



CAUGHT in the MIDDLE



A look backward at the past year, and forward to what's coming up during the holiday break and Winter semester.



In the wake of Virginia Tech college shootings, students weigh in about guns on campus A4

MCT COURTESY PHOTO



A forest of cheer in the home of a WCC alum A7

JENNIFER GENTNER COURTESY PHOTO



HITTING THE SLOPES
Downhill fun is not as far away as you might think B2

MCT COURTESY PHOTO

CRIME, CHANGE, CONTROVERSY: THE YEAR'S TOP STORIES

MATT DURR
Editor



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In a year that featured secret (and criminal) lives, prominent retirements and the beginning of a new era at Washtenaw Community College, there was rarely a dull moment around campus in 2011.

And with the new year approaching, The Voice takes a look back at some of the top news stories of 2011.

COLE JORDAN TURNS HIMSELF INTO AUTHORITIES – WCC knew him as Cole Jordan, guidance counselor. California authorities knew him as Ronald Stanley Bridgeforth, a wanted criminal. In November, Jordan quit his job at WCC and turned himself in to California police in connection with assaulting an officer with a deadly weapon in 1968. Jordan led a secret life for more than 40 years.

LARRY WHITWORTH RETIRES – After 13 years as president of WCC, Larry Whitworth retired from his position in August. Whitworth was the third president in school history and was responsible for many changes at the college, including upgrading facilities, building new buildings and helping enrollment reach record highs.

ROSE BELLANCA ERA BEGINS – On June 14, Dr. Rose Bellanca was named the fourth president and the first woman to hold the position at WCC. Bellanca came to the college from Northwood University's Florida campus and previously served as president of St. Clair County Community College.

IN

BOARD MEMBERS SCRUTINIZED FOR MISSING TIME – When students miss 22 percent worth of classes, they typically fail. For members of the WCC Board of Trustees, nothing happens. A review of attendance figures for members of the board revealed that three members had missed 22 percent of meetings or more in a five-year span.

PARKING STRUCTURE CONSTRUCTION BEGINS – After years of debate and cutting through the red tape, construction on the controversial parking structure began and appears to be on schedule. Last January, several faculty, staff and students unsuccessfully pleaded with trustees one last time in hopes of stopping construction. The structure is set to open Jan. 9.

TUITION INCREASE – As state funding decreased and the tax base shrank, so did WCC's budget. In turn, trustees voted in March to raise tuition by 6.25 percent across the board. The raise was met with very little backlash from students.

ENROLLMENT DIPS – After years of record highs, enrollment at WCC dropped for the Fall 2011 semester. Many factors contributed to the decline including the end of "No worker left behind" and other incentives for people looking for work. A decline in the number of high school graduates in the area was also a factor.

'11

STUDENT CENTER RENAMING – Uncovered documents showed that in 1968 the board of trustees may have intended to name the Student Center after slain Civil Rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. The current board was hesitant to act on the findings. But after viewing the documents, students created a petition and administrators have worked with students on a potential solution.

ATHLETIC FIELDS OPEN, CLOSE – The athletic fields adjacent to the Health and Fitness Center finally opened for use after numerous delays. The \$2.2 million fields officially opened for use on Sept. 28 – and were closed for the season on Sept. 29 because of damage done to the field by rain and overuse. The fields starting seeing some use in April, but the official opening did not occur until September.

BOARD OF TRUSTEE CHANGES – When former BOT member David Rutledge resigned from his position in January to take his seat in the state House of Representatives, the board needed to find a replacement. In stepped Patrick McLean, the director of finances for the City of Toledo.

PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH – With the impending retirement of Whitworth on the horizon, a Presidential Search Committee was tasked with helping to find his replacement. When the first three finalists were selected, trustees did not find any of them suitable for the job and another three finalists were selected. Among them, Rose Bellanca.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Winter Welcome Day
Wednesday, January 18, 2012
11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Student Center Cafeteria
Learn about clubs, grab food and freebies, and meet new friends!
FREE!

If you are a department, club, or agency interested in reserving a table at Welcome Day, visit:
<http://goo.gl/lnHRD>

We need YOU!
Join the WCC Service Corps
And give back to your community.
<http://tinyurl.com/wccgives>

Club News:
Remember to *register your club* for the Winter 2012 semester.
Registration reserves meeting rooms and allows access to club funding!
<http://tinyurl.com/w12club>

**Phillip Glass & Robert Wilson's
Einstein on the Beach**
Thursday, January 20, 2012
7:00 p.m.
Power Center
Price: Only \$20.00!

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.*

UPCOMING SPORTS

Coed Running Club
Tuesdays and Thursdays
Starting January 17, 2012
4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
North Athletic Fields
Bring your WCC Student ID card and warm running clothes.
FREE!

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

Intramural Bowling
Registration: January 16 – 20, 2012
Games: Every Friday,
February 3 – 24, 2012
Time: 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Division: Co-Ed
FREE for students!
Staff may participate at regular league prices.

Intramural Ping Pong
Registration: January 16 – 25, 2012
Men's on Wednesday January 18
Women's on Wednesday January 25
5:30pm on the first floor of the Student Center Building.
FREE!

**Student Activities: SC 112
WCC Sports: SC 118**

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Anger management: students hope it doesn't get any worse

ADRIAN HEDDEN
Features Editor

Deep within the campus of Washtenaw Community College, serenity is fragile.

Tyree Walker of Ypsilanti knows that at times, frustration runs high around campus. The 21-year-old business management major from Ypsilanti dreads that anxiety's emic roots may only get worse as the school year proceeds.

"It's all emotion, pure emotion and stress," Walker said. "We can assume it gets worse towards the end.

As the Fall semester wound down, student altercations appeared to rise, for reasons only those involved might know. But to liberal arts student, Lashawnna Roberts, age 24, a large variety of contrasting perspectives appears to be the leading cause of disagreements.

"From time to time, you get conflict around here," Roberts said. It's caused by the mix of personalities; people have a lot of differences."

A resident of Ypsilanti, Roberts worries that academic stress may create more confrontations in an already testy and variant student body.

"Stress is a big part of it, especially towards the end," Roberts said. "A lot of the students here are adults, and they have a lot going on in their lives that could lead them to

get upset."

Considering the intangible motives behind what students and faculty viewed as a rash of verbal altercations on campus, Roberts warns that the school's security officers may be unable to address conflicts that remain verbal, a form that she views as being just as damaging to the peace as any physical threat.

"It depends on how far it goes," Roberts said. "Security can't stop arguments, no matter how bad."

Jacques Desrosiers, director of Campus Safety and Security, maintains that student confrontations are within his sights. While asserting that altercations rarely intensify to physical confrontation, Desrosiers sees them as part of his reality on campus. It is a reality he rarely sees becoming an issue for his department.

"They happen," Desrosiers said. "It's the way of life, but they seem to happen mostly in the parking lot over spaces. They rarely escalate into anything else."

Having to break up arguments, preventing them from getting worse, Desrosiers is not apprehensive of any particular moment in the semester, citing the sheer size of WCC's student body.

"There isn't really a trend to point to," Desrosiers said. "With 12,000 people on campus, everyone will never see

POINT OF VIEW

It depends on how far it goes. Security can't stop arguments, no matter how bad.

Lashawnna Roberts
24, Ypsilanti, Liberal Arts

eye to eye.

John Rinke, director of support services doesn't tolerate aggression in the Career Planning and Counseling department either. Often called upon to deal with angry students, Rinke is aware of the magnitude of reasons a student may have for becoming inflamed. He still does not put up with it. Rinke primarily blames stress.

"Everyone responds to stress differently," Rinke said. "Almost anything can lead to it, anything from soup to nuts. It depends on who you're talking to and their learned behaviors."

Enacting a zero-tolerance policy for unruly behavior in his department, Rinke is more than willing to deny assistance to disrespectful students.

"I don't put up with it," Rinke said. "Students sometimes come up to the counter and are very angry. We don't help them when they're overly assertive. I tell them 'I can't help you' until they calm down."

CONTINUE THE CONVERSATION
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On being different: some courageous students confront disorders publicly

BOB CONRADI
Staff Writer

Having attention-deficit disorder (ADD) is “like living inside a giant kaleidoscope,” said James, adding that the ADD brain attempting to sort all the competing sensory input can be “like a Ping-Pong ball in a drier.”

These were some of the many insights shared with about 18 students and staff at the Neurodiversity Project’s first public forum at Washtenaw Community College on Dec. 5.

People with brain differences are often stigmatized as

retarded, diseased or lacking in character, all false impressions. This public forum was intended to provide information about a multitude of brain differences and to put a human face on them.

Speakers included Menara, 26; Veronica, 43; Ja Tonio, 30; James, 20; and Dan, 23. They asked that their last names not be used, fearing long-term repercussions, like greater difficulty finding employment.

Menara set the stage, defining brain differences as “anything that would cause people to be thinking in a different path” than average. She

listed names for many of these: ADHD, autism, dyslexia, bipolar, major depression . . . it’s a long list. She also expressed how she and others like her desired to help others in a similar situation yet feared outing themselves because it can lead to more stigma.

Veronica spoke about psychosis that can cause people to lose contact with reality, hear voices, see hallucinations, etc. She shared the struggles she faced after an infectious disease put her in a coma for four months.

Ja Tonio, in a rapid-fire delivery, described the causes and consequences of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and then related his personal story.

Unlike many PTSD sufferers who were traumatized by war, Lewis’ trauma was childhood abuse at the hands of foster parents. His quest to understand his condition led him to study psychology.

Though sometimes using anti-anxiety medication, Lewis found the best help came from maintaining a positive attitude. “Picture the sunny dawn,” Ja Tonio said.

James came to speak about ADD. Forgetting to bring his PowerPoint slides, he initially struggled to organize his

thoughts, but then he did an admirable job fielding questions from the audience.

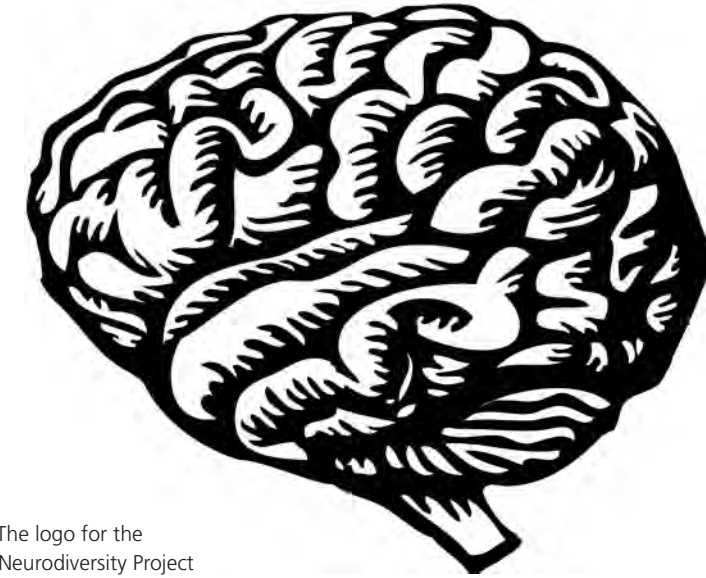
The audience had much to contribute, too. A mother shared her experiences in helping her son with ADHD to succeed in school. Some audience members shared their personal struggles, what helped them and what made things worse.

