.

All are invited.

"This is about the students and the club showcasing their work and talent," said Eddie Fritz, 28, from Ann Arbor who is studying film at Eastern Michigan University and is one of the video production lab managers at WCC. "It's movie night."

Moderator for the club,

Marc Stephens, a digital video production major, encourages students and alumni to join the video production club. The club meets every third Thursday of the month and also has a WCC Video Production Club Facebook page where students can exchange advice and ideas.

"I think it's a great opportunity to get together with others of a like mind and learn something new and collaborate," said Jennifer Lumpford, 32, a digital video production student from Saline.

The club started late last summer and allows students to meet and pitch projects with one another and seek advice. Star-Burton West, a digital

video production student from Ann Arbor said so far the club has hosted several mini-workshops on topics such as directing, acting and how to create freelance careers.

"As time goes on, we plan to have many more classes and professional speakers in the field come to present at the meetings," Burton-West said.

"I laugh every time I attend the video group. I always learn something and sometimes there are snacks," said Russell Smith, 25, digital video production major from Belleville.

Smith loves to write movie scripts.

Next club meeting is Dec. 15 at 7 p.m. in TI 223.



JENNIFER LUMPFORD COURTESY PHOTO

Left to right: Star Burton-West, Chris Ozminski, Hafsa Mijinyawa, Julesia Chrishon, Dan Bifano, and Barb Morrissey attend a Video Club meeting.

Relearning winter driving – every year

TUCKER BIALLAS
Contributor

When average drivers finds themselves becoming nicely acquainted with a roadside ditch, it's safe to say they either got really unlucky, or they forgot how to drive with pretty white flakes on the ground.

It happens every year.

"Unfortunately, the general population doesn't drive well in ideal conditions," said Don Sherman, 66, the technical director at Car and Driver Magazine. "Put some stress on them, and it's even worse."

Megan Devries, 21, an automotive student at Washtenaw Community School, speculates that drivers simply get out of the habit of driving safely in inclement weather.

"People forget how to drive in the snow," she said, "because in the summer they drive fast and don't remember to slow down."

But being ready for winter can be simple.

"It's a combination of preparation and experience,"

Sherman said.

He knows his way around cars and driving, and here are his helpful pointers to keep you safe on Michigan's winter roadways:

1. Be prepared! The car and the driver must be prepared for the worst winter has to offer.

2. Get good tires. This is the most important part. Spend the extra money to get a set of four snow tires. Get rid of those old bald ones.

3. Gather a few survival items. Have an ice scraper, jumper cables, a means of getting or being towed (such as a tow strap or chain) and something warm like a blanket, just to name a few essential items.

4. Understand the capabilities of your vehicle. "Most people don't use the majority of their car's capabilities," Sherman said. "Getting a feel for it helps people be prepared. People don't know how to drive to their car's full capabilities."

He suggests practicing in empty parking spots, or wide open streets. Get a feel for your car's

ABS (anti-lock brake system) when it kicks on during hard braking, or what it's like to lose control of your vehicle. This will prepare you for when it happens on the mean streets. You don't want your car to surprise you.

5. Be ready for other people's incompetence. Not everyone is as gifted as you are behind the wheel. Give them space on the road.

6. Leave earlier than normal. Common sense, but some people forget to allow extra time for driving slower in bad conditions.

7. Car Maintenance. Top off washer fluid, replace old and dried out wipers and check your tire pressure.

This list is only intended as a reminder. Devries says Michigan drivers should try and recall treacherous experiences from previous years.

"Drivers should only be given like two weeks after the snow falls to adapt to new driving conditions," she said. "After that, people are just dumb."

deal with; they're not just some word that flashes across the bottom of your T.V."

The realities of war, the difficulties it creates for the individual after serving, were the main motivations that lead Nelson to start the corps.

Aside from creating a group that student veterans can turn to for support, Nelson has also worked with Brittany Powers of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to create a presence for her organization on campus. Spending time on campus to consult students in acquiring benefits from the V.A., Powers hopes to help student veterans through the tedious process.

"The V.A. is kind of confusing," Powers said. "I hope to be a liaison to veterans' health administration. I believe very much in the V.A.'s ability to break down barriers to accessing care."

Although Powers understands the importance of assistance for student veterans, she looks to strong convictions of the group members as instrumental in its formation.

"Things all have to come together," Powers said. "Right now we have a great group of

students that are interested in getting together. It's lucky that we all came together at the same time."

Powers has observed a recent influx in student veterans, following the recent change of tide for the war in the Middle East.

"With the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, they say they're withdrawing," Powers said. "There has been an increase in students returning."

Working with the Veteran's Health Administration, Powers has also recently begun work on the Veterans Integrated Academic Leadership, or V.I.T.A.L. program over the last 1-2 months. Having met with WCC President Rose Bellanca, Powers is convinced of WCC's bright future with student veterans.

"She was unbelievably nice (President Bellanca). The most approachable and kind type of person," Powers said. "And Robert is doing a great job leading the charge. This is the beginning of great things at WCC."

Despite her efforts, Powers believes the corps to be essential to student veteran success at WCC.

"The club is absolutely the most important thing," Powers

Student activities makes going out affordable – but only if students suggest where they would like to go

NATHAN CLARK
Staff Writer

for \$56 and then discount again for the students, selling them for \$28."

Barsch has been able to acquire and sell tickets to students at a discounted rate for events such as two University of Michigan home games, the musical "Wicked" and the recent Russell Brand performance at Eastern Michigan University, all of which were sold out.

The staff at SDA works hard to find events that students would like to go to at a price they can afford. What the staff would really like is suggestions and feedback from students. We are here for them."

"Someone recently suggested Blue Man Group, who is coming to Detroit in May," said Barsch. "I might have bought tickets to that event without the suggestion, but then again, maybe I wouldn't have. So suggestions are very helpful in deciding what events students would like to go to."

SDA makes deals with local entertainment businesses to give students a fun night out for a low price. Recently, SDA offered a night of laser tag and pizza at the local Zap Zone in Ypsilanti, an event that would cost \$70, I am able to purchase

only \$5. The tickets quickly vanished from the cashier's office. Students had a great time.

"You get more for your money," said Haylie Armbruster, a 20-year-old English major from Milan. "My friends and I were online checking to see when the Thanksgiving break was when we saw what Student Activities was doing. It was only \$5. It sounded like fun and it was great."

Barsch says she's constantly searching the Internet for events students would like to go to, but she could really use some help.

"Suggestions are great, we need more suggestions," she said. "Aside from the Blue Man group suggestion, I don't have any firm commitments yet for spring. So if anyone hears about an event going on in the near future, please let us know about it."

To suggest events or activities you would like to see offered, please visit the Student Development and Activities Office, located in SC112 on the first floor of the Student Center, or email Rachel Barsch at rbarsch@wccnet.edu.



Top, four WCC students at Zap Zone before the action. Bottom, two students play shooters in the arcade after the game.

