

Picking up your crap:
Meet the team that does it for you. B3

Battle of the Beatles:
The remaining members' new so-so solo albums. B4

Platform Tennis:
Officials question cost for 'high-brow' sport. B5

WCC's Autorama:
College gearheads show off hot rides and big muscle. C1

Honk if you've stepped in it



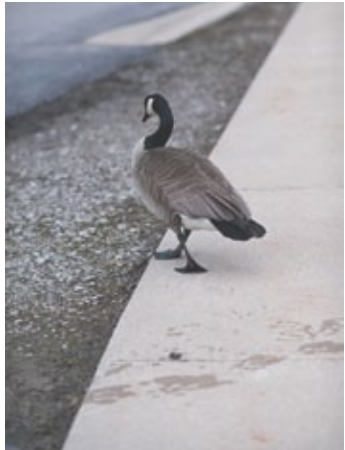
Why are they here, what do they want... and how do I get this s*&# off my shoe?

JARED ANGLE THE WASHTENAW VOICE

Several geese cross lot 6, blocking a van as it drives through campus last week.

BEN SOLIS
Managing Editor

Car and foot traffic and entrances to the college are often blocked, not by barriers, but by a group of rogue, feathered thugs that have taken over campus. Stroll along any of the concrete paths around Washtenaw



JARED ANGLE THE WASHTENAW VOICE
A goose waddles past smeared feces on the sidewalk and into a parking lot on campus.

Community College, and the sight of foot-trampled feces almost paints the walkways green.

They aren't roving gang members, of course. They're migrant geese that have been here all winter, and have caused serious headaches for the Grounds and Maintenance Department. Cleaning up after the geese has become a part of their regularly scheduled programming, according to Damon Flowers, associate vice president of Facilities Operations and Development. "Of course they've caused problems," Flowers said. "Their waste is all over the paved areas, they pick at grass seed and they don't seem to be inhibited by human activity."

Just who are these ungrateful ganders?

Robert Payne, a University of Michigan zoology professor and a resident expert on Michigan birds, said that the

geese seen around Ann Arbor are Canadian, *Branta canadensis*, giant geese that migrate to southern Michigan and stay year-round when the winters are mild and cause little snow coverage.

"They are local breeding birds, and they come to Michigan during this time to find seed or other low plant life," Payne said. "They also come here to breed."

Their presence is not a new problem, as *Canadensis* breeding throughout Michigan has dated back some 40 years. The first noted mass-breeding of Canadian geese was documented in Berrien County in 1982. Since then, the birds have extended their breeding habits and numbers state-wide.

"The number of Canada geese around Geddes Pond in the Huron River, where we often walk, has been between 50 and 200 most every week, and I suspect many of these

are our local breeding birds," Payne said.

The question remains on why these geese stay year round with Michigan's volatile and unpredictable winter. According to Payne, their year-round presence is an illusion created by the bird's uncanny ability to know when snowmelts occur.

"Most every year when there is a deep snow cover, Canada geese disappear, but reappear during the midwinter thaws," he said. "We don't know how they know there is a local snowmelt when they are not here."

Payne suggests that answer could be caused by drastic changes in climate over the years.

While the sight of geese returning may be glorious for avian watchers, it still doesn't rectify the problems the geese

GEESE CONTINUED A3

Wave of thefts prompts push for more awareness

ADRIAN HEDDEN
Features Editor

Campus Security hopes to embolden students at Washtenaw Community College to take the defense of their valuables into their own hands after a streak of thefts began dominating the crime log in early February.

Jacques Desrosiers, the director of Campus Safety and Security has posted flyers this semester as part of increased efforts to discourage thieves. Desrosiers is pushing for students to keep one eye on their possessions at all times and increase their personal awareness.

"We are encouraging people to watch their own stuff," Desrosiers said. "People need to be empowered to watch their belongings. If someone leaves a laptop in the computer commons, comes back and it's gone, shame on them."

Students assert that the majority of responsibility to address the problem falls upon themselves and faculty.

Anthony Jones, 25, a technology services major from Highland Park recently left a

textbook unattended in the Bailey Library, and later was out \$250.

Jones blames his own negligence.

"I was doing homework and went to the bathroom," Jones said. "I asked around, checked the lost and found and nothing turned up. I guess I shouldn't have left it. It's on me."

Cindi Stearns, 61, while studying childcare has noticed a heightened sense of urgency to safeguard belongings around the classroom. The Ypsilanti resident has observed her instructors paying more attention to student awareness; wary of the recent wave of pilfers.

"They're taking more precautions lately," Stearns said. "They've been making sure to lock doors and remind us to watch our stuff, since there have been more thefts."

Sally Adler, a childcare professional instructor at WCC, substantiates claims to increased efforts. Often teaching classes until well after dark, Adler has seen the crimes affecting her students, but is

THEFT ON CAMPUS
CONTINUED A3

Incident Type: LARCENY	Disposition: REPORT TAKEN
Location: BOOKSTORE	Case #: 2012-02003
Reported Time: 03/02/2012 12:21 PM	Incident Occurred on: 03/02/2012 8:30 PM
Dispatch Ref. No: 2012-00002899	Dispatcher: 532 SJACOBS
Dispatch Call Type: LARCENY	
Dispatched Times - Received: 12:21 PM	Dispatched: 12:21 PM Arrived: 12:21 PM Completed: 1:17 PM
Dispatch Notes: Eric Olsen theft of a hat.	

Incident Type: LARCENY	Disposition: REPORT TAKEN
Location: 407 F	Case #: 2012-02015
Reported Time: 03/02/2012 2:48 PM	Incident Occurred on: 03/02/2012
Dispatch Ref. No: 2012-00003911	Dispatcher: 532 SJACOBS
Dispatch Call Type: LOST PROPERTY REPORT	
Dispatched Times - Received: 2:48 PM	Dispatched: 2:49 PM Arrived: 2:57 PM Completed: 3:11 PM
Dispatch Notes: Ben Levin reported his IPOD is missing out of his car	

Incident Type: LARCENY	Disposition: REPORT TAKEN
Location: 0E TOOL CRB	Case #: 2012-02091
Reported Time: 03/02/2012 8:38 AM	Incident Occurred on: 03/02/2012
Dispatch Ref. No: 2012-00002866	Dispatcher: 532 SJACOBS
Dispatch Call Type: LARCENY	
Dispatched Times - Received: 8:38 AM	Dispatched: 8:38 AM Arrived: 8:52 AM Completed: 8:58 AM
Dispatch Notes: Justin Morningstar reported a stolen power supply	

| **END OF REPORT** | |

ADRIAN HEDDEN THE WASHTENAW VOICE

The incident log in the Campus Safety office chronicles crimes reported.

Crumbling SC staircase may be gone next year

BEN SOLIS
Managing Editor

Due to cracking and rusting of the internal and external structure, the massive exterior Student Center stair case that has adorned the façade of the building for more than 30 years may no longer exist come Fall.

As seen by the orange cones placed upon the elevated landing, the staircase may pose a safety problem if not addressed soon, according to Damon Flowers, associate vice president of Facilities Development and Operations.

"It's an accident that is going to happen," he said. "Certainly from a safety standpoint it is a priority."

While the staircase is a cornerstone of the buildings' appeal and architecture, the structure has posed maintenance problems since before Flowers' tenure with the college. The current issues are the same as those discovered 20 years ago.

"The problem with elevated concrete is that it really accelerates deterioration in this climate," Flowers said. "When you elevate concrete and steel you've got condensation from warm air below it, freezing,

thawing, and icing."

The constantly changing climate during the harsh Michigan winter causes heaving, which ultimately causes the breakage of the stone pavers, or blocks, that are walked upon. The college has even had to deal with chunks of concrete busting out from the water getting in between the blocks.

The issue of the staircase has been brought up in multiple meetings of the college's trustees. Their suggested options to resolve the problem range from building a glass structure around the stairs to deter climate, installing an exterior elevator, or to simply tear the structure down.

The first two options are too expensive, Flowers said.

"We're talking about somewhere near \$1 million dollars just to build a bubble around it," he said. "To demolish the structure would be much less expensive. Somewhere around \$100,000."

An elevator is also out of the question, because of the massive tunnel system that runs underneath the college, leaving no room for a required elevator pit.

STAIRS CONTINUED A3



KELLY BRACHA CONTRIBUTOR

Safety cones were placed to warn pedestrians of broken setps in front of the Student Center.

Vendors, activities keen on Student Center renovation

BEN SOLIS
Managing Editor

The \$1.7 million partial renovation of the decrepit Student Center's first floor is on schedule to begin in April after a year delay.

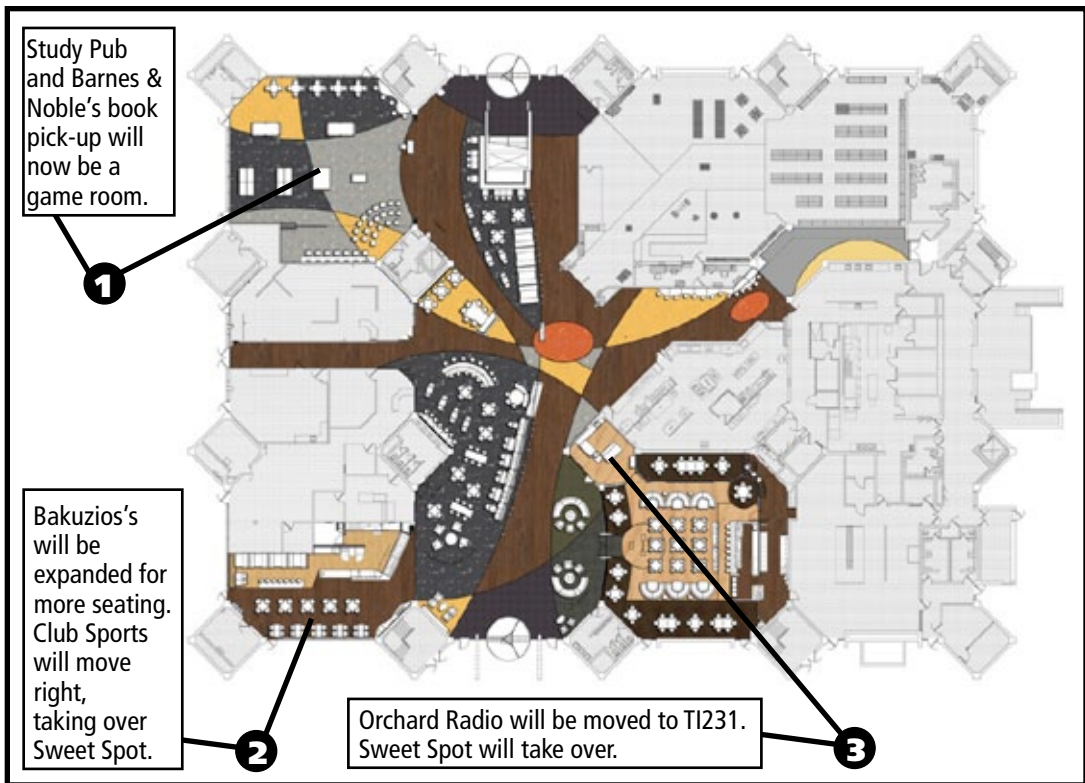
The current arrangement of the floor plan includes multiple vendors and student-driven organizations, such as Sweet Spot, Garrett's and Orchard Radio. With the renovation's "dust" and a subsequently brand new floor plan, some vendors will get new homes - with one being ousted completely.

First, the new floor plan details an expansion of campus coffee shop Bakuzio's, which will take over much of the space now occupied by Club Sports. This is to allow more seating and a more copasetic environment, according to Damon Flowers, associate vice president of Facilities Operations and Development.

Club Sports will move over right into the adjacent Sweet Spot, which will ultimately move "across the street" into the space occupied by Orchard Radio. This move was to make the baking capabilities and sale of the pastry and desert items more efficient, Flowers said.

"After they got done baking, which happens across the hall anyway, the students would have to wheel all their baked goods across the hall on a cart," Flowers said. "Now they can be right next to their kitchen."

The new Sweet Spot will share a kitchen and access with Edibles and Subway, which will



DAMON FLOWERS COURTESY PHOTO

remain largely untouched during the renovation.

Barnes and Noble's will also remain untouched, along with Gallery One and Student Activities.

Student Activities, unlike the others, will remain open throughout the renovation, according to Peter Leshkevich, director of Student Activities and Development.

"Our operation won't be affected much at all," Leshkevich said. "Access to the front of the office will be cut off, but we have access in the back that will remain open if students need to find us."

The only complications Leshkevich foresees is the amount of students seeking activities because of the non-existent foot traffic throughout the SC building.

Also, the Study Pub and the on-line pickup for Barnes and Nobles bookstore will be replaced with a game room. At the Feb. 28 board meeting, Flowers said the ping-pong, foosball and basketball games that currently occupy space in SC will be moved into the game room. In addition, pool tables and other activities will be added to the space.

Orchard Radio has already vacated its long-held and highly

visible section of the Student Center, and has moved all operations to TI 231.

The station was moved for practical reasons, Flowers said. "I understand that it looks nice to have the radio station there, in the middle of an area where students congregate, but it doesn't make much sense to have a radio station in an area where so much noise occurs," Flowers said.

Dena Blair, a communications instructor, agrees with

STUDENT CENTER CONTINUED A3



Are Headaches Disrupting Your Life?

Michigan Head•Pain & Neurological Institute is conducting a research study evaluating an investigational medication for individuals with migraines.

Participants must:

- * Be between 18 and 65 years old
- * Experience no more than 8 headaches per month over the past 3 months

If you qualify, you will receive study related exams and study medication at no cost to you. In addition, you will be compensated for your time and travel expenses.

For more information, please call a study coordinator at
(734) 677-6000, option 4

Learn more about participating in research at
[www. MHNI.com](http://www.MHNI.com)

Michigan Head•Pain & Neurological Institute
3120 Professional Drive • Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Route 4 Improvements

- Service on Route 4 now operates every 5-10 minutes during morning and afternoon peak service hours and every 15 minutes off-peak.
- Reduces over-crowding
- Faster, more direct service

Bus service along Washtenaw Avenue between Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti has been significantly improved, as a response to public input on the Countywide Transit Master Plan. Services between the two cities are now more frequent and more convenient, enhancing access to businesses and schools along this major corridor of our community.

Now Available

For email and text message updates on bus routes, schedules, detours and other transit news, sign up for a free MyRide subscription at TheRide.org

For more information:
734.996.0400



FIND US: @CATCHTHERIDE

TheRide.org

**\$300,000 IN
SCHOLARSHIPS
FOR NEW WALSH STUDENTS**



WALSH[®]
COLLEGE
LIVE. BREATHE. BUSINESS.