Dan spoke of autism spectrum disorders and sensory processing disorders (SPD), listing a broad range of possible symptoms.

All the speakers agreed that giving a name to mental differences is often difficult since one symptom tends to mask another. Many people may best be diagnosed “NOS” – not otherwise specified – they said.

Mental differences are common. People can possess such differences while friends and acquaintances remain unaware of their condition and they appear “normal.”

The members of the Neurodiversity Project courageously demonstrated in their forum just how capable and human such people can be.



The logo for the Neurodiversity Project

For more information about the club, contact dtravis@wccnet.edu or jmiller@wccnet.edu.

How to succeed in the classroom with ADD/ADHD

JAEL GARDINER
Staff Writer

It’s hard for James O’Connell to study for his classes on campus because he has attention deficit disorder (ADD).

With the loud noises from laughing students and music playing on laptops, it’s easy for the 20-year-old undecided major from Plymouth to get distracted. However, by using specific strategies he doesn’t let this keep him from doing well in school.

“It’s like every noise is a distraction,” O’Connell said. “I need almost no noise and no movements.”

Having ADD or ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder) can add extra pressure on students studying for finals. Every case is unique, and people can explore what makes it easiest for them to retain information. Some students need white noise in the background to concentrate, and others need complete silence.

Sometimes students acknowledge that having ADHD means that they just aren’t able to focus as long as they’d like. Acknowledging this about themselves lets them take the time that they need to learn the information.

“When I’m studying, I have to play something else,” said Leeanra Hardesty, 19, culinary

arts major from Ann Arbor. “So my attention stays on my computer. After a while, I have to stop because I get bored or too tired. I get good grades. It’s all about finding what helps you study.”

While the Learning Support Center doesn’t test for these disorders, it is happy to help accommodate students who have a documented problem. Debra Urquhart, a learning disability evaluator for Learning Support Services and psychologist, is glad that sometimes it can offer students a quiet place to take tests or more time on tests. Students requesting this kind of assistant can get a form to take to their doctors.

According Urquhart, once students have reached college they have often discovered the methods that allow them study best. However, there are always new solutions that students can find to optimize their studying habits.

“You have to figure out what works for you,” Urquhart said. “Some people find that doing a little bit every day helps if they have difficulty with short-term memory.”

Urquhart also pointed out that there are a multitude of new possibilities with technology. This wasn’t always an option for students before. Now they can record lectures, use apps that help them study and

use their phone to help keep track of homework.

There are apps for iPads, programs for computers and smart pens that can help students study. While some of them can be expensive, a lot of them are cheap and can be a big help to students. Deborah Welch, a testing special assistant, helps students with technology as well.

“Dragon will take your audio voice and change it into text,” Welch said. “However, there is a program built into Windows 7 called Speech Recognition. Dragon is better, but Speech Recognition is free.”

These are all great for studying, but some students have trouble coming up with what they want to write about in English classes. Mind mapping offers students with difficulty thinking up essays a way to create an outline. Starting with one central idea, the program can create a spreadsheet with bubbles that can be linked and then organized into a more formal outline. XMind is a free version of this software that can be downloaded onto a computer.

Another serious issue for people with ADHD and ADD is organizing. Staying focused and on task on an ongoing basis isn’t easy for everybody, but it’s even more difficult for people with these disorders. Welch said that there are several free

apps for phones and iPads that will help students to keep themselves on track. Some people are more comfortable using planners, but it can be helpful when the device gives reminders.

Welch suggests looking through apps for ones that help students stay organized. They exist for many devices, and they can be a huge help with keeping students organized. All-in-one apps will synchronize notes with recorders and work much like a smart pen. Todo is an app from the Apple Store that encompasses many areas of staying organized, including synchronizing with the online service they offer and ways to label tasks as recurring or put tasks in lists.

Also, she says that some who have trouble focusing may have better luck when they have white noise in the background. Some like having the TV blasting, and others prefer listening to music. She also said that some students can use this to their advantage and may be able to better multitask than those who don’t suffer from disorders.

“I listen to music all the time,” said Carolyn Prince, 18, a computer networking major from Howell. “It helps me focus when I’m tuned to the music. I’ve noticed it helps me concentrate longer on studying.”

WCC: A long history of honoring veterans at Christmas

BOB CONRADI
Staff Writer

When Debi Freeman first brought a KFC dinner to a grumpy old veteran she had befriended at the Ann Arbor VA, a cohort of wheelchairs converged in a tight circle around her. The old vet said they were not after her; they were drawn to the chicken. It was Christmas day more than 20 years ago.

Now Freeman, a child-care professional, is at the VA Nursing Home every Christmas Eve providing dinner and gifts to all of the residents there. She says she is grateful for the opportunity to say “thank you” to those who fought for her country.

And now she has help.

When coworkers in the college learned about their publicity-shy friend’s solo labor of love, they asked if they could help. Thus began Washtenaw Community College’s efforts to help our heroes have a merrier Christmas.

A phalanx of WCC office professionals began helping with fund raising for the event. Others from the college helped in different ways: gift-wrapping

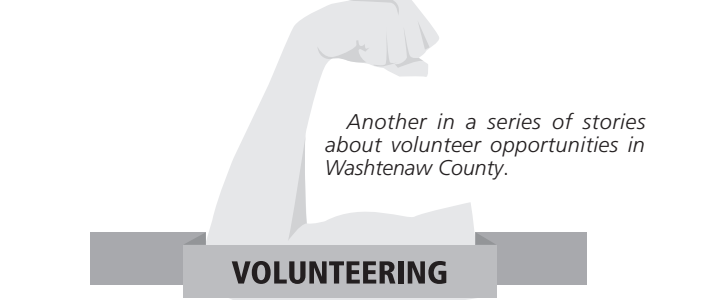
or visiting with the veterans on Christmas Eve.

Janet Hawkins, associate director of Public Affairs, was one of the early volunteers. She recalls a centenarian nursing home resident whom volunteers looked forward to seeing.

“As a long-lived veteran, he was a direct link to every U.S. military action in the 20th century, Hawkins said. “He understood what the fighting men in Korea, Vietnam, and the Gulf faced on the battlefield and at home when they returned. That kind of legacy carries with it a very special place in all of our hearts.”

Chihiro Rydberg, who works at the Children’s Center, has been a volunteer along with her family for the last two years. As a Japanese-American she found that some oldervets were at first very uncomfortable with her. Her kindness disarmed them and the once warring nationalities shared mutual empathy.

Volunteers at the party help distribute food and gifts. More importantly, they spend time listening and talking with the veterans or perhaps playing games of Scrabble or cards. What these often-forgotten



soldiers want most is the warmth of human caring.

Gifts are purchased for the nursing home residents with money collected at WCC or received from corporate sponsors. This year, a volunteer hand-made 40 lap blankets for the residents.

A local party store provides balloons at cost, which are tied to the wheelchairs of the vets according to Toni Ellicott, secretary to the dean of Student Support Services. Other businesses provide either money or themed donations.

Contributions for the event have been collected at various sites around campus. Even though the official deadline for this year’s event has passed, donations are still welcome at the cashier’s office, Ellicott said.

These days the party goes beyond the first floor nursing home. Volunteers also visit veterans in the hospital wards distributing about 100 goodie bags. “A chance to show appreciation from WCC, local businesses and organizations,” is written on the bags.

Those who would like to help with this annual event, contact Beverly Leneski at (734) 845-3467 or just show up at the VA Medical Center, 2215 Fuller Road, and start spending time with vets. The Christmas Eve party starts at 5:30 p.m.; dinner is served at 6:30, though some volunteers stay for hours.

Of course, there’s no need to wait until the holidays to honor our vets. To learn of other ways to help, visit annarbor.va.gov/giving/.

IN BRIEF

‘DRIVING’ CHRISTMAS CHEER

Washtenaw Community College’s Automotive Body Repair program hopes to drive up holiday spirits this Christmas, one child at a time.

Taking donations of toy cars to provide to homeless and low-income youth, the program planned to deliver the model automobiles periodically to homeless shelters, starting on Dec. 19.

Donations of new, unwrapped toy cars can be made through Dec. 19 at OE 106A, by placing them under the Christmas tree.

The ABR will continue to take donations and make periodic deliveries year-round.

BIGGER TICKET DISCOUNTS

Student Development and Activities will offer even greater discounts to selected sporting events, like Detroit Red Wings and Detroit Tigers games, in lieu of transportation to and from the games.

The college no longer offers round-trip bus transportation to its sports-outing offerings.

Rachel Barsch, Student Activities events coordinator, said transportation to the games was cut to ensure that there will be enough money for transportation for the annual end-of-the-year event sponsored by the department.

Prices of sports tickets will be announced when they become available, Barsch said.

SECURITY NOTES

CAR THEFT

A car was reported stolen from campus on Dec. 15. The case was under investigation and turned over to the Washtenaw Sheriff’s Department.

HIT AND RUN

An employee in the Financial Aid department reported that her car was victimized in a hit

and run in Lot 4. The report was filed Dec. 7 at 12:30 p.m. and was under investigation.

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.

Board of Trustees tables deal with copy center

MATT DURR
Editor

In its final meeting of the year, the Washtenaw Community College Board of Trustees tabled a proposed agreement to extend the contract with Konica Minolta through 2017 to run the copy center and copiers on campus.

The proposed agreement would have replaced the existing copiers on campus with newer models and increased the number of copiers on campus. But WCC would have to extend its agreement with Minolta an additional three years, essentially leasing the new copiers until the end of the contract. The current agreement lasts until 2014.

Board treasurer Patrick McLean questioned the proposed agreement, wondering if leasing an amount of service from Minolta would be better for the college instead of purchasing the copiers outright.

After hearing McLean’s concerns, other members of the board agreed to table the agreement so more options could be explored.

Also on the Dec. 13 agenda, the board voted to rescind the policy of amount paid to club sports coaches and the stipends they receive. After rescinding the policy, the board

agreed on a new policy that lowered the amount paid for some coaches, while other coaches will receive a slight raise.

Washtenaw Technical Middle College was granted permission to increase the amount of students enrolled in its program from 350 to 400 students. The increase is not expected to have any effect on the size of the offices on WCC’s campus.

The board also granted Emeritus Staff Status for 10 former employees who each had more than 15 years experience as faculty, support staff or administration. The 10 former employees had a combined 199 years of service at WCC.

As expected, the board approved the purchase of 30 high-definition camcorders for the digital video program. The 30 cameras will be purchased for nearly \$90,000 and will help keep the program up-to-date with the developing technology and software.

Finally, the board voted to approve a new academic program at WCC. The Supply Chain Management degree was unanimously approved and will begin as a program in the Winter 2012 semester. The degree will fall in as an associate’s degree in applied science.