VETERANS FROM B3

connotations that his choice to serve in the military may hold for some civilians. The club president hopes that the corps can begin to dispel stereotypes attached to student veterans.

"I wanted to create this to end that stigma, or at least slow it down," Nelson said. "Also to create support for vet-students. Something to give the guys that are coming in. I've been there. You don't know where to go or what to do. You're lost. We're trying to be purpose driven animals. We want to show people their potential."

The Vice President of the corps, Mathew Keller, a former army specialist, also admits to questioning the reasons for his own military presence in the past. The criminal justice major had his perspective altered when working in a military prison, housing convicted terrorists.

"It was like every day, face to face, 'I'll kill you and your whole family,' and I'm like: 'Dude! I don't even know you!'" Keller said. "Once you see how savagely terrorists are, it was like 'these people need to be

dealt with,' they're not just some word that flashes across the bottom of your T.V."

The realities of war, the difficulties it creates for the individual after serving, were the main motivations that lead Nelson to start the corps.

Aside from creating a group that student veterans can turn to for support, Nelson has also worked with Brittany Powers of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to create a presence for her organization on campus. Spending time on campus to consult students in acquiring benefits from the V.A., Powers hopes to help student veterans through the tedious process.

"The V.A. is kind of confusing," Powers said. "I hope to be a liaison to veterans' health administration. I believe very much in the V.A.'s ability to break down barriers to accessing care."

Although Powers understands the importance of assistance for student veterans, she looks to strong convictions of the group members as instrumental in its formation.

"Things all have to come together," Powers said. "Right now we have a great group of

students that are interested in getting together. It's lucky that we all came together at the same time."

Powers has observed a recent influx in student veterans, following the recent change of tide for the war in the Middle East.

"With the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, they say they're withdrawing," Powers said. "There has been an increase in students returning."

Working with the Veteran's Health Administration, Powers has also recently begun work on the Veterans Integrated Academic Leadership, or V.I.T.A.L. program over the last 1-2 months. Having met with WCC President Rose Bellanca, Powers is convinced of WCC's bright future with student veterans.

"She was unbelievably nice (President Bellanca). The most approachable and kind type of person," Powers said. "And Robert is doing a great job leading the charge. This is the beginning of great things at WCC."

Despite her efforts, Powers believes the corps to be essential to student veteran success at WCC.

"The club is absolutely the most important thing," Powers



A sketch of the crest of the Corps of Student Veterans, by Matthew Keller.

Fans rejoice: U-M over 'Ohio'

But with Meyer joining the Buckeyes, will it last?

Photos and words by
MATT DURR
Editor

With a 40-34 victory over the hated Ohio State Buckeyes, first year head coach Brady Hoke has revitalized the University of Michigan football program. Now that OSU has completed its worst season in recent memory, it has gone in search of its own knight in shining armor: Urban Meyer.

Prior to the U-M/OSU game on Saturday, Nov. 26, fans of the Buckeyes were excited at the possible hiring of Meyer, who wasn't officially named head coach until Nov. 28, and what it could mean for their team.

"I think he'll be a good fit," said Jerry Zimmerman, a 54-year-old OSU fan from Ft. Jennings, Ohio. "I want something different. I'm looking for something new."

Zimmerman felt that former coach Luke Fickell, who abruptly took over at the beginning of the season when Jim Tressel resigned, was a big enough supporter of the program to step aside for Meyer. Eventually that is what happened.

Mark Mandula is a Buckeyes fan from St. Petersburg, Fla., who watched Meyer as coach of the University of Florida, where he won two national championships. Mandula, 54, said that Meyer is the real deal, and OSU will be pleased with him. He also knows there will be a lot of pressure on him to win.

"The challenge is that expectations will be so high that anything less than a national championship will not be accepted," Mandula said.

U-M fans looked at the hiring as a good thing that will

only make the rivalry even stronger.

"When Michigan and Ohio State are at their best, that's where we want it to be," said Jim Boggio, 34, of Macomb Township.

Some looked at it a bit differently.

"I think it's good for them," said Alex Ramos, 31, from Canton. "They won't have an excuse when we beat them in the future."

Ramos was just one of the hundreds of thousands of fans who were relieved to finally see their team beat OSU. After the game, fans expressed their joy and frustration with getting a win over OSU.

"It's been painful, tedious, agonizing. It's been rough," said A.J. Liberacki, a 26-year-old U-M fan from Dearborn. "Brady Hoke has changed the culture back to what it was."

Matthew McCormick, 29, from Woodhaven, looked at the win as a sign that the Wolverines had restored their elite status. He was beyond thrilled with the game.

"Seeing the fans crash the field, you can't put that into words," McCormick said.

Now U-M and its fans will wait and see which bowl game they will play in come January. Many feel that the Wolverines deserve a berth in a Bowl Championship Series game. The BCS games are the most elite bowl games played each year.

"I think they deserve it," McCormick said. "We've won a lot of big games this year."

While the Big Ten was not as strong this year as it was in the past, fans think that U-M's record speaks for itself.

"We shouldn't have to apologize for being 10-2," Liberacki said.



Top, Brady Hoke embraces U-M defensive coordinator Greg Mattison on the field. Hoke called the OSU game the most important game on the schedule. Bottom, the sign at Michigan Stadium displayed the 'Days since Michigan's last victory' over "Ohio" as zero for the first time in seven years.

Now that OSU streak has ended, pressure is really on Brady Hoke



MATT DURR
Editor

and return to the 5-7 or 7-5 records that have haunted them in the past, future recruiting will take a major hit.

Boosters and fans were willing to give Hoke and his staff time to rebuild the program. Unfortunately for the coaches, by winning so early, fans will not be as accepting of anything less than a 10-win season – and beating their rivals each year.

That's not to say that U-M can't go out next year and do it all over again. With offensive and defensive coordinators Al Borges and Greg Mattison masterminding the schemes, the Wolverines have some of the best coaching in the country.

Denard Robinson will return as a senior and a majority of the defense will return. U-M plays three tough games on the road against Nebraska, Ohio State and the opener against Alabama, but aside from the 'Bama game, the others are winnable.

But with OSU hiring Urban Meyer and Michigan State's rise to the top of the Big Ten Conference, the Wolverines' two biggest rivals still stand in their way each season as they try to win conference titles and maybe even a national championship.

Hoke has a lot of momentum on his side right now, and by getting off to such a good start he has bought himself some more time to reload the roster. But Hoke wasn't brought back to Ann Arbor just to reload, he was brought back to reassert the Wolverines at the top of the Big Ten.

And that means never again going seven years between victories over "Ohio."

Men's volleyball team headed for playoffs

ANNA FUQUA-SMITH
Staff Writer

It's do-or-die time for Washtenaw Community College's men's volleyball team.

Holding the third-place position in the league with a 17-13 record, the Warriors face off with the second-place team, Net Set (17-10), on Dec. 8 in the first round of playoff games being held through the Ann Arbor Rec. and Ed.