Walsh College has over \$300,000 in scholarships available for new undergraduate students who enroll in spring classes. Classes begin April 2.
WALSHCOLLEGE.EDU



JARED ANGLE THE WASHTENAW VOICE
A goose flaps its wings after landing in the gross near the Business Education building.

GEESSE FROM FRONT PAGE

cause on campus.
“We’ve put seed down and put a plastic biodegradable mesh to protect it, but they go after the seed and chew up the mesh and then start to choke themselves,” Flowers said. “Then we had to stop with the mesh because they were asphyxiating themselves.”
Flowers and his crew have tried also tried building barriers, and have even brought in swans – a goose’s mortal enemy – to scare them away. None of these measures have worked. The geese outside the Morris Lawrence building have even caused structural

problems.
“We have mirror-reflective glass around the building, and we had to build a barrier because the males would see themselves, start attacking their reflections to the point of bleeding,” he said.
Campus Safety and Security Director Jacques Desrosiers said no incidents have occurred between geese and humans, but he knows their dangerous nature. His wife and sister-in-law had a close encounter with geese while rollerblading in a park some years ago.
Desrosiers has suggested professional and humane goose-catching services, but

Flowers insists that an expensive measure like that wouldn’t work either.
“Why? So they can let them go and fly right back?” Flowers asked with a laugh. “If that was the case, I want them tagged and numbered. That way I can tell if they are the same geese coming right back. I’d have the guy come back out and get them again free of charge.”
It seems that there is no reasonable solution to the geese on campus, and Flowers has accepted them as a part of the daily struggle to keep the campus clean and beautiful.
“They seem to like it here,” he said. “We just have to learn to live with them.”

THEFT ON CAMPUS FROM FRONT PAGE

certain it will be deterred.
“We have students who have lost things and they seem to have just disappeared,” Adler said. “I have educated students on what to do in these kinds of situations. My students are now more aware of what to do: be aware of your surroundings. This is an extremely safe campus.”
Desrosiers cautions that property stolen on campus comprises largely of students’ personal possessions that often go disregarded during their busy school days. In responding to these crimes, Desrosiers considers the worth of the objects and whether or not he has adequate camera coverage of the alleged crime scene.
“Depending on the value of the theft and if there are cameras in the area, we do go and investigate when we get these kinds of reports,” Desrosiers

said.
Desrosiers is certain that the criminals will pay for their actions. His team is on the move and confident that theft will be stopped.
“We are proactive and we will follow up,” Desrosiers said. “We have caught people and in the past, they have done time.”
Harkening back to a string of computer thefts at the library in 2010, Desrosiers recalls the expedient attention the Washtenaw County Sheriff’s department paid to the case.
“The sheriffs came and they made arrests,” Desrosiers said. “That problem went away after that.”
But some students have been disappointed by Campus Safety and Security’s reliance on their cameras. Mike Lee, 20, of Ypsilanti had his cell phone stolen off a table near the Financial Aid department last year. When the accounting major attempted to report the

afternoon theft, he believes he was ignored and dismissed by inattentive security officers.
“They just kind of brushed me off,” Lee said. “I asked to check the cameras, but they claimed there were no cameras facing the area. She didn’t care. It hurt my feelings.”
Other students remain firm that it is up to them to prevent larceny on their campus. Dan Schindorf, 31, a welding student, believes personal awareness is a student’s main weapon in the battle to secure their swag.
“People watch their stuff pretty closely, it’s not that bad here,” Schindorf said. “People police themselves.”
Amanda Graham, a 20-year-old exercise science student from Brighton isn’t afraid either.
“In a nutshell, people keep their shit on them at all times,” Graham said. “Then it isn’t a problem.”

STUDENT CENTER FROM FRONT PAGE

Flowers and is excited about the move.
“We’re very happy with our new placement,” Blair said. “We’ll be closer to our labs on the second floor this way. It’s more conducive to what a real radio station is like.”
Not only will Orchard Radio receive a newly renovated and converted space, but it will also be getting new sound-proofing and comfortable chairs. The radio equipment, however, will remain the same.
Blair added that there had been multiple instances during past shows where loud noise and other distractions did more harm than good. Pulling out of the SC building will correct these issues by default. The lack of visibility will also not affect how well the program does as a whole.
“The visibility was great, but it doesn’t make for the best sound,” she said. “There was growth in the program before we moved to the Student Center, and it will continue to grow. When you think about a radio station and what it is, you don’t see radio stations. You listen to them.”

STAIRS FROM FRONT PAGE

While safety – and avoiding further maintenance issues – is the focus of the resolution, Director of Campus Safety and Security Jacques Desrosiers said that he has not received any complaints or reports of injuries due to the staircase.
While the board has not approved a budget for getting it fixed, the demolition is an alternative addition to the budget associated with the first floor SC building renovation. The board will have concocted a resolution and a budget as of March 15, Flowers said.
“It has to be soon, or it won’t be safe,” he said. “We’re not at that point yet, but if we don’t address it now, it will be.”



IN BRIEF

WCC FILM SERIES HONORS WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH
The English department will host two movie screenings in March examining unique issues facing women today.

“Crime After Crime,” a film that tells the story of the legal battle to free Debbie Peagler, who was wrongfully imprisoned, will be shown on March 16 at 6 p.m.
On March 23 at 6 p.m., viewers will be given a look into the lives of teenage girls and the mindset of politicians, journalists, entertainers, activists and academics in “Miss Repression.”
Both events are free to the public and will be hosted in Towsley Auditorium.

WCC COLLABORATES WITH SPARK
The WCC Workforce Development department, Ann Arbor SPARK and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation have partnered up to visit 100 companies to identify and address training needs in Washtenaw County.
The partnership’s focus is on local companies becoming aware of the exceptional em-

ployee development resources available at Washtenaw Community College, and once the companies are aware of these resources, they will choose to remain in Washtenaw County.

CULTURES IN CONFLICT: PERU POETRY READING
Coinciding with Cultures in Conflict: Peru, WCC English instructor Maryam Barrie will host a reading of Peruvian poetry by Cesar Vallejo on March 14 from 11 a.m. to noon in Gallery One.
The reading is part of the Cultures in Conflict series showing in the gallery from Feb. 22 to March 30.

RAPE AGGRESSION DEFENSE TRAINING (RAD)
Due to past events in the Ann Arbor area, WCC will offer a Rape Aggression Defense Training course through Lifelong Learning at a cost of \$59 for a four-session class. The class will run from March 15 to April 5 in the Morris Lawrence building from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Registration is required to attend.

CAMPUS EVENTS

MARCH 12, MONDAY, MONDAY NIGHT JOE
Grab a free cup o’ coffee to help barrel through your evening classes. The coffee station is located on the second floor of the LA building by the bridge to the SC from 5-6 p.m.

MARCH 13, TUESDAY, JOB FAIR PREPARATION WORKSHOP
This workshop will be dedicated to providing students and alumni the necessary information on how to accurately prepare for attending job fairs. Guidance and suggestions on what to do before, during and after job fairs to enhance your success will be covered in SC 287 from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF NURSING VISITATION
A representative will be on campus to supply information and answer questions for students interested in transferring to the International University of Nursing from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on the first floor of SC.

MARCH 14, WEDNESDAY, SPRING/SUMMER REGISTRATION
Spring/Summer registration begins for current and readmitted students at 8 a.m.

MARCH 15, THURSDAY, SPEED BINGO
Join Student Development and Activities for a few quick rounds of bingo. All supplies will be provided and snacks and candy prize packs for the winner of each round from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. in the SC cafeteria.

THE ANDERSON PROJECT
The Anderson Project theater performance analyzes unraveling relationships, personal demons, the thirst for recognition, and a compromise that comes too late from 7:30-9:30 p.m. The performance takes place at the Power Center and is \$15 per student. Tickets are available at the Cashier’s Office on the second floor of the SC building. This performance is meant for mature audience only and a strobe light will be used during the production.

MARCH 16, FRIDAY, APP. WORKSHOP
This workshop is designed to supply step-by-step instructions on how to properly complete paper applications from noon to 1:30 p.m. in SC 287.

THE COMING FORTNIGHT

at a glance — the best of the area’s events

MARCH 16-18 – 40TH ANNUAL DANCE FOR MOTHER EARTH POWOW. Pioneer High School. Schedule TBD. 601 West Stadium Blvd., Ann Arbor. Celebrating its 40th exhibition, this Native American extravaganza will foster a greater understanding of regional and national Native American tribes. Cost TBD. For more information, call (734) 408-1581 or visit <http://umich.edu/~powwow/index.html>.

MARCH 17 – THE ART OF HAROON MIRZA. University of Michigan Museum of Art. Times vary. 525 S State St., Ann Arbor. Mirza’s art forces viewers to ‘train their ears to the incidental sounds that surround them.’ A showcase of digital music players, black boxes and TV monitors. Event is free. For more information, call (734) 764-0395 or visit <http://umma.umich.edu>.

MARCH 24 – UNCLE BONSAI. The Ark. 8 p.m. 316 S. Main St., Ann Arbor. This pop-folk trio from Seattle will bring on hip, hilarious and hellishly eclectic visions of a zombie Frank Zappa conducting an even more decayed Pete Seeger or Peter, Paul and Mary. \$20. For more information, call (734) 761-1818 or visit <http://theark.org>.

MARCH 16 – MYTHBUSTERS LIVE! The Fox Theater. 4 p.m. & 8 p.m. 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Jamie Hyneman and Adam Savage, the duo responsible for the rumor-debunking hit Discovery Channel program ‘Myth Busters,’ will host Myth Busters Live, allowing guests to enjoy an evening of chaotic, tittle-tattle deconstruction. Tickets available from \$45-\$135. For more information, visit <http://livenation.com>.

MARCH 20-21 – THE FLOWERS OF WAR. The Michigan Theater. Times TBD. 603 East Liberty St., Ann Arbor. Shown as a limited release, ‘The Flowers of War’ is an epic portrayal of the 1937 Japanese invasion of China, starring Christian Bale. \$10 general admission, \$8 with valid student ID. For more information, call (734) 668-8397 or visit <http://michtheater.org>.

MARCH 16 – MINDLESS SELF INDULGENCE. The Fillmore Detroit. 7 p.m. 2115 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Disaffected metal heads Mindless Self Indulgence reemerge to share their gothic nightmare music with a whole new group of impressionable youths. \$47. For more information, visit <http://livenation.com>.

MARCH 22 – HENRY ROLLINS. The Michigan Theater. 8 p.m. 603 East Liberty St., Ann Arbor. Poet, freelance writer and former Black Flag front-man Henry Rollins will bring his lucid brand of spoken word and social commentary to Michigan on the Midwest leg of “The Long March” tour. \$25. For more information, call (734) 668-8397 or visit <http://michtheater.org>.

MARCH 24 – ANDREW W. K. Saint Andrews Hall. 8 p.m. 431 E Congress, Detroit. Party animal and mid-2000s hard rock superstar Andrew W. K. will perform with his band. \$29. For more information, visit <http://livenation.com>.

To let us know of an upcoming event, email bensolis1@gmail.com.

MARCH 17 – THE SAINTS PLAY FOR PATTY’S DAY. Saint Andrew’s Hall. 7:30 p.m. 431 E Congress, Detroit. This St. Patty’s Day, enjoy your beer and debauchery with local bands Cities and Years, The Eeks, The A-Gang and Crackjaw as they play Irish themed sets. \$8, 18 and older. For more information, visit <http://livenation.com>.

MARCH 23 – THE RAGBIRDS. The Ark. 8 p.m. 316 S Main St., Ann Arbor. A local favorite, hometown hippies The Ragbirds will again showcase their national act, mixing fusion, folk and rock music in a danceable and ‘jammy’ format. \$20. For more information, call (734) 761-1818 or visit <http://theark.org>.

SECURITY NOTES

From redacted crime reports provided by Campus Safety and Security.

FORMER STUDENT FOUND ‘HIGH AS A KITE’
A former student of Washtenaw Community College was found laid out on the floor of a bathroom in the Business Education building after allegedly consuming narcotics using a hypodermic needle found at the scene, according to campus safety and security officials
Discovered by campus security after being called to BE on March 6 at 4 p.m., the man exhibited slurred speech and appeared barely conscious, said

Director of Safety and Security Jacques Desrosiers.
“We found him in there, high as a kite,” Desrosiers said “He was lying on the floor and could barely move. It was weird.”
The college reported the incident to the Washtenaw County Sheriff’s Department, which promptly called an ambulance and rushed the man, in his early 20s, to a nearby hospital.
The former student was expelled from WCC about 18 months ago for similar behavior, according to Desrosiers..
~Adrian Hedden

(734) 662-6133 ext. 101
apartments@gobeal.com
www.GoBeal.com

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

1-bedroom starting at **\$450/mo**
2-bedrooms starting at **\$599/mo**
3-bedrooms starting at **\$850/mo**
4-bedrooms starting at **\$1050/mo**

STUDENT LIVING AT AN AFFORDABLE PRICE!

EDITORIAL

With theft on the rise, Campus Security blames victims?

With the unsettling string of thefts on the campus of Washtenaw Community College becoming more apparent, officials at the college have figured exactly who is to blame when property is stolen: The victims.

You read that right – the people who have their stuff stolen are the ones to blame - not the criminals. At least that is the opinion of Campus Safety and Security.

The head of CSS recently told a member of *The Voice*: “We are encouraging people to watch their own stuff. People need to be empowered to watch their belongings. If someone leaves a laptop in the computer commons, comes back and it’s gone, shame on them.”

We wholeheartedly agree that people should keep an eye on their belongings, but to infer that it is their fault if someone steals from them is extremely harsh and insensitive. If someone walked in and stole a television from one of the lobbies on campus, would it be okay to say that it’s the fault of CSS and WCC?

By the way, someone did steal a TV from a lobby last year.

Imagine someone runs a red light and hits your vehicle. Would it be okay for the police to tell you that it’s your fault because you were in the way?

No. And in the case of people stealing, it is never the victim’s fault, because stealing is wrong in the first place.

But we understand where CSS is coming from. How dare people on this campus be trusting enough to expect a little decency from our fellow citizens?

Having someone steal from you is a major violation of a person’s being, and to be told it’s your fault only adds to the hardship and trauma.

So while those in charge of our safety might want to shame us for having our stuff stolen, we at *The Voice* says shame on Campus Security for its insensitive and cold-blooded stance on the theft victims at Washtenaw Community College.

We’re better than that.

Police must be more open when conducting the public’s business



ADRIAN HEDDEN
Features Editor

From behind their badges and uniforms, cruising in their squad cars and glaring accusatorily at fearful passersby, police officers have over time gained a considerable amount of power from their responsibility to protect and serve.

This year, *The Washtenaw Voice* has heavy-heartedly endeavored to cover crime in this area, striving to accurately cover the issues of the Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti police departments, as well as the Washtenaw County Sheriff’s Department.