Patrick McLean at a Board of Trustees meeting last January.

EDITORIAL

Taking aim at concealed weapons on campus

In the world of journalism, it’s our job to be ahead of the curve. In the case of our recent story about gun restrictions on campus (Page 1 of the Dec. 5 issue), we were ahead of the times, and we wish we were not. The story was clearly a hot topic to those on campus, as the comments and feedback for the story reached record highs. Opinions went back and forth about whether guns should be allowed on campus or not, and a passionate debate ensued. And that was before the tragic shooting on the campus of Virginia Tech last week.

Now that there has been another shooting on a college campus, the issue is sure to re-ignite the fires among those passionate about their arguments. Whatever side of the debate you are on, one thing is for sure – Washtenaw Community College is a safe place. And even though *The Voice* has criticized how the college handled the potential sexual assault on campus, (Page 1 Nov. 7 issue) serious and violent crimes are almost non-existent at WCC.

Many students feel that by being able to carry their weapons on campus, they are better equipped to deal with a potential shooting, while the other side feels that no one should be able to have a gun in class because it could increase the likelihood of a shooting.

We as a newspaper are not here to choose sides; I think we can all agree whether or not someone is licensed to carry a concealed weapon has no direct correlation to whether they decide to shoot someone.

In fact, the most recent shooting that occurred on Virginia Tech’s campus was not carried out by a student, nor was it premeditated.

The bottom line is, students are in no more danger at WCC than they are at Briarwood Mall, or any other public facility. Having guns on campus is a very debatable and hot-button topic, and we happened to address it prior to the tragic events of last week.

We can only hope that the next time we’re out in front of an issue that another horrific event doesn’t unfold. Especially close to home.

GOP candidates: If you don’t respect marriage, the LGBT community will



BEN SOLIS
Managing Editor

With Herman Cain backing out of the 2012 presidential race in the wake of media coverage of his countless alleged infidelities, the national spotlight is once again centered on the personal and romantic lives of political candidates.

For decades, American presidents and other high profile political figures have spent their careers defending or

apologizing for their own sexual indiscretions, often with maximum success. Which brings up an interesting hypocrisy: it’s okay to be unfaithful to your wife and husband in a heterosexual relationship, but gay men and women are still unable to get legally married.

Infidelities happen; we know this to be a facet of everyday life. But the argument from the right states that marriage, aside from a formal relationship with God, is the single most important commitment you can have. Why then, should such a gargantuan thing like the sanctity of marriage be protected from supposed “tainting” when high profile heterosexuals championing it can’t seem to respect their own marriages?

While statistics on divorce rates among heterosexual men and women are frequently collected and displayed by social crusaders, the statistics for same-sex marriages are almost non-existent. That is not a coincidence, and depends less on same-sex marriage being illegal than it does on the moral character these couples have.

Because the struggle to get a document of legal marriage is so unfortunately hard for these couples, the actual bond of marriage, once accessible, becomes stronger. The commitment to these couples’ partners outweighs almost all social pressures, such as work, religion and money.

If same-sex couples have to face the same pressures,

including the additional pressure of being social maligned, heterosexual couples looking to end their marriages have clearly misinterpreted the bond they thought they had; let alone the commitment to their partner that they claim to hold onto so steadfastly.

This election cycle, when you hear a candidate talking about the evils of same-sex marriage and how it is endangering the concept of marriage as a whole, think about the person who is saying it. Weigh his or her own moral character not on what they say, but in what they do.

Most of all, think about those who cannot legally engage in marriage and how precious the concept really is to them.

A model for student engagement, fundraising



RACHEL BARSCH
SDA Events Coordinator

As the mother of four children, I often attend events that I might not normally attend. These events often cost me some cash as well. On Friday, Dec. 2, I was lucky enough to be in the audience at Saline Middle School for the “Schools of Rock” event, a fundraiser for the “Kids Who Read Succeed” capital campaign for the SAS Foundation.

I was blown away by several elements, including the dollar amount raised: more than \$7,000! For one evening event! Not the least of which

was the student-faculty-staff engagement that was present in the Saline Middle School Auditorium.

Each school performed a number—usually a parody with teachers and administrators lip-synching and dancing. After seeing this performance, I can tell you that not much energizes middle-schoolers more than watching male teachers dance to “All the Single Ladies.” Other parodies included “We Will Rock You,” “Thriller”—which featured more than 40 fifth-graders, “That’s What Friends are For,” “Footloose” and a medley of Justin Bieber and Katy Perry tunes.

More than 700 people attended this event, with 100 more turned away. Audience members voted for the best school and the winners were announced at the end of the evening. The excitement of the crowd was off the charts, and

student engagement was too.

Middle-schoolers could be heard chanting “SMS” over and over. When I was in middle school, we were apathetic and would not be caught dead chanting our school name over and over. I cannot help but be glad that the school district that my children attend apparently has found a formula for student, faculty and staff engagement.

Clips of this event can be found here: <http://saline.patch.com/articles/saline-schools-community-rock-the-house-for-literacy-campaign#video-8602103>

As you’ll see, the acts were well-planned and well-rehearsed. Buy-in from the administrators and teachers from each school were apparent. Indeed, the performers were excited as the frenzied audience was.

As the events coordinator

for WCC Student Activities, the engagement level of both the audience and the performers gave me chills. A lot of my job is trying to engage students, faculty and staff, and believe me—this is harder than it seems it should be.

My challenge to the WCC community is this: engage. It would be great to host a similar fundraiser event at Towsley Auditorium. Departments could sign-up to compete against each other in order to determine which department rocks the hardest.

We already know from last month’s talent show that Washtenaw students have talent. I’m betting there’s plenty of talent among faculty and staff as well — or at least enough courage out there for some male professor to dress up as Beyonce and lip-sync a song.

Are you in?

The Washtenaw Voice

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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.

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VOICE BOX

ADRIAN HEDDEN FEATURES EDITOR
PHOTOS JARED ANGLE PHOTO EDITOR

With the recent shooting at Virginia Tech University on Thursday, Dec. 9, weighing on their minds, students at Washtenaw Community College are left to evaluate the rights of those licensed to carry guns in public and the need for an armed student body. Should concealed weapons be allowed on campus?



MEGAN MOILANEN
21, Brighton, Liberal Arts

Shootings have been going on for years. VT shouldn’t warrant an armed student body. There is never any time for guns on campus.



CHARLES STEWART
48, Ann Arbor, Math and Science

I don’t think students being armed is the solution. Campuses need to up security and have means of keeping those who are not interested in education away from the school.



A.J. WRIGHT
46, Ann Arbor, Radiology

People with a CPL go through a background check. The stats show that the likelihood of them committing felonious crimes is very low. It doesn’t matter where you’re at, you can’t carry a police officer in your back pocket.



ADAM CARR
18, Ann Arbor, Photography

It’s not a place for people to be carrying. If anyone should have a gun, it should be a police officer. It opens up the people to have the ability to come in and commit crimes.



TYLER VILLA
19, Saline, Math

It’s gonna be dangerous either way. Students should not be allowed to carry it with them. It’s the danger of people having problems with each other. It’d be a bloodbath.



JOLISHA MCREE
18, Ann Arbor, English

I don’t think we should be allowed to carry weapons because some people aren’t in their right mind. Especially when people are easy to set off, fighting over parking spaces could escalate. Girls should carry pepper-spray.



JAYE BATTLE
31, Lansing, Business Management

Not on campus. It’s too dangerous. Someone may be having a bad day in class and just snap. An armed student body is just carrying concealed weapons. Licensed carriers could snap too.



KARL BROSIOUS
29, Ann Arbor, Mechanical Engineering

I have a CCW permit. An armed society is a polite society. I believe that it would be safer on campus. People with a license are more likely to suppress violence.

New batch of counterfeit bills a problem at WCC, community

ANNE DUFFY
Staff Writer

George Pariseau was working as a cashier at the Shell station in Whitmore Lake in January 2011 when a customer came in who was carrying more than \$200 in counterfeit currency. “I had customer who attempted to pass \$40 in fake currency. When I noticed it was fake, I told him and the customer acted surprised,” said Pariseau, 32, a Washtenaw Community College digital video major from Plymouth. The customer asked Pariseau to check the rest of his money, and Pariseau found more than \$200 in fake \$20 bills. “He acted shocked at first and had some story about how he had got the money from someone who owed him money,” Pariseau said. “I was concerned, alerted my manager, called the police and encouraged him to hang around. He said he wasn’t going to leave because we already had his license plate and then police came and took him away. “It was definitely a nerve-racking experience. There is always a concern that someone could react violently,” Pariseau said. “But it’s a serious crime.” Experts agree counterfeit cash is a problem. From businesses to consumers, everyone takes a loss with fake money, and it appears to be on the rise at WCC and surrounding

neighborhoods. “No one gets reimbursed. It hurts everyone and they are stealing from our economy,” said Scott Vogel, assistant to the special agent in charge at the Detroit Field office for the Secret Service. “And if you know there is something funny about it (your cash) and you pass it anyway, that’s when you can get yourself into a stickier situation.” Workers at WCC understand how hard things can be, especially with the holidays. “Whenever times are difficult desperate people do desperate things,” said WCC Subway manager, Barb Cole. “We received a counterfeit \$20 in October, so we have recently implemented new procedures in checking all our money.” All \$10’s, \$20’s, \$50’s and \$100’s are all swiped with the counterfeit pen as a first line of defense and then we hold it up to the light so you will see a reverse of the \$20 in bold and know it’s not counterfeit,” Cole said. The pen mark is supposed to react with the material in the paper and will produce a light yellow color for genuine currency and a yellowish-brown to black mark if it’s counterfeit, but Cole stressed that it isn’t fool proof and unfortunately, counterfeiters are getting smarter. “They are washing \$5 bills and turning them into \$10’s, \$20’s, \$50’s and \$100’s,” said

Cole. “They will find a metal-lurgy person to duplicate plates to stamp money on.” A WCC student, who works at an Ann Arbor office supply store and asked that her name not be published, said she’s received two different fraudulent credit cards in the last week. One was an American Express card and the other a Green Dot card. She said that every year there is a rise in fake money, bogus checks and fraudulent credit cards from Thanksgiving through mid-January. “Everyone should be checking their money, especially right now, because there is a big surge of it,” said Cole. “I think it’s in this area. I think it’s gas stations, drive-thrus and it’s easy in, easy out.” Convenience stores and local gas stations are most affected because counterfeiters like quick transactions, Vogel said. “I check \$20’s, \$50’s and \$100’s. We find fake bills all the time,” said Will Horen, cashier at the Sunoco Gas Station in Ypsilanti at the corner of Washtenaw Avenue and Hewitt. “If I don’t catch it, it’s my responsibility and my boss puts it on me.” It’s been one or two per week, mostly \$20’s and then some \$50’s during my shift,” said Horen, referring to the counterfeit money he’s seeing. “I tell them I can’t accept it and ask for another bill or credit card,” said



JOSH CHAMBERLAIN THE WASHTENAW VOICE
Holding a bill up to a light source exposes the large watermark, visible here on the right.