The Warriors are the only volleyball team vying for a championship with almost no experience.

Physical therapy major and captain of the team, Jon Denys, 21, of New Hudson, describes the situation as ironic.

"In the beginning, I thought our team was decent, but a lot of the players have made large strides towards becoming team players," he said. "Everyone being dedicated has really helped us get to this and it helps that everyone has natural athletic talent."

After playing on last year's team, Denys attributes such early success to the accommodations of Club

Sports.

"We're trying to run plays. It's not just show up and drop-in," he said. "We actually have a coach here every day mentoring us, and everyone's a student."

While the team's coach, Doug Tan, 31, of Belleville, has defeated Net Set before, he says his team will play just as hard in their match-up this week.

"I already knew the team was going to go pretty far to the play-offs, because of their potential, even though none of them had played organized volleyball before," he said.

Not only have the Warriors never played organized volleyball, Tan has never coached a team before.

"For a coach that's never coached before, he really sets the standard high for us to win every game," Denys said. "Coaching during games, that's a huge difference from last year. We have a coach calling time-outs and forcing us to gather our thoughts."

Earlier in the season, the Warriors suffered the loss of their best player due to a knee injury. Aerospace engineering major Michael Willette, 19, of Ypsilanti, believes the injury hurt

the team but gave a chance for others to strengthen their skills.

"It gave everyone else a chance to play and learn his position," he said. "But we definitely could have used him."

Denys believes the injury was just one obstacle to overcome, but the circumstance gave physical therapy major Doug Hatfield a chance to learn to play setter.

Club Sport Coordinator Erica Lemm thinks that the playoff games really show the character of the coach and players.

"I was impressed within the first three weeks of their season," she said. "They knew positioning and they played together well when only one of them knew organized volleyball."

While this is the first step in the right direction for the newly reorganized Club Sports to prove its viability, Lemm hopes it can inspire other teams to overcome their obstacles.

"This is huge for Club Sports, but even bigger for this team, and I hope other teams can learn from this success story," Lemm said. "I am truly so proud of them."



BENJAMIN LOPEZ THE WASHTENAW VOICE
Doug Hatfield, 18, of Pinckney, a physical therapy major, spikes the ball.

CLUB SPORTS CALENDAR

INTRAMURAL

Tryouts: registration conducted in SC 118

Men's Volleyball
WHEN: Dec. 13 and Dec. 15 from 9:30-11 p.m.
WHERE: Health and Fitness Center

Women's Volleyball
WHEN: Dec. 13 and Dec. 15 from 9:30-11 p.m.
WHERE: Health and Fitness Center

DROP-IN

Ping Pong
WHEN: Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
WHERE: Student Center main floor

Holiday Made Beautiful.
Gifting Made Easy.

Douglas J.

Aveda Gift Sets · Gift Cards · Spa Packages
hair · nails · spa · gift cards

Ann Arbor · Royal Oak · East Lansing · Grand Rapids · Chicago

save time and order online douglasJ.com | Reservations 877.334.8657



Scorsese has found his purpose in 3D



AMAZON.COM COURTESY PHOTO

ADRIAN HEDDEN
Features Editor

Everything has its purpose. Clocks keep track of time and trains take people where they need to go. Such is the glory of machines. Yet when machines no longer serve their intended tasks they are considered, sadly, to be broken.

The tragic beauty of automation serves as the driving metaphor in "Hugo," Martin Scorsese's latest 3-D masterpiece following a youthful quest for identity and the inspiration

it unlocks along the way.

Beneath the surface, in the walls of a 1930s Parisian train station, Hugo, played by Asa Butterfield, the son of a recently deceased clock worker, is left all on his own. This tale, following the orphan's struggle for purpose while manning the clocks and avoiding a bitter, gimp security guard remains emotional and exciting throughout.

The movie journeys deep into Hugo's world of giant, whirling gears and other colossal, mechanized and internal



RUN TIME 127 MINUTES
RATING PG
RAVE \$7.50
QUALITY 16 \$7

but memorable moment in the careers of both Ben Kingsley as a crusty, yet emotional shopkeeper, and Sacha Baron Cohen playing the villainous security officer.

With plenty of comic relief from child actors and the staunchly humorous Baron Cohen, "Hugo" provides a wondrous voyage into human passion and nostalgic, gear-driven mechanics. New technology was taken to its fullest potential in crafting a wholesome, yet heartfelt tribute to the inspiration of man.

'Breaking Dawn' misses the beat as usual

! SPOILERS INSIDE !


ALLMOVIEPHOTO.COM COURTESY PHOTO

Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson star in 'Breaking Dawn.'

ANNA FUQUA-SMITH
Staff Writer

Of course "Breaking Dawn" picks up where the "Twilight" series left off in last year's "Eclipse." The film starts off with the wedding of the century.

Starry-eyed Bella Swan (Kristen Stewart) was dressed perfectly just like sister-in-law, Alice (Ashley Greene) intended. Edward Cullen (Robert Pattinson), looked dashing as usual as the groom.

The honeymoon, set in Brazil, is nothing short of amazing for the pre-teen viewer following the series. The initial sex scene, however, is not only unrealistic, but wholly untrue to the book.

Waking up to a torn-to-shred bedroom with bruises all over her, Bella is more than happy with the results that left her lover feeling guilty. But where was all of this action in the movie? Maybe it was to keep the PG-13 rating. Sure. But the book illustrates the sex in a way that

allows for your imagination to get there – and the film just doesn't do it.

Bella is still only 18 years old, but has changed so much in look and style. She has grown into a real woman, leaving viewers wondering what happened to the awkward little girl in the original "Twilight."

Not that the unrealistic feel to the movie will deter diehard fans one bit. Readers may complain that some pivotal scenes are missing a couple of important

RUN TIME 117 MINUTES
RATING PG-13
RAVE \$7.50
QUALITY 16 \$7

aspects of Bella's perspective through a woeful lack of detail.

This comes as a surprise to the reader because Stephenie Meyer, the author of the books, doubles as the producer of this flick. Also, there's not a hint of the war to come in the next installment, which may have given this first half more action.

For the Twilight haters, "Breaking Dawn" is one more step to the end, which may come as a relief. For the obsessed fan, however, this film will deliver.

'Margin Call' has stock market ups, downs

! SPOILERS INSIDE !


ALLMOVIEPHOTO.COM COURTESY PHOTO

[GUY IN THIS PHOTO] stars in 'Margin Call.'

JARED ANGLE
Photo Editor

In 2008, the stressors of financial speculation and risky stock trades force an investment firm, inspired by the failed Lehman Brothers, to conduct massive layoffs in their risky analysis division. At the center of the drama, Zachary Quinto, who played Spock in 2009's "Star Trek," performs as analyst Peter Sullivan. Sullivan is trying to keep calm as hundreds of his coworkers pack up their personal belongings and are escorted from the office by security.

