



COLE JORDAN

Former WCC counselor sentenced A6

The Washtenaw Voice

March 26, 2012 WASHTENAW COMMUNITY COLLEGE, ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN washtenawvoice.com

Sandwich Wars

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Tuition is going up; trustees weighing exactly how much

BEN SOLIS
Managing Editor

Washtenaw Community College's Board of Trustees are mulling over a tuition increase of \$4-\$5 per hour for in-district students starting next fall.

The board began weighing its options after a financial briefing at its annual spring retreat held March 9-10 a few miles from campus.

The trustees will vote on the increase at their monthly meeting Tuesday, at 4 p.m., in ML 150. According to the financial outlook provided by Steven Hardy, vice president of Administration and Finance, the board has two options:

Option A, as presented, would raise the existing tuition rate by 4.7 percent, amounting to a \$4 increase to in-district rates, \$6 for students paying out-of-district and \$8 for out-of-state students. Option B would cause an increase of 5.9 percent, amounting to an increase \$5 for in-district students, \$7 for out-of-district and \$9 for out-of-state students.

The driving factors for the two options are based on maintaining the college's bottom line and keeping the college affordable, trustees said.

With option A, the college may suffer a slight loss, while option B would balance the budget within a few years, according to Hardy.

While other factors such as upcoming changes in property tax allocations weigh on the trustees' minds, Chair Pamela Horiszny said that both options are in the best interest of students from the standpoint of keeping costs low.

"Everything that we do as trustees is done to benefit the students at the college,"

Name	Tuition Rate	COST PER CREDIT
Oakland	66.70	72.41
Kalamazoo	79.50	83.57
Macomb	84.00	94.13
West Shore	79.00	95.15
Kellogg	76.50	95.24
Monroe	77.00	101.29
Washtenaw	85.00	102.09
Mid Michigan	85.00	102.06
Henry Ford	75.00	103.14
Schoolcraft	84.00	103.33
North Central	74.50	103.86
Delta	84.00	103.93
Montcalm	83.00	105.14
Wayne	89.00	105.62
Kirtland	86.00	106.96
Glen Oaks	85.00	110.67
Grand Rapids	95.50	112.29
Lansing	79.00	115.44
Gogebic	96.00	118.62
Muskegon	89.50	119.07
Bay	97.00	122.13
Northwestern	93.10	122.75
Lake Michigan	81.00	125.36
Alpena	99.00	125.36
St. Clair	91.00	126.46
Mott	98.68	127.00
Jackson	100.50	147.61
Southwestern	99.25	155.55
28 2,415.73 4 3,106.16		
Average	\$86.28	\$110.93
High	\$100.50	\$155.55
Low	\$66.70	\$72.41

STEVEN HARDY COURTESY
Fall 2011 tuition data

Horiszny said after the meeting. "What we are trying to think about is how much further are we going to be putting our students into debt? Unless we get any information regarding the property taxes, (Option) A would be brought in front of the board."

According to data provided by Hardy, WCC ranks as the sixth most affordable community college in the state in terms of cost per credit hour, a number that Horiszny is proud of and wants to maintain. However, Washtenaw ranked 17th among the state's 28 community colleges in a list published last March in *The Washtenaw Voice*.

"Nobody likes an increase, but you can see where we are in relation to other colleges," Horiszny said. "Students want the most bang for their buck. We have been able to restrain ourselves with our tuition increases, and you can see that historically as well."

While either increase will affect how much students will pay for a semester, reactions have been mixed.

"I'm not a residential (in-district) student and it already costs a lot," said Lauren Wand, 21, an anthropology major from Canton. "If I didn't have financial aid, there would be no way in hell I'd be here."

Wand's friend Crystal Cook, 24, from Ypsilanti shared her sentiment. Without financial aid, Cook, a music production major, wouldn't be attending the college, either.

"It's expensive as hell already," said Clifton Ricks, a 20-year-old pre-med student from Canton. "Last semester I took two classes and it came out to something like \$1,400."

Ricks said that if the tuition increases, he wants the board to put it to good use.

"I just hope it isn't going to something stupid that we are going to have to end up paying for," he said.

However, Juan Osorno, 22, Ann Arbor, doesn't view rising tuition as all that horrible. The automotive services major thinks WCC isn't the only college mulling these types of decisions.

"I pay out-of-pocket for classes, and it's not that bad now," Osorno said. "Everybody in the country is doing it. I know affordability is important, but it's probably not going to be negotiable anyway."



Board of Trustees Chair Pamela Horiszny.

CYCLONE OF CHAOS



Damage done by the March 15 tornado to a home on Wilson Street in Dexter, about 15 miles west of campus.

Bellanca on tornado alert: 'We screwed up'

BEN SOLIS
Managing Editor

After failing to issue a campus-wide alert amid warnings of tornados touching down just a few miles away, Washtenaw Community College's administrators have re-evaluated their policy and procedures, vowing to never let it happen again.

"The day, night and day after the tornado hit, we all spoke about what had happened," said President Rose Bellanca on Thursday. "We all said to each other: 'We screwed up.'"

Realizing the gravity of the situation, administrators met the day after the March 15 tornado, and have been meeting daily throughout last week to come up with a more comprehensive plan to make sure

that alerts are sent out for all issues concerning the safety of the college.

"We had a meeting the day after the tornado and a meeting (March 21) to debrief everyone on what went wrong," Bellanca said.

The official crisis management plan was re-written by administrators in early January to account for a change in procedure, according to Steven Hardy, vice president of Administration and Finance. The document planned for both fire and tornado drills to be practiced before tornado season later in the year. While the college had a chance to practice its fire procedures,



Rose Bellanca.

administration did not have a chance to practice its procedures for alerts and drills in the case of a tornado.

"We have a document of what we should have done in the event of a tornado and when to issue an alert," Hardy said. "Unfortunately we didn't have a chance to practice them yet."

Bellanca said that the main reason the college did not issue an alert was a failure of communication on the part of the administrators. In order to issue an alert, a group of administrators must collectively make the decision. That group includes Bellanca, Hardy, associate Vice President of Facilities Development and Operations Damon Flowers, and Janet Hawkins, associate director of Public Affairs.

During the tornado, Bellanca

was off campus at a meeting in Kalamazoo, putting the responsibility on Hardy to make a decision.

"It was certainly my responsibility to issue the alert," Hardy said. "We should have had one, but it didn't happen."

Another reason an alert wasn't issued was because students frequently complain that they receive too many campus broadcasts via email and text messages, college officials said.

"My guarantee to students and staff is that this will never happen again," Hardy said. "We're going to issue alerts for everything from now on. One of the complaints we've received was that there were too many alerts. From now on, we're going to make sure that the information is there than not have it out at all."

A twist of fate

WCC student rushes to aid girlfriend in the path of danger—and loses his car

MATT DURR
Editor

Andrew Lewis was sitting at home on a typical Thursday afternoon, goofing around on Facebook. In the background of computer keys clacking, he heard the tornado sirens blaring. At first he thought nothing of it—until a family member told him of a bad storm on its way.

Lewis, a 20-year-old Washtenaw Community College transfer student, went outside of his Scio Township home and saw that the storm was heading towards Dexter. After gathering his things, he headed toward the eye of the

storm to meet with his girlfriend, Heather Brockman, who was dog sitting for a co-worker.

Minutes after arriving at the home, Lewis went into the backyard and saw a tornado touch down.

"It was way too cylindrical than what I thought it would look like and it was very wispy," Lewis said. "I didn't really get a good look at it because once I saw the whirling clouds, I was in 'go' mode. I shouted at (Heather) to get in the basement."

"It was like a scene right out of a movie. We started going down to the basement and that's when the lights started flickering on and off. Once we got into the basement proper, the lights just went out."

Lewis and Brockman are just two of the thousands



A car owned by Andrew Lewis, 20, was crushed by a tree.

WCC 'HERO' CONTINUED A7

JARED ANGLE THE WASHTENAW VOICE

Lockdown!

Students, faculty and staff reflect on dodging a tornado

BEN SOLIS
Managing Editor

As the sky turned green and warning sirens resounded on the evening of March 15, instructor Kim Kachadoorian was more frustrated than frightened when Washtenaw Community College officials offered little assistance in getting her students to safety.

"I was absolutely flabbergasted that there was no campus warning," said Kachadoorian, 49. "Everyone knew there was the potential of a bad storm this week. It was all over the news since Monday, and the school acted like it was a big surprise."

Kachadoorian teaches

Intro to Marketing at 6 p.m. on Thursdays. As she arrived into northern Washtenaw County on her way to WCC, Kachadoorian heard the first warning siren before the horn near campus issued its cautionary signal. Fearing the worst for her students, she called Campus Safety and Security (CSS) to seek guidance.

"As I got out of my car, I called the Campus Safety department to ask what I should do as students arrive, and what to do when the siren goes off here," she said. "Right as (Campus Safety) picked up, the siren went off here."

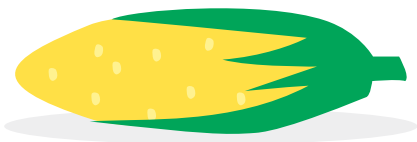
To her dismay, the CSS dispatch could not pinpoint exact tornado shelters on campus, and unfortunately, neither could Facilities Management workers. She started herding up her students by herself.



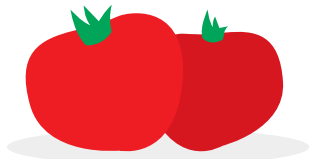
News crews swarmed the site minutes after the disaster.

WCC LOCKDOWN CONTINUED A7

BOB CONRAD THE WASHTENAW VOICE



Growing jobs



College to get on agriculture bandwagon?

ANNA FUQUA-SMITH
Staff Writer

While Washtenaw Community College students were enjoying their spring break, Special Project Administrator Victoria Bennett conducted a farm tour for several instructors from biology, health and business to evaluate the need for an agriculture program.

“Michigan produces the second-largest number of crops next to California,” she said. “If you look at a map of agriculture produce in Michigan, the bottom half of Michigan is the heart of the produce. We’re already producing the agriculture; we’re just not training people to do it to carry on other farms.”

And as small farms pop up, such as the Farm at St. Joe’s, Tantre Farms and the Tillian Farm Development Center, Bennett saw a need for a small-niche market that would eventually need to be filled.

“Farms are popping up at schools, hospitals and jails and we anticipate that’s an

emerging area,” she said. “On a somewhat larger scale, the average age of a farmer is 58. Farms are not being passed on from parent to child anymore, so who’s going to take over for these older farmers once they pass?”

And with that realization, Bennett went into action.

Calling in Dean of Business and Computer Technologies Rosemary Wilson and Dean of Math, Science and Health Martha Showalter, Bennett put together a strategic proposal of the possible needs a program in agriculture would need, and the trustees were briefed on it as a strategic initiative at their annual retreat held earlier this month.

“The research we’re doing right now is a cross-disciplinary approach to this,” Wilson said. “We’re not talking about putting together a program that’s going to rival Michigan State University’s agriculture program. We’re particularly looking at small-scale farming.”

As part of several career days and talks with the community, Bennett and the faculty team realized that the children of farmers are not taking over farms like they used to. Many farms are closing up shop.

“The upcoming generation

doesn’t necessarily have a clear career path or a way to study farming and pick up all that knowledge that was traditionally handed down in families,” Wilson said. “People who are going into farming very often will have some basis of knowledge in the actual growing part of it but not the business part of it and that’s critical for survival if you’re going into farming.”

For now, the goal of the program is to fill the smaller-niche farms such as the Tillian Farm Development Center. For the actual program, it would primarily be focused on the entrepreneurial side with a small education series on the actual growing of crops. It is not intended for campus green to be dug up to make way for the program, but rather through internships at local farms.

“That’s the important piece of partnering with area farms to make sure the applied things are put into place. We’re not going to plow up 40 acres of campus green,” said Stuart Blacklaw, vice president of instruction. “There’s a possibility we could do a hoop house on campus so there’s some application on campus, but those are fairly minor in comparison to the amount of work that farms are actually involved in.”

According to Associate

Vice President of Facilities Development and Operations Damon Flowers, the space is available.

“The location and soil conditions would have to be correct. Direct sunlight, or no direct sunlight and shade would have to be considered,” he said. “Accessibility to students would need to be looked at. Protecting it from other animals on campus would need to be considered.”

Flowers even has a location in mind for the potential program.

“There’s a clearing over at the Occupational Education building that’s a bit elevated facing the north. It’s basically a big planter box,” he said. “It’s clear and free from animals so that could be a possible place.”

And as far as job demand in Southeast Michigan, Wilson says research is being done quickly to evaluate it.

“People think as farming as the kind of thing where you see endless farms as far as the eye can see,” Blacklaw said. “So many more people are in agriculture now and these little micro farms are popping up everywhere.”

The Home Grown Local Food Summit will be held April 2 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Morris Lawrence building.



VICTORIA BENNETT COURTESY PHOTOS

Top, the Farm at St. Joe’s, located on the campus of St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor. Bottom, left to right: Dean Martha Showalter (Math, Health, Science), Dean Rosemary Wilson (Business), culinary instructor Alice Gannon-Boss, recycling manager Barry Wilkins, owner of Goetz farm John Goetz and computer science instructor Ernest Clover are led through a recent farm tour to determine whether an agriculture program is necessary at WCC.

College adds seven certificate and transfer programs

BEN SOLIS
Managing Editor

Washtenaw Community College’s Board of Trustees will vote Tuesday to include seven new certificates and associate’s degree programs in next Fall’s course catalog.