Horen. “Many leave right away when I tell them.” Horen is playing it safe because there can be risky implications of confronting customers about fake money. “If merchants receive what they believe is counterfeit currency, we don’t want it to become a contentious situation between the customer and someone else,” Vogel said. “We do ask them to notify the police who can be the first-responders to verify whether the money is genuine or not.” So how do consumers protect themselves from getting slipped a fake bill? “Education is the key and letting people know the types of things to look for. The best thing that people can recognize is the feel of the paper because our currency paper is so unique that the counterfeiters can’t duplicate it,” Vogel said. “Twenties are most popular.” “When you get money, check it at register because if you don’t do that then you are opening yourself up to loss,” Cole said. “If you suspect it is counterfeit, tell them and ask for another bill, but do not leave the register until they bring out the manager.” As far as prosecution for knowingly passing counterfeit money, “if the U.S. Attorney’s office doesn’t take it, it will definitely go through the state,” Vogel said. “The police are not looking to arrest you if you have one counterfeit note because you are trying to buy gas or a candy bar at the store,” he said. “The job is to find out where it came from and keep it from happening.” Pariseau was relieved, thinking his encounter was over until he received a counterfeit \$10 bill at his gas station last week. “The person who gets hurt the most is the customer who wasn’t aware that their money was counterfeit,” said Pariseau. “It’s as if they didn’t have that \$20 bill to begin with.”

Made in Michigan

MI General Store goes live in Depot Town

ANNA FUQUA-SMITH
Staff Writer

After months of anticipation, the MI General Store – featuring products almost exclusively with a Michigan connection – is officially open for business in Ypsilanti’s Depot Town. The holdup? Waiting for the state to issue the business a license to sell beer and wine, which was finally granted on Dec. 9. Owned by Mark and Danielle Teachout, the store is located at 44 East Cross St., next door to Café Ollie, also owned by the Teachouts. “It’s been a tough road to get to where we’re at, so we’re not wasting any time to get open,” Mark said. “We haven’t had the ability to sell anything out of the space but it’s the cost of doing business.” Mark, 38, of Ypsilanti, has already begun to receive many Michigan made products and more are coming. “Getting food out here, it hasn’t been hard at all. Getting beer and wine out here, that’s as simple as investigating and doing the research to know where the products are,” Mark said. While Mark will only be opening the space in 500 square feet, he hopes to expand into the back room to make use of 1,200 square feet of potential space.

In addition to carrying beer and liquor, Mark will also be carrying cheeses, candies, chocolate and soft drinks. One of the vendors Mark is really excited to be carrying is Oh My Lolli, based out of Brighton. Owner and founder, Keith Carp, 39, of Howell works with a just handful of stores like Mark’s. “We’re not set up to be a wholesale kind of business,” Carp said. “We’re a specialty candy store. We specialize in weddings, birthdays and holidays.” While Carp isn’t set up to deal with wholesale stores, he’s embracing Mark’s concept for the MI General Store. “I think as a whole, we need to keep our economy going. When I opened my store, I made sure all of my contractors were from Livingston county and he’s (Mark) doing the same by keeping all of the products in Michigan,” Carp said. “I think it’s important to keep our money here in our economy to keep it afloat.” Along with offering Oh My Lolli’s hard candy, the store will also offer products from Sidetracks, Jolly Pumpkin, Frog Island, Blue Tractor, Clancy’s Fancy Hot Sauce and the infamous Faygo Pop. Mark intends to be very strict about which products are considered “Made in Michigan” and which are not. With the

exception of coffee, which isn’t grown in Michigan, all products have to be grown, manufactured and packaged in the state of Michigan. The license he sought is especially important so the store can sell local beers. “Michigan beer is getting to the point where it’s competing with the best micro-brew craft beer anywhere,” Mark said. “The wine will take a little longer to get more respect, but we’re working on that.” While Michigan’s economy is on the upswing, Mark doesn’t see a point in opening a store that offers products not from Michigan. “I wanted to support the things I like and buy,” Mark said. “By buying Michigan, we’re employing people – and the things being made in Michigan are just better.” Meantime, Mark and Danielle are also toying with the idea of extending hours for Café Ollie now that they can sell beer and wine. “We don’t want to be a loud bar by any means,” he said. “We want to provide a European style café where people can talk and actually hear each other.” MI General Store plans to hold a grand opening party on Jan. 14 at 8 p.m. For more information, visit: <http://facebook.com/pages/MI-General-Store/251075844924825>

Commuters see promise in efforts to ‘Re-Imagine Washtenaw Avenue’

BEN SOLIS
Managing Editor

As a former resident of Boston, Daniel Kliger knows first-hand about bus etiquette. “People here usually take a long time to get off the buses,” said Kliger, 19, an undecided University of Michigan student, while waiting on Washtenaw Avenue for the Route 22 bus to U-M’s north campus. “That and people sometimes don’t move all the way to the back. I understand that it’s laid back here, but the buses are crowded and it takes forever.” Luckily for bus riders and motorists alike, new progress made by the Re-Imagining Washtenaw Avenue master plan initiative will make buses not only more accessible, but quicker by adding routes and making fewer stops, according to Tony Van Derworp, project manager of the initiative. The county-wide initiative was put into place two years ago and focuses on creating greater mobility for buses, cars and people walking or riding bikes throughout the Washtenaw corridor. Since the roadway stretches from Ypsilanti through Ann Arbor, and ends in Pittsfield, the progress has been slow but deliberate, Van Derworp said. “The project initially focused on the pedestrian aspect,

but now we’re moving into the development and zoning standards for the area,” he said. “We’re looking for the funding to do that now.” Washtenaw Avenue is the most traveled roadway in the county, Van Derworp said. This means that bus services and pedestrian travel can be often inhibited by the heavy flow of motorist traffic. In order to combat these inconveniences, the initiative’s organizers looked at the framework of how these different modes of transportation interact with each other. “The grants that we filed for have allowed us to put together the design standards so we have a consistent development standard,” said Van Derworp. “This helped us find what sidewalk gaps needed to get filled, and how non-motorized transportation could be enhanced.” Many of these changes have already been implemented, he said, including the sidewalk gaps along Pittsfield’s north side, a bike pathway from Washtenaw Avenue that continues east for easier biking between Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor, and more accessible pedestrian crossings across the road. Other additions have included five more bus routes with fewer stops, and additional bus shelters for those waiting to get on.

For Ann Arbor resident Robert Salo, 55, the bus shelters are among the most important changes. “For the riders, these enclosures are important,” said Salo, a Ground Cover magazine distributor and regular bus rider. “When it’s cold, these things really come in handy.” Yet the biggest concern raised by bus riders isn’t about standing in the cold, it’s about getting to where they need to be on time. “It’s not so bad in the morning or even the afternoon,” Salo said, “it just gets really crowded here at night. People like to be on time, and (the Re-Imagining Washtenaw Avenue initiative) will help do that.” Kliger, who waited at a stop without an enclosure, agreed. “It’s funny, because earlier today I saw a bus that was stopped across the street waiting for people to get off and on, and it clogged up all the traffic behind it,” Kliger said. “This will definitely make it easier.” Yet with both a Boston and Ann Arbor commute under his belt, Kliger did sing the praises of the county’s public transportation system. “I’ve been on a lot of routes both here and there, and the transportation here is pretty impressive,” Kliger said. “Compared to other cities in America, it’s pretty fast, just crowded.”



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WCC alum celebrates with a forest of decorated trees

ANNE DUFFY
Staff Writer

CHELSEA – Everybody has their obsessions, and Cindy Johnson sure has hers. “Some people drink, some people do drugs, but I need ornaments,” said 54-year-old Johnson, a Washtenaw Community College Alumna and information technology supervisor for The State of Michigan. And by ornaments, she means the 3,734 of them with glistening lights decorating 177 Christmas trees in her home. It all started for Johnson in 1976, when she bought a Hallmark ornament that had the date on it. She started buying Hallmark ornaments every year, but then it mushroomed from there – especially since started using eBay in 1999. “I could buy ornaments all year long instead of just at Christmas,” Johnson said.



JENNIFER GENTNER COURTESY PHOTO

Left, a small tree and assorted Christmas decorations even makes it into Johnson’s restroom. Above, the hearth is decorated with the classic stockings, nativity scene and several fully decorated trees.

Johnson’s festival of trees fills her modest 1,300-square-foot home. She organizes all the decorations and trees using Microsoft Excel spreadsheets and gets her ornaments from garage sales, eBay and from friends getting rid of their holiday decorations. Each of her trees is themed and if she runs out of places to put ornaments she makes a smaller “sub-tree” next to it. “I have a whole Mickey Mouse tree, a Disney tree, and Winnie-the-Pooh tree,” said Johnson. “The living room is very crowded, I have about 32 trees in there.” It takes Johnson about three months to put the decorated trees up and about three months to put them away. All the lights are on timers, and her electricity bill is only about \$300 for December. “When I die, my daughter gets all my ornaments, and if she sells them I told her I’d come back and haunt her,” Johnson said. Johnson said she has met people across the country on eBay who collect Christmas ornaments. “I met a guy in Oregon and we trade ornaments if we have duplicates. At one point, he had 18,000 Hallmark ornaments. So I don’t compare to him,” said Johnson. “But if I hit the lottery, I’m going to add on a room to my house and put more Christmas trees in it.

To view the video of the Christmas trees and ornaments, visit: <http://washtenawvoice.com>.

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LOCAL HOTSPOTS RING IN 2012 WITH STYLE

BEN SOLIS
Managing Editor

For many students, the best time of the year varies depending on their persuasion. Yet no one can deny the universal need to get down, and maybe a little wild, on New Year's Eve.

While some will have elaborate parties with their loved ones and friends at home, others will choose the nightlife and sing "Auld Lang Syne" at their favorite clubs.

In our never-ending quest to help our readers, *The Washtenaw Voice* did a little "pre-scouting" into some of the best parties around town, as one year melds into the next. Here is our selection of the most happening times.

AUBREE'S SALOON/STICKS

Aubree's will help rock the town with two floors worth of festivities. On the first floor, patrons looking for a special pairing of alcohol and food will be offered a four course meal and drink deal for \$35 per person.

This deal will also feature a champagne toast at midnight, and are available by reservation only. Upstairs, Sticks Pool Hall will keep the party going with a special spin-able drink wheel, reminiscent of your grandmother's favorite game show. The wheel will be spun by patrons on the hour and will determine which specialty drinks are poured.

The sounds of DJ Chris Hunt will add tunes to the occasion. No Cover.

Located at:
39 East Cross Street, Ypsilanti
(734) 483-1873

CONOR O'NEILL'S

Downtown Ann Arbor's traditional Irish pub will be keeping 2012 real with a full-course meal package that will include drink specials, and not one, but two Champaign toasts to the evening – one at Irish New Year, and the other for our own time zone.