It hasn’t been easy. We have had to call the AAPD constantly to get the most basic details about jaywalking and have been denied conversations about our county’s homeless epidemic. The Ypsilanti police refused to talk to our reporters about medical marijuana and political protests. We know they are busy, but so are we.

Our own school has been much more helpful. Although we have struggled to accurately transcribe heavily redacted and blacked-out security notes, and occasionally experienced difficulty in locating the campus crime log,

Campus Safety and Security has been open and consistently friendly to our reporters.

The Voice has conducted countless interviews this year with campus security officers on a wide range of topics from assault to parking.

Director of Campus Safety and Security Jacques Desrosiers has had a presence in nearly every issue. He was particularly open when his office moved to the new parking structure, giving us multiple tours of his “new digs.”

But getting pertinent details about some crimes on campus has been difficult at times, and we the people have the right to this information. It is up those in the media and others who care about their First Amendment rights to fight for this freedom to investigate and expose whatever facts the public needs to know. We deserve to know how we are being served and where our tax dollars go.

The AAPD and other law enforcement agencies in the area should take a lesson from WCC Campus Safety and Security and open up to reporters. This public information enables us to write the stories so that we can connect these important issues to the people. When we and our readers are denied this connection, it only succeeds in making the police look like they have something to hide.

Their jobs are hard, granted, but before you become too sympathetic, ask yourself: who watches the watchmen?

Much-needed air for a ‘flat’ perspective



BEN SOLIS
Managing Editor

My dad taught me the basics of changing a flat when I got my first car.

“Apply the proper pressure, don’t over-tighten the lugs, and make sure you give yourself enough room to make adjustments,” my dad said. “Righty-tighty, lefty-loosey.”

I was 18, and I rarely ever listened to the advice given by my old man. I should have.

A year before I got my first car, I started hanging around a classic “bad crowd.” My health had been in jeopardy, along with my family life, and when I got out of it, I had built up stereotypes about people that followed the same kind of negative lifestyle and thinking that I had. I hung out with countless losers and a handful of homeless individuals who preferred panhandling for their harmful lifestyles instead of personal prosperity. It was vile, but I equated homelessness with these harmful activities.

That was until I met Tim.

It was the weekend after Valentine’s Day, a Saturday, and I had bought my girlfriend a “Royal Treatment” massage in Ann Arbor. While I waited, a therapist told me that I might have a flat. Indeed it was.

Cold and pissed off, I started trying to take off the lugs. My

disposition caused confusion and weakness, and I couldn’t get them loose.

“Left-loosey, but which way is left?” I said.

That’s when Tim stepped in. He had rough and calloused hands and an age-worn face like eroded monuments. At the time, Tim was doing some maintenance work for the parlor. He dropped what he was doing and proceeded to help me with my lugs.

He didn’t have to help, he had his own work to finish, and I was sure he was on the clock so I offered him \$5.

“I don’t mean to be rude, but can I give you a couple of bucks?” I asked.

Tim responded politely saying yes, and that it could be a big help. Tim was homeless, and had been staying at the Delonis Center. I offered him a cigarette and talked to him for a while about his situation.

“You know, I didn’t help you out for the money,” Tim said.

For the first time since getting my head right, I knew what he was saying was true.

I thought about Tim for the rest of the evening, wondering if he’d be alright or if he was warm, or if someone was there to “bum” him another cigarette. Most of all, I felt wholly ashamed with myself.

My dad taught me another lesson when I was young: don’t judge a book by its cover. I never listened, and I should have. It took a whole four years of my own harmful behavior to build a stereotype, but it only took one flat tire to change my view of an entire group of people.

Thanks, Tim. Stay warm. God bless.

The Washtenaw Voice

Volume 18, Issue 14

4800 E. Huron River Dr.
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
TI 106 • (734) 677-5125
thewashtenawvoice@gmail.com

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

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

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

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

EDITOR
Matt Durr
mdurrwcc@gmail.com

MANAGING EDITOR
Ben Solis
bensolis1@gmail.com

FEATURES EDITOR
Adrian Hedden
ahedden@wccnet.edu

PHOTO EDITOR
Jared Angle
jared.angle@gmail.com

MANAGING DESIGN EDITOR
Josh Chamberlain
josh@vgkids.com

DESIGN EDITOR
Ashley DiGiuseppe
ashley.digiuseppe@gmail.com

STAFF ILLUSTRATOR
Hafsah Mijinyawa
oradium@gmail.com

AD MANAGER
Becky Alliston
ealliston@wccnet.edu

WEB EDITOR
Ikram Fatah
ifatah@wccnet.edu

STAFF WRITERS
Nathan Clark
Anna Fuqua-Smith
Allie Tomason
Bob Conradi

CONTRIBUTORS
Mike Adsit
Przemek Ozog
Kelly Bracha
David Artushin
Timothy Clark
Anna Hetherington
Gino Detone
Erin Gunderud
Amanda Jacobs

ADVISER
Keith Gave
kgave@wccnet.edu



ANNA HETHERINGTON CONTRIBUTOR

TO THE EDITOR:
Shooting off target

From a comment on <http://washtenawvoice.com>, regarding the targets on the campus gun range.

This is the most unprofessional thing I have seen this year. If they had a multitude of targets: black, white, Indian, Hispanic, Jews, Korean, etc., it wouldn’t be that racist. But all black targets? That shows you what the white race thinks of the black race. This is what is wrong with the world now. . .

This is not the way it should be run. Why not have white targets, so shooters could shoot those, because they stand out better than the dark ones? The reason behind that: They don’t want you to shoot a white man, period.

Joseph W. Miller

VOICE BOX

STUDENT CENTER UNFIT FOR ACADEMIC PURSUITS

With midterms upon us, students at Washtenaw Community College are finding themselves more and more in need of places to study for the exams. While they have found numerous places throughout campus to focus on school work in between classes, one area emerged as the spot to avoid for peace and quiet when we asked students: Where is your favorite place to study on campus?



I would never sit in the Student Center. It’s loud and people are playing sports. It’s hard to relax if you’re not involved in the functions.

KISHA CRANE, 28, Belleville, Business



It’s loud here (Student Center) all the time. Nobody cares about other people. In the BE building atrium, it is quiet and no one is there to judge you.

JOSLYN GUIDOT, 25, Chelsea, Nursing



“Go home. Or the TI building nook with the couches and chairs, that’s cool. I’ve also heard about a basement lounge area that sounds relaxing.”

DON THOMAS, 55, River Rouge, Computer Networking



At the second floor of the Student Center you can get a tutor at the tables. It’s not as hectic as the first floor. There’s all the food and restaurants, people come to just chill. There are way too many distractions to study.

ALIYAH SALAAM, 20, Ann Arbor, Undecided



Near financial aid and the Student Connection on the second floor of the Student Center seems quiet and relaxed. A good spot. The first floor is the worst. A lot of commotion.

ALANA SITTARO, 27, Brighton, Animal Science Transfer



“Go to the back corner of the Student Center or library. Anywhere else, it ain’t gonna happen. There’s too much going on in the Student Center with people playing music, you damn sure can’t study.”

MARCIA PATTERSON, 22, Ypsilanti, Criminal Justice

Smoking community fractured by construction

Years after WCC became a smoke-free campus and tore down the woods smokers hid in, they still aren't giving up the habit

ADRIAN HEDDEN
Features Editor

Positioned elusively throughout the exteriors of buildings and hidden away behind trees, smokers lurk incognito at Washtenaw Community College.

Dan Corcoran, 32, of Ann Arbor is among them. Even after a popular destination for smokers in the woods near the Writing Center was exposed by construction on the parking structure, many who indulge in cigarettes at school have found their own places to light up.

"People go all over the place to smoke," Corcoran said. "They'll be out front, under the trees. I've seen them quite a bit."

After the school implemented a ban on cigarettes, many students still do not hesitate to enjoy them on campus. A 14-year smoker majoring in physics, Corcoran has been undeterred by a security presence that he sees as visible, yet lenient

"They usually just drive by, I know they can see me smoking," Corcoran said. "Maybe they just don't really care."

Jacques Desrosiers, director

of Campus Safety and Security cares. Enforcing the smoking ban by patrolling campus on foot in search of violators, Desrosiers expects that the smoke won't ever fully clear from his school.

"With a student body this size, you'll never get 100 percent compliance," Desrosiers said. "People would disappear into those woods, but they'd scatter as soon as we approached and leave only evidence."

Desrosiers has seen smokers congregating in three main areas on his school's campus. In the woods near the Writing Center, behind the trees of the community park behind the BE building and over the hills that create borders between WCC's parking lots and public roads.

"If they do smoke, hopefully it's off campus," Desrosiers said. "A lot of them tend to go back to their cars. We let them be at that point."

Smoking in vehicles parked on the campus' parking lot is unaddressed by the statutes of the school's smoking policy. Despite this grey area, some students lash out at the ban and proceed to infringe on its

parameters. Dancy Smith, 21, of Bellville is one of those.

"I love to smoke on campus," Smith said. "I do it on purpose because the ban pisses me off."

Smith doesn't travel far to enjoy her tobacco. The liberal arts major encourages that a smoke at WCC is just a short walk away.

"People usually go to the side of the Student Center; there are butts all over there," Smith said. "I also smoke when walking to my car. Keep mobile."

For non-smokers, the ban represents an opportunity to avoid the clouds of tobacco smoke that has often plagued them in public.

"People have a right to not be exposed to the smoke," said Ken Mitchell, 59, of Ypsilanti. "But smokers will still smoke."

Studying social work at WCC, Mitchell is wary that the ban has forced smokers to find their own space on campus. Mitchell would rather the school tell people where to smoke.

"A designated area would be more appropriate," Mitchell said. "But one that is far off to the side."



JARED ANGLE THE WASHTENAW VOICE

Discarded bottles and cigarette packs litter the nature trail, near the Family Education building.

U.S. Sen. Levin helps unveil EMU Jewish Studies minor

BEN SOLIS
Managing Editor

Ushering in a new cultural studies minor program may not require much pomp and circumstance, but in the case of Eastern Michigan University's Jewish Studies minor, the college decided to undrape the program with added chutzpa by way of U.S. Sen. Carl Levin.

Speaking to a crowd of 200 students, faculty, staff and other observers in the EMU Student Center Ballroom on Feb 23, Levin stressed his own experience as a Jew in America over historical facts and dates. Through an understanding of all of our experiences in America, Jew and non-Jew alike, Levin said, young people interested in the minor will be able to understand the diversity that exists even within the Jewish community as a whole – a focal point of the new minor program.

"The greatest strength that we have in this country is our diversity," Levin told *The Washtenaw Voice*. "Any course that teaches other folks about any people, doesn't make a difference who it is, these courses are helpful to building that strength."

The new program will be multifaceted, said program director and EMU Professor Martin Shichtman, and will include not only the coursework that exists within the classes taught already, but new classes as well as a lecture series.

"We'll be able to offer both serious and more light-hearted topics," Shichtman said. "At this point we have everything planned out with things that already exist, like the Representing the Holocaust abroad course. We take students over to Germany, Poland and the Czech Republic to view the (concentration) camps."

Jeff Bernstein, an EMU professor said that having a prolific and influential Jewish-American like Levin was "fantastic." Shichtman seconded that assertion in his introduction for Levin, calling the senator "a real mensch."

"I thought his speech was moving," Shichtman said. "He's a very powerful person who was able to come here, not knowing much about the program, and just open up about his experiences."

When asked, Levin couldn't predict whether or not the new program would open the door for other religious infused cultural studies, but was hopeful nonetheless.

"I'm not aware of how many programs like this there are that exist at the university. If they do, this will be another great addition to them," Levin said. "If not, then I certainly hope that other programs, maybe an Islamic Studies program will then exist too."



JARED ANGLE THE WASHTENAW VOICE

More than a dozen cigarette butts and a cigarette pack litter a parking space at Washtenaw Community College.

The Kettering Advantage

Scholarships up to \$15,000 • Transfer friendly

Take your education to the next level

Apply for admission today!

Generous Scholarships available

Schedule an appointment
for your personal consultation
by contacting:

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

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

800-955-4464, ext. 7865 flint, michigan kettering.edu/transfer



**Ready to take
the next step?**



AIM HIGHER

Consider Wayne State University, a national research institution where merit scholarships for transfer students are plentiful. You must apply by **April 1** to be eligible, so check out scholarships.wayne.edu today.

While you're online, head to wayne.edu and sign up to take a tour. On campus, you'll learn why so many community college students advance to Wayne State. Tours are offered weekdays at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Transfer.
further

Transfer to UDM and pursue a bachelor's degree in one of our 100+ majors. You'll learn from professors who are completely committed to your success. Join the 92 percent of our grads who are employed (or in grad school) within six months of graduation—and discover a path that will take you *further* than you ever imagined.



Visit us.

**Wednesday, March 21
5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Student Center, McNichols Campus**

We want great things for you.

udmercy.edu/apply 800-635-5020

Healthy vending machine choices lacking at WCC – for good reason

AMANDA JACOBS
Contributor

Like many students and faculty members, Kelly Brown finds herself in too much of a hurry to pack a lunch before heading to classes at Washtenaw Community College.

Rather than wait in line for a meal from one of the restaurants in the Student Center, she finds one of the 57 vending machines located around campus for a quick snack. However, Brown feels she has a difficult time finding food that is healthy and satisfying.

Brown, 21, of Dexter has been a student for three years at WCC, studying to become a nutritionist. She believes that it is partially the school’s responsibility to help students maintain healthy lifestyles.

“WCC should take some responsibility to provide good snacks,” she said. “They don’t take students’ diets into consideration.”

Brown also said that it’s difficult to resist stopping at a vending machine before class, even if it means eating food that she doesn’t allow in her diet.

“I try to bring my own food from home, but if I have cash and I’m hungry, I usually end up buying a bag of chips,” she said.

Like Brown, first year

student Alyssa Clark, 18, of Ypsilanti, is concerned about the food offered in vending machines. She tries to avoid genetically modified foods and sticks to organic brands.

“The food in the vending machines are full of cheap processed ingredients that don’t fill you up, but give your body a burst of energy and then a long-lasting crash,” she said.

Both Brown and Clark suggested that the vending company provide healthier foods in the vending machines. They mentioned natural brands such as Kashi and Annie’s, along with fruits and vegetables.

“They should sell packaged cut up fruit,” Brown said. “Or snacks without all the sugar and salt.”

Washtenaw Community College is in contract with AVI Foodsystems. Both AVI and WCC decide what is being put into the machines. WCC Director of Budget Barbara Fillinger says the products in the vending machines are based on what is in high demand.

According to AVI Customer Representative Cindy Barrows, some of the products that are in highest demand by students include: Pepsi, Coke, Snickers, Doritos, and Cheez-It’s. AVI has also tried putting yogurt, apples, oranges, and lean burgers in the vending machines, but they had

to throw away more than they sold, Barrows said. Kashi bars and Quaker bars were also put into the machines, but these items did not sell, either.