The seven new programs will attempt to keep students competitive in emerging jobs markets, specifically Business and Computer Technologies, Applied Health and Sciences, and Vocational Technologies, according to Vice President of Instruction Stuart Blacklaw.

In addition to keeping up with changing standards, the new programs will help financial aid students stay on their appropriate career paths. During the Fall semester, many students lost their financial aid because of a failure to designate the appropriate track, he said.

New associate’s degree and transfer programs will soon include Automotive Services Technology and Health Preparation. According to Blacklaw, the two degrees will allow students to be able to prepare for certification exams and grueling coursework at a lowered cost.

The automotive program will help students to prepare for the State of Michigan Mechanic Certification tests, as well as the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) Certification Exams.

By changing the requirements of the Health Preparation program, the college will be able to tailor

incoming pre-med students to the schools they are transferring to – an oversight of the old program requirements.

“If you look at the old program, it was pretty generic,” said Linda Blakey, associate vice president of Student Services. “Students were getting the right prerequisites for our programs, but we were finding that they weren’t fitting well with their transfer schools.”

Blacklaw added that before the induction of the new program, students were designed only to fit into the college’s own health programs.

New certificate programs will include Supply Chain Operations, Mammography, Computed Tomography, Accelerated Welding Training, and Sustainable Building Practices.

Last year the trustees instituted the singular Supply Chain Management course. However, at their annual spring retreat on March 10, trustees found that retailers required prospective employees to have a wider skill set than what that lone course offered.

The new program in Supply Chain Management will aim to meet those new needs.

“I think any time that the college is responding to the needs of students and employers, it shows how aware we are of what employers are looking for,” Blakey said.

Some of the new certificates will be geared toward the general student population, but the Sustainable Building, Accelerated Welding and Tomography programs will be

geared toward those who have already graduated or those already working in the field, according to Blacklaw.

“Sustainability in construction is in demand because people already working in construction need this specialized training and because more and more people are seeking ways to make their homes more energy efficient,” he said. “This training will lead to jobs retrofitting existing homes and contributing cutting-edge skills to the new housing market as that industry comes back.”

Although the new welding program will be given the green light, it may be only offered offsite through United Association programs for military veterans looking to get their feet wet in a skilled trade.

Each of the programs listed have the potential for sustained job growth and high-end median wages, according to information compiled by Blacklaw from the Michigan Labor Market Information and Institutional Research Ann Arbor and Detroit websites.

Both websites detail job growth opportunities between the dates of 2008-2018; the total growth for these fields in Michigan ranges between 9.9-14 percent, with a national job growth rating of 15-20 percent.

“Our hope is that we wouldn’t put up a course unless students were able to get jobs in those fields,” Blakey said. “We can never guarantee job placement, but when we are debating new courses we always look at what the potential job offerings would be.”

Two Internet Professional programs get axed/absorbed

BEN SOLIS
Managing Editor

While Washtenaw is adding seven new associate’s degrees and certificate programs to its Fall semester course catalog, two programs in the Internet Professional program are getting the inevitable cancellation, according to Stuart Blacklaw, vice president of Instruction.

Discussed by the Washtenaw Community College Board of Trustees at its annual spring retreat, the two closed programs include the Internet Professional associates of arts degree and the Web User Experience advanced certificate.

The Internet Professional

Associates of Arts will become an associate’s of applied sciences degree. This change in classification will make the program’s course load more transferable to other colleges. The Web User Experience Advanced Certificate, which consists of nine credit hours, will move into another program.

Both programs were given a second look by an outside advisory committee. While they are still viewed as valuable to students going into careers as Internet professionals, the programs didn’t transfer well to other schools, according to Jason Withrow, an Internet Professional instructor.

Withrow is also the co-chair

of the Digital Media Arts department.

“The nature of what an Internet professional does is always evolving,” Withrow said. “It’s driven by things such as changes in technology and by types of entry-level jobs a student can get with the associate’s or the certificate.”

The driving factor behind the changes is to keep students in course programs that allow them to receive financial aid through the college.

Morphing the advanced certificate with another program will allow students to take the course with federally funded financial assistance, college officials said.

BEN SOLIS
Managing Editor

When Washtenaw Community College student Felicity Rowton ponders transferring to a four-year university, she does it only out of necessity.

“I don’t want to leave. I love it here,” said Rowton, 21, of Ann Arbor. “I want to stay here as long as I can.”

With new changes coming to existing three-year articulation programs, students like Rowton won’t have to leave so quickly.

Brought to the attention of the college’s Board of Trustees earlier this month during their annual spring retreat, Vice President of Instruction Stuart Blacklaw and Associate Vice President of Student Services Linda Blakey said that because of changes to financial aid, students seeking assistance have been booted out of three-year articulation agreements because of insufficient pace of completion.

Making three-year articulation agreements set programs will allow these students to stay on longer, gain more credits for transfer at an affordable rate, and will also allow financial aid students to keep receiving aid.

“All of the articulation agreements we are proposing are not new, we’re just having the board acknowledge them as board accredited aid-eligible programs,” Blakey said. “Due to federal changes in aid, we’re not allowed to give students aid unless these programs are recognized by the board.”

Each of the college’s articulation agreements have unique

specifications as to what kinds of course credits will be able to be transferred to four-year universities. The standard articulation agreement is for two years, which allows students to transfer two year’s worth of credits to their desired university, according to Blacklaw.

The “3+1” articulations already exist, but aid changes have caused the number of students involved in these programs to decline.

WCC’s trustees will move to institute these specific articulations as new programs at their regularly scheduled meeting on March 27, and both Blacklaw and Blakey are confident that the board will approve the programs.

The college’s administrators aren’t the only ones excited about the changes. Washtenaw students who have grown fond of the campus are just as happy to have a chance at sticking around a little longer with the financial backing of federal aid.

“What I like about the idea is that you’ll be able to take time with your classes,” said marketing and advertising major Michelle Walsh, 21, of Whitmore Lake. “I like it here. I like the fact that campus is close and that the classes are smaller.”

While a sense of emotional loyalty was a thread for both Walsh and Rowton, 22-year-old Toma Louis-Gouff said that transferring to another school could be rough.

“I spoke to my sister recently, who started out at a community college and then transferred to Michigan State (University),” said Louis-Gouff, a liberal arts student from Ann Arbor. “She

said that when she got there, she felt lost because all of the cliques and sororities had already formed.”

However, he did agree that for students looking for a cheaper educational experience, having a three-year program that was aid eligible was beneficial for many students.

“I guess if you are only spending one year there, that wouldn’t matter too much. You should be in it for school, not the social experience,” he said.

Rowton, Walsh and Louis-Gouff weren’t aware of three-year agreements and their availability, and each pay out of pocket. Students not receiving financial aid have the option of switching their career path, program, or articulation agreement any time they want. The new changes will allow financial aid students to change at least their articulation.

“The main reason we are doing it is because we want to advertise to students that you can take more course credits here at the college and transfer them over,” Blakey said. “We’ve had some students who get financial aid that will reach the end of their aid and don’t realize that they might have the ability to stay longer to get more credits through us.

“If they meet the pace of completion, they might have the possibility of switching over to a ‘3+1’ articulation,” she said. “The cost savings associated with staying on with us longer are immense.”

For a full list of articulation agreements, visit <http://wccnet.edu> for more information, or contact the Student Resource Center at (734) 677-5105.

Tuition, investment losses, new building projects dominate annual trustees’ retreat

BEN SOLIS
Managing Editor

Washtenaw Community College lost \$800,000 in its investment portfolio in the last fiscal year, which the college hopes to recoup this year as the securities markets continue to improve.

According to information presented to the board by Steven Hardy, associate vice president of Administration and Finance, the investments all had projected yields of five percent. But when the numbers were placed on the college’s books, Hardy said, they had a higher projected yield than what was returned.

The result was a huge

loss, Hardy told the trustees at their annual spring retreat earlier this month. He also said he hopes it will be erased this year because the college still owns the investments and they could grow within the year.

Some members of the board, meanwhile, remained hopeful “It’s really only a loss if the investments are sold, and we still own them,” said Trustee Stephen Gill.

Also at the retreat, Vice President of Facilities Development and Operations Damon Flowers briefed the board about all the upcoming projects, including the impending first floor Student Center renovations, updates and additions to the

Morris Lawrence building, including Towsley Auditorium, and various HVAC, electrical and water valve systems around campus.

This was just a sampling of the 10 projects already approved by the board that will cost the college \$6 million.

New projects, which will be approved by the board for funding at their regularly scheduled March 27 meeting, include the demolition of the exterior Student Center staircase, second floor SC renovations, and other measures for added storage.

However, even with this many projects in the works, Trustee Richard Landau suggested that another large

project, such as the SC renovation and the parking structure, be placed in the horizon in the event extra capital funding comes down the pipeline.

“If we find out in six months that we will receive more state aid for capital outlay, we need to have something in the works already to approve it,” Landau said at the meeting. “We need to have another building that students are going to look at and say ‘wow!’”

The board also weighed the costs and benefits of moving its monthly meeting times from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. or later. This would allow cushion room for trustees coming in from long distances or those who have other work-related responsibilities.

For WCC, the fix is in

New \$12 million differed-maintenance program to keep buildings in shape

BEN SOLIS
Managing Editor

Resident maintenance worker Ray Everett knows first-hand about the daily struggle to keep the college’s buildings functional and safe. Lately, however he hasn’t been too thrilled with the way things are going.

“My take on the whole situation is that we leave buildings alone for a long time and then they break down,” Everett said. “The college has a real problem not addressing these kinds of things. It’s normal to have some maintenance, but when they’re not worked on, you have to do major renovations.”

Turns out, Damon Flowers, associate vice president of Facilities Operations and Development, isn’t pleased with maintenance programs, either. But now, at least, he and the Washtenaw Community College Board of Trustees have a plan.

That plan is called “differed maintenance,” and it will allow the college’s maintenance and ground workers to catch up on \$12 million worth of problem areas around campus that have needed work for some time.

Discussed by the board and other administrators, including Flowers, at the annual spring board retreat, the program would set aside a specific budget for these problem areas and will be addressed as needed, according to Flowers.

“Having a budget set aside for us is the driving factor in what we can get done,” he said. “These are all things that we have kind of put off that if not addressed soon, could become critical.”

While the information regarding the budget needed to be viewed by the board for approval, Flowers is obligated by law to submit five-year maintenance plans to the state each year. This helps the college plan for what is failing and what is still functional, and is presented to the board each year for approval.

Each of these problem areas are rated on a scale from poor to excellent. Many of the areas on campus are currently rated a poor, fair and good. Even newer buildings, such as the Health and Fitness Center, are currently rated as fair. Flowers’ goal is to have at least every building running fair, if not good.

What makes this plan different from the mandatory five-year filings is what it aims to achieve.

In his executive summary submitted to the

trustees, Flowers explains that in the decades since the original two buildings – the TI and LA buildings – were erected, the college has grown to more than 20 buildings on 291 acres. During this 42-year period, money has been given to various renovations and expansions, but little of the budget has been focused on areas in existing buildings.

According to Flowers, this lack of funding has caused “a critical backlog of preventative maintenance projects.

“The backlog shows all our needs for funding and replacement,” Flowers said. “The overall total is near \$12 million, but even if we had \$1-3 million set aside each year, we could start slowly chipping away it next year. At some point, we may need to go beyond that scope.”

Some of the main issues, like water seepage from windows and roofs, need to be addressed as quickly as possible. Other areas, like the crumbling exterior Student Center staircase, will be addressed as well.

While much of the projects will be focused on functionality and breakdown prevention, Everett said many of the issues he sees day-to-day may even be based on concerns for safety. Not just for students, but for fellow maintenance and custodial workers like him.

“Some of the things we notice

are like electrical things, where the light bulbs meet the ballast on fixtures,” he said. “We’ve had a lot of electrical and code problems in (the TI) building alone. It comes down to the safety of the workers if we can’t keep up with them.”

However, Flowers assured *The Washtenaw Voice* that if safety issues were present, his department would already know about them and would have acted by now, regardless of funding.

Preventative maintenance, in whatever forms it presents itself, is essential to the well-being of the college, Everett said.

“You know, they want to focus on what the grounds workers do out there, and I understand that. It’s for beautification,” he said. “But keeping up with maintenance is important. The buildings are the belly of the whale.”

Everett admits that his daily interactions with the different working parts of the college make him notice the broken-down aspects more than others, but students on the other hand haven’t noticed at all.

“All the classrooms that I have been in are pretty neat as it is,” said Amar Ghalib, an undecided 18-year-old student from Ann Arbor. “Of course, appearance is important, but there is a lesson to be learned here that goes beyond mere atmosphere. And that is ‘focus on education.’”

THE COMING FORTNIGHT AT A GLANCE

the best of the area’s events

MARCH 27–APRIL 1—ANN ARBOR FILM FESTIVAL. Times and locations vary. The independent film festival is back to celebrate its 50th anniversary with 40 programs, panels and nearly 200 films from more than 20 countries. Tickets available now. For tickets or more information, <http://aafilmfest.org>.

MARCH 30—2ND ANNUAL FOOL MOON Dusk-Midnight. Washington St., Ann Arbor. Join Ann Arbor’s most boisterous fools in this annual showing of puppets, films and other shimmering surprises. Event is free. For more information, call (734) 763-7550 or visit <http://festifoos.org>.