The meal deal is a bit expensive, about \$60 per person, but the revelry does include a full breakfast for those who stick around to the very end. No cover charge for walk-in guests.

Located at:
318 South Main Street, Ann Arbor
(734) 665-2968

SIDETRACK BAR AND GRILL

Ever the minimalists, Ypsilanti's famous Sidetrack will have its own shindig, but without food or all the novelties – just discounted spirits and beer. All liquor will be half off, and beer specials will feature 25-ounce tall drafts for \$2.95.

Cheap drinks, hopping music and no cover charge.

Located at:
56 East Cross Street, Ypsilanti
(734) 483-1035

TOWER INN

For the first time in 30 years, the Tower Inn Café will be open through the holidays, and it's doing it for the best reason of all: to celebrate the New Year.

This New Year's Eve, Tower will hold its own party featuring a full-course prime rib dinner, pasta dishes and different appetizers. The price of the whole package is \$30 per person. For more information call and ask for Tony.

Located at:
701 West Cross Street, Ypsilanti
(734) 487-2650

BLUE LEPRECHAUN

This traditional pub and eatery will feature a hopping party for walk-in guests. For those looking for something special, a full buffet will be offered to guests looking to fill up with enough food to soak in all the alcohol later.

Buffet prices vary from pre-order, \$15, or \$20 at the door. The Buffet will run until 11 p.m. Cover charge for non-buffet guests is \$5.

Located at:
1220 South University Avenue, Ann Arbor
(734) 665-7777

BEL-MARK LANES

For those looking to avoid the wild debauchery of New Year's Eve extravaganzas, Bel-Mark Lanes offers a more laid-back alternative. Blocks of bowling packages will be offered, including shoe rental for up to six guests, a large three-item pizza, pitchers of soda and a lane of unlimited cosmic bowling.

If sipping a stiff drink is on your to do list, Bel-Mark also features a full bar. Prices per package vary. Call Ken at Bel-Mark Lanes for more details.

Located at:
3530 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor
(734) 994-8433

AFTER PARTY?

While the New Year's Eve mainstay may be hopping from bar to bar, every good night needs some sort of cap to top it off. If you're around town, shaking off the booze or just generally hungry, here are three Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor citadels that are open 24 hours a day.

Beware, these joints are well-known, cheap in price, and are sure to be busy. But the reward of ending an epic downtown party off in a classic downtown spot only makes for better memories of ringing in the new year.

Dom Bakeries
1035 Washtenaw Road, Ypsilanti
(734) 485-3175

Abe's Coney Island
402 West Michigan Avenue, Ypsilanti
(734) 485 2008

The Fleetwood Diner
300 South Ashley Street, Ann Arbor
(734) 995-5502



Bigger, better and still spinning strong, vinyl records are here to stay



ADRIAN HEDDEN
Features Editor

Despite what the future holds for the recording industry, despite laser readers, mp3 players and the iTunes iStore, vinyl remains increasingly viable in Ann Arbor.

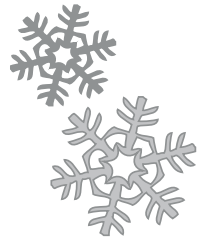
Locals get their demands for analog records met at the city's several purveyors of recorded music that populate the Liberty Street area of downtown Ann Arbor, citing higher sound quality and greater collectability for the aging albums.

To continue the story and see more pictures turn to page B4



Encore Records, located at 417 East Liberty Street, has a listening station for customers to sample music.

JARED ANGLE THE WASHTENAW VOICE



Occupy Winter



Downhill fun just a short drive away



Skiers hit the slopes at one of the more than 40 ski resorts in Michigan.

BONNIE TRAFELET MCT COURTESY PHOTO

ANNA FUQUA-SMITH
Staff Writer

It's break. There's nothing to do. Instead of sitting around wasting the next three weeks, maybe it's time to plan that skiing trip you've never gotten around to.

Michigan in its "winter wonderland" prime is home to more than 40 different ski resorts. Luckily for Washtenaw Community College students, there's no need to drive four hours north for downhill fun.

There are several downhill ski areas within an hour or so of the college. Of course, before heading to any destination, it's best to either call or check the website for weather conditions. Happy skiing.

Mt. Brighton
4141 Bauer Rd. Brighton (30 miles from campus)
(810) 229-9581
<http://mtbrighton.com>

Home to 130 skiable acres, Mt. Brighton offers a 250 feet

vertical drop, 26 runs, seven chairlifts and 11 surface lifts. Inexperienced? Students can get discounts on lessons. Equipment is available for rental.

Alpine Valley Ski Area:
6775 E. Highland Road, White Lake
(248) 887-4183
<http://skialpinevalley.com>

Located just 53 minutes from WCC, Alpine Valley provides 25 tree-lined slopes, serviced by nine chair lifts and four rope tows. Lessons and full equipment rental available with student discounts.

Pine Knob Ski Area:
7778 Sashabaw Road, Clarkston
(248) 625-0800
http://skipineknob.com/pages/_home_.cfm

Just an hour drive from WCC, Pine Knob Ski Area is home to a 300-foot vertical drop with a total of 17 runs, six chair lifts and five rope tows.

Mt. Holly Ski Area:
13536 South Dixie Highway, Holly
(248) 634-8269
<http://skimtholly.com>

44 miles north of campus, Mt. Holly provides 19 trails suitable for beginner to advanced skiers. It has seven chairlifts and five rope tows with complete equipment rental.

Apple Mountain Ski Resort
4519 N. River Road, Freeland
(989) 921-9518
<http://applemountain.com>

Located 112 miles north of WCC, this drive will take closer to two hours, but some skiers might say it's worth the trip. It's a 307-acre resort with a little of everything for beginning and advanced skiers and snowboarders. The resort has 12 slopes with a vertical drop of 220 feet and quad chairlift with four tows. It also has two full-service restaurants.

Holiday Nights at Greenfield Village; dinner Package at the Eagle Tavern

CHUCK DENTON
Contributor

Who says the "Good Old Days" were simple? Well, during Holiday Nights through December at Greenfield Village in Dearborn, you can find out for yourself.

Partake in a buffet-style holiday turkey dinner at the Eagle Tavern, and after you've enjoyed yourself, you can walk back in time through the candle-lit paths to life as it was before the electricity – and all the technologies it gave birth to.

Along the path, you can stop at the many costumed presenters and see how life really was for your ancestors. There are expert artisans working the old shops. You can see printmaking, tin smiths, glassmaking and more.

The shops are the real thing. In 1929, Henry Ford purchased and moved many establishments for the sole purpose of giving people an idea of how life was before the modern era.

If you like chocolate, you can experience the fresh smell of the cocoa bean as it is hand-made into sweets. They start with beans from the local dried goods store, a burn barrel and lots of hand labor.

"I get their attention when

I add the brandy," said artisan presenter Russ Eichold, 40, of Lincoln Park.

Santa also has a surprise for the kids, but to make it magical, you must stop in and see Santa's helpers first. Once Santa's helpers do their magic, expect a big surprise for the kids when they visit Santa.

Carolers sing Christmas songs. Visitors can enjoy ice skating, horse-drawn carriage rides and shopping in the village of the 1800s.

"The live reindeer and the fireworks are special nightly events just for the Holiday Nights," Eichold said.

If you prefer something in-doors, there is the "Polar Express" playing at the IMAX Theatre, the Automotive Hall of Fame or the Henry Ford Museum. Inside the museum you will find the special Wizard of Oz exhibit for kids.

The story of technology changing through time is the main attraction at the museum. Starting with the story of time and clock making, on display are the first 1700s steam engines, planes, trains, automobiles and presidential vehicles that go all the way back to Theodore Roosevelt's horse-drawn carriage.

The liberty and justice exhibit will walk you through the story of freedom in the nation that gave birth to the idea of progress. All of the key events that formed the nation, including the modern Civil Rights events, are featured.

Take a seat on the Montgomery, Ala., bus that sparked the Civil Rights movement after Rosa Parks was arrested for failing to move to the back.

"The bus was built in Pontiac, Mich., and sold to Montgomery City Lines. We purchased the bus in 2003, at the time it was used as storage shed. We paid \$427,000 and invested another \$300,000," said Pat Zadorozny, historic presenter.

Don't forget to check out President Kennedy's limo or President Lincoln's last chair he sat in before Booth arrived.

And before you head home, you can stop and pick out a real Christmas tree.

Last year, 64,000 people visited Holiday Nights over a 12-night period. This year the Village added two more nights. If you are planning on attending the dinner, it is advised you call and make reservations.

For more information, call (313) 982-6001 or visit <http://thehenryford.org>.

Holiday Gala in Kalamazoo

BOB CONRADI
Staff Writer

Traditionally opening at 5:30 p.m., Dec. 31, with a 30-piece tuba band, the Kalamazoo New Year's Fest swings visitors into the New Year – with music.

New Years Eve celebrations like this one began in Boston in 1976. The intent was to celebrate local talent and provide an alternative to alcohol-fueled partying. Kalamazoo had its first family-friendly non-alcoholic New Year's Fest in 1985, so this year will be the 26th anniversary.

In the heart of downtown Kalamazoo lies Bronson Park. The surrounding churches and civic buildings serve as venues for performances held throughout the evening so that all shows are within easy walking distance.

Reasonably priced food is served at several of these buildings and also by vendors in the park.

According to the program director Deborah Droppers, of Kalamazoo, this year's fest will provide a great blend of entertainment geared toward all age groups and tastes.

Included are music from many genres, comedy, juggling, yo-yo, magic and storytelling. Nearly all performers are from the Midwest.

Performances are repeated throughout the evening.

"The Fast Pass ticket is a new

feature that allows priority seating to the next show for those who could not get in on the first try," Droppers said.

One favorite act at the fest is the father and son duo, Rich and Brandon Ridenour. Rich is an accomplished concert pianist and son Brandon, playing trumpet, is a musical wunderkind. Brandon attended Juilliard and then became the youngest-ever member of the famed Canadian Brass.

Elvis Presley became associated with Kalamazoo in 1988, when tabloids picked up the story of alleged sightings of the deceased pop star in the area. He still shows up on New Year's Eve in the form of tribute artist Doug Church.

As the clock approaches midnight, 'Elvis' will perform some of his favorites at the Bronson Park band shell, then count in the new year. Just like in Time's Square, a lighted ball drops when the count reaches zero.

Then, as couples kiss and revelers roar "Happy New Year!" the fireworks begin. The crowd gathered in the park looks up (toward the east this year) as blossoms of color burst in the sky, possibly accompanied by snowflakes.

One of the best things about this annual festival is the price. A button admitting the wearer to all shows is only \$5 purchased in advance or \$8 on the day of the event.

For those who would like to extend their visit, try the Kalamazoo Air Zoo, just south of town at 6151 Portage Rd. The Air zoo features vintage aircraft, many in flying condition. Included are a collection of WWII fighter planes, an F-14 Tomcat like those in the movie "Top Gun," and the last surviving SR-71B Blackbird spy plane.