At the end of his workday, Sullivan's boss, Eric Dale,

played by Stanley Tucci from "The Lovely Bones," finds himself among the 80 percent of workers who are being laid off. As Dale is leaving work for the last time, he encounters Sullivan, gives him a flash drive containing financial data that still needs to be analyzed and utters the words, "be careful."

Haunted by Dale's odd behavior, Sullivan decides to stay late in the office and look at the contents of the flash drive. After hours of work, Sullivan discovers that the financial figures on the flash drive suggest that the company has exceeded acceptable investment risk levels for mortgage-backed securities (MBS) assets, and faces the prospect of losing tens of

millions of dollars.

Sullivan immediately contacts his superiors, Will Emerson (Paul Bettany) and Sam Rogers (Kevin Spacey), who in turn summon the top management of the company, played by Demi Moore, Simon Baker, and Jeremy Irons. After meeting with the firm's board of directors, Rogers directs the trading staff to sell all of the firm's MBS assets to unwitting buyers, in return for seven-figure bonuses. Throughout the day, the buyers grow suspicious after they discover that the assets are worthless, and that the firm is bailing itself out at the expense of the rest of the Wall Street financial market.

The fictional firm in "Margin

RUN TIME 107 MINUTES
RATING R
RAVE \$7.50
QUALITY 16 \$7

"Call" stands in as the first domino to fall in a series of failed corporations, kicking off the 2008 financial crisis. Offering a unique look behind the closed doors of the financial elite, the movie allows viewers to follow the nail-biting turbulence of the corporate investment environment.

"Margin Call's" strong cinematography and striking special effects lend an element of grandeur to the film, while the performances of Quinto, Moore and Irons are sure to enthrall drama junkies, despite being punctuated by weaker scenes that conflict with the film's shining moments, mimicking the real-life rise and fall of the stock market.

'Ceremonials' – like no other this year


ANNA FUQUA-SMITH
Staff Writer

Simply put, Florence is a machine in "Ceremonials." Two years ago, when Florence Welch burst onto the music scene, it was crystal clear that she was someone to take seriously: a vocalist with the extra strength to charge through love songs.

With that said, "Shake it Out" will be the "Dog Days are Over" of this album. Welch navigates through "Shake it Out" with a dark, robust edge by using a maze of old stories and an

explosive chorus. By adding her own dark twist by touting, "I am done with my graceless heart/ So tonight I'm gonna cut it out and then restart/ Cause I like to keep my issues strong/ It's always darkest before the dawn," Welch is able to relate this song to the heartbroken and the spiritually rebirthed.

Take notice of her hooting and roaring through tracks like "Only If for a Night," a folk-story somewhere between classic soul and funk designed to make you think as well as feel.

Musically, "Ceremonials" isn't as assorted as "Lungs," but it makes up for it with an immaculate flow. "Breaking Down" delivers an up-beat tempo with a classic strong violin, but the lyrics are literally lonely. A feeling we've all felt before. Welch strongly cries, "All along, even when I was a child, I've always known, there was something to be frightened of," moving in and out of major and minor chords to beautifully bring her lyrics to life.

"Lungs" was the perfect debut album for Florence and the

ARTIST FLORENCE WELCH
ALBUM CEREMONIALS
LABEL ISLAND RECORDS

Machine, but "Ceremonials" takes it up another notch through strong singles and musical flow. It can be listened to as singles or experienced from start to finish. "Ceremonials" has a heartbeat that no other album of 2011 has. "Ceremonials" kicks acts like Coldplay and Adele off the main stage like no other in this riveting personal album.

Welch has matured on this sophomore album. She's outdone herself this time around, and it's truly something worth embracing.

'The Legend of Zelda' takes flight

ADRIAN HEDDEN
Features Editor

Hacking and slashing his way through forests, deserts and dangerous, active volcanoes, Link, the "Hero of Time" and of Nintendo's most renowned video game franchise, "The Legend of Zelda," has always had his work cut out for him.

Sure, he always defeats whatever evil foe threatens the peaceful kingdom of Hyrule, but the pressure of starring in one of the biggest video games ever brings a demanding, purist fan base to poor Link. Zelda fans often resist reform.

After the classic, ground-

breaking and eponymous first release in the series came out in 1986 and was hailed by fans worldwide, the follow-up: "Link's Adventure" was met with poor reviews.

The second game in the series, released in 1987, featured side-scrolling gameplay and cheesy animation that greatly varied from the classic, top-down, RPG-style of game-play that fans cherished in the first release. Gamers were angered, and Nintendo has been wary of altering the formula of its most cherished series ever since.

The eighth home console release in "The Legend of Zelda" series: "The Skyward Sword," marks a well-needed change of

form, thanks to new technology afforded by the Wii: Link can fly.

Requiring the use of the Wii's "Motion-Plus" accessory to allow for more intricate sword play and character control, the game takes the state-of-the-art, motion-sensitive controller, and soars to all new heights of heroic action and adventure.

Taking to the skies like never before, the hero pilots his giant bird with incredible precision due to the Motion-Plus upgrade. What served as oddly-time consuming and often boring travel in past adventures is now exciting and frankly, liberating amongst the clouds.

Beautiful graphics elevate

the sense of realism and air-born splendor. While the mechanics of steering the birds is shaky at first, players will quickly catch on to the smooth handling and be consumed by the glory of the sky.

With a soothing, orchestral score behind the action and excitement, "The Skyward Sword" is an epic journey nearly as innovative as "The Legend of Zelda" has been since its genesis in the 1980s.

As you explore the vast land of Hyrule in "Skyward Sword," while searching for the princess or battling the numerous, ruthless monsters, don't forget to look up.



NINTENGEN.COM COURTESY PHOTO



ESRB RATING E - EVERYONE
DEVELOPER NINTENDO
GENRE ACTION
PLATFORMS WII
GAME + SOUNDTRACK \$49.99

A Degree That Pays Off!

► The earning power of a Lawrence Technological University degree is tops in the Detroit area

► All undergrads provided high-end personal computers with all needed software – a unique benefit valued up to \$15,000

► Growing residential and varsity sports options



Waive your application fee at www.ltu.edu/applyfree



Explore over 100 undergraduate, master's, and doctoral programs in Colleges of Architecture and Design, Arts and Sciences, Engineering, and Management.

Lawrence Tech
THEORY AND PRACTICE
1932

Leaders in the Making

Lawrence Technological University
Office of Admissions
21000 West Ten Mile Road, Southfield, MI 48075-1058
800.225.5588 | admissions@ltu.edu | www.ltu.edu

2011
AMERICA'S BEST
UNIVERSITIES
U.S. News &
World Report®

2012
BEST COLLEGES
in the Midwest
Princeton
Review

The Kettering Advantage

Scholarships up to \$15,000 • Transfer friendly

Take your education to the next level

Apply for admission today!