AVI Foodsystems has heard complaints from students; however, these complaints are not about unhealthy foods. In fact, most complaints made by students are that there is not enough of a product in a machine, or that the candy is melting in the machines. AVI acts quickly to these responses, adding extra rows of products in demand and positioning machines to avoid melted product.

To change the types of food in the vending machines, students must make their own healthy choices. Officials from the college and the vending company say they are willing to put healthy foods in the machines, as long as students are willing to purchase them.

AVI Foodsystems still offers some healthy or organic snacks in the vending machines, including: Sun Chips Harvest Cheddar, Fiber One Oats and Chocolate, Karnut Salted Peanuts and Nutri-Grain Bars Strawberry. There are also multiple organic options in the WCC bookstore, such as Annie’s brand Crackers.

It’s simple to change the food that is offered here on campus, Fillinger said: “Buy more healthy products.”

items students say they would like to see in vending machines (according to an informal survey):

1. Diced apples, oranges, fruit, etc.
2. Smart Water
3. Annie’s Snack Cheese Crackers
4. Kashi Cereal Bars
5. Frutables Fruita snacks
6. Annie’s Cookies
7. More flavors of Vitamin Water
8. 100 percent Juice (as opposed to juice cocktail)
9. Yogurt
10. Packaged vegetables, such as carrots, broccoli, etc.

Most popular vending-machine items at WCC:

1. Coke
2. Pepsi
3. Kitkat
4. Snickers
5. M&M Peanut
6. Doritos
7. Regular Lays Chips
8. Cheez-It’s
9. Diet Mountain Dew
10. Ruffles Cheddar

‘If I should fall behind’ Students get extra edge through tutoring

BEN SOLIS
Managing Editor

Even for culinary arts students, maintaining a high grade-point average may not always be a piece of cake.

Luckily for all Washtenaw Community College students, the help offered by the Learning Support Services department can provide a much-needed boost.

“The best way for students to grow and mature, especially when working in the adult system, is to be advocates for themselves,” said Debra Guerrero, the director of LSS. “We’re trying to promote student independence. We want them to be able to learn and do things on their own.”

Whether a student is majoring in math, science, general studies or any of the plethora of computer and graphic design courses offered on campus, chances are there is a tutor available to help out in that field, according to Guerrero.

“We try to hire tutors who are well-versed in their fields, such as people with Ph.D.s or those who have taught before,” she said. “Even then we prefer to hire tutors who either are or were WCC students, so they understand exactly what the students need to know.”

While tutoring is open to every enrolled student on a drop-in basis, specific restrictions exist on the amount of time a student can occupy the services of a tutor. These restrictions are put in place, Guerrero said, to ensure that everyone using her department gets a fair amount of time to mull over coursework with those giving advice. For math and science, students are allowed one hour of tutoring per class per day. Those students can either attend two 15-minute sessions, or one 30-minute session.

If a student in the math and sciences has multiple courses

in those subjects, more time is allotted for them. Students seeking help in general studies, which includes everything from academic skills to humanities, can attend individual 30-minute sessions, and can be seen multiple times – if time and resources allow.

If group sessions are preferred, students can sign up ahead of time for 30-minute group work with other students trying to study the same subjects. These services require a student to sign up ahead of time.

Apart from the tutoring, LSS also helps those who have been diagnosed, or are in the process of being diagnosed, with a learning disability.

“Under federal law, it is required that students bring in a document of disability to be given these services,” she said. “If they didn’t already get diagnosed but have exhibited signs, we have those documents here that they can go and get signed by their doctor.”

This is an intricate and complicated part of what the department offers, Guerrero said, because of identification of this population is not easy – especially for non-traditional students.

“With older students, it’s hard because they might have not been diagnosed early on,” said Guerrero, adding that only once a student is diagnosed can services begin. “With any other mental or medical condition, you can receive some sort of medication or therapy. You can’t do that with a learning disability, so the only thing you can do is accommodate and offer extended services.”

These services include extended times on tests, testing in a reduced distraction environment and the use of assistive technology. Assistive technology, Guerrero said, can include anything from Microsoft Windows 7 accessibility settings on a

computer or Echo Smart pens, which the department has on loan for students in need.

And even though only a specific population qualify for the disability services, anyone needing help should seek advice through the department, she said.

Just ask tutor Jamie Berlin, a 37 year-old University of Michigan graduate currently in a master’s program at Eastern Michigan University. Simply put, she said, college isn’t easy.

“It can be very overwhelming,” Berlin said. “Sometimes getting help is as simple as just sitting down and asking for support.”

Berlin, who tutors students in English, writing, 100 level general studies and English as a second language courses, wants students to have the skills needed to be successful to pass any class. The department can show and share tools, she said, but it is up to the student to take the initiative to truly learn to concepts for themselves.

Those who do will reap the rewards, like Thomas Wilczewski.

“They’ll actually show you how to do things, and not just tell you,” said Wilczewski, 20, a general education student who used the department for help in his Math 097 course. “The tutoring was helpful. It get’s crowded during finals, but they will help you with whatever you need.”

Although the department may specialize in specific courses, Guerrero said that even someone baking a cake for a class could find value in the tutoring services.

“Whether it’s welding or culinary arts, we encourage students to come in and get help,” she said. “We may not have a specific tutoring program for say culinary arts, but maybe we can help you know what to study on the tests. No matter what the case is, those study skills are the same.”

2012 U-M CANCER RESEARCH

SUMMER
INTERNSHIP PROGRAM
(CaRSIP)

As part of its Cancer Biology Training Program, the University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center is providing exposure to cancer research for highly motivated and talented college undergraduates. This internship program will provide the successful applicants an opportunity to explore potential careers in the field of cancer research.

In keeping with the terms of NIH funding, we especially encourage applications from individuals from populations that are currently under-represented in biomedical research.

This internship is aimed at students who have no prior research experience and are completing their freshman, sophomore or junior undergraduate years this spring.

The internship program will run for a ten-week period from June 11th - August 17th, 40 hours per week.

Interns will be paid \$5,000 for the 10 week period.

Only U.S. citizens or permanent resident aliens are eligible to apply. Awardees are responsible for their own transportation and housing.

Application requirements:

- Complete a brief online application form
- Submit a statement expressing why you are interested in a future career in cancer research and why you should be considered a qualified candidate for this internship (one page or less)
- A copy of current transcript (unofficial is accepted)
- Two letters of recommendation (submitted by providers)

Deadline is March 31, 2012

Applications
must be completed online at:
www.mcancer.org/carsip.

You EARNED it.
You DESERVE it.
Now TRANSFER it.

Cleary University’s articulation programs enable WCC graduates to transfer credits with ease.

Cleary benefits include:

- Classes in Ann Arbor, Howell, online
- Free textbooks and no extra fees
- Tuition rate guarantee
- Transfer scholarships
- Predictable class scheduling
- Business degrees in more than 20 fields
- New athletic program



Learn more about Cleary University!
Call to attend our next information session:
March 13th, Ann Arbor Campus
March 15th, Howell Campus
www.cleary.edu/transfer 1.800.686.1883



Sparkling blue waters cascade over numerous rapids and waterfalls in Havasu Canyon.



Hualapai Hilltop is the trailhead for the trip down Havasu Canyon.

Spring Break in Havasu Canyon

Photos and Words by:
BOB CONRADI
Staff Writer

Before the U.S. government ever considered acquiring land for Grand Canyon National Park, the Havasupai Indians had established a village in a unique side canyon.

While most of the inner canyon is characterized by desert-like conditions, Havasu canyon is a watery oasis. Mineral rich waters cascade down rapids and waterfalls, settling in rich aqua pools and depositing travertine stalactites on the cliff faces.

A flash flood in the summer of 2008 increased the water flow 100-fold, causing

significant damage and changing the path of Havasu Creek. The Havasupai people worked hard to reconstruct visitor services and the canyon is once again a dream-like destination.

Although the village of Supai is only about 32 miles from Grand Canyon Village on the South Rim, the journey by road and trail is more than 200 miles.

The many waterfalls downstream from the village include Havasu Falls, the 190-foot Mooney Falls, and Beaver Falls. Hiking into the lower canyon requires numerous stream-crossings and a steep climb on wet rocks while clinging to a chain.



The six-mile trail to Supai, Ariz., always seems much longer, especially on the return trip.



The blue waters of Havasu Falls cascade into a pool about a mile south of Supai.



Supai can only be reached by mule, helicopter or a very long walk.



Native Americans from Suapai, bring supplies in and out of their isolated town by mule train.

DANCE DEFINED

Towsley Auditorium hosts dance showcase

Photos and Words by
DAVID ARTUSHIN
Contributor

Washtenaw Community College recently held its annual choreographer's showcase at Towsley Auditorium, called Defining Movement. The event was hosted by Dance 4 Unity, which offers a variety

of free dance classes to students, taught by WCC alumni, throughout the semester.

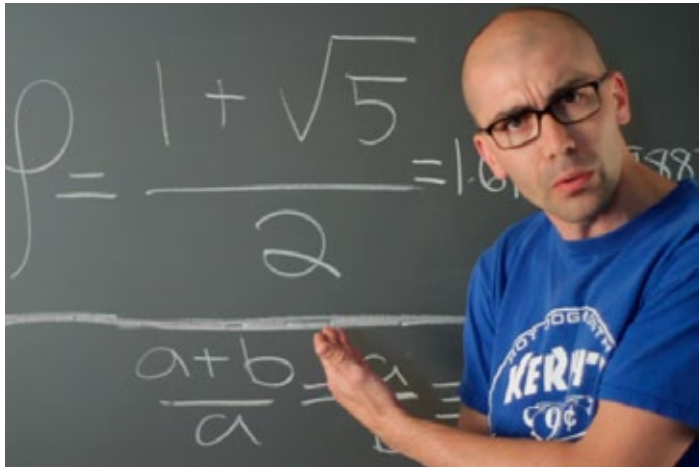
More than a dozen talented groups of students from WCC performed their choreography throughout the evening on Feb. 21. They showcased a wide range of dance styles, including several hip-hop numbers and a few contemporary pieces.

The event was a two-hour energy packed night, filled with many talented student choreographers and dancers.



Members of Dance 4 Unity performing at the Feb. 21 event. Left, Amber Farley, 22. Right, Terrell Dixon, 19. Above, Kevin Sano, 22.

Four WCC filmmakers in 50th Annual Ann Arbor Film Festival



DANIEL BIFANO COURTESY PHOTO

A still from the short film 'Forward Aikido Roll' by Daniel Bifano, one of four WCC students featured in the Ann Arbor Film Festival.

ANNA FUQUA-SMITH
Staff Writer

When Dan Bifano awoke on the morning of Feb. 18, it wasn't just a bowl of Cheerios waiting for him. There was also a message from Washtenaw Community College video instructor Matt Zacharias informing the community

that Bifano and three of his peers had been invited to the 50th annual Ann Arbor Film Festival.

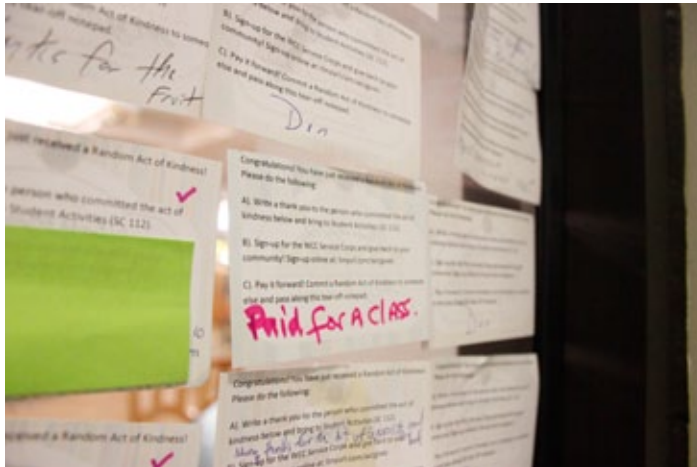
"Right now, I feel like I'm walking down a hallway of high-fives," said Bifano, 35, of Ann Arbor, a digital video production major. "I feel good

AA FILM FEST CONTINUED B8

The Ann Arbor Film Festival at a glance

WHAT Nearly 200 independent films and other events.
WHEN March 27–April 1. The student showcase is on March 28 at 5 p.m.
WHERE The Michigan Theater.
WCC STUDENTS IN SHOWCASE Barb Morrissey, "Belle Isle Zoo"; Dan Bifano, "Forward Aikido Roll"; Scott Allen, "Turn the Camera Around"; Jeremy Liesen, "Listen".
TICKETS Admission to the Student Showcase is free. Film Festival prices: \$95 festival pass, \$55 weekend pass. Passes are \$80 and \$40, respectively, for AAFF members, students or seniors. For more ticket options and other info visit <http://aaaffilmfest.org>.

'Pay it forward' week surprises students with kindness and class



NATHAN CLARK THE WASHTENAW VOICE

'Random acts of kindness' notes inside the Student Development and Activities office, located in SC112.

NATHAN CLARK
Staff Writer

Buying a friend a cup of coffee is hardly out of the ordinary. But when a complete stranger pays for someone else's coffee, it can amaze the grumpy of people.

Student Development and Activities (SDA) kicked off National Random Act of Kindness Day last month by giving out fruit and paying for students' coffee, asking students to keep the generosity going by performing other random acts of kindness for fellow students. Participating students were given a small booklet full of thank you slips to bring back to the SDA office, located in SC 112, for display.

The slips started showing up within hours, filled with thank-you notes. Most were to strangers who'd bought them coffee or lunch.

One student had her class

paid for by a generous soul.

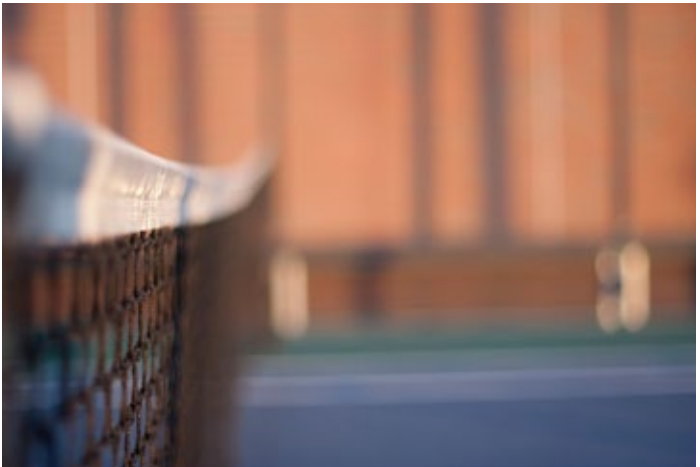
"Students would walk into our office astonished by another student's generosity," said Rachel Barsch, Student Activities event coordinator. "You wouldn't think that something as small as buying a coffee for a stranger would be so shocking, but it looks like it is." Student Activities received a total of 38 slips and three hand-written thank-you notes. SDA expected more slips to be returned to the SDA office, Barsch said, but SDA was astonished with the type of acts described on the slips.