The Air Zoo also features a new interactive exhibit called "Space: Dare to Dream." The exhibits are open Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., and Sunday, noon-5 p.m. General admission is \$8, and rides, including flight simulators, cost extra.

For nature lovers there is the Kalamazoo Nature Center, 7000 N. Westnedge Ave. The woodland trails and the Interpretive Center make for a great family outing.

Sports fans may want to visit Wings Stadium, 3600 Vanrick Drive, and catch a hockey game or other winter sports including figure skating and curling.

Kalamazoo is home to Sweetwater's Donut Mill, 2138 S. Sprinkle Road, where pastry lovers will find some of the best donuts in the Midwest. For the adults, Kalamazoo is also home to Bell's Brewery and it's Eclectic Café, at 355 East Kalamazoo Avenue.

For a list of activities, visit <http://washtenawvoice.com>

Enjoy a little Bavaria – just over an hour north of campus

JAEL GARDINER
Staff Writer

Taking a day trip to Frankenmuth is one of the more iconic things to do in Michigan – especially around Christmas.

Among the more common activities there are having a chicken dinner at Zehnder's, hiking through Bronner's, the world's largest Christmas store and taking a horse-drawn carriage ride through a town that would be right at home in the Bavarian Alps.

Those who want to get a chicken dinner without paying the hefty price of the dining halls can go downstairs to the Zehnder's basement for a cheaper, cafeteria-style meal. There isn't the same variety of food options as are available upstairs, but it comes at a lower price. During the holidays, it can be a long wait to get into the dining halls.

In the basement there are fewer lines and they move faster. Once customers have gorged on a more reasonably priced

dinner, they can pop over to the bakery, located only a few feet away. It offers confections like pies, huge doughnuts, cakes and chocolates. Also, the Zehnder's costumed chicken will come by occasionally to take pictures with the children.

Right next to Bronner's, on the side of the parking lot, is a smaller attraction – the Silent Night Chapel – that focuses on one of the most famous Christmas songs.

"It's a replica of the Silent Night Memorial Chapel in Olbendorf, Austria, which is near Salzburg," said Cindy Baxter, a salesroom manager at Bronner. "It's construction began in 1992, and it was dedicated on Nov. 20, 1992. It's an exact replica."

Staying the night at one of the hotels is less focused around Christmas, but the Bavarian Inn has a lot to offer for the kids. There is an arcade, which doubles as an official video game testing center. Also within the hotel are pools, a miniature golf course, shopping

and plenty of places to eat.

One of the hidden gems in Frankenmuth is the Crepe shop in the River Place Shops, known as La Crepe du Jour. The River Place Shops are great too. The Mirror Maze is a good place for parents to let their children play while they get their crepes.

"La Crepe du Jour is an authentic Parisian-style Creperie serving both sweet and savory crepes," said Renee Crimmins, shop owner.

Since many people bring their children, toy stores are a great find in Frankenmuth. The Frankenmuth Hobby Center on Main Street offers toys and model airplanes, cars and helicopters. It's fun for the whole family to look through, and it can be a good place to go shopping for holiday gifts.

Frankenmuth is located about 77 miles directly north of Ann Arbor. It's worth the drive for the day or relaxing weekend with friends and family.



RASHAUN RUCKER MCT COURTESY PHOTO

Stephanie Mathers, 8, left, and her sister Kayli, 5, of Midland, stop to talk to Don Rekoweg, center, of Woodburn, Ind., while shopping at Bronner's Christmas Wonderland in Frankenmuth.

Volleyball club out in first round of playoffs



Johannes Boehme, 22, of Gera, Germany, business major spikes the ball over the net.

JARED ANGLE THE WASHTENAW VOICE

ANNA FUQUA-SMITH
Staff Writer

An exciting season came to an end on Dec. 8 as the Washtenaw Community College men's volleyball team was eliminated by Net Set in the first round of playoffs. Starting off the first game with five players, one short, the Warriors took the first game with a score of 25-22. In the second game, WCC added a sixth player and

jumped to a lead before falling, 28-26. Confidence waned in the rubber match, and Net Set pulled away with the win of 15-6. "We just didn't have the full team today," said coach Doug Tan. "I think we changed formation in the second game so that probably messed us up a little bit." Physical therapy major Doug Hatfield, 18, of Pinckney, thinks that a build-up of smaller mistakes is the reason they

lost the two last sets. "We didn't really talk. We missed some simple serves and simple plays," he said. Aerospace engineering major Mike Willette, 19, of Ypsilanti says a big reason the team lost was due to Captain Jon Denys not being present at the game. "Where is our captain? No one's heard from him," Willette said. "With that combined, we lost confidence and fell apart structurally."

Even though Denys wasn't present at the game, Willette believes making it to the playoffs was a huge stride for men's volleyball this year. Club Sports Coordinator Erica Lemm thinks the team played excellent in the game. "I think they just got tired. They were playing with less players," Lemm said. "They were missing their best player and they all turned into the best player. They played better than I've ever seen them play."

'Kringling' – is it the next holiday fad?

ANNE DUFFY
Staff Writer

Chris Ozminski, 50, a digital video production student runs up to Erica Lemm, Washtenaw Community College Club Sports Coordinator, and, without so much as a proper introduction, sits on her lap. A friend with a camera snaps a photo, and Ozminski smiles and says to Lemm: "You've just been Kringled." Kringling: The act of sitting on an unsuspecting person's lap while someone else takes a photo of it, as in Kris Kringle's. That's right, Santa's lap. According to Detroit radio station WKQI 95.5 FM, "Kringling is the next new fad." The station claims to have started the craze. WCC is not a stranger to the holiday cheer of Kringling. "I really enjoy Kringling," said Deron Wilson, 26, a

business management student from Ypsilanti who had a jolly ole' time running around the student center on Dec 5, Kringling strangers. Silly? Maybe. But fun. In the holiday spirit, a couple *Voice* staffers ventured out into the Student Center as well to start their own Kringling movement and even Kringled a couple of administrators. When someone jumped onto the lap of Peter Leshkevich, director of Student Development and Activities, he immediately asked, "And what did you want for Christmas?" For more photos of Kringling around campus, visit <http://washtenawvoice.com>. To learn more about Kringling and to see some wacky photos of the phenomenon, check out 95.5's Mojo in the Morning's Kringling photos: http://mojointhemorning.com/cccommon/gallery/photos.html?album_id=303724&p=18378937#/4/18378940



Chris Ozminski, 50, a digital video production major from Brighton, 'Kringling' WCC Club Sports Coordinator Erica Lemm.

JARED ANGLE THE WASHTENAW VOICE

'Happy Holidays' or 'Merry Christmas?'

PHOTOS BY **ADRIAN HEDDEN** FEATURES EDITOR
INTERVIEWS BY **ALLIE TOMASON** STAFF WRITER

Merry Christmas

GUNNAR RENIER
20, Belleville, Automotive Technology

Merry Christmas. I don't think people should get offended by it...I mean, it's been Merry Christmas for thousands of years, why change it now?

JESSICA MCLEISH
20, Howell, Nursing

It is Christmas so why can't you say it? I don't understand why people get so offended by it.

CYNTHIA STEARNS
61, Ypsilanti, Childcare Development

It's traditional.

ERIC TAEPEKE
20, Manchester, Law Enforcement

It doesn't take away from the meaning. If you say Happy Holidays, well what holiday?

MICHAEL ROBERSON
19, Ypsilanti, Business Management

I celebrate Christmas.

MICHAEL RIGOULOT
20, Hamburg, Electrical Engineering

Basically, I was just raised that way. I say Merry Christmas, and if someone said Happy Hanukkah to me, I'd say thank you.

EMILY KOPACZ
16, Milan, Nursing

Merry Christmas. I think Christmas is something people can identify with. Even if people don't celebrate it, it is something that is widespread.

JON QUICK
19, Manchester, Law Enforcement

Because of what Christmas is; it is the celebration of Christ's birth. If you take that out, it changes the meaning.

Happy Holidays

KAYLEE ARELLA
17, Plymouth, Math and Science

Just because there is more than one holiday, not just for special religions.

CAPRICE FULLER
19, Detroit, Nursing

Happy Holidays. A lot of people don't celebrate Christmas.

MALLORY ELOMAA
18, Ypsilanti, Secondary Education

I have a lot of friends from different religions and cultures, plus I work in a business atmosphere.

TYRONE OWENS
21, Ypsilanti, Graphic Design

I celebrate Christmas, but I have family members that don't so I can't be inconsiderate.

MAEGAN PIERSON
20, Ann Arbor, Art History

Because not everyone is Christian and believes in Christmas.

KORDNEY STARKS
23, Detroit, Criminal Justice/Law Enforcement

For those that don't believe in Christmas.

DEJAHMARA WILLIAMS
20, Detroit, Broadcasting

Happy Holidays. Some people don't celebrate Christmas. In my family, we celebrate Hanukkah and Christmas.

KEVIN HEGER
25, Ann Arbor, Math and Science

Happy Holidays. It's more generic. This way it covers everybody, versus just Christmas.



VINYLS FROM B1

To Anthony Caruso, a general studies major at Washtenaw Community College and resident of Ann Arbor, it's about sound. Admitting to the convenience of digital mediums, Caruso still prefers vinyl for a more intense listening experience.

"The sound is way different," Caruso said. "Many albums sound better on vinyl. CDs can't get the full range. The lows and highs both sound better. If I want convenience, I will go for the iPod. But as technology gets better, the sound quality keeps getting worse. People are starting to see vinyl's appeal."

Claiming a recent trend in the reduction of auditory precision in favor of digitized convenience as behind the resurfacing of vinyl's popularity, Caruso, 22, is irked by the lack of physicality in modern, invisible formats.

"Computer storage is more

temporary. It's more abstract and less real," Caruso said. "Records are also a cool thing to have, like an artifact. They're nicer to collect, like Beanie Babies."

Matthew Bradish, owner of Underground Sounds on Liberty Street in Downtown Ann Arbor, concurs. Witnessing the continued popularity of vinyl among die-hard patrons of his shop, Bradish believes the physicality of records goes beyond the discs themselves.

"People who listen to vinyl have a higher attention span and passion," Bradish said. "It's the having to get up off your butt and flip the thing half-way through. If you're gonna buy a physical format, it's the one to have. The artwork is bigger and the sound is better without all that compression."

Bradish has noticed a recent ascension in vinyl sales as current as the Dec. 6 release of the Black Keys' latest album "El Camino."

"Sales have increased and

record plants have had to increase production," Bradish said. "The Black Keys was a big vinyl release. The plants can't keep up. I ordered 20 copies and only got five."

East of Bradish's emporium, on Liberty Street as well, Encore Records has been quenching Ann Arbor's robust thirst for vinyl by the decades. Heavily relying on customer contributions of used records and tapes to fill his shelves, co-owner Jim Dwyer, 48, sees the passage of time, passing the recordings from the hands of one generation to the next.