APRIL 3—MAC MILLER. EMU Convocation Center. 7p.m. 799 N. Hewitt Rd., Ypsilanti. Hip-hop’s newest up-and-comer Mac Miller will perform his hit singles and more. Special guests include The Cool Kids and The Come Ups. \$28. For more information, call (734) 487-5386 or visit <http://emutix.com>.

APRIL 1—6TH ANNUAL FESTIFOOLS. 4 p.m. Main Street (between Washington & William), Ann Arbor. Enjoy April Fool’s Day right with this yearly celebration of art, dance, music and puppetry. This year will feature the 1st Annual FestiFools Benefit Gala Dance party at The Blind Pig on March 31, starting at 8 p.m. Main event is free; \$25 in advance for Gala. For more information, call (734) 763-7550 or visit <http://festifoos.org>.

MARCH 27—CURSIVE WSG. CYMBAL EAT GUITARS AND CONDUITS. The Blind Pig. 9 p.m. 208 N. First St., Ann Arbor. Alt-rock cult heroes Cursive will play their jagged and positively depressive tunes in an intimate setting. \$12 in advance, \$14 at door. 18 and over only. For more information, call (734) 996-8555 or visit <http://blindpigmusic.com>.

APRIL 1—GOTYE WSG. KIMBRA. EMU Pease Auditorium. 7 p.m. College Place & Cross St., Ypsilanti. Australian multi-instrumentalist Gotye will perform with Aussie-indie sensation Kimbra. Presented by The Blind Pig. \$28 in advance; \$30 at door. All ages. For more information, call (734) 487-5386 or visit <http://blindpigmusic.com>.

APRIL 3—A.J. CROCE. The Ark. 8 p.m. 316 S. Main Street, Ann Arbor. A.J. Croce, son of the 1970s pop icon Jim Croce, plays an eclectic mixture of jazz, blues, Americana and more. Not to mention, while never seeing the keys below him – A.J. has been blind since he was 4 years old. \$15. For more information, call (734) 761-1800 or visit <http://theark.org>.

MARCH 29—WINTER JAM. EMU Convocation Center. 6 p.m. 799 N. Hewitt Rd., Ypsilanti. Fans of Christian rock will rejoice at this year’s Winter Jam lineup, including notable spiritual acts such as TobyMac, Third Day, Newsboys, Steven Curtis Chapman and Jeremy Camp. \$10. For tickets and more information, call (734) 487-5386 or visit <http://emutix.com>.

APRIL 7—EGGSTRAVAGANZA. City of Saline. 11 a.m. Children and their parents can hop on down the bunny trail collecting eggs from various locations. Make sure to drop off your stamped lists to Mickey’s Dairy Farm to be entered in a drawing. Prizes include baskets filled with donated goodies from local businesses. Event is free. For more information, call (734) 429-4494 or visit <http://salinechamber.org>.

APRIL 6—THE MACPODZ. The Blind Pig. 8:30 p.m. 208 N. First St., Ann Arbor. Heads can celebrate Hash Bash with the Macpodz and special guests John Sinclair, UV Hippo, and Chrystian Rawk. \$10 in advance; \$15 at door. Show is 18 and older. For more information, call (734) 996-8555 or visit <http://blindpigmusic.com>.

EMAIL

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

IN BRIEF

DISCOUNTED TIGERS TICKETS
Student Activities has ordered 25 tickets for the June 17 Detroit Tiger’s game against the Colorado Rockies and will be offering them to students for \$15 a ticket.

They should be on sale at the end of the month. Students signed up to receive alerts through SDA Hub will be notified the moment tickets become available.

CEDAR POINT TRIP SCHEDULED
Student Activities will be offering tickets for a special, June 21 trip to Cedar Point.

Transportation to the park is included and students will be given a wrist band that grants the wearer free water or sodas from any vendor in the park. Tickets should be available by the end of the month and will be sold at the cashier’s office for \$30 apiece.

PARTIAL SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE
WCC Foundation has awarded the Student Resource and Women’s Center a grant for students enrolled in the phlebotomy program.

Students enrolled in HSC 1014 or HSC 1295 can apply for partial scholarships and be reimbursed for up to 70 percent of the class cost. Applications are accessible through the Life Long Learning website or at the SRWC in SC287.

LOCAL FOOD SUMMIT HELD IN APRIL
Volunteer organizers are coordinating an all-day event to bring together stakeholders and community members to strengthen Washtenaw County’s local food system in the fourth annual Local Food Summit.

The focal point of the event will highlight Michigan’s agriculture past to link history with future endeavors.

Participants will focus on how to strengthen the region’s food system.

The event will be held on campus in the ML building from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

FAMILY DANCE JAM ON FRIDAY
WCC’s dance department will host Family Dance Jam on Friday, March 30. The workshop is designed to teach children ages 8-14 hip-hop, step-dance and pop-and-lock.

The event will be held from 7-8:30 p.m. in ML 158. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, contact (734) 677-5090.

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION SET FOR APRIL 12
The Earth Day Celebration will take place on April 12 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and will feature 10 organizations on hand to discuss sustainability practices.

Organizations like Ann Arbor Transportation Authority will answer questions about public transportation and Wheels in Motion Cycle and Fitness will have several bikes on hand that are set up specifically for commuting.

A special raptor presentation will be conducted from 11 a.m. to noon by the Leslie Science Center.

All activities are free and open to the public.

INSTRUCTOR ART TO BE SHOWCASED
Digital Video Production instructor, Martin Thoburn will showcase his installation art piece, *Exquisite Motion Corpse*, in the Michigan Theater lobby during the week of the Ann Arbor Film Festival from March 27-April 1.

Thoburn’s piece will involve four industrial-sized TV screens stacked on top of each other with a controller iPad so the public can interact with the installation.

CAMPUS EVENTS

Monday, March 26

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.

Tuesday, March 27

LAWRENCE TECH VISITATION
A representative will be on campus to provide information and answer questions for students interested in transferring to Lawrence Technological University on the SC first from 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

U-M DEARBORN VISITATION
A representative will be on campus to provide information and answer questions for students interested in transferring to University of Michigan—Dearborn on the SC first floor from 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Wednesday, March 28

WASHTENAW VOICE OPEN HOUSE
Interested in working for *The Washtenaw Voice*? Drop by the open house to learn about part-time paid positions. The newspaper is looking for reporters, graphic designers, photographer, editors, cartoonists, Web editors and ad sales reps in TI 106 from 3:30–6 p.m. Refreshments and job applications will be provided.

EMU VISITATION
A representative will be on campus to provide information and answer questions for students interested in transferring to Eastern Michigan University on the SC second floor from 1–5 p.m.

Thursday, March 29

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.

SECURITY NOTES

AMBULANCE CALLED
On March 21 at 2:50 p.m., an ambulance was called to the front of the student center to address a female student keeled over on a bench. The girl had been complaining of stomach pains and an ambulance was called and responded by 2:55 p.m. The girl was transported to St. Joe’s Hospital at 3 p.m.

LOCKER TROUBLE
A yoga instructor, Nicholas Tyler, found his locker in ML

162 broken into at 4 p.m. Tyler reported the incident to campus security at 4:43 p.m. later that day. Nothing was reported stolen.

FLASH AND IT’S GONE
On March 10, a camera was reported missing from the photo lab on the first floor of the GM building. A student who was supposed to return the device on Monday, March 5, had failed to do so by the date of report, prompting instructor Jen Baker to call security.

EDITORIAL

Once again, students asked to fix budget issues at WCC

It's become like clock-work each spring at Washtenaw Community College, the Board of Trustees gather at their annual retreat and discusses an increase in tuition for students. Three weeks later they meet again and the end result is our tuition again rises.

Currently, the board is discussing two different options on how much of an increase students will face in the 2012 Fall semester. It is expected that the board will vote on the increase at the March 27 board meeting.

While it's understandable that tuition will go up, why are students always the first option for a check? When the college needed money for the parking structure, it turned to the students to help pay for it. And many of the students who had their tuition jacked up are not even on campus now to reap the benefits of the structure.

Have you been to the Health and Fitness Center? If you have, you're one of the few. But we all have paid for it in one way or another; yet still get over-charged if we want to use the facility.

WCC likes to promote itself as one of the most affordable community colleges in the state. And trustees always talk about doing "everything is in the best interest of our students."

While we can't argue either of these statements, if costs continue to rise, there might not be any more students left to ask for a handout.

Alert! Information that could save your life

When Mother Nature flexed her muscle on Washtenaw County, officials at Washtenaw Community College faced the difficult decision of whether or not to send a mass alert to students and staff warning of possible tornados.

In the end, they decided not to send out an alert and many at WCC were left scratching their heads as to why. The answer is simple: Students don't want to be bothered.

After receiving many complaints from students about unwanted alerts from the school, officials decided not to bother students with weather updates. And while we don't think that is the right call, it's understandable.

Students constantly complain about being inundated with alerts and emails from the school and then complain about not getting an alert when it's convenient.

How hard is it for students to take a look at an alert and decide whether or not the information is important to them? It takes 15 seconds to read an alert and delete it. Thankfully, no one was injured on their way to campus that day, but next time we might not be so lucky.

College administrators should not feel like they're bothering students when they are looking out for their safety. Officials have admitted that it was not the right decision and in the future they will send an alert regardless.

So next time, when you get an alert from the school remember that while it may not seem significant to you, it could save the life of one of your peers.

Apathy alert! A wake-up call to students



ADRIAN HEDDEN
Features Editor

Washtenaw County and more specifically, Ann Arbor is the one of the most affluent communities in Michigan. It's full of individuals with the means and the will to do their part to protect our community and, more specifically, our environment.

You'd think the great, cutting edge Washtenaw Community College would be a hotbed of young, ambitious students looking forward into the future and embracing the concept of reducing their carbon footprint while conserving valuable resources.

This, sadly, is not the case. Apathy runs rampant at

WCC. Students here are overly focused on their own agendas and pursuits and thus unconcerned with doing their part to save a dying planet Earth. Many of our students are in transition to higher education from the workforce grind and while struggling to adapt, may be unable to fit any sympathy for their home planet into their busy schedules.

I know, I've been there. And I still am to some extent. But this is no excuse for the carnage.

Trash litters our parking lots and is embedded abrasively in the grass and bushes that populate the exterior of campus. An ironic and twisted fate for plants set to root in hopes of beautifying our school.

An extensive survey of early morning clean-up efforts in WCC's parking lots performed by one of *The Voice's* most dedicated reporters revealed the magnitude of trash and debris left behind every day by a student body that simply does not care.

Smokers toss their cigarette butts all over the lush and well-watered lawns, everyday making it harder and harder for non-smokers to accept them. Is it so hard to smoke at home?

I found myself in a cloud of apathy with a colleague earlier in the year. We were smoking our tasty tobacco outside the Business Education building.

We didn't flagrantly puff away to spite our school and its security officers. We didn't smoke there because of some immature sense of rebellion and disdain for the rules and non-smokers. It was sheer apathy.

As we had watched other smokers easily pace, unabated near similar entrances, uncaring of the fellow citizens they might be harming, we too lost a part of that strong sense of the empathy that lead us to pursue journalism in the first place.

More recently, as I attempted to tell the story of an initiative designating certain parking spots on campus for

low-emission vehicles (LEV), I was dismayed as not one but two high-ranking school administrators revealed to me that the initiative was dead in the water.

"Why?" I asked. It seemed like such a good idea to encourage the use of recent advancements in fuel-efficient technology. But Vice President of Facilities Management, Damon Flowers and former President Larry Whitworth both confessed the same sad story.

Students would not participate, they said. Despite the signage and the hopeful initiative, no one cared.

The SUVs parked belligerently in the two spots still labeled "LEV Only" outside the Technical & Industrial building remind me every day that students need to wake up and get on board with their forward-thinking elders. It was their wisdom that gave us this great arena of self-advancement. What are we doing?

My privacy is worth more than your discount card



NATHAN CLARK
Staff Writer

Walking into a store to purchase a pack of gum shouldn't make me angry, but it usually does.

Going into the store doesn't anger me, nor does the vast selection of gum to choose from. I like variety. My blood begins to boil the moment I reach the

checkout counter and the cashier asks "do you have a discount card?"

My response to this question is typically a stern no, but then I get the follow up question, "would you like one? It's free and it'll save you money." You would think I'm crazy to turn down saving money, but I'm not.

The truth is; a discount card is not completely free. By providing a little bit of personal data, you're selling a tiny chunk of your privacy in exchange for a small discount.

It wasn't that long ago when marketing companies would call your home to ask a few

questions about what you like to buy. Thanks to the do not call list, telemarketing is nearly dead. Businesses needed a new way to find out what people liked to buy and who repeat customers were, so along came the discount cards.

Collecting data on a consumer's spending habits is an invasion of privacy and illegal, but not if it's collected from a discount card. When you sign up for a one of these things, you are giving a business permission to track your spending habits and analyze what you buy.

Receiving coupons in your email for 30 percent off noodles

after you recently bought a couple jars of spaghetti sauce may seem great, but I don't like someone else telling me what I should buy. If I wanted that, I would still be living in my parents' house.

After spending years in the military, having every aspect of my life watched closely, I value my privacy greatly.

Having a keychain filled with more discount cards than actual keys is a sign stating you're willing to let someone follow your spending habits to save 10 cents on tomato paste. I don't know how much your privacy is worth to you, but I know mine is worth a lot more than a dime.

The Washtenaw Voice

Volume 18, Issue 15

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

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.

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Is there any other place they can get the money from? If this is the last resort, I understand that. They need to fund the school.

ERIN LALINSKY, 19, Ann Arbor, Liberal Arts.