Generous Scholarships available

Schedule an appointment
for your personal consultation
by contacting:

Roger Smith, Associate Director of Transfer Admissions
rsmith1@kettering.edu 800-955-4464, ext. 7865

Classes start in January.

Learn more. Experience more. Achieve more. **Kettering University**

800-955-4464, ext. 7865

flint, michigan

admissions.kettering.edu/transfer

NORTHWOOD UNIVERSITY

Transfer friendly. Employer desired.



NORTHWOOD
UNIVERSITY

Apply Today!
www.northwood.edu
800.622.9000

- Future-focused business curriculum
- Courses offered evenings, weekends, online, and on campus
- Credits for work/life experience and military training
- Expert, industry-experienced faculty
- Small class sizes

BEAL PROPERTIES
CONSTRUCTION • DEVELOPMENT • MANAGEMENT

(734) 662-6133 ext. 101

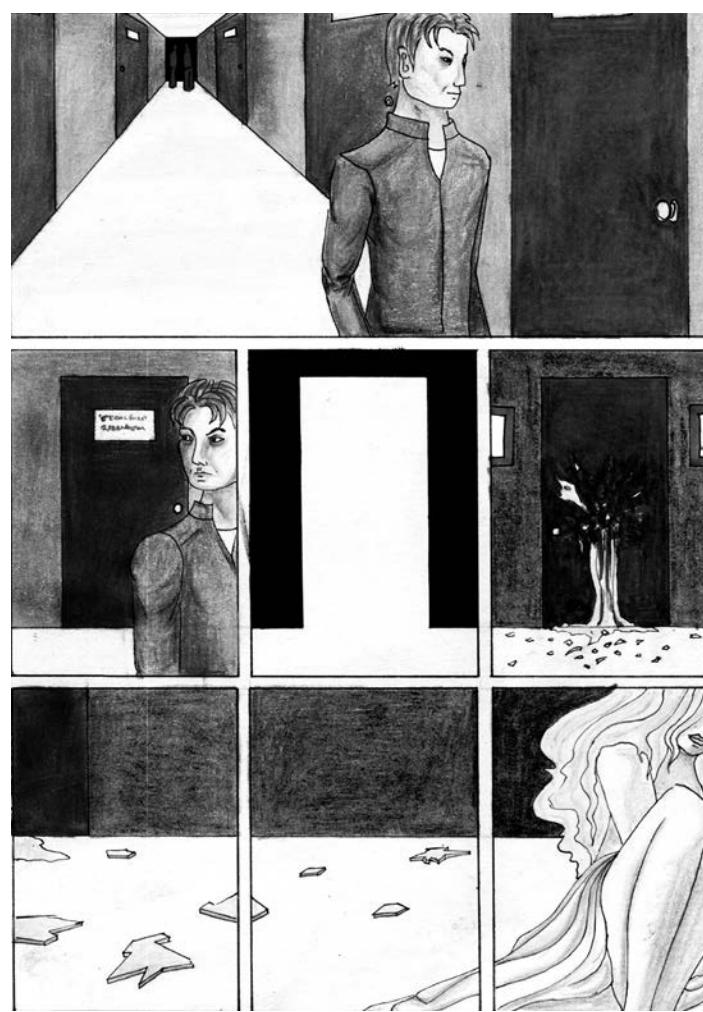
apartments@gobeal.com

www.GoBeal.com

- Short-term lease options available
- Pet-friendly
- Pre-leasing for Spring /Summer 2012
- 24-hr maintenance



STUDENT LIVING AT AN AFFORDABLE PRICE!

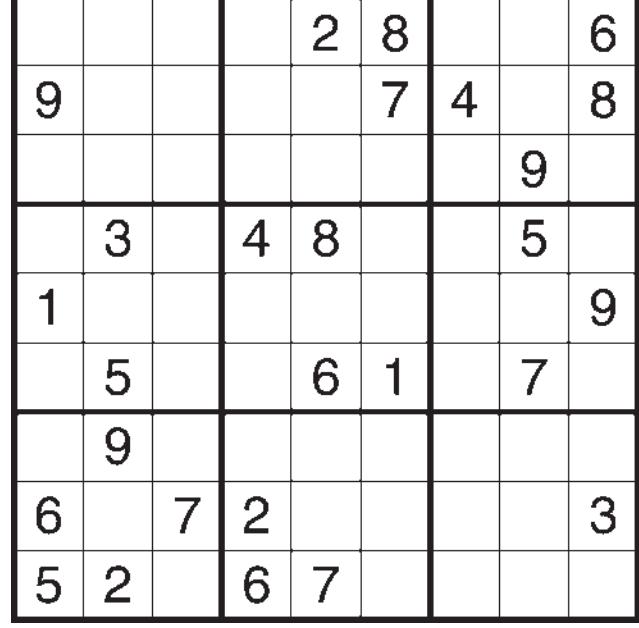


RZ When dope has been replaced by a new wonder-pill, the consequences can be deadly — and un-dead. A brand-new comic from Voice Managing Editor Ben Solis and graphic artist Frances Ross. Installments throughout the year. Read them all at washtenawvoice.com.

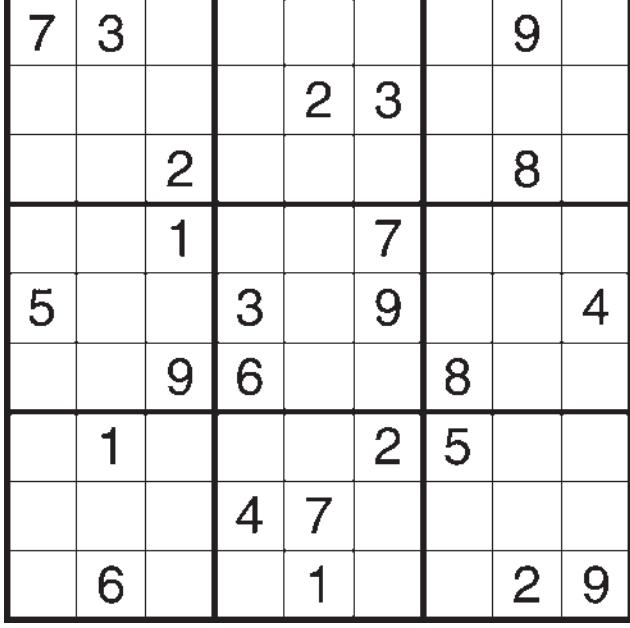
ILLUSTRATIONS BY FRANCES ROSS THE WASHTENAW VOICE
WRITTEN BY BEN SOLIS THE WASHTENAW VOICE