"The truth is, it never really went away," Dwyer said. "Sure, the industry really pushed for new formats to resell their back catalogues, but some of us never really got rid of our records. Real collectors want vinyl."

Over the years, Dwyer has observed modern genres of music encouraging the continued use of analogue recordings.

"Punk bands and hip-hop kept vinyl alive," Dwyer said.

"It was cheaper for the punks to press, and appealing to DJs because they could easily isolate their favorite parts of songs."

Dwyer believes the continuous popularity of records also results from a nostalgia that youngsters will only be able to wonder for.

"As the baby-boomers get older, more of their records are brought back into circulation," Dwyer said. There's a coolness. Young people tend to look back into music history and vinyl seems more authentic."


Naming artists Creedence Clearwater Revival, Otis Redding, Marvin Gaye and Pink Floyd as his store's biggest sellers of records, Dwyer believes listeners will enjoy a marriage with the sounds echoing from their needles deeper than any other recording available.

"It's bigger, it's better. It has substance to it," Dwyer said. "You'll feel more immediacy. It's nice to know that you have that direct connection with the artists themselves."

PHOTOS BY JARED ANGLE THE WASHTENAW VOICE

Clockwise from top left: Encore Records proudly displays its most coveted vinyl up front; aisles of analog albums pack local music stores; at 225 East Liberty St.; Underground Sounds has not given up on vinyl records, despite the digital fad.





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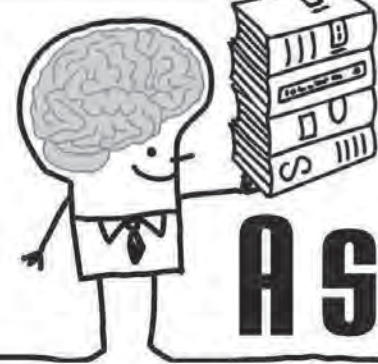
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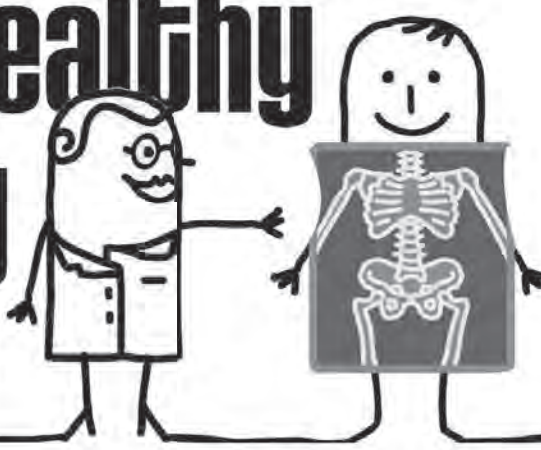
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Washtenaw Community College

‘New Year’s Eve’: It’s not going to be okay.

★★★★☆

RATED: **PG-13**
RUNTIME: **118 MINUTES**
GENRE: **ROMANTIC COMEDY**



ADRIAN HEDDEN
Features Editor

The world converges on Dec. 31 in Times Square to rejoice at the passage of another year. Celebrities are afoot, and they are looking to crank out a classic. The resulting cheese-fest of hastily conceived romances and grating pop-music is a minimally amusing look into the world of cinematic euphoria, at the cusp of 2012.

Another year, the same New York and a horde of celebrity actors and musicians are the main ingredients in Garry Marshall’s latest holiday celebration “New

Year’s Eve.” Following the intertwining adventures of several, starry-eyed New Yorkers in Times Square, awaiting the famous ball to drop at midnight, Marshall looks to weave a hip and heart-warming homage to New Year’s cheer.

With Hollywood beauties Hillary Swank and Jessica Biel, playing an events coordinator and pregnant woman respectively, and hunks Ashton Kutcher and Zack Efron getting caught up in their own hijinks from one slacker one-liner to the next, the quirky attempts at comedy and false-chemistry, as actors attempt to outshine

one-another, make up the majority of the flick. The actors’ stories somehow all connect as the fateful ball is set to drop – perhaps on their careers.

But don’t forget the montages.

When transitioning from scene-to-scene of campy dialogue, the film treats viewers to a sampling of over-blown, bubblegum pop to chew on while they sit amazed as glorious images of New York City flash before their eyes. One’s psyche is suddenly awash with admiration for the big apple, and fluttered with a garbling of the classic MTV, auditory hedonism.

Perhaps fun for younger viewers and fans of reality television’s brain-drain effect, by the end of “New Year’s Eve,” the film is apparently nothing more than mere propaganda.

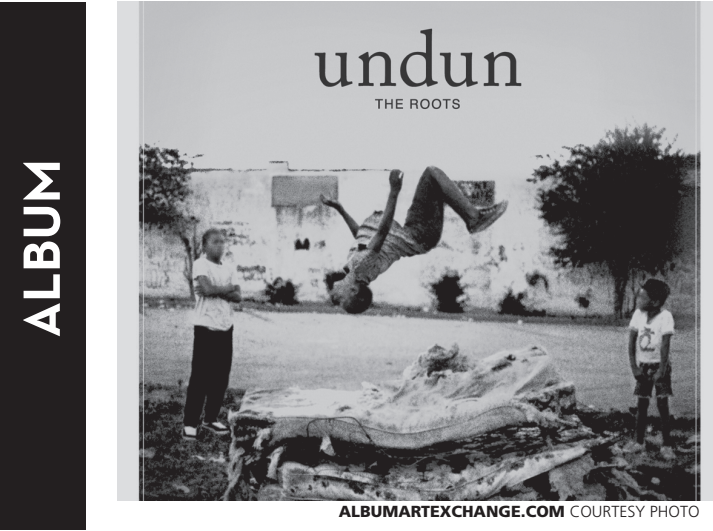
Dragging to the nearly two-hour mark, the sappiness seems to have one message: 2012 is going to be just fine; America and New York are going to be just fine. It is a movie where nothing happens, save more screen time for spot-light darlings.

Don’t let the glossy poster fool you, or the celebrity cast list entice you. This is not a movie. Don’t let them tell you it will be okay.

The Roots darker, yet hopeful, on “Undun”

★★★★☆

ALBUM: **UNDUN**
LABEL: **ISLAND/DEF JAM**
YEAR: **2011**
GENRE: **HIP HOP**



BEN SOLIS
Managing Editor

The Roots is arguably one of the most recognizable bands playing hip-hop in recent years, and not just because of its regular gig on Jimmy Fallon’s talk show.

In the early 2000s, The Roots offered a healthy alternative to hip hop bands, mixing in different elements here and there for flavor, not fashion.

The Roots have always been the contrary: a real hip-hop group that just happens to play all of its own instruments. And

let’s be honest, after rap rock, everyone was hungry for the funk.

Lately The Roots have lost the uplifting, funky exploration of albums past. Upon a quick sampling of the band’s output in the last few years, save for the joyous Obama Year One themed “How I Got Over,” it is apparent that the band is absolutely pissed off and much more aggressive. But at whom? These questions remained unanswered until “Undun.”

On The Roots’ latest disc, we find the band in a precarious place, marginalized almost by

hip-hop as a whole. There is no room for being overly happy or funky any more. Of course not, as emcee Black Thought points out, on tracks like “Sleep” and “One Time.” Now is the time for reflection and personal appraisal – the message of “Undun.”

When the future is uncertain, don’t panic, and don’t resort to desperate measures; this is a message almost unheard of from socially conscious rappers who cite the spirit of revolution more frequently than understanding.

The theme alone shows the spiritual growth of the group,

and how the culture of underground hip-hop has evolved post-Obama. The dream was realized, just not finished, and there is plenty of more work to do, explains Black Thought on “Make My.” But that work doesn’t need violent or stark resistance. The solution is diplomacy and emotional appeal, and finally, The Roots seems to understand that.

Oh, and about the music: the band has dropped funk. Think less Roots and more organic-sounding alternative, more akin to Radiohead than hip-hop.

‘The Sitter’ has the power to send you to bed early

★★★☆☆

RATED: **R**
RUNTIME: **100 MINUTES**
GENRE: **COMEDY**



NATHAN CLARK
Staff Writer

Parents wanting to spend a night out would never leave their children home alone or in the care of a complete stranger. Those options are much better than leaving them with the babysitter in the recent movie “The Sitter.”

Jonah Hill stars as the babysitter Noah, a disappointing, suspended college student living with his divorced mother. Noah’s mother is all set to go to a

dinner party to meet a potential new man in her life when she’s informed that her friend, who will be introducing her to the new man, won’t be able to go unless she finds a sitter for her three children.

Noah’s desire to see his mother happy again convinces him to take the job. After the parents leave Noah for the night, he receives a phone call from his “girlfriend” promising him something special if he brings her some drugs to a party

she’s attending. He excitedly agrees, packs the kids into the family minivan and embarks on a chaotic adventure they will never forget.

The movie is advertised as a laugh-out-loud, horrible-situation comedy, but it plays more like a light comedy with too much drama thrown in. The amount they threw into this movie makes it feel a little awkward bouncing back and forth between laughter and sadness.

The sitter is rated R, but

it probably could have been bumped down to a PG-13 rating if it cut one scene out of the film. The movie contains no nudity and not too many sexual references, but a lot of profane and vile language.

Jonah Hill’s awkward comedy style and hilarious lines make the movie worth seeing, but not in a movie theater. After seeing the first 10 minutes of the film, anyone watching can easily say to themselves “I should’ve waited six months to rent this.”

Master Chief back in the fray with ‘Halo: Anniversary’

★★★★☆

ESRB RATING **M FOR MATURE**
DEVELOPER **BUNGIE/**
343 INDUSTRIES
PLATFORMS **XBOX 360**



JARED ANGLE
Photo Editor

After a nail-biting, 10-year wait, fans of the Halo franchise finally have a new game to beat while they bide their time for 2012’s highly anticipated “Halo 4.”

Perhaps most importantly, players can look forward to stepping back into the armored boots of the Master Chief, protagonist of the original Halo trilogy.

For those looking for the next cutting-edge shooter to round out their collection, they’ll find that “Halo: Anniversary” is very “Spartan” when it comes to features. Missing from the game are the dual-wielding of Halo 2, the power-ups of Halo 3, and the

night vision of “Halo: ODST.”

“Halo: Anniversary” wasn’t intended to replace the previous Halo games – it was made to hit players with a roundhouse kick of nostalgia.

While players are reliving their memories of the original release of “Halo: Combat Evolved” – or perhaps being introduced to Halo for the very first time, they’ll be pleased to experience the new game’s revamped graphics, re-mastered audio and redesigned characters.

Players will feel more connected to the environment during gameplay than in other shooters as the field often contains realistic rain and snow and

is pockmarked with bone-shattering explosions and merciless enemies.

These gameplay changes were made possible by a two-part replacement of the game engine. The campaign uses the Saber3D Engine, which it shares with Sierra’s “TimeShift,” while the multiplayer uses the same system as 2010’s “Halo: Reach.”