What are they going to do for the students? How will this improve student education? At what point will there be a cap on tuition? I just hope they have used all their other resources first.

JERI BURKE, 38, Pinckney, Liberal Arts.



I think that many of us are not really benefiting from that. The Student Center is loud and obnoxious, redoing it won't help. If the money was going to more security then I'm all for it.

ISABELLA DOWNES, 21, Ann Arbor, Liberal Arts transfer.



I totally disagree with the idea. When I was considered an international student, prices were doubled. Luckily I got my residency and pay less now... but even as a resident, it's still expensive.

JASMINE KIM, 18, Ann Arbor, Undecided.



Quite frankly, \$5 per credit hour is not much to ask for the facilities we have access to as well as the quality of the education we're receiving.

GEORGE PARISEAU, 32, Plymouth, Video Production.



It's ridiculous. We are already having a hard time. Raising rates will just make it harder to get an education, let alone it's hard to get a job right now.

SPENCER MOULDING, 23, South Lyon, Business.



They said when they finished the parking structure they would raise tuition. I understand that they have to do it for the new Student Center and the parking structure.

MEGAN MILLIGAN, 28, Bellville, Psychology.



It's depressing, especially if you're paying out of your own pocket. It all adds up. That money goes to books. We're students, jobs are paying the same ... I just really wish they wouldn't raise tuition.

AHMED ABDULSATTAR, 25, Iraq, Business.



I don't mind raising it if it's for the students. If it's for their own pockets then absolutely not.

BARB MORRISSEY, 31, Brighton, Video Production.



I don't think it's really fair. Most students go here for two years, so it all adds up.

JEREMIAH CLARK, 20, Pennsylvania, Neurology.

Photos & Interviews
KELLY BRACHA
Staff Writer



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
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- ☐ Rehearsal
- ☐ Ceremony

For More Information

Contact a Student Records Technician:

Mary Singer 734-973-3546
Nancy Farmer 734-973-3658



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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.

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IUON and the island of St. Kitt's made me the nurse I am today. The school is beautiful and the technology was better than anything I've seen in nursing schools in the U.S. I graduated nursing school in December 2009 and I'm currently working as a RN at Oakwood Hospital in Dearborn, MI.

– Katelyn Riggs, RN, BSN
IUON Alumni 2009



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**NO WAIT LIST,
BEGIN NOW!**



Cole Jordan sentenced

Ex-counselor in jail for shooting at cops

MATT DURR
Editor

More than 40 years after pleading no contest to assaulting an officer with a deadly weapon, former Washtenaw Community College counselor Cole Jordan was sentenced to one year in a California jail Friday afternoon.

Jordan appeared in front of San Mateo Superior Court Judge Lisa Novak, who handed down the sentence in front of a packed courtroom of about 100 people.

“I am satisfied with the sentence. By not sending him to five years in prison, the judge gave weight to redemption, rehabilitation and the productive life he led as a counselor and teacher,” said Jordan’s lawyer Paul Harris.

Chief Deputy District Attorney Karen Guidotti was let down with the decision.

“I’m disappointed. I was asking for a prison sentence. Nonetheless I respect the judge’s decision on it. She certainly had reasons for her decision,” Guidotti said. “You should never get probation for shooting at a police officer no matter when it happened.”

It was expected that Jordan will serve only three-fourths of his sentence. He will also have to serve 300 hours of community service under three years of probation and pay \$8,500 in fines. Jordan is expected to serve his community service helping at risk teens in Alameda County Calif.

Prior to the sentencing, Jordan spoke to the court, offering an apology and appealing for leniency.

“My actions were misguided, reckless and they endangered everyone’s life,” Jordan said while reading from a prepared statement. “I am called to teach and I am called to heal. And I am



San Mateo Superior Court Judge Lisa Novak, seen here in Nov. 2011, sentenced Cole Jordan to one year in county jail. Novak gave Jordan a lighter sentence because she felt he had turned his life around. Prosecutors were seeking a prison sentence.

asking you this morning to give me the opportunity to continue this work in my community.”

Novak said during the sentencing that while it was unusual for someone to receive probation for shooting at an officer, she felt that Jordan had turned his life around and that counted for something.

“She (Novak) was moved by the testimony of two former students who flew up from Michigan to testify on his behalf, and the 85 letters of support he received from public officials, community and religious leaders, students, former police officers and colleagues,” Harris said.

In the sentencing memorandum provided to *The Washtenaw Voice* by Guidotti, the prosecution argued that a lighter sentence sent a bad message.

“A probationary sentence would send a message to Lt. Baptista, Det. McCool and Inspector Singleton that the violence perpetrated upon them has been forgotten by the criminal justice system, even though the impact upon them remains 43 years later,” Guidotti said.

Both of the officers that Jordan shot at (Baptista and McCool) were in court and spoke during the sentencing, as well. During their speeches, they also encouraged Novak to hand down a prison sentence.

Jordan, known to authorities as Ronald Stanley Bridgeforth, pleaded no contest to charges of assault with a deadly weapon in a confrontation with a police officer in 1968. After pleading no contest to the charges in March 1969, Jordan did not appear during his sentencing the following

April, instead he fled the country and went to Africa before returning to the United States and earning a Master’s degree.

Prior to turning himself in to authorities on Nov. 10, Jordan resigned from his position at the college after being employed at the school since 1978. He remained in jail until Nov. 11, when he posted bail.

Jordan said that the reason he came forward was because he wanted to set a good example for his two sons and take responsibility for his actions.

“I guess I’ve come back to face the consequences of my actions,” he said in court on Nov. 10.

On Nov. 23, Jordan again appeared in court and pleaded no contest to the charges and was awaiting sentencing since that date.

Cole Jordan saga teaches us a lesson, but is it the right one?



MATT DURR
Editor

Now that we know that former WCC counselor Cole Jordan will serve a year in jail, the question for me becomes: Why not a longer, more severe punishment?

Attorneys in California were seeking a prison term of up to five years and while that seemed to be too long in my eyes, I certainly believe a year or two in prison would have been justified.

Many of the comments we received on the story were to show support for Jordan and the tremendous impact he had on the college. Former students and colleagues spoke about how he helped shape the lives of young people and the difference he made. They argued that because Jordan had turned his life around and became such a positive influence, he should be forgiven for his past.

While the turnaround in his life is admirable, it does not forgive him for attempting to shoot a police officer. Mr. Jordan was portrayed as a young man who made a mistake and now that he has come clean, all should be forgiven

because of his 40 years as a law abiding citizen.

That may be true, but he never paid his debt to society and when you shoot at another person, that is far too serious of a crime to ignore. When you fire a weapon at another human, you are well aware of the possible outcomes. Had he been on target, Jordan could have possibly killed someone; more specifically, a police officer.

It’s not like he punched the cop or resisted arrest, he put someone’s life in danger. Not to mention, after pleading no contest, Jordan jumped bail and fled the state of California.

When he turned himself in, Jordan said “I guess I’ve come back to face the consequences of my actions.”

If that is truly the case, he should have whatever punishment the court sees fit and not campaign for a lighter sentence. Mr. Jordan had a chance to send the message that he was ready to accept full responsibility, instead his “coming clean” came with conditions.

It’s angering to me to think that because Jordan was able to successfully hide from authorities and rebuild a more steady life, that he is somehow excused from his actions. If this were a case of rape, would anyone excuse him for his actions? I would like to believe not.

As an educator, Jordan has taught us all at WCC one final lesson: If you break the law, run. If you’re lucky and enough time passes, you’ll be forgiven, regardless of the severity.

Ronald Bridgeforth’s statement from March 23, 2012 sentencing

“On behalf of my family and myself, I would like to thank your Honor for accepting my word that I would return to court, and giving me the opportunity to prove that I am a better person today than I was on November 5, 1968.

I would like to thank all of you who have joined us this morning. My family and I appreciate your support in this, our most difficult of times. It is truly humbling to know that we are not alone.

To the People and the Police of San Mateo County, I apologize. Mine was a misguided and reckless act that endangered everyone’s life.

Over the years I have suppressed much of my memory of the night of November 5, 1968. After reading some of the statements by officers who were at the White Front store that night, I can understand why. Their description of my actions on that night has left me stunned and ashamed. What if my wife or my children, or my mother or my sister had been in the parking lot that night? How would I feel today? What thoughts would I have now?

It forces me to ask myself who was I on that night, and what was I doing? I find myself without defense. I cannot explain my actions; I cannot justify them. I had broken every rule that I had been raised with.

In the Fall of 1968 I was lost going in all directions at once. I had stopped believing that we could reach the lofty ideas I once believed in. I had fallen far from the idealistic young person who had grown up with aspirations to ministering to the needy and who had found purpose in Mississippi.

While a sense of anger and hopelessness had taken me to that dark night, the aftermath plunged me even deeper into confusion and despair. What had I done? What had I become? What was left for me now? I felt I had betrayed my family, my community and everyone who cared about me. I had all but given up on life.

In that moment of utter confusion and disillusionment, I ran; I ran from what I felt I had become. I left everything that I knew and loved; I left an identity I felt I could no longer be proud of. What I did in 1968 was wrong. I was wrong to run away. Even though I was in no danger of being discovered, I have returned to take responsibility for my actions.

Last week a young woman asked me if I had forgiven myself for that night. The answer is no. I have a long way to go before I will be done with that night. She asked me why is it important for me to understand who I was then and why I did what I did. How else can I understand the young people I seek to help?

My wife and I have led lives filled with service and purpose. We have educated ourselves and used those tools to educate hungry minds and to heal broken spirits. We have toiled daily to right the wrong I have committed. Today is one more step on that path.

When our sons came into my life I began a journey from anger, fear and despair to a renewed sense of purpose and hopefulness. For me they help to answer the question of, ‘who am I and why am I here?’ Education and spiritual growth became a sturdy ladder from poverty, ignorance and a sense of hopelessness. I have worked tirelessly to remake myself into someone that my family and my community could be proud. Today is one more step on that path.

I come here today certain of three things. One, I needed to right the wrong I committed. Two, that I have more work to do.

Three, when I see the violence and the destruction in our communities, I cannot help but weep for children. The despair, the loss of hope and the loss of life is staggering. I cannot ignore that this is happening.

I understand young people’s lack of hope. I understand their anger. If this last forty years has taught me anything, it is that hope can be rekindled and lives can be changed. I know the way back from hopelessness and despair to a life of purposeful service.

Each of us has a calling in life. Some of us are called to practice medicine; some of us are called to the law. I am called to teach hungry minds and to heal broken spirits. I know the way back. I know the way forward. My final goal is to distill the journey of forty years into a curriculum that supports a journey of self-development and self-discovery. A journey from despair and hopelessness to purpose and productivity.

Today I am asking you to give me a chance to continue this work of service to the community.”

‘Gamer’ school?

College looks ahead to innovate curriculum with an unlikely, but fun, fad

ADRIAN HEDDEN
Features Editor

On his first day at campus, Alec Overly of Ann Arbor had already experienced the cutting edge of Washtenaw Community College.

During an orientation seminar, Overly, 25, had enjoyed the use of remote controllers provided to the student audience to better interact with speakers – answering questions in groups and engaging more often in the lecture.

“I did that orientation thing with the clickers, it helped me interact more,” Overly said. “I paid more attention and was more involved.”

The “clickers” that Overly, a business major, relished in the meeting have been used over the years to drive up student participation in classroom activities by involving fun and interactive games to hold attention and increase WCC’s student appeal.

Another student, Nicholas Margraves, of Saline, has found gaming to be his lifeline in an otherwise perplexing nursing program. Margrave, 23, believes that a board game used in his classes via the Internet is the only thing allowing him to learn and memorize the massive body of terms and figures required of him.

“The Monopoly game helps us study a lot and stay more on task. It helps me focus,” Margraves said. “It is really helpful because you can use it at your convenience. Nursing school is no joke.”

As WCC moves forward into the future, administrators are now taking heed of the growing potential of electronic gaming as the student body becomes more and more versed and comfortable with emerging technologies every year.

“Young people enjoy gaming and it would encourage them to come here,” said Dean of Distance Learning James Egan. “School can be dull if presented in the wrong way, but if presented in the right way it can be very fun.”

Gamification, or the implementation of games into the learning environment, is a continuous pursuit of educators throughout the industry. WCC has been integrating gaming for years, according to Egan. Mentioning card-matching games to study for nursing classes and a Monopoly-style board game for business classes, Egan is eagerly looking into the future to see what technology will bring to WCC and its gamification initiative.

President Rose Bellanca is excited as well. At the board of trustees’ annual retreat, held on Friday, March 9, the president voiced her agenda to re-evaluate gaming practices in the classroom to address shifting student bodies and technological achievements – as a long-range, strategic goal.

“People coming in are going to want something different,” Bellanca said. “Wouldn’t students love a class like that? We need to look at the impact of technology and how to respond to it. Every age group has a different level of academic ability.”

Although the president presented no solidified plans at the retreat for specific classes to be “gamified,” she and her colleagues are eager, like Egan, to move forward with the initiative for the sake of the modern world.

“We’re talking about how exciting it would be to have more games in the classes,” Bellanca said. “It is part of my job to look for ways the college can be a better fit for students coming in, and this is one of them.”

Vice President of Instruction Stuart Blacklaw has been bitten by the gamification bug since the 1980s. Blacklaw has often found himself over the years at odds with the lack of education in present, popular

video games.

“I’ve been complaining about games not being educational for years,” Blacklaw said. “Why can’t Mario be walking on a path and have that path go from state to state on a map, teaching geography?”