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group



For puzzle solutions, visit
washtenawvoice.com

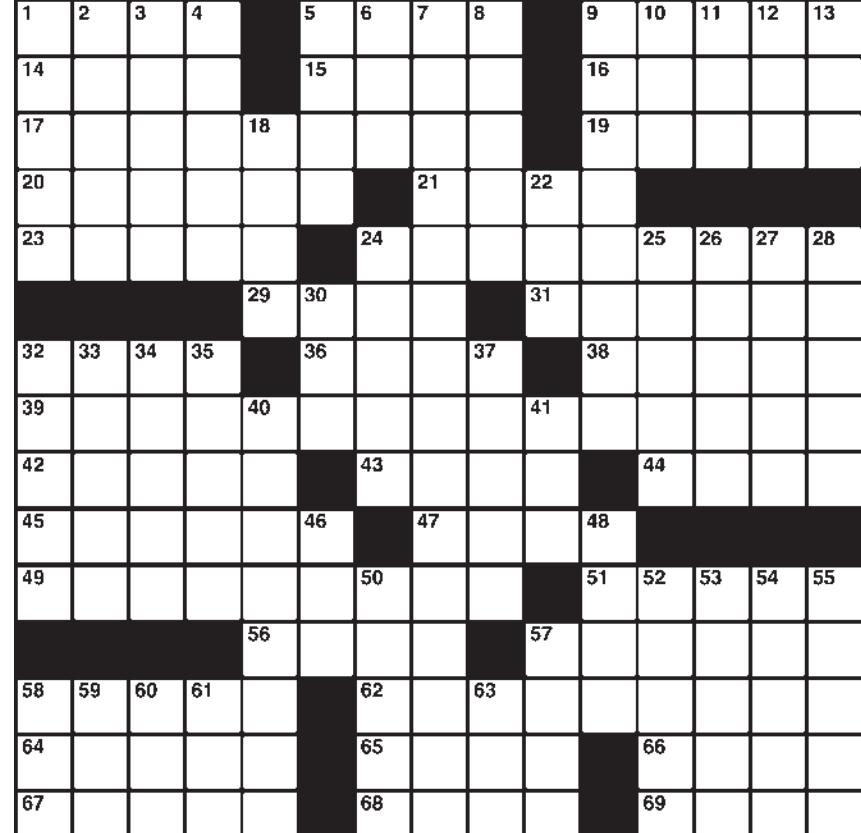


Gabby Gull



LARINUS MARINUS CONTRIBUTOR

Crossword



Classifieds

Students and WCC employees: Classified ads in *The Voice* are free.

Local business owners: Looking for help? Post your free help wanted ads in *The Voice*.

Send ads to thewashtenawvoice@gmail.com.

Deadline for the Dec. 19 issue is 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 13.

HELP WANTED

Anthony's Gourmet Pizza seeks cooks and drivers. Apply at 1508 N. Maple, Ann Arbor, or phone (734) 213-2500.

SERVICES

Radiography tutoring available. Having difficulty in the Radiography Program? As a recent WCC radiography graduate, I can help you learn exactly what you need to know to pass the quizzes, exams, and also prepare you for the A.R.R.T. Exam. For more information, call Joe at (734) 657-4596.

FOR RENT

1, 2 or 3 Bdrm apartments across from EMU campus on AATA bus lines 3 & 7 to WCC. Visit [www.aymanagement.com](http://aymanagement.com), or phone (734) 482-4442 or (734) 483-1711.

FOR SALE

2001 Red Ford Focus SE. 4 cyl. sun roof, remote start, 145000 miles. Runs well. Will need new brakes. Single owner. Few scratches, CD player, power locks. Very good on gas. \$3,200/BO in range. (586) 932-7701

Following is a sample of recent employment want ads that have been posted with WCC's Employment Services Center. For more information about these ads, contact Employment Services at (734) 677-5155, or visit SC287 to review the complete posting.

living activities. Applicant must have valid Michigan driver's license, be insurable and able to pass background checks. PT and FT in Ann Arbor.

Night Auditor (2427083) The position involves working the front desk of a hotel during the overnight period. The night auditor runs the daily financial reports on the computer, and also answers the phones and attends to guests' needs as necessary. The hours for this position are from 11 p.m.-7 a.m. Weekend and holiday availability are required. PT in Ann Arbor.

Applications Programmer (2392015) Seeking a talented programmer to join a team to write code and develop innovative applications for smart phones and iPads. Combine creative design with technical ingenuity. FT, PT and Internships in Ann Arbor.

Prep/Line Cooks (2434302) Seeking experienced team members at busy, popular restaurant. Benefits available. FT and PT in Chelsea.

Warehouse Picker/Packer (2373433) Seeking a motivated and hard working person for a warehouse position. Shift will be 6:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Must have relevant experience and knowledge. Semi-heavy lifting is required. This is a temporary opportunity with the potential to be hired permanently after 90 days. Must be able to remain on your feet for at least 10 hours and be comfortable operating a motorized pallet jack. FT position in Ann Arbor.

Inside Sales Rep (2373413) Inside sales professional to join a busy insurance agency in Ann Arbor. Qualified candidates must have at least one year successful sales production, excellent customer service skills and a strong work ethic. Candidates with a bachelor's degree and current property/casualty insurance license are preferred. Offering benefits package. FT position in Ann Arbor.

Childcare Caregiver (2427937) Infant and toddler care. M-F 2:30-6 p.m. Early Childhood major preferred. PT in Ypsilanti.

Leasing Assistant (2429705) Generate list of prospective customers by assisting in designing advertisements for periodicals, direct mailers, follow up letters, telemarketing campaigns, in-house programs. Conduct functions necessary to close the sale, including making appointments, generating new leads, conducting tours, maintaining show rooms, and any follow-up necessary. PT in Ann Arbor.

Patient Attendant (2429044) 1st, 2nd and 3rd shifts available. Must be flexible with job responsibilities, working on the line, inspection or press. This position requires standing and sitting. Leather shoes required. PT in Milan.

General Labor (2429044) 1st, 2nd and 3rd shifts available. Must be flexible with job responsibilities, working on the line, inspection or press. This position requires standing and sitting. Leather shoes required. PT in Milan.

Bank Teller (2437036) Be able to conduct a variety of customer requests and transactions: check-cashing, deposits, loan payments, withdrawals and product explanations. Tact, diplomacy and communications skills necessary. PT in Ann Arbor.

IMPORTANT CAREER TIP:

When you are seeking employment always conduct yourself in a professional manner. Change any email addresses and voice mail recordings that might startle or offend a potential employer. Always use both your first and last names in your voice mail, being polite, brief, and clear. For assistance with your job search please contact Employment Services at (734) 677-5155.