"Someone paying for someone else's class really surprised me," said Peter Leshkevich, director of Student Development and Activities. "Doing something that kind makes a permanent impression on someone."

Only a small handful of the

PAY IT FORWARD CONTINUED B8

Low demand for 'high-brow sport' prompts budget questions



ADRIAN HEDDEN THE WASHTENAW VOICE

The platform tennis court, next to the Health and Fitness Center, boasts a heated court and overhead lighting.

ANNA FUQUA-SMITH
Staff Writer

After spending \$55,000 to build a platform tennis court adjacent to the Health and Fitness Center, and seeing it used about once a week, officials are beginning to question the wisdom of the expense. According to HFC Executive Director Greg Hanby, the court has been used only 60 times over the past year.

"I don't think you're going to see the magnitude of people use it as our core niche," he said. "Platform tennis is much more popular out on the east coast so some of our members that grew up out there are familiar with it."

The game, which can be described as a cross between tennis and racquetball is situated on a heated platform designed to melt snow off in the winter. Lights are available for

night-time competition.

Damon Flowers, associate vice president of Facilities Development and Operations, isn't surprised at the low numbers of usage.

"In hindsight, could we have used \$50,000 for something else? My opinion? Yes," he said. "Platform tennis is something you find at country clubs. It's a high-brow sport."

Trustee Stephen Gill is a weekly player of the game at the HFC and thinks it would get more use with more advertising.

"We're trying to get more people interested because it's a great sport," he said. "It's easy to learn how to play, but hard to become good at it."

Gill also believes that one of the main benefits to the sport is that players don't have to be members of the HFC to use the court.

PLATFORM TENNIS CONTINUED B5

THE WASHTENAW VOICE

OPEN HOUSE

MARCH 28TH

3:30-6PM

T1106

FOR MORE INFO
(734) 677-5405 • KGAVE@WCCNET.EDU

REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

REPORTERS → EDITORS → GRAPHIC DESIGNERS → CARTOONISTS → WEB EDITORS → PHOTOGRAPHERS → AD SALES REPS

LEARN ABOUT PART TIME PAID POSITIONS

FREE PIZZA

Grounds crew gets early start on trash



The vehicles used by WCC Grounds Maintenance crew form a column as workers gather at 4 a.m. each morning to clean up the campus.

Photos and Words by
CHUCK DENTON
Contributor

Most students at Washtenaw Community College are still asleep, dreaming of acing their next exam, or maybe in a great date, when Rick Westcott's Grounds Maintenance crew starts its daily clean-up of the parking lots around campus.

It's 4 a.m., and the deer are still on site, watching curiously as the crew begins. The deer have grown comfortable with the crew and don't feel the need to high tail it back into the forest when the cleanup crew scatters across the parking lots.

This time of year, it is important to start early to keep ahead of the trash and icy spots. The college doesn't want students slipping on banana peels or ice.

This job does have its benefits. The team has found many \$20 bills over the years.

"We found a hundred (dollar bill) along the wooded area too," said maintenance worker Ron Schulz while grabbing trash at a rapid pace.

It's a necessary daily ritual. "For a time we had trash cans in the parking lots, and they would get filled with big trash bags from home and then the gulls would come in and spread the trash across the lot," said Randy Ferry, as he beamed his mounted light on his grabber, looking for trash in the dark.



Crew members begin their day each morning carrying buckets and picking up trash around the campus parking lots.

The campus has long boasted of being smoke free but over time the crew has filled a 55-gallon drum with cigarette butts. "It got to be too much so we dumped it," Westcott said.

They have found even more troubling things left in the parking lots, including condoms and drug paraphernalia used to support drug addiction that should be tossed in hazardous waste hospital containers.

"We have in our collection a plastic pop bottle modified with a secret compartment to carry drugs on campus,"

Westcott said. In a typical week, the grounds crew picks up nearly 400 items, and that does not include cigarette butts or normal trash pickup and removal. The parking lot trash battle continues Monday through Saturday, from 4-5:30 a.m.

"On average, the crew spends 15 man hours every morning picking up the trash left in the parking lots," Westcott said. "I don't want to imagine what it would look like around here if we stopped cleaning up the parking lots."



A carved-out soda bottle often used to store drugs and other illicit materials, found on campus during a garbage run.



The Carpenter Road fence across from Kroger's, a few miles off campus, is littered with dozens of trash bags and other assorted debris.

There goes the neighborhood

Just a few miles from campus, there is a place that doesn't have a regular pick up crew. The amount of trash is depressing.

Over time, the Carpenter Road trash across from Kroger's will find its way to the county drains, then ditches and creeks and into the Huron River that flows into Lake Erie with a growing dead zone that does not support living fish anymore.

From there the trash flows from Erie into Lake Ontario and on into the Saint Lawrence that flows into the Atlantic Ocean. In the Pacific, it's worse. There are growing trash gyres, or swirls, the size of Texas in that ocean.

A little trash can add up in a hurry.

"What a lot of people don't realize is that whatever gets washed into the storm drains eventually ends up in the Huron River – untreated," said Ric Lawson, watershed planner with the Huron River Watershed Council in Ann Arbor. "All residents should first properly dispose of waste to keep it from finding its way to the river."

The Huron River Watershed Council also coordinates volunteers to engage in a number of clean-up, restoration and monitoring activities throughout the watershed.

For more information on volunteering, visit hrwc.org or call (734) 769-5121.

A Degree That Pays Off!

- The earning power of a Lawrence Technological University degree is tops in the Detroit area
- All undergrads provided high-end personal computers with all needed software – a unique benefit valued up to \$15,000
- Growing residential and varsity sports options



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



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

Lawrence Tech
THEORY AND PRACTICE
1932
Leaders in the Making

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



Kisses on the Bottom



COLLIDER.COM COURTESY PHOTO

★★★★☆

A relaxing rehash of pop classics

ADRIAN HEDDEN
Features Editor

More than 50 years ago, the Beatles first touched down on American shores, and bassist Paul McCartney continues to revel in the iconic band's success.

A legend in his own right, McCartney has since cultivated a personal and eclectic solo career fueled by the charisma he established with the Fab Four.

Now in his 70s, McCartney's first release since 2007 takes full advantage of the years of affection granted to the titan by legions of Beatles fans. Infamous for his power hunger tendency to re-record collaborator's tracks as he sees fit—sorry, Ringo—the now wiser McCartney takes a back seat on this release, providing only vocals, and occasionally strumming on an acoustic guitar for added texture.

As McCartney croons delicately to the slew of classic pop tunes and jazz standards featured on the album, his backing musicians pluck and tap softly away at their instruments, creating new arrangements for the elderly songs that are both ostentatious and organic, thanks to the diversity of instrumentation.

Only two of the 14 tracks

are new compositions from McCartney, but the lonely originals are given some bravado from all-star guests. Stevie Wonder lends harmonica to “Only Our Hearts,” and Eric Clapton can be heard on guitar in “My Valentine.”

From folky mandolins and upright basses to elaborate orchestral arrangements, this is clearly an ambitious project. In interviews, McCartney has explained that he hoped to give new life to some classic songs sung by his parents at New Year's parties when he was a boy.

Famous numbers such as “The Glory of Love” and “Bye Bye Blackbird” were fun to hear when sung by McCartney, but breathed little modern life into the largely unchanged compositions.

Those hoping for the epic synthesizers and explosive choruses of Wings, or the quick wit and rhythmic persistence of the Beatles, may find themselves sung to sleep. The album's lack of eclecticism almost furthers its tiresome nature building a euphoric cocoon of soft jazz and relaxing lyrics to engulf listeners.

But at the end of the day, it's just an old man singing old songs. And it's doubtful that Sir Paul would have it any different.

ARTIST **PAUL MCCARTNEY**
ALBUM **KISSES ON THE BOTTOM**
LABEL **HEAR MUSIC**
GENRE **ROCK**

The Artist



ALLMOVIEPHOTO.COM COURTESY PHOTO

★★★★★

Sometimes silence is good

SEAN HANDLER
Contributor

It takes a lot to make a movie with sound. It takes a lot more to make one that has no sound at all.

“The Artist” is at once a throw-back to the silent movie era, a timeless love tale and a movie that is so difficult to criticize that one could say it is really flawless. The film stars Jean Dujardin as George Valentin, a silent-movie actor during the 1920s. Valentin is just beginning the transition to “talkies,” films with synchronized sound.

When Valentin's career begins to slide, a new girl, Peppy Miller (Berenice Bejo) begins her overnight rise to the top. Though they first meet when Peppy literally bumps into Valentin publicly, it is that chance encounter that sparks the love story that carries throughout the film.

The other star of the show, however, is the Jack Russell terrier, Uggie, that plays the role of Valentin's constant companion. The pup turned out to be quite a hero.

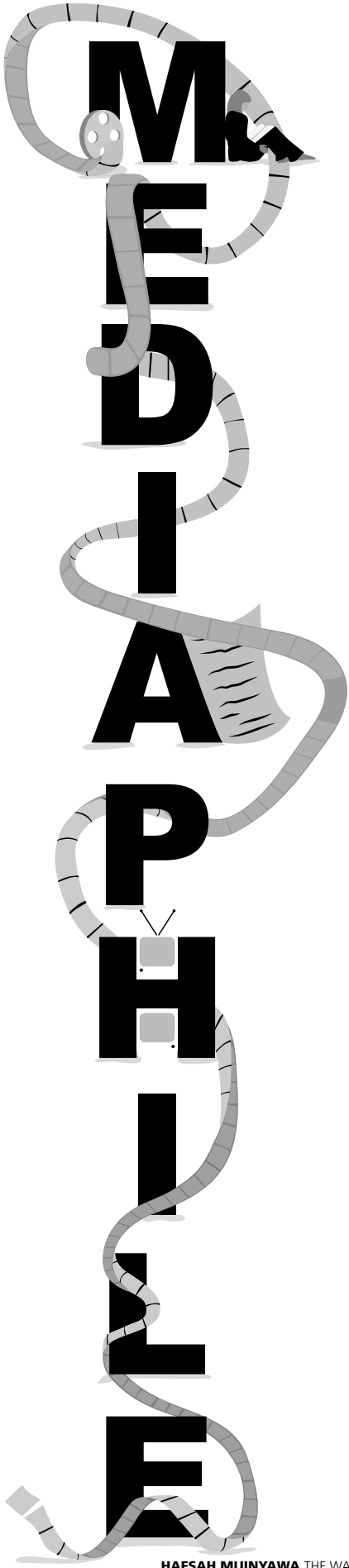
Since the film is silent, the

imagery and music are what carry the story and bring it to life in ways that are funny, dramatic and creative. The music is reminiscent of old silent movies and the 1920s, with plenty of dramatic orchestral pieces and fun jazz tunes, especially at the dance number climax in which Valentin finally speaks, no longer afraid of what people may think of his voice being unfit for talking films.

The reason he didn't wish to speak in the first place, and why he loathed talkies to begin with, was the fact that he had a French accent and felt that it would not translate well to a talking film. This conflict of the changing aspects of film, his pride in thinking that silent films would still be profitable, and what happens when everything comes crashing down is what makes the story of “The Artist” so memorable and real to viewers.

We easily relate to Valentin's struggle and his hopes to find a place in a world that is always changing around him. These strong themes are only a small piece of what won the film's Oscars this year for both best film and actor.

GENRE **DRAMA**
RUNTIME **100 MINUTES**
RATING **PG-13**



HAFSAH MIJINYAWA THE WASHTENAW VOICE

Don't call it comeback. We know sellouts when we see them.



ADRIAN HEDDEN
Features Editor

As the recording industry has evolved over the years, certain characters have risen to the top of the mania and have held tightly to their prominence.

Garnering massive success despite careers that often become increasingly repetitive,

these rock stars have a way of cashing in on their past achievements decades after the fact. This desperate process of repeating praise for musicians whose creativity rapidly evaporates has proven successful only in weakening the credibility of the once-proud gods of music.

The executives behind such sellouts care not about the image of the artist, only on taking a slice of a well-baked, but crumbling pie.

This year, albums from a reformed Van Halen, an elderly Paul McCartney and smug-as-ever Ringo Star have shown a

similar lack of effort for continuing music careers that were once progressive and innovative. These people are disgustingly self-satisfied and their latest efforts wallow in remembrance of past musical successes, without any attempt at a new sound.

Fans are left disappointed when they are tricked via their loyalty into buying the boorish and masturbatory supposed comebacks.

Just think about how McCartney's first solo release in five years features only two original songs. It is clear these

geezerz are getting old and losing their steam. We as the public are subjected to the tragedy of watching and paying for our favorite stars to burn out.

I wish I could remember Sir Paul simply as the Beatle and rock god of yester-year, but the fat cats in the recording industry insist on milking the poor guy for all the change they can get. Now I am left to remember my favorite Beatle as a hokey old man singing corny jazz numbers from the depression era.

Thanks a lot, and don't spend my 18 bucks in one place!

ARTIST **RINGO STARR**
ALBUM **RINGO 2012**
LABEL **ROCCABELLA, INC.**
GENRE **ROCK**

Ringo 2012



ALBUMARTEXCHANGE.COM COURTESY PHOTO

★★★★☆

'Ringo 2012' is dated

BEN SOLIS
Managing Editor

Hearing the new Ringo Starr album will again make Beatles die-hards wish that John Lennon and George Harrison were still alive.

Offering little variety in terms of song structure and musical dynamics, Starr's latest release, “Ringo 2012,” is pretentious with little relevance to contemporary living.

Art, as it has been said to do, emulates the culture and major problems of its time. Every issue the world must decide upon, whether it is political, religious or otherwise, is reflected in an artist's work – if that artist wants to retain an element of prominence and reality. Furthermore, the most prolific artists can easily morph these concerns with heart-wrenching and adrenaline-inducing compositions.

However, these qualities are only found in those daring and adventurous enough to learn their craft and packaging ability. Starr has never been, or will ever be for the rest of his existence, one of those artists.

Starr's only redeeming quality is his ability to find his

comfort zone within whatever style he is playing. While this may seem like a feat of greatness, having played drums with one of the most influential bands in modern history—as well as a host of others like Tom Petty and The Heartbreakers—Ringo adds only minimal flourishes to whatever he is playing.

Songs such as “Anthem,” “Think It Over” and “Rock Island Line” are perfect for fans of Starr, yet sound rehashed and recycled from past Beatles albums and even imitate elements found on Beach Boys records.