In talks between Egan and Blacklaw, Introduction to Mass Media, or COM 130, was mentioned as a strong candidate to be gamified for its already interactive content, according to Egan. Egan intends to have incorporated gaming into a class in some new way by next Fall.

Egan will be depending on the help from his team of information technology employees, many of whom the dean asserts are avid video-game players. IT workers will be looking at products that are presently available for their educational benefits and potential uses in classrooms.

“Our role in IT is to advise and facilitate,” Director of Web Services Christopher Billick said. “We look at the scope of what is available and what can be purchased and modified to be put into the curriculum. Right now it’s (gamification) an evaluation phase”

Billick looks forward to a wide range of benefits for gamification that may even transcend class lessons. He sees the initiative as necessary to ensure WCC’s future viability to educate the masses and hopes to use the initiative to drive up

classroom use of portable electronic devices as teaching tools.

“It’s an exciting time where technology moves quickly,” Billick said. “There are certain areas where employers are saying they want students to be well-versed in portable devices and other technology. This will give them a leg up.”

Egan believes that the process of seeking out new technologies and ideas to gamify classes at WCC shouldn’t be different from other recommendations made to an ever-evolving list of needs addressed by class curriculums. He is optimistic of the wide range of concepts already in place in the gaming world, awaiting the eye of an educator.

“There is so much built already ready for us to look into. It just wouldn’t be practical and I don’t think we could afford to program our own virtual reality,” Egan said. “This is no different than recommending a text book. We’ve been doing a lot more of this since the president has seen its (gamification) success.”

The main objective of gamification is interaction between students and their classes and to drive up students’ personal engagement in their education.

“It’s passive versus active learning,” Blacklaw said. “When you are engaged in the lesson, it moves from your short-term to long-term memory. Research has shown that this is just how learning works.”



An Xbox 360 controller, a possible addition to students’ backpacks in a new curriculum.



Twister Timeline

5:30 p.m.—Tornado sirens sound in northern Washtenaw County. A siren placed behind the Plant Operations building on Washtenaw Community College’s campus sounds minutes after. No alert is issued by the college online or through email and text message.

5:45 p.m.—Campus Safety and Security mobilize to evacuate smaller buildings on campus and get students, faculty and staff to designated tornado shelters. Similarly, designated safety floor coordinators round up students into the first floors of the Liberal Arts and Student Center buildings. Nearly 150-300 students seek shelter in the SC first floor vending machine area.

6:26 p.m.—Trained weather spotters report a funnel cloud formation near Saline

6:30 p.m.—The National Weather Service issues a tornado warning for southeastern Washtenaw County, slated to last until 7:15 p.m.

7:45 p.m.—WCC gives the all clear for students, faculty and staff to leave to campus. Hail and rain are still prevalent as the tornado in the area subsides. No damage was done to campus and buildings.



Top, firefighters assess the damage done by the March 15 tornado to a home on Wilson Street in Dexter. Center, this home on York was given a more open design by the storm. Bottom, a collapsed garage on Wilson Street.

WCC LOCKDOWN FROM FRONT PAGE

Meanwhile, others around campus sprang into action to get students to safety on campus.

Before the campus siren was initiated, Rachel Barsch, events coordinator for Student Development and Activities, was alerted to the potential danger by her frightened children.

“I got a phone call from my daughter saying there was a tornado warning for Washtenaw County,” said Barsch, noting that she had thought her daughter was at first over-reacting. “I looked it up online and sure enough, there was a one spotted in our area.”

Then the sirens blared. “I told Pete (Leshkevich), and we called Security,” she said.

Both Barsch and Leskevich, director of SDA, received inclement weather training in February, giving them the status of Safety Floor Coordinators. According to Jacques Desrosiers, director of CSS, the safety coordinators are a new initiative to help keep the college safer. Each building has a designated building coordinator, and the total number of floor coordinators stands somewhere between 65-70 volunteers, he said.

Their job includes, among other things, getting students to safety during a drill or major emergency.

“We started rounding them up around 5:45 p.m., shortly after we received notice from Campus Security,” Leshkevich said. “We gathered the students from outside and the second and third floors and moved them into vending-machine area.”

Barsch and Leshkevich said that nearly 150-300 students

and staff were grouped into the small area, with many spilling out into the SC food-court area.

While students were aware of the dangerous conditions outside, Barsch said that most were more concerned about their classes getting canceled than they were about being swept away by tornados.

For the students who were stuck in campus buildings, the shock over not having a campus alert outweighed their fears for safety.

“We were in the lower floor of the LA building,” said Tarenz Arnold, 20, a graphic design student from Ann Arbor. Arnold was in a Gamers Club meeting at the time when the siren overpowered the sounds of Mario and Call of Duty. “We didn’t get a warning other than the siren. They probably should have put one out.”

Winona Henry-Kerr, 21, from Ann Arbor agreed.

“We were all calm, but nervous at the same time,” said Henry-Kerr, a psychology major. “We were all wondering where the alert was. We didn’t know how informed they were. We just heard the sirens outside.”

Although many students didn’t get notice from Campus Safety, Desrosiers said that officers were well-informed and were active the whole time getting people to closed off areas.

“We monitor the Washtenaw County Emergency Management radio station 24/7,” he said.

Speaking directly about the lack of a campus alert, Desrosiers added that too is a work in progress.

“There has been a lot of debate about the policy of after-hours weather alerts,” Desrosiers said. “We don’t usually put them out because we’ve

SAFETY FLOOR COORDINATORS

Each building has its own Safety Floor Coordinators. All Floor Coordinators are trained through campus security to handle crisis management duties, such as getting students to safety. Each floor coordinator is assigned on a volunteer basis by Building Coordinators.

BUILDING COORDINATORS:	
SC	Larry Aeilts
ML	Marilyn Donham
OE	Ross Gordon
LA	Bill Abernathy & Martha Showalter
GM	Victor Liu
TI	Bill Ghrist
BE	Rosemary Wilson

Note: In case of emergency, be aware of all tornado shelters and fire exits in buildings. Shelters and fire exits locations are posted around campus. For more information, contact Campus Safety and Security by calling (734) 677-3411

actually received complaints from students to not bother them with it, so we need to go back and revisit our policy.”

Kachadoorian is not among those who get annoyed by multiple alerts.

“We need them to take this more seriously,” she said. “They need to use it and they need to tell students when and where to go in emergencies. I have to rely on the school to figure these things out, but there was no guidance or direction offered.

“It was absolutely disappointing.”

WCC ‘HERO’ FROM FRONT PAGE

of people who were caught in the middle of a devastating tornado that ravaged the city of Dexter on March 15. Authorities estimated more than 200 homes were damaged or destroyed, but shockingly no one was killed or seriously injured.

Once in the basement, Lewis called his family to let them know there was a tornado in the area, as the storm was raging through Dexter.

“I can still remember what it sounded like,” he said. “It was like there was a freight train boxing the house. It’s something that I will never forget that’s for sure.

“To be honest, I wasn’t really that afraid at that point in time. I’d been through tornado-like weather at least a couple times,” Lewis said. “I was more worried about getting us into a safe place. I would be lying if I said I wasn’t afraid at all, I was definitely nervous.”

Brockman, 20, of Saline, who studies early elementary education at WCC, was more concerned about other things than her own safety. Including

the paraplegic dog she was taking care of.

“I was more terrified for other people in my family even though they were in Saline and probably pretty safe,” she said. “I was more concerned about them and the dog and my stuff upstairs.”

After spending at least an hour in the basement, the two surfaced and began to assess the damage. According to Lewis, the trees that surrounded the house all fell away from the home and only some damage to the gutters was reported.

Unfortunately for Lewis, however, one of the tress landed squarely on his car.

“I haven’t got an estimate yet, but multiple people who have looked at it say that it’s totaled,” Lewis said.

Lewis drove a 2002 Chevy Cavalier, but only had liability insurance on the vehicle, leaving him with no mode of transportation. He’s now asking friends and relatives, including his grandmother, for rides to get around town.

“It’s pretty terrible, it’s like I’m in high school again,” Lewis said. “It’s going to be an expensive repair – if I repair it at all.”

As the two looked at the destruction, it all seemed to blur together for Lewis, who was shocked by what he saw. But they knew it wasn’t going to be easy to fix.

“If I had to pin down my first thought it would be ‘This is going to take a long time to clean up,’” he said.

Without power, they were left without any updates about where the storm headed after ripping through Dexter or what they should do next. Eventually, they were able to get back to Brockman’s Saline home three hours after the storm passed.

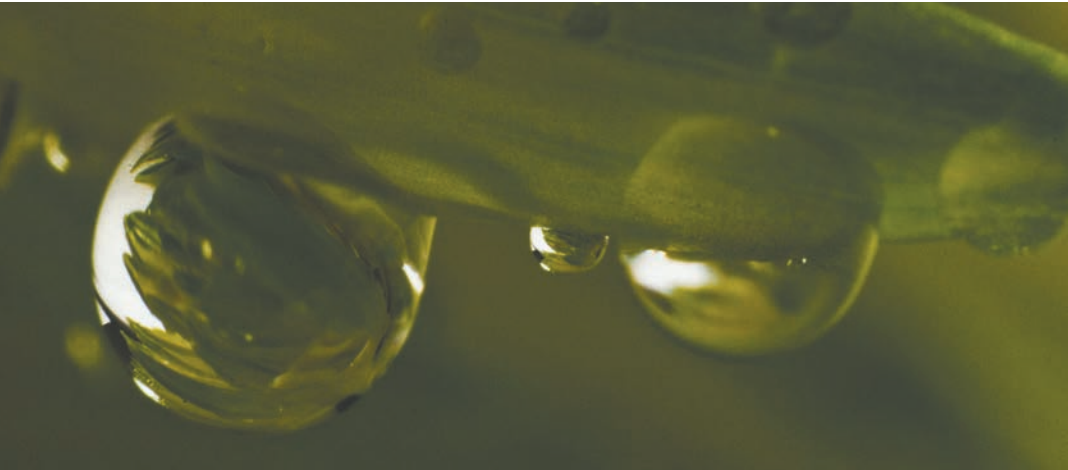
“I called my grandmother not too long after we came out of the basement to make sure that she was okay,” Lewis said.

Brockman said that all they were able to find out was that some houses were destroyed and that downtown Dexter was closed off. And even that information came two-to-three hours after the incident.

Despite his loss, Lewis was happy he came to Brockman’s aid.

A car is just a car, after all. “It’s the price you pay for heroism, I guess,” he said with a laugh.

Clean water, the ultimate commodity—but who cares?



BOB CONRADI Staff Writer

“Water is life’s matter and matrix, mother and medium. There is no life without water,” wrote Albert Szent-Gyorgyi, the Hungarian biochemist and Nobel Prize laureate.

Yet sitting in the midst of 20 percent of the world’s fresh water reserves, the people of Michigan sometimes take water for granted. Of all the official events commemorating the United Nations-sponsored World Water Day (March 22) only one was held in Michigan this year, in Houghton. Even the Michigan chapter of the advocacy group Clean Water Action seems to be making energy policy a higher priority than water issues these days.

Water is more precious in

other parts of the world. About a billion people lack access to clean water. Many contract diseases and die as a result. Women in third-world countries often spend much of their day hauling water from distant sources.

The shortages are caused by the accelerating demands of agriculture and/or industry, dwindling supply and poor sanitation. Such problems are exacerbated by global climate change, as dry areas get drier and as mountain glaciers, which now provide water for millions of people, shrink.

In Windhoek, Namibia, sewage water is purified and re-used for drinking. Parts of the U.S., such as Orange County, Calif. and West Texas, are developing related technologies.

Although this “toilet-to-tap” technology is in many ways just speeding up the natural recycling that happens in the ecosystem, it has many people feeling squeamish. Nevertheless it will become increasingly necessary in places where water is running short.

The world is changing and people must adapt to those changes. For those who are moved to ease the suffering of their fellow man, recognition of these issues could also be a call to action. Many charitable groups are working to improve sanitation and provide appropriate affordable technology for well digging and water purification in poor countries.

World Water Day is an opportunity to highlight the difficulties faced by those lacking clean water. Those of us in Michigan should count our blessings as we continue to enjoy the abundance of fresh water in our state. We should also be reminded of the responsibility we have been given as stewards of so much of the world’s water supply.

For a list of water charities, visit <http://filtersfast.com/articles/Water-Charities-A-Comprehensive-List.php>. They include such groups as <http://water.org>, <http://watercharity.org>, <http://blueplanetnetwork.org> and <http://cleanwaterforhaiti.org>. Many other charities do water projects as a part of more comprehensive aid programs.



Destruction in Dexter



Beware the Ides of March

Photos and words by
BOB CONRADI
Staff Writer

As the sun rose, an eerie fog blanketed Dexter's tornado-stricken neighborhood on the morning of March 16. Flocks of reporters and emergency restoration workers had already descended on the area, easily outnumbering the residents.

The day before, at about 5:30 p.m., residents had heard what they described as a "sound like a freight train" as they huddled in basements and interior closets. The EF3 tornado that roared through the once-peaceful subdivision damaged many

homes and destroyed several.

Living rooms and bedrooms, pried open by the storm, lay exposed to view, their contents sometimes oddly undisturbed. Trees were upturned. Cars were spun around, crushed by trees or buried in the wreckage of garages.

Pieces of ravaged buildings had become missiles driven into neighboring houses or into the ground by ferocious winds. Pink fiberglass insulation decorated the trees like tinsel or lay plastered on flat surfaces.