Across

- 1 Brewpub choices
- 5 Bottle tops
- 9 Newly hatched pigeon
- 14 Lower California, familiarly
- 15 Mother Goose baddie
- 16 Hearing-related
- 17 Downside of reading in poor light
- 19 Magic wand wielder
- 20 PC go-to type
- 21 Use the ballot
- 23 Miles, in Spain
- 24 Drive-thru cleanings
- 29 Checkpoint "Hold it!"
- 31 Little-known information
- 32 Prefix meaning "billion"
- 36 Harbor landing
- 38 Bridge positions
- 39 Range for indoor comfort
- 42 "Tomorrow" title singer
- 43 High spirits
- 44 1974 Sutherland/Gould spoof
- 45 "Burnt" crayon color
- 47 Egyptian cross
- 49 Staunch political group member
- 51 Montezuma subject
- 56 Admin. aide
- 57 Hawkish
- 58 Not so many
- 62 Solid baseball hit
- 64 African antelope
- 65 Muscular woe
- 66 Born and...
- 67 Prepares, as cocktails
- 68 "Little" Dickens girl
- 69 "Besides that..."

Down

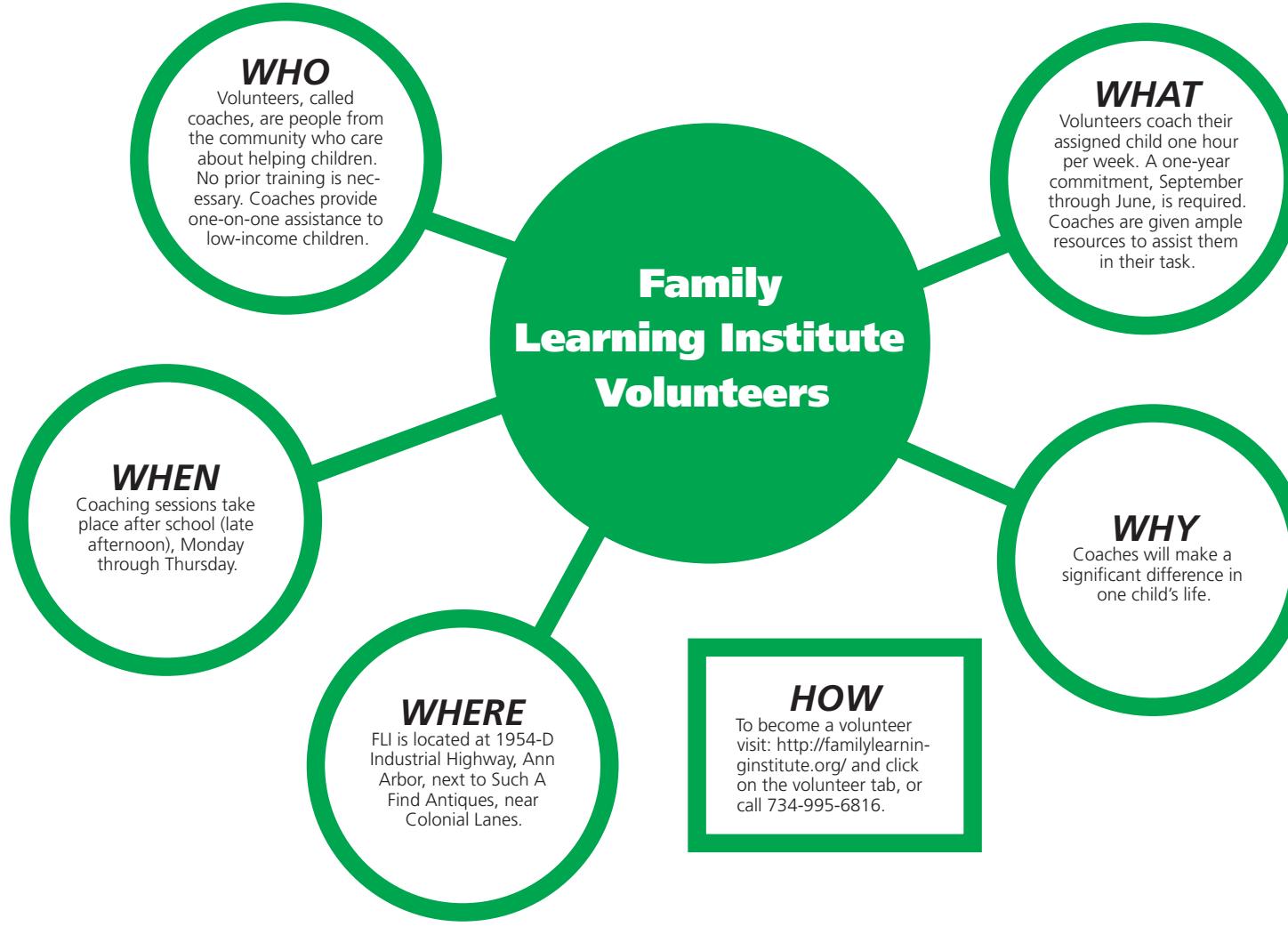
- 1 Helps illegally
- 2 Hen, vis-à-vis eggs
- 3 Kick out
- 4 Olympic skater Cohen
- 5 Apple heart
- 6 Turkish title
- 7 Doctor's self-employment, and a hint to the starts of the five longest across answers
- 8 Hombre's title
- 9 Low-crime section of town
- 10 Sine — non: essential
- 11 Ocean State sch.
- 12 River to the Rhine
- 13 Activist Nellie
- 18 Addams Family nickname
- 22 Howard Hughes's airline
- 24 Scale, as Everest
- 25 Improvises like Armstrong
- 26 Welcomes to the penthouse
- 27 Blog piece
- 28 Freelance writers' encls.
- 30 Zoo swinger
- 32 Hold tightly
- 33 Ancient Greek region that was home to Heraclitus
- 34 One with no hope
- 35 Make —: rake it in
- 37 Sign anew, as a contract
- 40 Thirty feet
- 41 Soldier of Seoul
- 46 Sighs of relief
- 48 Difficult
- 50 "The Chronicles of Narnia" lion
- 52 — the Greek
- 53 Handle, as a baton
- 54 Rain gutters run under them
- 55 System of belief
- 57 Banana covering
- 58 Like "la" in Fr. or Sp.
- 59 Quarterback Manning
- 60 Like many lifelike museum displays
- 61 Opposite of WSW
- 63 Buffalo Sabres' org.

GIVING BACK

by volunteering
for education

Words and photos by
BOB CONRADI
Staff Writer

One way to give back to the local community is through volunteering to educate our youth. In particular, teaching low-income and at-risk youth can make a lasting difference both in the life of an individual and the community at large. Several area volunteer agencies specialize in education. Here is a sampling of a few who could use more volunteers.



Family Learning Institute — Reading and Math Education

Each spring for the last five years, WCC has hosted a spelling bee called "Bee on Board for Literacy." This fundraiser brings in up to \$35,000 for the Family Learning Institute or FLI.

FLI helps children of poverty find a way to succeed in school. The organization, started by retired teacher, Doris Sperling, served the first few students in 2000 and has grown since. Currently, FLI is providing reading help for 48 students and math help for 14.

Students from Washtenaw County in second through fifth grades who qualify as low-income and are at least one grade behind in reading may enter the program.