But don't be fooled. These songs, while up-beat, fun and seemingly easy to digest on a summer day, do not have the sonic mastery that either band brought to the table – a fact made even more sad by the song “In Liverpool” which is a desperate attempt for Starr to reconnect with his famous roots.

Starr may be well-known and revered, but as a solo artist the man comes up shorter than his small stature. This album is both a waste of money and time, and should be viewed only as a piece of nostalgia and novelty.

Project X

★★★★☆

Fight for your right to a decent film: avoid 'Project X'

ANNA FUQUA-SMITH
Staff Writer

Everyone at one time or another would love to jump into a time machine and skip back into their 17th year and experience “Project X” for what it's worth – a combination of, “Can't Hardly Wait,” meets “Blair Witch Project,” meets “Superbad.”

However, this film just isn't worth it.

Plagued with enough footage to make the audience seasick and enough drugs, boobs and anarchy to fill the room, “Project X” opens with the disclaimer apologizing to the residents of Pasadena for the events that occur in the movie.

An apology doesn't come close to how out-of-control this film gets.

Shot in ‘found footage’ style, camera-man Dax and the audience prove to be the only two sober people at this boorish party.

As Thomas Kub (Thomas Mann) and his best friend, Costa (Oliver Cooper) get the typical rules for being alone for the weekend of Kub's 17th birthday, secretly they're planning the party of the century.

And of course, all of the things they weren't supposed

to do on the parent-free weekend, they predictably end up doing.

As setting up commences and ripping off the local drug dealer prankster-style happens, Thomas sets the standard rules of “the party stays in the backyard, no one is allowed in the house and no more than 50 people.”

However, as scandalous young vixens and testosterone-ridden boys arrive, Thomas quickly loses control and enjoys every second of it. It's every teenage boy's dream.

But as the party progresses, it becomes just another buzz-kill.

Boredom aside, “Project X” is filled with plot holes. Simply put, there's no story here.

While “Project X” offers little substance, colossal shock value and few laughs in between, it's difficult to believe that \$12 million was spent to make this diabolical crash of a film.

As Kub struggled for 17 years to reach the cliché of popularity, it only took one riot-infested party for him to achieve his dreams and just as soon lose almost everything – predictably except for the girl.

And as the saying goes, no one will remember you 10 years after graduation. The same will go for Thomas Mann and “Project X.”

GENRE **COMEDY**
RUNTIME **88 MINUTES**
RATING **R**

This Means War

★★★★☆

'This Means War' brings an edge to (b)romance

BEN SOLIS
Managing Editor

There is a reason why spy dramas aren't good date movies, or rather why romantic comedies don't involve espionage. Certain genres only translate to specific groups seeking a particular movie experience.

Seems common sense for the movie industry, but “This Means War,” starring Chris Pine, Tom Hardy and Reese Witherspoon, dares to challenge those expectations.

Set up by the movie's hunky stars, “This Means War” follows two long-time buddies who just happen to be our nation's top intelligence agents. They do everything together, whether that includes going to family functions and watching marathons of “CHIPS,” or chasing down German terrorists, guns in hand.

Their bullet-taking friendship knows no bounds. That is until the quirky and pathetic product-tester Lauren (Witherspoon) comes in and dashes their “bromance” upon

the rocks of an “I-saw-her-first” style competition, causing both men to step up their game to win her heart.

With a plot that could have been written by my toddler cousin, “This Means War” offers very little in terms of story for either an avid rom-com fan or someone looking for a Bond-type thriller. It is redundant, easy to crack and nothing about the story leaves you guessing or wanting more.

Instead, the film uses the weight of its actors to sell the package. With a movie potentially as bad as any other soulless date flick, the chemistry and witty dialogue between Pine and Hardy make the ride much more enjoyable. Both men are split into the die-cast stereotypes associated with these kinds of movies: one is a playboy hound-dog and the other is a charming, yet depressive, lovelorn romantic.

Whatever the secret ingredient is, it works, and movie goers will thank big executives for picking actors who can actually do just that without suffering the slings and arrows associated with mainstream romantic comedies.

GENRE **ROMANTIC COMEDY**
RUNTIME **97 MINUTES**
RATING **R**

This edition of Mediaphile has been expanded into the world of video games on page c2. Additional content online!

Basketball star’s ‘journey’ through life just beginning

ANNA FUQUA-SMITH
Staff Writer

One of these nights, Journey Benjamin will cost her coach, Michael Nightingale, his job. But it’s not because she plays poorly. In fact, it’s quite the opposite.

“I consider Journey to be an assistant coach who plays due to her high basketball IQ,” said Nightingale, the head coach of Washtenaw Community College’s women’s club basketball team. “She’s able to take a big picture of the game and position herself to where she’s needed for her teammates to get her the ball.”

Benjamin competes well enough that she’s more than a long shot to get a good look as a walk-on at another school when she returns to her native Florida, according to Nightingale.

“I’d love to be a walk-on at Florida State,” she said.

While Benjamin dreams of one day being a Seminole, she realizes that an education is necessary regardless of how basketball turns out.

“Basketball is something I can do either for fun or if I decide I want to go further with it, I have the availability to,” said Benjamin, 21, of Ann Arbor, a radiography major.

Radiography was not a random choice for Benjamin. Having suffered two serious knee injuries in her basketball career, she chose her major because of a “fascination with broken bones.”

Her left knee has worn cartilage around the kneecap and in her right knee, she tore her ACL. But Benjamin didn’t let the injuries slow down her basketball career.

She’s also a crusader for a certain cause.

Typically sporting pink basketball shoes, pink under-armour and a pink knee brace, Benjamin plays to highlight breast cancer awareness. Her backpack has embroidered,

“RIP Auntie: Sept. 25, 1966-Jan. 26, 2010.”

“My aunt, who was my life-line while growing up, lost her battle in 2010 and whenever I play, it’s in remembrance of her,” she said. “It’s just all about supporting breast cancer awareness whether it’s female or male.”

Benjamin learned a lot from her aunt.

“She taught me everything. She taught me to control my anger, patience and that there’s always a silver lining, even if you can’t see it,” she said.

While her basketball acumen and flashy attire stand out, it’s not the only quality that gets her noticed.

“She’s my 3-point shooter always. Her shot, however, is a little different,” Nightingale said. “She shoots with a really high arc. The ball is almost hitting the ceiling sometimes—that’s how high her arc is, and it’s something I haven’t tried to correct because it works.”

Although her shot is unconventional, it was born out of necessity.

“I use to have really tall brothers growing up, so I had to figure out how to get the ball over their jumping ability and into the basket,” she laughed.

Point guard Colby Griffin, 20, a business major of Ypsilanti, thinks that Benjamin has a great future in the game beyond Washtenaw’s club team.

“Her shot is unbelievable. She gets the game,” Griffin said. “She knows where to go without being told and how to play certain people, how not to play certain people.”

Nightingale also admires Benjamin’s work ethic, the critical skill in her toolkit that will take her wherever she wants to go.

“She’s the type of player that works on her craft constantly,” he said. “She spends a considerable amount of time working on her basketball skills, and does that all by herself.”



Journey Benjamin passes the ball to a teammate during practice.



Benjamin demonstrates her trademark shooting form.

Former co-ed golf team will split into men’s and women’s teams in upcoming season

ANNA FUQUA-SMITH
Staff Writer

It’s the start of the second season for the golf team at Washtenaw Community College and students aiming to compete in separate men’s and women’s teams can do so now.

Club Sports Coordinator Erica Lemm looks at the formation of two teams as an opportunity to increase participation in the sport.

“In the first season, the biggest challenge was the scrimmages and the matches. There wasn’t a lot of co-ed teams,” she said. “The women can play women’s teams now and the men can play men’s teams now.”

And while two teams have been formed, there will be one coach for both teams. Whitmore Lake resident, Jason Towler, 30, is excited to increase the competition level for the two teams.

“Golf is one of those sports you’re going to play for the rest of your life,” he said. “I don’t care if you’re Tiger Woods or Charles Barkley, I just want anyone interested to come

out and we can work on their game.”

Although it was originally estimated in the budget in the beginning of the year to have one co-ed golf team year round, Lemm over-budgeted for the first team in the fall and because of that was able to fund two teams for the remainder of the year.

“More or less, I think it’s important to have two teams because that’s what the students have voiced,” she said. “So no matter what, I’m going to find the money for it.”

While most of the other club sports teams play in Ann Arbor’s Rec and Ed and leagues out of Wide World Sports in Ann Arbor, the golf teams are the only teams that will strictly play with other colleges and universities.

“The hardest thing is trying to find teams who want to play on the weekends,” Lemm said. “We’ve been invited to several invitations, but on the weekdays only.”

For all interested, tryouts are on March 14 at 5 p.m. at Eagle Crest Golf Course, located at 1275 S. Huron St. in Ypsilanti.

Club sports calendar

MEN’S AND WOMEN’S GOLF
March 14 at 5 p.m.
Eagle Crest Golf Course, 1275 S. Huron St., Ypsilanti

Times to be determined for the following events. Registration occurs Mon-Fri from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. in SC118.

COED INTRAMURAL SOFTBALL
REGISTRATION: March 5–14
GAMES: March 25–April 22, Sundays except April 8 on the athletic fields

COED INTRAMURAL SOCCER
REGISTRATION: March 5–14
GAMES: March 26–April 16, Mondays on the athletic fields

COED INTRAMURAL KICKBALL
REGISTRATION: March 5–16
GAMES: March 27–April 17, Tuesdays on the athletic fields

COED INTRAMURAL FLAG FOOTBALL
REGISTRATION: March 5–16
GAMES: March 28–April 18, Wednesdays on the athletic fields

Platform Tennis court eager to serve interested students

PLATFORM TENNIS FROM B1

Sign-ups for the game are booked through the HFC because access and equipment is signed out there, but membership is not required.

“The court is managed like the athletic fields: Open to everyone,” Flowers said.

Part of the problem with the low numbers is the lack of advertising amongst the college. Sports coordinator, Erica Lemm, however, has only spoken to one student interested in platform tennis and wasn’t aware of the availability of the court to the students and community members.

Which is why Gill insists on the need to spread the good word.

“I think that more advertising is necessary and it’s something that can be brought up with the board,” he said. “It’s not being used as expected in the original plan of the HFC.”



A view of the platform tennis court from the second floor of the Health and Fitness Center building as it sits empty.

Welcome to the Highway to High Demand Jobs Series

Automation Technology

Interested in Automation Technology?

Interested in learning more about careers in Automation Technology? Join us for a workshop featuring a panel of professionals and live demonstrations.

When: March 26th
11:00am—1:30pm

Where: Washtenaw Community College’s Morris Lawrence Building, Rooms 101/103/123

Space is limited so call (734) 677-5105 to make your reservation

Light refreshments will be provided

Sponsored by the Student Resource and Women’s Center and Employment Services

Washtenaw Community College
4800 East Huron River Drive
Ann Arbor, MI, 48105
(734) 677-5105



To All December 2011 Graduates and April, June and August 2012 Graduate Candidates:
2011-2012

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY
May 19, 2012, at 9:20 a.m.

Are you ready to Graduate?

There are things you need to do

For more details go to www.wccnet.edu and type “graduation” in the search box.

If you’ve already applied, look for your letter and attire coupon in the mail.

- ☐ Fill out Graduation application
- ☐ Buy Cap, Gown, Tassel
- ☐ Announcements
- ☐ Rehearsal
- ☐ Ceremony

For More Information
Contact a Student Records Technician:
Mary Singer 734-973-3546
Nancy Farmer 734-973-3658



Washtenaw Community College

MARCH 'ADVENESS 2012

‘Nothing but net’ for Washtenaw Voice advertisers

NCAA CHAMPION

advertiser wins

FREE full page ad

FREE half-page ad

if your team gets to the championship

FREE quarter-page ad

if your team gets to the final four

The Washtenaw Voice

Our readers, your customers

Serving more than 16,000 students, faculty and staff of Washtenaw Community College.

According to a new market-research poll, *Washtenaw Voice* readers spend:

\$17.9 million per year on movies, concerts and sporting events

\$30 million per year on dining out

\$31.2 million per year on groceries

\$12 million per year on their cars (other than fuel costs)

\$10.3 million per year on their pets – nearly 63 percent of our readers have pets

Our students enjoy:

Restaurants, clubs and bars; tech toys, video games and gadgets; bargains, coupons and promotions; and their pets

Our students need:

Apartments and homes; banking and savings plans; phone plans; car maintenance; insurance; and hair salons and barbers

Let The Voice speak for your business

To advertise in *The Voice*, phone 734-973-3662, or visit www.washtenawvoice.com

Z George's Goney Island • 734 572 1433

1. Garrett's / The Sweet Spot • Student Center

16. Campus Book & Supply • www.campusbooksupply.com

8. Central Michigan University • www.cmich.edu/detroit

5. The Corner Health Center • www.cornerhealth.org

12. Lawrence Technological University • [www.LTU.edu](http://www.ltu.edu)

SDA • www.tiny.cc/sda

4. Rave Cinemas • 734-997 8424

13. Shawin's Handyman Service • 734 740 2257

6. Mr. Piz-z-Washtenaw Ave • 734 485 0010

11. Photography by Lorissa • www.photographybylorissa.com

3. Lucky Garden Chinese • 734 482 1000

14. Daycroft Montessori School • 734 662 3355

7. Western Michigan University • www.wmich.edu/transfer

10. Exotic Cuisines & Bakery • 734 665 4430

2. Haifa Falafel • 734-677 4410

15. Hairs Inn • 734 484 8669

1. WCC Student Connection • 973 3543

16. Beal Properties • www.gobeal.com

8. van Anders Lab • 734 763 7121

9. Red Rock Downtown Bar-B-Q • www.redrockynpsi.com

5. Bella Italia Pizza N Pasta • 734 222 9993

12. Pita Pita Mediterranean Grill • 734 628 3333

4. Aubree's Pizzeria & Grill • www.aubrees.com

13. Caribou Coffee • 734 222 0205

6. Eastern Michigan University • www.emich.edu/explore

11. King's Keyboard House • 734-663 3361

3. Jimmy John's- Washtenaw Ave • 734 477 0000

14. Ann Arbor Chiropractic Wellness • www.annarborchiropractic.com

7. Kettering University • www.kettering.edu/transfer

10. Loving Arm Rescue Ranch • www.lovingarmresueranch.com

2. WCC PR & Marketing • 973 3704

15.