Workers had already draped many torn roofs with blue tarp during the night and were busy boarding up windows with plywood. Remarkably, there were no deaths—possibly not even injuries. Residents were grateful for their lives.



Clockwise from top: The car in the foreground was spun around by the storm and now sits amid the wreckage of several houses on the block; A child's bedroom lies open after the storm removed the top of this home at Oliver Drive and Wilson Street; The Dexter tornado did not stop; Tony Hall (left) and Brady Rumble, manager of Busch's Market in Dexter, distributed water and pastries the morning after the storm; The tornado also disregarded this sign on Noble Drive.



Toko Shiiki sings while Dale King plays guitar in a recent performance at Woodruff's in Ypsilanti. ADRIAN HEDDEN THE WASHTENAW VOICE

OCTOBER BABIES JOURNEY FROM JAPAN, ENTHRALLING LOCAL FANS

Photos and Words by: ADRIAN HEDDEN Features Editor

When she landed on American soil in 2005, Toko Shiiki was all alone. Now working as a lab assistant in Washtenaw Community College's photography department, Shiiki has over the past five years garnered the friendship and sense of belonging she needed, through music.

Her band, October Babies, was formed on October 19,

2007.

"Basically, I was so alone and I didn't have any friends when I had just come from Japan," Shiiki said. "I was so lonely that I kind of made up songs for myself, to cheer myself up."

Shiiki recounts that she would sing the songs while riding her bicycle to and from school, an act that would only go unheard for so long. Enter her husband, Eric Santos.

"I was just screaming them (the songs) and then Eric was like 'That's really cool, let's

record it,'" Shiiki said. "I never expected to record it, and he made such beautiful arrangements. It totally changed my life."

That first recording served as a birthday present from Santos to Shiiki that October, but Shiiki and Santos had met three years prior to the recording in 2002 in Tokyo, Japan. Santos had been working there as a composer for dance and theater troupe, DaiRakudaKan.

THE OCTOBER BABIES ARE:

Ben Lorenz
drums, Ypsilanti

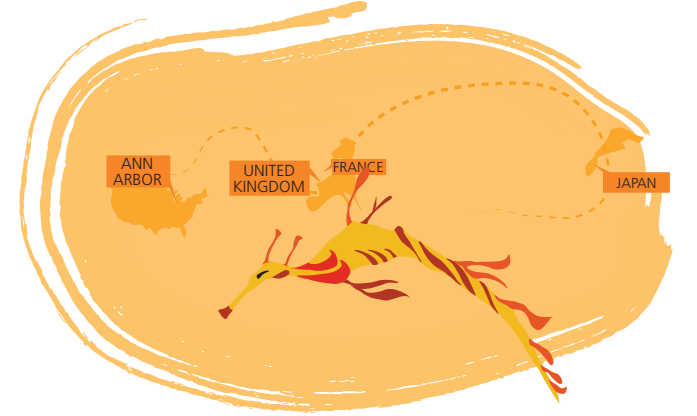
Dale King
guitar and vocals, Pinkney

Mike Ouelette
guitar and vocals, Plymouth

Eric Santos
bass and vocals, Ypsilanti

Toko Shiiki
lead vocals and synthesizer

Dragon project fundraiser: raising hope and money for Japan relief



HAFSAH MIJINYAWA THE WASHTENAW VOICE

KELLY BRACHA Staff Writer

The Dragon Project, created in collaboration by Washtenaw student Toko Shiiki and French photographer and artist Nino Trentinella, was unveiled at a campus exhibit on March 11, the one year anniversary of the devastating quake in Japan.

The exhibit was designed to help raise contributions for the Fukushima Fund in aid of children affected by the quake and ensuing tsunami that killed thousands.

"It's really beautiful and I'm really impressed with the dragon," said Debra Magee, 44, an Ann Arbor resident and attendee of the exhibit in the Morris Lawrence building.

"My 4-year-old daughter, Samantha, worked with a group of children from Go Like the Wind Montessori

School to create segments of the dragon together," Magee added.

The project was completed with a total of 311 unique pieces by 306 contributors that arrived from various locations worldwide and connected together to construct a beautiful and characteristic rendition of a dragon, measuring a total of 86.89 meters – about 285 feet.

"Many generations and people from different walks of life came together to create this," said Ann Arbor resident Mindy Frank, an organizer for the event.

Young students from Ann Arbor Open School performed a heart-rending song called "Rainbow Dragon Song" in Japanese, written by Shiiki and her husband, Erik Santos, for the occasion.

Film and fortune

Milestone 50th Ann Arbor Film Festival a historic week for the city – and the careers of WCC film students

ADRIAN HEDDEN Features Editor

Four students from Washtenaw Community College's film program are set to be featured at this year's 50th Ann Arbor Film Festival Student Showcase, displaying the hard work and creativity they've acquired over the year.

Digital media arts instructor Martin Thoburn is excited to see twice as many of WCC's guppies this year swimming in a sea of filmmakers from all over the world.

"This is the second year that the showcase exists," Thoburn

said. "Washtenaw has gotten the most acceptance rate – six or seven other institutions are participating. Last year, we had two."

Started in 1963, the festival will host 233 films spread across 47 programs in six days. Filmmakers hail from 25 countries and 30 of them will be presenting premiers, according to the festival's executive director, Donald Harrison. It will all take place from March 27-April 1.

"It's the most films we've ever shown and the most guests we've ever had," Harrison said. "This year, everything is bigger."

The festival commences at 6 p.m. on Tuesday with a

reception held in the Michigan Theater's grand foyer, featuring complimentary refreshments and a selection of short films to be screened at 8:15 p.m. Tickets are \$50, \$40 for students and seniors and \$30 for registered AAFF members.

Harrison looks forward to the opening party, glad to be involved with a town that stands out to him because of its cultural affluence and creative nature.

"It's an exciting year for us," Harrison said. "I feel very fortunate to be a part of a community so interested in film as an art form. Each year we are increasing Ann Arbor's roles in

the development of independent films."

A resident of Ann Arbor himself, Michigan Theater Executive Director Russ Collins is well aware and proud of the historic social relevance of the festival.

"We're excited to be a part of the celebration; they have a great program planned," Collins said. "It's a great cinematic chapter in Ann Arbor's history."

Located on Liberty Street, deep into downtown Ann Arbor, the historic Michigan Theater will be hosting the Ann Arbor Film Festival for its six-day cinematic binge. Collins hopes

people will look for something new and remain undeterred by the unknown.

"I encourage people and families to take a chance and come check it out," he said.

But for those four starry-eyed video students from WCC, the AAFF poses the potential to propel their careers forward into a competitive film industry.

"Of course, it's a good resume-builder and potential for getting into other festivals," Thoburn said. "This definitely means more recognition for the students. It's only a good thing."

Anna Fuqua-Smith contributed notes to this report.



ADRIAN HEDDEN THE WASHTENAW VOICE

Large banners advertising the Ann Arbor Film Festival adorn several light poles in downtown Ann Arbor.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

March 28, 5pm

Barb Morissey, 31: "Belle Isle Zoo"

A chilling depiction of Detroit's Belle Isle Zoo. Formerly a popular attraction for Detroiters, this zoo is now in a state of disarray as it was converted to a small petting zoo in 1956 and officially closed by former mayor Kwame Kilpatrick.

Dan Bifano, 35: "Forward Aikido Roll"

The story of a misunderstood hipster art student as he attempts to teach viewers the fine and mathematical art of the summersault.

Scott Allen, 28: "Turn the camera around"

Interviews and footage from a three-day expose where Allen road along with Ypsilanti photographer, Doug Coombe as he shot photos of the 2011 Hamtramck Blowout, a local music festival.

Jeremy Liesen, 26: "Listen"

A visual and auditory narrative of a day in the life of downtown Ann Arbor, featuring found sounds as well as selected music recordings and otherwise mundane footage of downtown life.

AAFF highlight reel

All screenings will be held at the Michigan Theater and are \$10 for regular patrons and \$7 for AAFF members, students and seniors. Here are the events that The Washtenaw Voice is most excited to see, but for the full list and more information on the festival go to <http://aaaffilm-fest.org>.

Tuesday, March 27

6 p.m., Backstage fundraiser dinner: Come to the Michigan Theater's backstage lounge for a strolling dinner and an open bar. Tickets are \$125 and available on <http://aaaffilm-fest.org>.

Opening night reception

Launching the festival will be a dinner party in the Michigan Theater's grand foyer. Food and drink will be provided and an open bar will be open for service. \$50 admission, \$40 for students and seniors and \$30 for AAFF members.

8:15 p.m., Opening night screening: A selection of short

films will be shown in the Michigan Theater's main auditorium.

10 p.m., Sava's after party: Sava's Café will host an after party to continue the opening night merriment, providing drink specials and a complimentary champagne toast.

Wednesday, March 28

3 p.m., Music videos in competition: Many new music videos from experimental artists will be accompanied by a screening of the historic "In the End was the Beginning: The truth about De-Evolution," the film that began the career of renowned new-wave rock band from Akron, Ohio: Devo at the 1976 AAFF.

5 p.m., Student Film Showcase: Screenings of multiple short films created by students in the region.

11 p.m., After party at the Aut bar: Complimentary appetizers and access to fire pits in the bar's scenic, outdoor courtyard.

Thursday, March 29

7:15, Bruce Bailey retrospective

The renowned experimental filmmaker's career is followed through seven of his short films on 16 millimeter film. Historically, an entire program was dedicated to Bailey's work at the first AAFF in 1963.

11:30 p.m., After party at the Raven's Club: A depression-era, speakeasy-themed backdrop will provide thematic context for this nightcap at the Raven's Club. Independent and experimental mixology will be on hand for thirst movie-goers.

Friday, March 30

5 p.m., Space/Time: Japanese Avant-Garde films from the 1970's and 80's: Short films on 16mm film will be shown for audiences interested in the prolific Japanese experimental film scene

11 p.m., After party at The Neutral Zone's B-Side: DJ's and a cash bar will serve as the backdrop to musical and multi-media performances from three artists:

Matthew De Gennaro, Scott Tuma and Jefre Cantu-Ledesma

11:59 p.m., Midnight movie: THX 1138The historic debut film from Georg Lucas that was shown at the 6th AAFF in 1968 will be screened on March 30-31.

Saturday, March 31

1 p.m., Bruce Baillie retrospective

2: Baillie will be in attendance for the continued celebration of the renowned filmmaker's experimental shorts, including many rarely seen films from the director.

11:30 p.m., After party at the Necto's Red Room: Hosted at the club's underground hang-out, the party will feature four local DJs.

Sunday, April 1

1:30 p.m., In Praise of Shadows: Japanese Avant-Garde films of the 1990s and 2000s: Each of the nine Japanese experimental films on display focuses on interpretive explorations of moving images and they are made with

various techniques via chosen media.

3:30 p.m., Quick Billy: Bruce Baillie Retrospective 3: A recently restored print of Baillie's 1970 landmark philosophical western opera film will be presented by movie critic Michael Sicinski and will be followed by a showing of his romance film from 1974: "Roslyn Romance (Is It Really True?)

6-8 p.m., 50th Ann Arbor Film Festival Awards Ceremony: An awards ceremony commemorating the best films of this year's AAFF will be held at the Michigan Theater in two parts. The first announcements at 6 p.m. will precede a screening of awarded works.

10 p.m., After party at the Ann Arbor Brewing Company's Tap Room: Wrapping up the epic 50th AAFF will be a party at the Tap Room featuring happy hour drink specials and a general sense of achievement at another well done Ann Arbor Film Festival.

JAMMIE LIPSEY'S

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

SMART TRANSFER PLAN

"Western gave me the red-carpet treatment. I feel like they truly want me here."

— Jammie Lipsey

Jammie's goal to uncover and review the latest technology trends gets closer each day at WMU.

Experienced and helpful professors, a welcoming environment from the start and the perfect program for her made Jammie's choice easy: Western Michigan University. Before arriving, she was attending community college and was looking for a welcoming university at a friendly cost. She needed a plan—a smart one. At WMU, her professors, whose experience in consumer electronics have Jammie feeling like an insider already, generously provide valuable career advice.

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Scaling the globe

OCTOBER BABIES FROM B1

When Shiiki decided to make the journey to America to study photography, Santos came along with her. Santos is now a music instructor at the University of Michigan.

The group often plans several annual shows commemorating various anniversaries of milestones in their lives. Notably, every year the group books gigs in remembrance of the finalization of Shiiki's immigration papers. It celebrates other dates as well, such as the formation of the group itself and, more recently, the anniversary of the tsunami that tragically swept across Shiiki's homeland.

"The thing is, with the October Babies, every day is like our birthday," Santos said. "That's kind of the meaning of the name. We take any excuse we have to celebrate. We have lots of reasons."

After their initial collaboration, Shiiki and Santos began finding more living reasons to celebrate that they didn't have to wait a year to enjoy. As musicians in the area began joining October Babies, the band expanded its present five-piece roster.

After jamming with Santos for years at the now-closed TC's Speakeasy in Ypsilanti on open-mic nights, guitarist Dale King was one of the first, joining the couple in 2007.

"I've been there since the beginning," King said. "We're kind of like a family."

King has always been grateful for Shiiki and her husband's whirlwind of confidence for their music as he has collaborated with them. He also enjoys the egalitarian nature of the band's songwriting.

"It's really nice being with them, because they are so positive and supportive of everything we do," King said. "Toko's like a tornado, you gotta keep up with her. Usually she and Eric come in with ideas, but we all pitch in together."