Each child, upon admission, is given a test called the Qualitative Reading Inventory. This test becomes the basis for an individualized plan to build the student's ability where he is weak. A test at the end of the year assesses progress.

The program gives focused attention to learners that is

often difficult for teachers to provide in schools. In addition to weekly one-on-one sessions with an assigned coach, the students meet in small groups to practice writing and group interaction skills.

The teaching focuses on practical skills like organizing thoughts. For this skill a "brain storm box" is used, where a central theme is supported by the five W's: who, what, when, where and why. The five fingers of a hand aid in recall.

Teachers follow a scripted lesson plan.

"We've come a long way in supporting the coaches," said Amy Rolfs executive director of FLI. "When a volunteer signs up to coach it's our duty to teach the teacher." This includes classes for coaches on specific topics such as the culture of poverty.

The results of FLI's methods have been impressive. Between 70 and 80 percent of the students increase their reading grade by at least one level.

826Michigan — Teaching creative expression through writing

The intriguingly named Liberty Street Robot Supply & Repair Store sells an array of novelty items, mostly with a robot theme. Here one can purchase replacement positronic brains, grasping appendages, robot tears and even "Robot Roast" coffee.

It is behind the red curtain at the back of the store where the real magic happens. In the back room, students ages 6-18, obtain homework help and learn to express their creativity through writing.

Welcome to 826Michigan, one of only eight 826 sites around the country. The original 826 was created in San Francisco, in 2002, by author Dave Eggers.

Ann Arbor got on board with the franchise in 2005. The store was originally monster-themed and located on State Street near Briarwood Mall. However, the robots staged a coup and moved the headquarters to 115

E. Liberty Street.

Volunteers, who call themselves "robotiers," (pronounced: robot-ee-ays) mind the store. Emily Jennings, 38, of Ann Arbor has worked there for three years and enjoys the freedom it affords to do her own work on her laptop. The robots pique the children's interest in learning. Money from sales goes to support the educational projects.

Volunteers are also central to supporting this mission.

One such project is drop-in tutoring, which takes place Monday through Thursday, between 3:30 and 5:30 p.m.. Here, local students may get individualized help with their class assignments.

Another project is the Creative Writing Workshops offered on weekend evenings. These sessions introduce creative forms of writing and usually last 90 minutes. Themes have included mapping a

fantasy universe, exploring the concept of infinity and creating one's own superhero.

Besides these one-off classes, there is a continuing session called Story Problems: Prose and Poetry Workshop where students bring in and discuss their independent writings with others. Classes are held regularly for SAT preparation and essay writing for college applications.

"We give students as much one-on-one attention as we can," said Program Coordinator Catherine Calabro. "That's something that's disappearing from a lot of classrooms."

The student-teacher ratio is usually no greater than 3-1.

Most of these teachers are volunteers, adults who have completed high school, filled out an application, passed a background check and gone through an orientation session.

826Michigan especially needs volunteers for its off-site

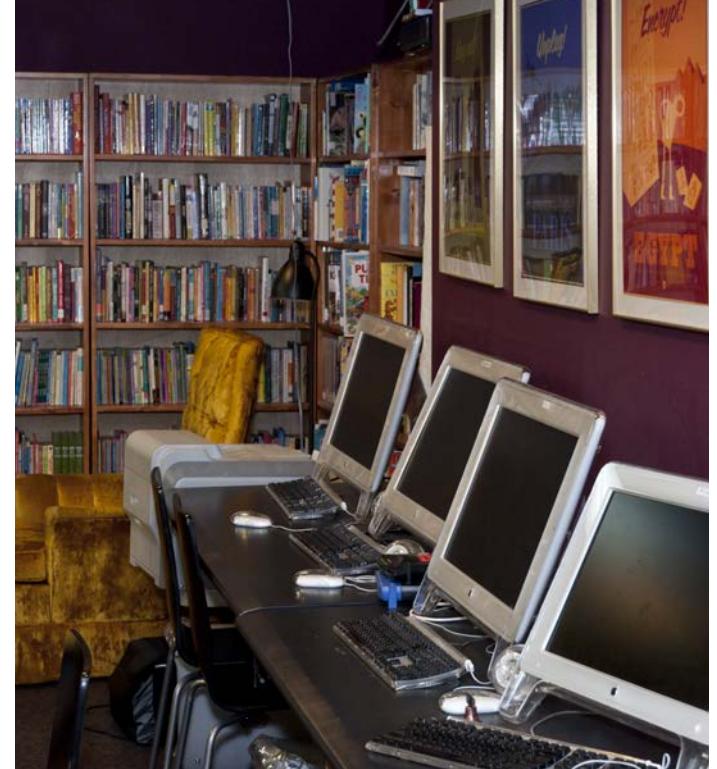
projects in the Ypsilanti area.

At Ypsilanti Middle School, 50 students meet from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. for homework help and a book project, four days a week. The book will be a professionally bound anthology of written works from all of the participants. Volunteers make this happen.

In-school residency programs are another way to contribute. Volunteers in the program act as teacher's aids by providing one-on-one help to students, grading papers and manning reading and writing stations.

826Michigan provides all the training needed for willing volunteers, but they need people to train.

To get involved visit 826michigan.org, click on the volunteer tab, then click on the link to the online volunteer application.



Behind the red curtain at the Liberty Street Robot Supply & Repair Store is a world designed for learning, 826Michigan.

Ann Arbor Hands-on Museum — Science Education

In the spring of most years, the Automotive and Motorcycle Technology Department of WCC transports a load of equipment and puts on a fun-filled weekend demonstration at the Ann Arbor Hands-on Museum located at 220 E. Ann St. The project is run by volunteer students and faculty aided by museum staff.

Similar events occur throughout the year at this family-oriented science education venue. The museum is designed to engage youth in the joy of science by making it interactive and fun.

It takes a village of volunteers, however, to make all the projects happen, about 500 volunteers each year. These unpaid helpers are typically high school or college students or members of a community or industry group with an interest in science education.

Volunteers must be older than 18 or 11-18 with a work permit, said Ann Hernandez, acting director of Educational Programs.

Jobs may include preparation and packaging of

materials for hands-on experiments, mailing out materials for videoconference-based learning, manning demonstrations, office work and fund-raising. Some representative projects have been kaleidoscope building and making slime.

Learning science is a family affair.

"When people are helping out with these activities they are not only talking to just kids, but also to whole families," Hernandez said.

Groups that have volunteered at the museum include Key Club (high school Kiwanis), Circle K (college Kiwanis), the Rotary Club, fraternities and sororities like Alpha Phi Omega from the University of Michigan.

Join the fun the next time WCC presents its Car Carnival, but don't wait until then to enjoy the museum and to get involved with this valued community asset.

To join the fun, visit aahom.org and click on "Volunteer" in the "About Us" dropdown menu. There is both a group and individual volunteer application.



The back of the storefront is filled with desks, posters and volunteers ready to assist youth in need of writing guidance.