REGIONAL

REGIONAL

REGIONAL

REGIONAL

Hungry Howie's–Whittaker Rd • 734 480 0400

1. Student Resources Women's Ctr • 973 3528

16. AATA • www.theride.org

8. Madonna University • www.madonna.edu

9. Tandem Tile & Stone, LLC • 734 277 7475

5. Douglas J–Aveda Institute • 877 334 8657

12. Cleary University • www.cleary.edu/transfer

4. Siderack Bar & Grill • www.siderackbarandgrill.com

13. Davenport University • www.davenport.edu/apply

6. Walsh College • www.walshcollege.edu

11. WCC Health & Fitness Center • 734 975 9950

3. Maize and Blue Deli • 734 483 7600

14. Haabi's Restaurant • www.haabisrestaurant.com

7. University of Michigan–Dearborn • www.umd.umich.edu

10. The Pet Resort • www.thepetresortinc.com

2. WCC Employment Services • www.jobs.wccnet.edu

15. Dan's Tavern–Saline • 734 429 3159

1. WCC Richard W. Bailey Library • 973 3429

16. University of Detroit Mercy • www.udmercy.edu/apply

8. Michigan Head & Neck Institute • www.MHNI.com

9. VG Kids High Quality Printers • www.vgkids.com

5. La Costa Taqueria • 734 434 0857

12. Your Comfort Zone Salon & Spa • 734 484 4420

4. Wurst Bar • www.wurstbarynpsi.com

13. Big Boy Restaurant–Plymouth Rd • 734 996 8336

6. Wayne State University • www.wayne.edu

11. Northwood University • www.northwood.edu

3. Quality 16 Theatre • 734 827 2863

14. Clean Water Beach • www.cleanwaterbeach.com

7. Quater Chrysler Jeep Dodge • www.cueter.com

10. CTE3.com • 734 751 2296

2. WCC Vocational Technologies • 973 3443

15.



1 Mama's main man
2 Noted rib donor

ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIPS

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

 Opportunity **U**
SIENA HEIGHTS UNIVERSITY



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

AA FILM FEST FROM B1

about it and didn't think my film would be invited for something like this."

Jeremy Liesen, 26, of Ypsilanti, a double major in digital video production and music production and engineering, is singing to the same tune.

"I think it was weird how we found out. We didn't even know we were being submitted," Liesen said. "And it was a big surprise."

Liesen's film entitled, "Listen;" along with Barb Morrissey's, "Belle Isle Zoo;" Scott Allen's, "Turn the Camera Around;" and Bifano's, "Forward Aikido Roll" have all had the prestigious chance to showcase this year at the festival.

"Listen" was filmed around the Michigan Theatre and Liesen used his second major in MPE to link together natural sounds of the city for the soundtrack of the film.

"I composed music out of sound effects out of car doors slamming, mail boxes, change and keys," he said. "I had a vision matching up the visuals

of the sound."

For Morrissey, 31, also a DVP major, shooting "Belle Isle Zoo" was a challenge as she had to reshoot a second time for higher quality. The Brighton resident initially used her cell phone.

"I originally filmed at the (Belle Isle) Zoo in July (2011). Martin (Thoburn, video instructor) said the quality looked like crap so I went back and filmed it again in one day," she said. "And then only had a couple weeks to edit it in the fall."

The event will take place from March 27 to April 1 and is the longest running independent and experimental film festival in North America.

DVP major Scott Allen, 28, of Livonia, earned his invitation by documenting photographer Doug Coombe of the Metro Times. After struggling for ideas for his assignment, Allen was lucky enough to run across Coombe at the Hamtramck Blowout last year.

"I went along with him for three days and edited for three weeks," he said. "Doug is a beautiful individual. He is somebody that anybody can

relate too. There's some sort of character about him, some sort of charisma that I've always liked."

While boiling down the films available to 10 for submission was tough, Thoburn thinks that the invitations are only good things for the student's resumes.

"It's a good resume builder and potentials for getting into other festivals," he said. "The committee that selected these films was looking for unique artistic vision and each of these four pieces delivers that."

Zacharias has always been adamant in ensuring his students know that films have to be original and says he can see "the true artist" in each film.

"These films stood out because they look professional in terms of style and content or both," he said. "It's all of the layers working together in terms of the photography and subject matter. From Barb to the three boys, the work is signature to who they are."

For more information on the Ann Arbor Film Festival, visit aafilmfest.org.



JEREMY LIESEN COURTESY PHOTO

A still from 'Listen' by WCC student Jeremy Liesen, one of four featured in the Ann Arbor Film Festival.



SCOTT ALLEN COURTESY PHOTO

A still from 'Turn the Camera Around' by WCC student Scott Allen, also featured in the Ann Arbor Film Festival.



BARB MORRISSEY COURTESY PHOTO

A still from 'Belle Isle Zoo' by WCC student Barb Morrissey, also featured in the Ann Arbor Film Festival.

PAY IT FORWARD FROM B1

slips passed out returned to the SDA office, but it is believed that there were more than just 38 good deeds performed during the week.

"WCC is filled with good people. There was probably a lot of kind acts happening around campus that we don't know about," said Briannah Henderson, 21-year-old child care major from Philadelphia.

People get too wrapped up in themselves and don't pay attention to the people around them, Henderson said.

This is the first year SDA has celebrated Random Act of Kindness Day and the office plans to do it again next year.

"I think the little acts of kindness around campus made people think," Henderson said. "Next year, Random Act of Kindness Week will be bigger and better."



NATHAN CLARK THE WASHTENAW VOICE

Rachel Barsch, Student Activities events coordinator.

complete YOUR COLLEGE EXPERIENCE!

with Student Development
and Activities

UPCOMING EVENTS

Make it, Take it: Root Beer Floats

Noon-1:00 p.m. in the SC Cafeteria
Thursday, March 15
AND
5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. in the Student Center Cafeteria
Wednesday, March 21
FREE!

Spirit Week: Love WCC? Prove it by participating in the following activities:

Monday, March 19: Dress like a superhero--who's your favorite superhero? Give them homage by dressing like them.
Tuesday, March 20: 80's day--Oh, how we miss this decade with its big hair, leg warmers and neon everything.
Wednesday, March 21: WCC Swag day: show off your WCC spirit by sporting some WCC gear!
Thursday, March 22: Dress like a pirate day--Argh! Don your landlubber clothes!
Friday, March 23: Dress like your favorite sports team day.

Stop by Student Activities in SC 112 to take a picture and grab a prize if you participate.

Be a Lifesaver!

Blood drive, bone marrow donation and organ donation registration drives
Wednesday, April 11 and Thursday, April 12
10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.
More info coming soon!

Blue Man Group

Thursday, May 3
Fisher Theatre
8:00 p.m.
\$89 seats on sale for \$25/ticket!

Lunch with the President:

Sign-up for the chance to win a FREE lunch with Dr. Bellanca.
<http://tinyurl.com/wccclunchcontest>

We need YOU!

Join the WCC Service Corps. and give back to your community.
<http://tinyurl.com/wccgives>

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

Men's and Women's Club Golf Tryouts

Date: Wednesday, March 14
Time: 5:00 p.m.
Location: Eagle Crest Golf Course(1275 S Huron Street, Ypsilanti)
Bring your golf clubs or contact the WCC Sports office if you need to borrow clubs for the season.
FREE!

Intramural March Madness Men's and Women's Bracket Contest

Registration: March 12 - March 15 at NOON
Tournament will start on March 15
Location: Pick up and fill out a bracket in the Sports Office (SC118)
Pick up your bracket from the WCC Sports office. Brackets must be turned in by noon on March 15th to be counted.
FREE!

Intramural Softball

Registration: March 5 - March 14
Game Dates: Sundays, March 25 - April 22 (Except April 8)
Time: Either 4:00 p.m. or 5:00 p.m. games
Location: North Athletic Fields
League: 10v10 Coed
Register an entire team or register as an individual and be placed on a team.
FREE!

Student Activities: SC 112

WCC Sports: SC 118

Intramural 3v3 Soccer

Registration: March 5 - March 14
Game Dates: Mondays, March 26 - April 16
Time: Either 5:30 p.m. or 6:30 p.m. games
Location: North Athletic Fields
League: 3v3 Coed
Register an entire team or register as an individual and be placed on a team.
FREE!

Intramural Kickball

Registration: March 5 - March 16
Game Dates: Tuesdays, March 27 - April 17
Time: Either 5:30 p.m. or 6:30 p.m. games
Location: North Athletic Fields
League: 5v5 Coed
Register an entire team or register as an individual and be placed on a team.
FREE!

Intramural Flag Football

Registration: March 5 - March 16
Dates: Wednesdays, March 28 - April 18
Time: Either 5:30 p.m. or 6:30 p.m. games
Location: North Athletic Fields
League: 7v7 Coed
Register an entire team or register as an individual and be placed on a team.
FREE!

Coed Running Club

Tuesdays and Thursdays
4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
North Athletic Fields
Bring your WCC Student ID card and warm running clothes.
FREE!



STAY CONNECTED!
[HTTP://TINYW.CC/SDA](http://tinyw.cc/sda)

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





Washtenaw flexes its muscles at Autorama



ADAM WOODWARD COURTESY PHOTO

The Radical Hardtop Ford 500 GT-R made by students in the Custom Car Concepts program took fourth at the recent Autorama show in Detroit, Feb. 24–26.

- WCC in the Winner’s Circle**
First-place in the Custom-Convertible Mid-class:
1964 Impala

First-place in the European Custom Bike Class:
Ducati 999

First-Place in the Special Interest Motorized Class:
Kawasaki 4-wheeler.

Third-place in the Super Stock Class:
Mystic Cobra

Fourth-place in the Asian Custom Bike Class:
Kawasaki Ninja ZX-14.

Fourth-place in the Radical Hardtop Class:
Ford 500 GT-R



ADAM WOODWARD COURTESY PHOTO

A 1964 Chevy Impala 409 SS that earned first place in the Custom-Convertible Mid-class

College teams bring home six more awards

ALLIE TOMASON
Staff Writer

Each year the Meguiar’s Detroit Autorama welcomes custom car enthusiasts from all over North America. Washtenaw Community College takes advantage of the opportunity to showcase the talent of its past, presenting students from its automotive programs at the event.

“This is our big bang,” said Mike Duff, instructor for Automotive Service Technology, and the results don’t disagree as WCC raced away with six awards. But winning awards is not the only objective for Duff. He wants the college to be noticed as an opportunity for students to make themselves marketable in the workforce.

“The goal for this weekend is to promote the school and show them what we can do,” he said.

Duff has high hopes that the most recent debut into Autorama will be an enticing

enough marketing tool to draw high school vocational students to the auto programs at Washtenaw.

Besides being pretty to look at with its \$5,000 paint job, the Mystic Cobra was built for drag racing. One of five original prototypes donated by Ford Motor Company, it has a 521 cubic inch bi-fuel engine and a two-speed power glide transmission.

“We built the car as a wow factor to take to the schools,” Duff said. “You need a carrot to be able to grab their attention.”

Another attractive piece of machinery strutting its stuff at Autorama for WCC this year was the Ford 500 GT-R, a 550 horsepower, mid-engine supercar weighing in at 4,500 pounds and sporting a Ford 500 body slapped on top of a Ford GT frame. The wide-body work was all custom-made by students in the Custom Car Concepts program. All the scoops and vents are fully functional, and it has gone 189 mph on Ford’s test track.

When Ford Motor Company wanted to do something really cool, WCC gave them the idea for the GT-R, and Ford said it couldn’t be done. Obviously that challenge was met.

“It’s about as heavy as your average four-door grocery-getter, but it goes 200 mph,” laughed Bobby Feldkamp, 23, lab assistant for Auto Body Repair.

While these two cars can hold their own, there was another that seemed to be hogging most of the attention at the Feb. 24–26 show. As on-lookers at the Cobo Arena show walked by, the proverbial “oohs” and “aahs” could be heard.

It was a 1964 Impala 409 SS owned by ex-Detroit Tiger Dmitri Young. With a 500 horsepower Roush-built engine pushing 500 pound-feet of torque, the car donned a fully polished underbody,

“This car will be going back to the owner soon, so we thought we’d bring it out one last time to see what it would do,” Feldkamp said.

Four years ago, the Impala was displayed on “Riddler Row,” depicting it as one of the 16 nicest cars debuted that year, so it should come as no surprise that its final ride with WCC was a good one.

Autorama may be a custom car show, but it doesn’t discriminate against two wheelers. WCC’s motorcycle program had a strong presence as well with a Ducati 999, owned by Gary Sobbry, instructor for Auto-body Repair, and a Kawasaki Ninja ZX-14 stock bike, morphed into a performance bike with the addition of a six-inch, stretched rear-end, a 230 rear tire, a Brock header system, and NOS (nitrous oxide system).

“The nitrous isn’t hooked up yet, but it will be,” said Wayne Keesey, technician in the motorcycle area. As a drag bike, the Ninja does about 10.5 seconds down the quarter-mile which equates to about 137 mph, Keesey said.

“But it still hasn’t given us what its potential is.”



ALLIE TOMASON THE WASHTENAW VOICE

WCC’s first-place Ducati 999 in the European Custom Class.



ALLIE TOMASON THE WASHTENAW VOICE

The WCC Custom Car Concepts team, with the fourth-place Mystic Cobra. From left: Jack Wynn, Mike Duff, Scott Malnar, Shawn Deron, Wayne Keesey, Michael Myers and Joe Ginzinger.

Couple turns spare cycle parts into ‘wicked’ art

ALLIE TOMASON
Staff Writer

As a retired interior designer, Sue Yopek has an eye for creativity. Five years ago, when her husband Russ was rebuilding his bike, the rebuilt Evolution (EVO) motor sat in their dining room for three months.

“I kept teasing him: ‘You know, if it sits there long enough, I’m gonna make a table out of it,’” she said. Of course she didn’t, but that thought always stuck in the back of her mind.

At the time she didn’t know it, but Sue was ill. She was later diagnosed with a disease called hypoparathyroidism, which required surgery to remove a tumor.

During the period of time before her surgery, Sue said she “kind of lost all that.”

“I’m into just about every kind of craft you can imagine,

being an art major and all, but after surgery that all started coming back, and I started conceiving,” she said.

Russ “Sparks” Yopek, 47, of Brighton and his wife began what they call a “labor of love” in December 2011. They called it “Wicked Art.”

Wicked Art is in the infant stage now but the Yopeks have big plans for their baby. The couple decided in January that Autorama was where they would begin to showcase their work, which didn’t afford much time to prepare.

“It was like the great biker build-off to get these pieces done in time,” Sparks said. “I was up for two days straight, no sleep.”

The pieces he is referring to are one-of-a-kind, functional creations made from once-operating motorcycle parts. They include a table made from a 1971 Shovelhead Harley Davidson motor, another made

from four rear fenders, and a tombstone-shaped mirror with a drive chain edging.

“The Shovelhead took me three weeks to build,” said Sparks, who also does the custom detailing for each piece.

The work that went into the Shovelhead table was labor-intensive, cleaning and machining the jugs to get them just right so that the 48 red LED lights could be installed and be seen to get the effect that Sue was looking for.