The band's eclectic mix of reggae, Americana and other world themes has carved out a dedicated following for them. Santos has coined the sub-genre, "upbeat gospel soul" to describe the wide array of influences on the band's sound. Only one year after the groups initial formation, it was back

in the land of the rising sun, electronically taking the indie circuit by storm.

Electing to distribute their songs and music videos online, October Babies suddenly found themselves at the No. 1 spot in Japan's indie charts in early 2007. Despite a lineup that still had yet to materialize and a base of operations west of the Pacific, still in America, the group was able to achieve international recognition.

"That was really amazing," Shiiki said. "We didn't even really have a band at the time. After that we thought: 'Why don't you go to Japan to play?'" They did.

Upon arriving back in her native country, Shiiki and her October Babies were instantly greeted with a following and were able to book a multitude of gigs for the tour. iTunes Japan even featured Shiiki's podcast entitled "Aozora Radio" or "Blue Sky Radio" in English. The podcast allowed Shiiki and Santos to distribute their music and brand across continents and all over the world.

Santos is just glad the band wasn't left in the dust by the modern age.

"The paradigm was shifting at the time," Santos said. "It was moving towards (distribution) being all on the Internet. It made sense for us to use it in the beginning."

Since that beginning, October Babies has enjoyed success on their terms. Santos maintains that the only goal for October Babies is to spread joy and to make personal connections through music. Commercial and monetary gains are not given a second thought.

"It's success in our definition," Santos said. "All the kinds of fun, unexpected things that we end up doing. There's always something out of the box. That's the prize at the end."

Back in Ypsilanti on March 2, outside of Woodruff's, a bar that Santos names as the band's favorite local venue, October Babies' following is in full force. One fan, Lou Gottschaldt, 34, of Ypsilanti, has been following the band for years as its expansive blend of music has risen to local prominence.

"I love the October Babies, that's who I came here to see," Gottschaldt said. "They're a headlining act for sure. I'm excited to see more."

DRAGON PROJECT FROM B1

The exhibit went from 3:30-8 p.m. with an array of local bands giving live performances to entertain crowds as they viewed the dragon.

Joe Kidd & the Sedition World Orchestra, Michael Smith, and Shiiki's own band, October Babies, were just a few of the performers.

A total of \$1,257 was raised, according to Shiiki.

"It's not just money to think about with this project," Shiiki said. "It's the participants and the works they created sent from Japan, United States, United Kingdom, France and South Korea.

"To think about the issues which Japan still has to deal with... what we could do might be really tiny, but I believe that this is really a beautiful thing."

The dragon remains an ongoing project with segments still arriving from various contributors world-wide. The exhibit will be making its way to France, the United Kingdom and eventually its home in Japan to raise more money for the Fukushima Fund.

To donate to the Fukushima Children's Fund, visit <http://fukushimachildrensfund.org>. For more information, email dragonprojectjapan@gmail.com.



Clockwise from left: Toko Shiiki proudly displays artwork compiled in the shape of a dragon for the Dragon Fundraiser Art Exhibit in the Morris Lawrence building; Shiiki sings a mix of Japanese and English lyrics for October Babies; Dale King plays guitar for the band.

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‘Hunger Games’



Whets appetite for more

KELLY BRACHA
Staff Writer

In a future dystopian world where most of North America has been destroyed, the land of Panem and its 12 districts are under the control of the malicious Capitol.

Every year, two children between 12 and 18 years of age are selected from each district by raffle to become “tributes” and compete in the “Hunger Games” as a cruel punishment for a past uprising against the Capitol. The tributes are brought to an arena to fight to the death on live television for the entertainment of the reality-show-starved citizens of the Capitol.

“The Hunger Games” is an intelligent and proficient adaptation of Suzanne Collins’ first entry in a trilogy of best-selling novels.

The heroine of the series, Katniss Everdeen (Jennifer Lawrence), gives a fantastic performance throughout the film, conveying Kantniss’ trepidation while remaining charismatic.

An hour into the film, the Games begin with intense



Jennifer Lawrence draws back her bow, the star of “Hunger Games.”

bloodshed between the “tributes” clamoring to retrieve weapons. Given the restrictions of a PG-13 rating, much of the violence is suggested, concealed by shaky, handheld camera movements and crafty framing, which become exhausting.

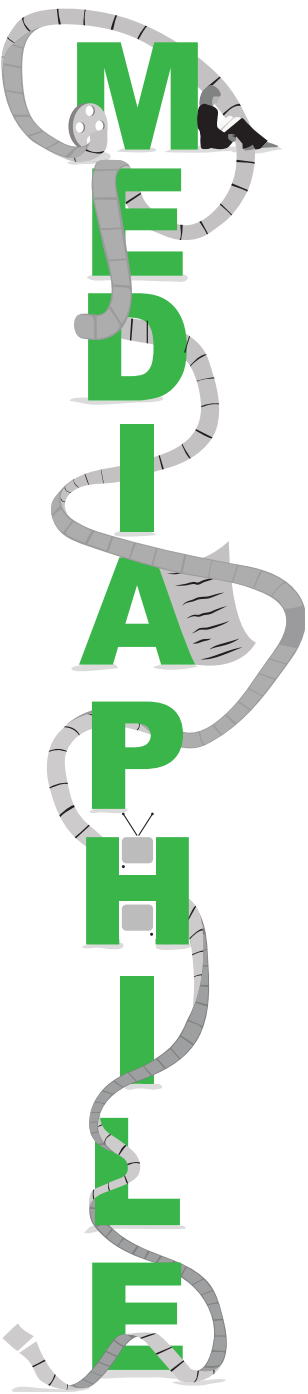
Thankfully a tangential and awkward romance aspect of the story is kept to a minimum, not distracting from the main point, which is Katniss asserting her identity and individuality, inspiring her fellow citizens to do the same, ultimately leading up to the rebellion for the next installments of the trilogy.

With a book jam-packed with inner dialogues, much

is left out, leaving those who have not read the book a bit in the dark when it comes to certain emotional aspects of the story.

Overall, the film has general appeal. Added explanation on the nature of the society wouldn’t hurt along with further character development. “The Hunger Games” definitely leaves me - dare I say – “hungry” for more and looking forward to future installments.

GENRE **DRAMA, SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY, ACTION**
RATING **PG-13**
RUNTIME **142 MINUTES**



‘21 Jump Street’



Recovers from a couple wrong turns

MATT DURR
Editor

Right off the bat, I’ll admit to knowing very little about the television version of “21 Jump Street.” And by very little, I mean nothing at all. But with no preconceived notions, I can easily say the silver-screen version is worth the price of admission.

Starring Jonah Hill and Channing Tatum, “21 Jump Street” is an action-packed buddy-comedy that finds a solid mix of laughs and explosions while telling a decent (but hardly believable) story.

The film focuses around the middling careers of police officers Schmidt (Hill) and Jenko (Tatum), a couple of 20-something cops unsatisfied with their place in life. Expecting plenty of high-speed car chases and headline grabbing arrests, the duo indignantly find themselves bumbling as bicycle cops.

Through a series of nonsensical events, the tandem is assigned to go undercover at a local high school to break up a campus drug ring.

The readjustment to high school is different for both. Jenko was a high-school legend, popular and good looking

to boot. The exact opposite is true for Schmidt and neither is prepared for modern life as a teenager.

The plot may be a bit far-fetched, but the story plays out in timely fashion and provides plenty of memorable moments (including a couple well-timed cameos). Scenes don’t drag to the point of boredom while still adding to the story.

A strong supporting cast makes up for the awkward on-screen chemistry between Hill and Tatum. Producers of the film could have found a better duo to play the lead roles. It seems like an easy assignment, until you find out that Hill and Tatum were the executive producers. Ice Cube, Rob Riggle (“The Daily Show”) and Ellie Kemper (Erin on “The Office”) each make large contributions while playing bit roles.

“21 Jump Street” definitely earns its “R” rating thanks to vulgar language, drug use and violence – all involving teenagers.

It’s not the perfect film by any means, but “21 Jump Street” is an entertaining rehash of a story most of us don’t know. After seeing the movie, the show might be worth “going undercover” for.

GENRE **ACTION-COMEDY**
RATED **R**
RUNTIME **109 MINUTES**

‘Casa de mi Padre’



A drop-dead gorgeous spaghetti western spoof

ADRIAN HEDDEN
Features Editor

The vast Mexican tundra stretches onward to the horizon. A simple-minded farmhand is gaily tending his cattle when he suddenly finds himself witnessing a cartel murder.

The sunny, sparsely vegetated desert serves as the landscape on which “Casa De Mi Padre,” the latest gun-slinging effort from superstar funny man Will Farrell, succeeds in reviving what was once a career

threatening to turn stale.

Refreshingly featuring all authentic Spanish dialogue and a cast of mainly Latin actors, the film sets out as a tribute to Mexican cinema. Laughs abound in Ferrell’s trademark awkward style of humor. Elaborate pageantry and complex, slow-motion action sequences are a welcome and frequent break from the dead air that defines Ferrell’s brand of buffoonery.

Cast opposite of Ferrell as his long-lost lover set to wed the fool’s drug-dealing brother is the gorgeous starlet, Genesis Rodriguez. After starring in a plethora of telenovela dramas, Rodriguez recently began her Hollywood career with a main role in January’s epic crime-thriller, “Man on a Ledge,” as a

flexible and sassy femme-fatale bank robber.

After proving her appeal to American audiences at the start of the year, Rodriguez was a clear choice to be cast in this spring’s blockbuster spoof. Her passion and vivid beauty carried what would have been an otherwise goofy parody and blurred the line between oddball hilarity and serious romance.

A classic score inspired by the spaghetti-western themes of Ennio Morricone magnificently built on the grandiose and scenic mise en scene. What was at first another moronic, yet humorous outtake from Mr. Burgundy swiftly became a cinematic homage to the land of the Mayans and the beauty that lies south of the border.

However, the gags could be tiresome and seem meaningless to the serious viewer. The audience, on multiple occasions is treated to an extended laugh segment from Farrell and his two rancho amigos. The trio awkwardly chuckles for just a few minutes too long, leaving a cynical and impatient movie-goer frustrated with the dead air.

But then again, a scrutiny slinging movie-goer would be ill-advised to attend a showing of the offbeat “Casa de mi Padre,” in the first place.

GENRE **COMEDY**
RUNTIME **84 MINUTES**
RATED **R**



Rifle at the ready. Will Farrel stars alongside Genesis Rodriguez in “Casa de mi Padre.”

Real D on the ropes

Renowned director poised to be the savior of 3D movies

ADRIAN HEDDEN
Features Editor



Movie-goers worldwide are on the edge of their seats every Friday as Hollywood and the mass media churn out their latest slew of blockbusters, hoping to charm the bills right out of our pockets.

Rarely are there any new or different aspects of these films to warrant the ever increasing ticket prices. Movie-goers become so dis-enfranchised with the film industry that innovations that do deserve a little more cash are panned and ignored, causing them to suffer at the box office and choke the industry of millions.

The world must now look to James Cameron as the future of the most recent technological advance in cinematography to be laughed at by moronic cynics, Real D, is in the palm of the creator of Terminator’s hands. Introduced in 2008, the new model for the 3D illusion used a polarization process of contrasting dimmed lights, and was promptly put to use by Disney in campy kid’s movies and a graphically vile remake of “My Bloody Valentine.”

The potential of this new, seamless 3D effect was obvious from the beginning. Fans raved about the variety of pop-outs and immersive effects despite the hastily conceived and campy subject matter of the early Real D releases. “My Bloody Valentine,” the first live-action film to heavily utilize three-dimensional effects via Real D, exposed Real D’s viability in the adult market.

Then in 2009 came “Avatar.” The combination of live-action and computer generated

animation crafted in the science fiction epic was innovated with writer and director Cameron’s custom-designed equipment and ground-breaking, body-sensor filming techniques. The renowned filmmaker brought to life an alien world and a loveable race of natives that won the hearts of millions like never before.

“Avatar” became the highest-grossing, largest-scale Hollywood extravaganza in recent history.

Since that movie’s triumph, the future has gotten cloudy for this cutting-edge filmmaking tool. Unable to repeat the success of Cameron’s opus, films such as Tim Burton’s remake of “Alice in Wonderland,” and the Real D reboot of retro sci-fi flick “Clash of the Titans” tanked at the box office, costing their studios millions of dollars and tarnishing the reputation of Real D’s appeal.

This downturn in popularity for 3D films even caused the funding to be cut from George

Lucas’ eagerly anticipated, sequential conversion of all six “Star Wars” movies. It was set to resume based on “Episode One’s” performance at the box office.

The least popular and frankly, most hated episode of the “Star Wars” saga is unlikely to generate the needed hype to resume the conversion and allow audiences the joy of the final, jaw-dropping detonation of the Death Star at the conclusion of “Return of the Jedi,” in modernized cinematic glory.

In press releases, Cameron, arguably the king of three-dimension films after “Avatar” was nominated for multiple Academy Awards, has lamented the directors of the recently unsuccessful Real D efforts, claiming that three-dimensional cinematography is ever the more viable when executed properly.

James Cameron is the man for that job. With the upcoming theatrical debut of Cameron’s Real D conversion

of 1997’s “Titanic,” set for April 4, the box office goliath that served as the highest grosser in Hollywood before the eruption of “Avatar” now stands to revitalize three-dimensional filmmaking to the prominence and commercial power that it held only three years ago. If, as Cameron says, it’s done correctly.

Speculators must take Cameron’s bravado with a grain of salt, remembering that this is in fact the cocky

director’s first attempt at a 3D conversion of an older movie. He runs the risk, as with the bulk of past conversions, of layering 3D effects into “Titanic” too sparsely to be noticed, in fear detracting and distracting from the original work.