The multiplayer offers a variety of level choices, with both original and new maps from Halo and Halo 2. Additionally, the Firefight mode makes a return, with a level inspired by the campaign mode, operating much like “Firefight from Halo: Reach” but with a few changes.

Between fierce encounters

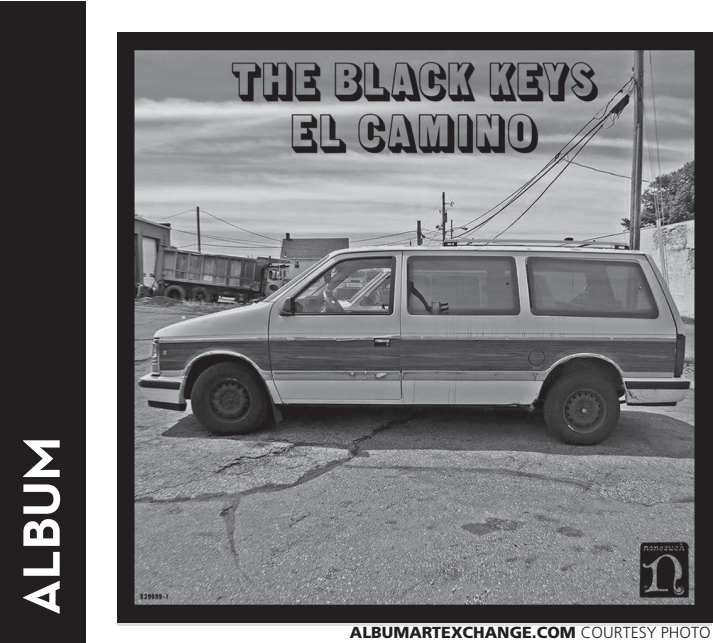
with intelligent enemies, players can catch a breather and partake in another Halo pastime – finding the game’s Easter eggs, cleverly tucked away in obscure places by the designers. Some of the Easter eggs are purely for racking up XBOX 360 achievements, while others can tweak the gameplay when activated from the menus.

In retrospect, “Halo: Anniversary” is a truly solid game for diehard fans, despite the fact that it may leave newer players wishing for more. But when the bells and whistles are left out, players will see Halo’s true soul – strong gameplay, a good story and an alien-blasting good time.

The Black Keys turns to pop, returns to roots

★★★★☆

ALBUM: **EL CAMINO**
LABEL: **NONESUCH**
YEAR: **2011**
GENRE: **ALT. ROCK**



ADRIAN HEDDEN
Features Editor

Tribal, pounding drums and an angular, two-note bass line encases listeners as “El Camino,” thrusts out of their speakers, turning music into electricity.

Without abandoning its roots in classic, American rock music, The Black Keys’ newest release marks a commercial continuation in the genre while still harkening back to the gods of the 1970s. Adding space-age synthesizers and a trio of female back-up vocals to their bluesy, guitar and drum experiments, the band brings energy to the mass’s ears and

achieves a modernized sound that is sure to sell.

Beginning with the lead single, “Lonely Boy,” The Black Keys establish a fast pace early on. Laden with a wall of girly back-ups during the chorus, the song charges away as sharp, sparse guitars are accented cleverly with occasional blips and beeps from the keyboard.

Like the rest of the album, the opener hovers within the three to four minute mark. Perfect for a single, and the same as almost every Beatles song.

Pop repetition aside, energy is maintained effectively with second track, “Dead and Gone.” Featuring more pulsing,

tom-heavy drums and minimalist bass, the song quickly cultivates The Black Keys’ stab at establishing a new sound for rockers and poppers alike.

The second track’s clean, jazzy guitars are engulfed in a twinkling of synths and guitarist, Dan Auerbach’s soulful crooning. More female back-ups are placed beneath Auerbach’s vocals, for a slightly slower, but more heartfelt continuation of the “new” sound. Hand-claps are utilized in the same way Lionel Richie did 30 years ago and begin to carve out a very strong, if somewhat corny, presence on the album.

If the first two tracks established the band’s latest

approach to commercializing rock music, the third and fourth pay homage to The Black Keys’ arena rock influences, for fans who may be scratching their heads after the odd beginning.

“Gold on the Ceiling” creates a fuzzy, blue-rock pop venture, much like Brits Marc Bolan and T.Rex. The fourth track, “Little Black Submarines,” could have just as easily been a cover of “Stairway to Heaven,” but no one, *no one* does that.

Ignore the lyrics, they are an emotionally depressing claw at the mysticism of past rockers, Led Zeppelin or maybe a little Hendrix even. At least these guys know what has worked in the past.

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R&Z Rx. Z is a graphic novel written by *The Voice* Managing Editor Ben Solis and Graphic Illustrator Frances Ross. The comic is presented in fortnightly installments in each issue of *The Washtenaw Voice* and in small sections at a time. The novel features graphic images and language. To view this novel in its full context, previous installments are available in earlier editions of *The Voice* and at <http://washtenawvoice.com/comics/>

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

Sudoku

				6		2		
					7			
4		3	2					
		6	3		8			
	7	2	4		6	8	3	
			7		1	5		
					5	4		1
			8					
		9	6	4		7		

Crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12				13						14		
15				16						17		
18			19					20	21			
	22				23	24	25					
			26						27			
				28								
	29	30	31		32			33	34			
	35			36						37	38	
39								40				41
42				43	44	45	46			47		
48				49						50		
51				52						53		

Across

- “___ About You”
- Actress Potts
- “One Day ___ Time”
- From ___ Z; the whole gamut
- ___ wrap; item sold near the aluminum foil
- “Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be ___ name...”
- “Dancing with the Stars” judge
- “X-Men: The Last ___”; movie for Hugh Jackman and Halle Berry
- “___ a yellow ribbon ‘round the...”
- Veranda; porch
- Actress Barbara and British Prime Minister Anthony
- “Last ___”
- Fleetwood motor home model
- Sullivan and Bradley
- Actor ___ Hanks
- “What Kind of Fool ___?”
- Foe
- Star of “Suburgatory”
- Ice cream scoop holders
- Slumbered
- Apple pie ___ mode
- Comedian Soupy ___
- Speed Wagon manufacturer
- Network for “The Little Couple”
- Worship
- George Gershwin’s lyricist brother
- “Mike Hammer, Private ___”
- “The Wonder ___”
- Unhappy

Down

- “Paul Blart: ___ Cop”; movie for Kevin James
- “The ___”; adventure series for George Peppard and Mr. T
- Mills or Reed
- St. Francis of ___
- ___ King Cole
- Gun rights org.
- Actor McKellen
- Concluded
- Be present at
- “Where the Wild ___ Are”; film for Max Records & Forest Whitaker
- Certain votes
- Social insect
- “___ Another Day”; 007 movie
- Carved tribal pole
- “The ___ and the Ecstasy”
- Monikers
- “For he’s ___ good fellow...”
- “Dennis the ___”
- Anger
- Señoritas
- Monogram for designer Yves
- “What I Did on My Summer Vacation,” for example
- Hatcher and Garr
- “Carmen” or “La Traviata”
- Actress Blanchett
- Warty amphibian
- Drink made from lemons or limes
- Hawaii’s Mauna ___
- Make a mistake



MIKE ADSIT THE WASHTENAW VOICE

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 Jan. 9 issue is 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 3.

HELP WANTED

Swim Instructor: Private health and tennis club. Provide excellent instruction and water safety skills to all levels of swimmers. Provide superb customer service and enthusiasm in teaching swimming. Teach group, semi private and private lessons. Free membership with employment. Lifeguard certification required. Please email your resume to cara.peterson@libertyathletic.net

FOR SALE

Bike, 2005 Model: Suzuki Gsx-r 750. \$2,000. For more information email: martinbill03@gmail.com

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.

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EMPLOYMENT

The 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.

Cook (2427792), Responsible for food preparation, maintaining organized cooler, freezer and dry-stock area. Also responsible for cleaning all kitchen equipment and sweeping and mopping designated areas. Assist utility personnel as needed, and servers with special orders. Part-time and full-time in Ann Arbor.

Inspector Trainee (2445955), An entry-level position assisting with inspections of wells and septic systems on job sites and in the office. Field work involves using common and specialized hand tools for locating and exposing underground structures, taking appropriate measurements, sampling drinking water and documenting observations. Office activities include due diligence research, simple drafting and CAD work, miscellaneous clerical functions and occasional errands. Part-time in Washtenaw and Oakland counties.

Bookshelver/Processor (2307050), Responsible for the efficient, thorough and accurate processing, sorting, and shelving of library materials. Retrieve and process materials requested electronically and by telephone. Shared responsibility for the daily workflow and smooth operation of the processing area

including prompt and reliable attendance. Part-time in Ann Arbor.

Entry level Java Developer (2452136), Familiarity with Blaze, Python, Servlets, ORM, DI, some web UI framework like struts or JSF + HTML, CSS and JavaScript. Design patterns like MVC, Delegates. Familiarity with multiple programming languages and test-driven development (TDD). Freelance, full-time, part-time and seasonal in Ann Arbor.

Counterperson/ Inside Sales (2452668), Must be friendly, professional, a quick learner and possess a strong knowledge of automotive parts, especially brake, suspension and exhaust. One year of experience or more wanted, but will train the right person. Full-time in Ann Arbor.

Tax Return Processor & Receptionist (2411109), Compile tax returns for clients on a confidential basis. Also responsible for answering phones for a busy tax office. Flexible days/hours but they need to be between 9 a.m-5 p.m. on weekdays. Seasonal from middle of December to middle of April. Part-time in Brighton.

Delivery Driver (2185584), Seeking new delivery professionals to deliver food from some of most popular restaurants in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti to local homes and businesses. Flexible hours. Must have own vehicle and insurance, a clean driving record (no DUIs, reckless driving or felonies), live within 15 minutes of Ann Arbor and have experience using iPhones/iPod Touches. Part-time and full-time in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti.

Customer Support Engineer (2446389), Troubleshoot client network and application issues via phone and remote access. Work with field engineers installing network equipment at client sites. Perform warranty and maintenance equipment replacement at client sites. Understanding of LANs and WANs. Understanding of TCP/IP and the OSI model necessary. Network and/or PC troubleshooting experience . Working knowledge of Microsoft Windows operating systems. Ability to travel as needed. Full-time in Novi.

Caregivers (454458), Provide one-on-one care to an elderly, chronically ill, or disabled individual in their homes. This includes assisting with bathing, grooming, toileting, meal preparation, homemaking and transportation. Full-time and part-time in Ann Arbor.

IMPORTANT CAREER TIP

You’ve heard of the old expression, “It’s not what you know, it’s who you know?” This is especially true when it comes to the job search, and networking is an excellent way of finding out about job opportunities that are not advertised. Talk with friends and family, instructors and neighbors, business executives and member of professional organizations—anyone who might be able to give you access to a more diverse group of employers.

For further assistance regarding networking, please contact Employment Services at (734) 677-5155.

For last week’s answers go to <http://washtenawvoice.com>



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