So far, a couple of specific target markets look promising. Sue believes that the fast-growing population of women riders will be great for sales and plans to cater to the woman rider with products such as lamps, candle holders, Adirondack chairs and any other design aspect for the home.

“Women love beautiful things... and the beauty of our products is that not only are you buying a piece of furniture,

you are buying a piece of art. Each piece we build is signed, numbered and comes with a certificate of authenticity,” she said. “No piece will be exactly the same.”

The other area the Yopeks are interested in is the sustainability market. Plans for products made from re-claimed metal and barn wood are also in the works.

“We are already working with a gentleman who does beautiful woodwork,” Sue said.

Aside from the passion of creativity and loving what they do, the point that the Yopeks want to make on behalf of themselves is that this venture truly is a labor of love and a team effort.

“I like being able to go right outside to my shop and do what I do,” Sparks said.

“I really like to see people happy,” Sue said. “And the great thing is that we are doing it together.”



ALLIE TOMASON THE WASHTENAW VOICE

A coffee table custom-built from a 1971 Harley Davidson ‘shovelhead’ motor.

‘PlayStation Vita’ breathes new life into hand-held gaming

TIMOTHY CLARK
Contributor

Nearly seven years since the release of the PlayStation Portable, Sony has finally released a successor. The PlayStation Vita has launched, and it packs console graphics into a portable device.

With the increase in tablets and smartphones, Sony is attempting to compete in a space that is crowded with devices. Fortunately, the Vita stands out despite a few small issues and creates a great hardcore gaming experience.

The system features a five-inch OLED screen with touchscreen control, and a rear touchpad on the back of the system. The OLED screen is gorgeous, but doesn’t hold up to sunlight and fingerprints well. The smudges are hardly noticeable when the system is on, but if you’re into keeping your systems in pristine condition you’ll need to clean it frequently. Increasing brightness can also help with the sunlight problem, but at the cost of battery life, which is usually around 4-5 hours on lower settings.

The front and rear touchscreen works well, but the rear touchscreen seems gimmicky. I have yet to use it for any practical use. Hopefully, later game releases will find ways to use it for something unique.

One other device that the Vita has incorporated is a gyroscope and accelerometers for tilt controls. This provides some games with the ability to weak shooting by tilting the Vita in a direction, or rolling an object on the screen. This all works well, but seems to be used sparingly in games.

All the motion gaming is optional for most games, and you



ADRIAN HEDDEN THE WASHTENAW VOICE

can use the dual analog sticks and face buttons for main use. All buttons are responsive but I find the analog stick not as precise as I would like. If the sticks were just a bit longer they’d be much more comfortable and precise.

The Vita sports front and rear cameras that don’t provide the greatest pictures. They seem grainy, but work well enough. For all the state-of-the-art features, I was expecting a crisp, clear picture.

The interface the Vita features is an app-style screen that you flip through and find what you’re looking for. One downside to this is that it can become cluttered, and in the future will get even worse. By the time the system is out for a year, you could be flipping through 7-10 pages of games and apps. Hopefully, with future updates to the system they’ll have folders to place apps and games for easier management.

The Vita comes preloaded with apps, but there are a few to also download for free

such as Netflix and Facebook. The Internet browser is a nice perk, but there are some major problems with it. You can’t open it while playing a game and it doesn’t support Flash. If you were looking to use it as a dedicated Internet device, look somewhere else.

The most important thing about a system launch though, is the games. Luckily, this is where the Vita shines and outclasses Nintendo’s 3DS. It has a pretty strong launch lineup. It covers all the bases well, from blockbuster games like “Uncharted” to small indie titles like “Escape Plan.” While you can buy most of the games on game cards, you can also download all of them digitally. The nice thing about this is you’ll be saving about \$5 on each of the games.

This leads to one of the biggest agendas for the system, the attempt at cross-platform play. Content Manager, a preloaded App on the system, allows users to plug the Vita into PCs or PS3s and swap things between them. A promise that eventually

you’ll be able to play full console games, then move saved data on to the Vita and continue playing on the road is a great concept. So far, the only thing that allows cross-platform play is “Hustle Kings,” but there are more games planned for this feature later.

The Vita price is \$250 for the Wi-Fi and \$300 for the 3G version, which is a steep starting price for a handheld. This also includes an extra \$20-\$100 dollars, depending on what memory card you want to buy, which may cause many people to think the system is too pricey for an initial purchase.

However, for gamers who have a PS3 or want console quality gaming on the road, there is no better handheld than the Vita.



PRODUCT: PLAYSTATION VITA
COMPANY: SONY
PRICE: RANGES FROM \$250-\$300, DEPENDING ON PRODUCT PACKAGE

‘Twisted Metal’: Renting it will grind your gears



GAMESTOP.COM COURTESY PHOTO

NATHAN CLARK
Staff writer

Gamers who grew up playing “Twisted Metal” on the original PlayStation rejoiced when developers announced the release date for the new “Metal” on the PlayStation 3.

Diehard fans of series bought the game immediately at launch while gamers unfamiliar with the series chose to rent it first, unaware that by only renting the game they were losing out on one of the game’s biggest new features in the franchise – online multiplayer.

The original “Twisted Metal” was a must-have game for anyone who owned a PlayStation. It created the gaming genre “vehicular combat.” No other game since has been able to pull it off.

The game is a vehicle-mounted, fight-to-the-death competition run by a shadowy man known as Calypso. The prize for winning the competition is one wish, whatever the driver desires regardless of cost, size or reality. The biggest draw in “Metal” has always been the twisted endings, reminding players to choose their words carefully and be careful what they wish for.

Unlike the original game in which players chose a car bound to a particular driver with their own backstory, players choose whichever

vehicle they like regardless of the character being played. Unfortunately, there are only three characters.

“Twisted Metal’s” single player campaign, which is painfully short, is a fluid story revolving around “Sweet Tooth,” a clown-faced serial killer; “Mr. Grimm,” a biker with a tragic past; and “Doll Face,” a murderous model willing to do anything to get to the top.

The game offers a robust online multiplayer experience, but only to gamers who either purchased the game or are willing to pay for an access code. Gamers renting or borrowing the game are completely locked out of online play.

The graphics are decent and the audio is excellent, but the physics will make you hate gravity. Enemies will continuously slam into you, sending you flying into the distance in a ball of rage.

With “Twisted Metal’s” short single-player campaign and closed access to multiplayer for renters, the game may not be to appealing to new players, but it’s still enjoyable to play.



DEVELOPER: SONY
COMPUTER ENTERTAINMENT
GENRE: VEHICLE COMBAT
RATED: M
PLATFORM: PS3

Mass Effect 3: More of the same, only better



GAMESPOT.COM COURTESY PHOTO

KELLY BRACHA
Contributor

Everything in the Mass Effect series has been leading up to this moment.

The Reapers have begun their invasion of Earth and are adamant in their goal to destroy all organic life in the galaxy. Through the first two games, we have learned and grown to love this universe – its cultures, mythology, politics, and especially its characters – which are now all under threat of the seemingly invincible Reapers.

Much like how Mass Effect 2 was focused on the recruitment of loyal squad members for the final “suicide mission,” Mass Effect 3 places Shepard under the mission of recruiting entire civilizations from around the galaxy to put their differences aside and band together in the fight against the Reapers.

The story is told through intelligent dialogue, a score that impacts your emotions and stunning cut scenes that blend flawlessly within the gameplay, keeping you immersed.

The gameplay is much like it was in Mass Effect 2. The controls remain the same as well as the mechanics, with slight changes to make it easier to move from cover to cover and easier movement control while running. The same can be said for combat. With this installment being heavy on action, BioWare has made it effortless to customize your weapons and model your Shepard’s skills with a more streamlined skill-tree system.

The upgraded system

allows you to choose how you want to upgrade your skills. Instead of simply upgrading the concussion shot, you may choose more damage, number of projectiles, or cool-down.

Aesthetically, Mass Effect 3 exhibits mild graphical enhancements over Mass Effect 2 as well as enriched sound effects, and the same great amazing voice-acting that we have seen throughout the series. All these things overshadow the occasional glitch, missing texture and lip-syncing issues that all games face from time to time.

Galactic travel and scanning remain to be an unpleasant aspect of the game, but with a much duller feel to it than in Mass Effect 2. Each quest accumulates war assets, which determine how good of an ending you get. Familiar characters return and new ones are introduced.

All in all, Mass Effect 3 upholds the masterful storyline it has become known for, and even with all its minute flaws it still concludes in spectacular fashion and remains enthralling. It has filled the galaxy with unique and dynamic characters, gripping the audience from beginning to end.

Mass Effect 3 is a satisfying accumulation of everything you’ve done in Mass Effect and Mass Effect 2, overall giving the fans the ending they deserve.



ESRB RATING: M FOR MATURE
PLATFORMS: WINDOWS, XBOX 360, PLAYSTATION 3
DEVELOPER: BOWARE
GENRE: ACTION
ROLE-PLAYING

‘Uncharted: Golden Abyss’ brings blockbuster gaming on the road



TIMOTHY CLARK COURTESY PHOTO

TIMOTHY CLARK
Contributor

The “Uncharted” franchise has been an action darling ever since it was released in 2007 and each subsequent game has been better and better.

Just four months since the release of the third game in the series, “Uncharted: Golden Abyss” is called upon to be the system seller for the PlayStation Vita.

Once again you’re in the shoes of Nathan Drake, treasure hunter and suave everyman, in a search for a lost city in Central America. While a prequel to the original game, it’s set up as its own story. The writing is snappy and funny, and the story provides some cool historical and mythological touches, but it lacks any real character development.

Rather than exploring Drake’s background, you get what feels like a filler episode in a TV series. All these events happen, but have no effect on the trilogy ahead of it

“Golden Abyss,” while developed by a different studio than the PS3 versions, retains most of the original gameplay elements. You’ll still be ducking into cover, shooting from a third-person perspective and defying death with each jump you make. A few wrinkles are added in due to the Vita’s motion controls and touchscreen.

For gunplay, the Vita’s motion controls allows you to tilt it for aiming, which is a great addition. Once you get good at it, you can point in a general direction and make a slight adjustment by just shifting the Vita in a direction. Once you master it, you’ll be popping out of cover and making headshots with ease.

Another really cool feature is the touchscreen puzzles and treasures. In the original

games, all treasures were just shiny points on the map that you ran over and picked up, but in “Golden Abyss” there are all different types. Using the Touchscreen to do charcoal rubbings, take photos and even using the back camera to display writing on a light sensitive paper makes you feel like a treasure hunter.

While many of these qualities are cool, many of them are also gimmicks. It seems that “Sony Bend” was forced to place every single function the Vita has to offer. Swiping the screen to open doors gets old, using the gyroscope to balance on beams and using the back-touch to climb ropes just seems pointless and boring.

One of the things that most people say when they see an uncharted game is that it looks like a movie. The graphics, while gorgeous, don’t get the set piece movie moments that the “Uncharted” series is known for. Most of the game involves climbing through jungle environments and temples with no real change through the 8-12 hour experience. Instead of escaping a sinking boat, or fighting your way on top of a moving train like the other games, it boils down to merely shooting dudes and making jumps; which is still very fun.

While not up to the high standards of the original games, which set the bar very high, “Uncharted: Golden Abyss” still stands out as the blockbuster game that you’ll want to show to everyone if you have a Vita.





DEVELOPER: SONY BEND
ESRB RATING: T FOR TEEN
GENRE: THIRD-PERSON ACTION ADVENTURE
PLATFORM: PLAYSTATION VITA

MADONNA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

McManus

DISTINGUISHED BUSINESS LECTURE SERIES



Guest lecturer
Joe Vicari, President and CEO of
Andiamo Restaurant Group

The Business of Fine Dining

Tuesday, March 27, 2012
7 p.m.

Madonna University
Franciscan Center Lecture Hall
36600 Schoolcraft Road
Livonia, MI 48150

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THIS
INFORMATIVE, FREE LECTURE

R.S.V.P. at 734-432-5356 or
jcook@madonna.edu

WASHTENAW VOICE OPEN HOUSE

March 28, 3:30-6 p.m. TI 106

Free pizza, pop and job applications.



YUNO

**CHECK
US OUT
ONLINE?**



washtenawvoice.com

Are Headaches Disrupting Your Life?



Michigan Head•Pain & Neurological Institute is conducting a research study evaluating an investigational medication for individuals with migraines.

Participants must:

- * Be between 18 and 65 years old
- * Experience no more than 8 headaches per month over the past 3 months

If you qualify, you will receive study related exams and study medication at no cost to you. In addition, you will be compensated for your time and travel expenses.

For more information, please call a study coordinator at
(734) 677-6000, option 4

Learn more about participating in research at
[www. MHNI.com](http://www.MHNI.com)

Michigan Head•Pain & Neurological Institute
3120 Professional Drive • Ann Arbor, MI 48104

EXPLORE EASTERN OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, March 31

**LEARN.
SAVE.
ENGAGE.**

- Priority admissions decision
- Free to apply, save \$30
- Meet faculty, advisers
- Record amount of financial aid available

emich.edu/explore

Job Fair and Non-Profit Showcase!!

**Tuesday,
March 20th
from 12n to 4p**

Employment Services and Student Resources and Women's Center will be hosting the 16th Annual Spring Job Fair on Tuesday, March 20th from 12noon to 4pm in the Morris Lawrence Building.

There will be approximately 50 companies and businesses available to meet with job seekers to discuss employment opportunities within their organizations. There will also be 20 local non-profit agencies on hand to discuss their services and resources.

Remember:

Dress Professionally ♦Bring Plenty of Resumes ♦Create An Introduction Speech

**For More
Information:**

Employment Services Center , Student Center Building 287
P: 734-677-5155 • F: 734-677-5444 • careers@wccnet.edu

**The Job Fair/Non-
-Profit Showcase
is:**

- Free of charge to enter.
- Open to the public.



KYLA MARSHALL'S

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY'S CLASS OF '13, TRANSFER STUDENT, ELEMENTARY EDUCATION MAJOR

SMART TRANSFER PLAN

Kyla found just the right fit in a four-year university.

Helpful professors, an inviting campus community and a smooth transition made Kyla's choice easy: Western Michigan University. When someone at her community college mentioned Western's excellent education program, she investigated and developed a smart plan: finish her core classes, then transfer to WMU. With accessible professors freely giving help and guidance, Kyla knows she made the right decision. She already feels ready to work.

SMART BENEFITS FOR THE WMU TRANSFER STUDENT

230 academic programs

Research involvement with faculty

Transfer scholarships available

On-campus transfer student housing

One of America's "Best National Universities"

— U.S. News & World Report



WESTERN MICHIGAN
UNIVERSITY

"I love the community on campus. It made it extremely easy to transition and get involved."

— Kyla Marshall

(269) 387-2000 • WMICH.EDU/TRANSFER