“Titanic 3D” is the last gasp of air from the choked Real D industry. It better be good James Cameron. I hope you had the guts to add a lot of effects, and do a good job. You just might save “Star Wars.”



After reboots of classics such as Tim Burton’s Alice in Wonderland failed to at the box office, Real D technology lost popularity.



2009’s My Bloody Valentine in 3D revealed the visceral physicality and potential realism of Real D films



James Cameron worked tirelessly with innovative equipment and actors to craft the biggest blockbuster in American cinema history, Avatar, with Real D technology.



There is hope for Real D. Cameron’s conversion of the world’s most successful film before Avatar is poised as a beacon of hope for an industry on the ropes.

Seasonal changes leave students unmotivated

Survived SAD? Watch out for ‘reverse SAD,’ doctors say



HAFAH MIJINYAWA THE WASHTENAW VOICE

AMANDA JACOBS
Contributor

Terance Gordon is a dedicated Broadcast Arts student at Washtenaw Community College. Like many students, he starts each Fall semester excited and ready to work hard. Gordon prepares himself for

the work that comes along with taking classes, but by winter, he feels he loses steam. “I started the semester with an ‘A’ mentality, work hard, get ahead, go to class. But as time went on, I lost the motivation to get ahead,” Gordon, 20, of Ypsilanti, said. “Class was becoming a chore, and although

I knew I needed to go, the incentive of an “A” just wasn’t as appealing.” Like Gordon, some students find it difficult to stay focused during the winter. Students who put a lot of energy into their schoolwork have found that they lose willpower during the cold winter months.

In winter, student Joshua Dubridge of Grand Rapids feels that he still has to maintain good grades, although he finds himself putting in little effort. “I don’t do suggested work, I skip the things that don’t get graded,” Dubridge, 20, said. “The cold weather makes me lazy.” Chelsea Fix of Dexter has found herself losing interest in school altogether during the winter months. “The school system makes it so hard for me to learn what I want to learn; I have to take the classes that they want me to take,” Fix, 19, said. Gordon said it is easy for him to find a way to procrastinate homework assignments and studying; video games, sports, friends, and the opposite sex all seem like more interesting subjects after class. “Some classes require so much out of class time it gets overwhelming,” he added. Fix said although she would rather not be in school at all, she continues to take classes for the future. “You can’t get any jobs without some sort of schooling, and I don’t want to be homeless later on,” she said. Psychology instructor Larry Voight said he notices lack of participation all year round, due to the many distractions

that students have. “Whether it’s fall or winter, people tend to become restless,” Voight said. “Students have a lot of responsibility: working, family, relationships, other classes.” The winter months can be difficult for students due to the lack of sunlight and dreary weather. For many of those students, success during the Winter semester just requires a little extra effort and dedication. Getting fresh air and exercise, getting regular sleep, and sticking to a schedule are all helpful ways of staying motivated during winter, according to Voight. Students who feel excessive depression and lack of energy during winter may be suffering from Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD), experts say. “SAD is a type of depression, so the usual symptoms apply: sad or depressed mood most of the time, anhedonia, lethargy, difficulty sleeping, eating, or concentrating,” Voight said. “The usual things: goals, pleasures, interests, etc. that help us feel ‘happy’ no longer do so.” University of Michigan professor Melvin G. McInnis, M.D., said that there are likely to be many different reasons that students lose motivation including personal and relationship issues, family problems,

or medical and psychiatric illnesses. “SAD may be one of several reasons why students lose enthusiasm, motivation, energy, or willpower during the winter months,” McInnis said. “The lack of sunlight will exacerbate and amplify other problems, whatever they may be.” Although the weather is growing warmer, students may find themselves having similar problems during the hot summer season, as well. “Reverse SAD” occurs during the summer months. Unlike winter depression, people with reverse SAD are affected by the heat and humidity, instead of cold and dark weather. One out of every 10 cases of SAD is reported as reverse, according to the National Alliances on Mental Illness’ website. Symptoms of reverse SAD include anxiety, insomnia, and in some cases, mania. “Note that this can be mild, moderate, or severe, depending on how serious the symptoms affect a person,” Voight said. “It is important that someone get evaluated by a qualified professional if there are concerns.”

For more information about Seasonal Affective Disorder, visit <http://nami.org>, <http://ewashtenaw.org>, or <http://depressioncenter.org>

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Down on Main Street



For AA transients, 'The Squat' offers a night's shelter, while authorities and owner do little to rid the problem

Photos and words by
JARED ANGLE
Photo Editor

Timothy O'Donnell proudly displayed stickers emblazoned with his name and a date from the week before, plastered across an alley off of Liberty Street in Ann Arbor – souvenirs he had peeled from his hospital discharge papers documenting the most recent overdose in a long-running heroin addiction he picked up out west.

After a long day of boredom walking the balmy streets of downtown Ann Arbor last July, O'Donnell and his friend "Blumpkin" headed for their home for the night, simply known as "The Squat." As Blumpkin dug through a trashcan outside of Bar Louie in hope of finding a discarded meal from nearby restaurants, O'Donnell expressed disgust between puffs from his last cigarette.

When the pair reached The Squat – one of several abandoned homes on North Main

Street opposite of the Ann Arbor Community Center, they hid behind the house. They waited for the headlights of passing cars to disappear and then O'Donnell approached a boarded-up window, forced the board open and crawled inside with his rucksack and friend in tow.

Safely inside the abandoned home, O'Donnell and Blumpkin spread out their belongings on the litter-covered floor of an upstairs bedroom, creating a makeshift sleeping area surrounding an ashtray and stolen construction barrel lamp.

Without any tobacco to smoke, O'Donnell used the dim glow of the lamp to illuminate the ashtray as he picked at scraps of marijuana that had been spilled in the debris earlier.

As he and Blumpkin smoked from a small metal pipe, they discussed their morning plans for stowing away on a freight train to Chicago, becoming drowsier with each subsequent puff of smoke. As the pipe was emptied and the night grew colder, O'Donnell and Blumpkin each curl into a fetal position to sleep, with no blankets to provide comfort.

SQUATTERS CONTINUED C8



Clockwise from top: The upstairs bedroom of the home at 700 N. Main St. has provided a night's rest to transients on many occasions, despite boarded-up windows and warning signs; Two of the abandoned homes on North Main Street show signs of decay; Timothy O'Donnell, 22, searches an ashtray for marijuana to fill his pipe in the darkness of a home on North Main Street.

WCC Spectrum Club hopes to give voice to LGBT community

ADRIAN HEDDEN
Features Editor

Growing up, Abby Dove didn't fit the mold. Unable and simply unwilling to define herself as gay or straight, the vice president of the Spectrum Center Club was dismayed at a perceived lack of depth in her high school's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning (LGBTQ) clubs.

Now majoring in psychology at Washtenaw Community College, the 20-year-old from Brighton is relieved and hopeful about what she sees in the club.

"Pretty much all through high school I wanted an LGBTQ club," Dove said. "My senior year there was one, but it was just a couple of kids watching 'Rent.' It wasn't really doing anything."

When Dove learned of the LGBTQ club at WCC, she was excited that it would be more effective in addressing the needs and ideas of the LGBTQ community.

"When I found out about the LGBTQ club here, I hoped it would do more progressive stuff than the one at my high school," Dove said. "And it turned out to be pretty great. Even the name

itself starts a conversation."

Elected president of Washtenaw Community College's Gay/Straight Alliance (GSA) in 2010, Lucas Longoria of Canton quickly found himself at odds with the club's philosophy.

The philosophy major pointed to a large population on WCC's campus identifying themselves outside of the traditional labels of hetero or homosexual. Longoria saw the GSA and its adviser Ann Jones to be too rigid in their definitions of sexuality.

At 21, Longoria now hopes to better accommodate the diverse student body at his school with the entirely student-run club.

"We (Spectrum) cater to counter cultures," Longoria said. "It is for those who are outside of the expressions gay or straight. The GSA was for the ones that fit nicely into either label. We cater to those that don't fit as nicely."

Jones believes Longoria's new club is missing some key aspects contained in the GSA, causing Spectrum to be less actively effective against difficulties faced by LGBTQ students. Jones admits that the new club

is successful in creating interactions within the LGBTQ community, but is concerned that it lacks depth.

"Spectrum is very successful as just a social club," Jones said. "It at least creates interactions. The GSA however, had three by-laws: that it be educational and address the needs for social justice and political activism."

Through workshops, meeting and guest speakers, Jones had hoped to educate students on what their needs are in the LGBTQ community. She sees the distance that Spectrum has assumed as problematic for the broader cause.

"We've got discrimination problems as it is," Jones said. "We can't have a fraction in our own population. What are we really here for? Gay pride."

According to Longoria, when the group came to a consensus to change the club's name to Spectrum in 2010, Jones insisted on maintaining the moniker GSA.

"We both serve the same purpose: helping people through their personal issues," Dove said. "We are just for different groupings. I think

we can remain separate entities but if we need to work on something together potentially, we could."

After the Fall 2011 semester, Spectrum had a recent downturn in participation, creating the necessary window, according to Longoria, for Jones and her GSA to stand out for a time as the only LGBTQ club on campus.

"The GSA reformed this year during a lapse in between semesters," Longoria said. "Most of our cabinet members were dropped from their classes and had to register late so the club could not officially form. We are not lapsing anymore."

When Jones attempted to reform GSA by tabling at WCC's Winter Welcome Day on Jan. 18, she was met with little involvement, according to Director of Student Development and Activities Peter Leshkevich.

"Spectrum is really more of a social club," Leshkevich said. "The purpose of GSA was to create education through meetings and talks. Spectrum made it clear that they just wanted to socialize and so Ann Jones wanted to restart GSA to be



JARED ANGLE THE WASHTENAW VOICE
Members of the WCC Spectrum Club, from left: Ian Reilly, 31, of Ann Arbor, a business major; Vice President Abby Dove, 20, of Brighton, psychology; and Amber Miller, 18, Ann Arbor, culinary arts.

more educational. There was not enough interest. Ann still remains an asset to the LGBTQ community."

Despite Leshkevich's perception of their intentions, leaders at Spectrum said students intend to continue leading the conversation on the LGBTQ community here and beyond. And Dove may finally be able to give youngsters the support they need.

"We discussed maybe someday going to high schools to pass out information," Dove said. "I like that the Spectrum Center is so open and free."

WCC Spectrum meets Tuesdays from 3-5 p.m. in LA 256 or 258 depending on which room is open, according to Longoria.

As Spectrum continues to build a social community around the plight of LGBTQ students, Jones is eager to proceed with educating students about the struggle as it wears on.

"We're all about community within the gay community," Jones said. "We're here to serve the queer students on this campus. To provide a community where they can come and feel comfortable."

The name means welcome — and at Lai Lai, you are

AMANDA JACOBS
Contributor

Looking for an authentic dine-in restaurant or food on the go? Then Lai Lai restaurant may be for you.

Great for busy students who are looking for quality Chinese and Japanese food, Lai Lai restaurant is located at 4023 Carpenter Road, just a few blocks away from Washtenaw Community College.

It offers many popular Chinese dishes at decent prices, such as chicken egg rolls, wonton soup, chicken fried rice, and pork chop suey. General's chicken, one of the restaurant's most popular items, is offered in spicy, medium and mild. Lai Lai also offers other seafood, vegetable dishes, soups, salads, desserts and more.

The lunch menu, offered Monday-Saturday from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., consists of many classic favorites, such as sweet and sour pork or chicken, sesame chicken, which varies from mild, medium, or spicy or chicken teriyaki. These lunch specials come with a side of rice, varying from white rice to chicken, shrimp, beef or pork fried rice. Sushi fans will find that



JARED ANGLE THE WASHTENAW VOICE

The tables in Lai Lai's dining room are decorated with lace, dragon-themed placemats and flowers.

Lai Lai offers a large variety of Japanese sushi, including California rolls, spicy yellowtail rolls, crunchy salmon rolls, shrimp and chicken tempura rolls, rainbow rolls and more. Sushi prices start as low as \$4.95, but can cost up to \$10.95 a roll. For sushi lovers,

the electric eel is a great choice; tender crabmeat, cream cheese, cucumber and delicious caviar make up the costly roll. The Japanese menu also consists of seaweed salad, edamame and tuna chips. At Lai Lai, the service is friendly and fast. Carry out

orders take between 10-15 minutes, perfect for hungry students with a break between classes. Delivery and online ordering are also made available, but delivery requires a \$25 minimum and is only offered until 5 p.m. This restaurant is also nice

for dine-in orders. Beautiful flowers, soothing music and a courteous staff provide a fun experience for customers. Lai Lai restaurant even offers television for customers who want to watch sports while enjoying their meals. Need to make a reservation?

At Lai Lai restaurant, making a reservation is simple either by phone or online. To make an online reservation, provide a name, phone number, the amount of guests and requested time, and Lai Lai will confirm the reservation as soon as possible.

Lai Lai
Oriental cuisine

Price: \$4.95-\$9.50
for Chinese entrees;
\$4.95-\$10.95 for
Sushi

4023 Carpenter Road,
Ypsilanti



For more information, call
(734) 677-0790, or visit:
<http://lailaiypsilanti.com>.



JARED ANGLE THE WASHTENAW VOICE

Lai Lai, a Chinese/Japanese restaurant located on Carpenter Road in Ypsilanti offers busy students a wide array of fast and inexpensive selections for dine-in and take-out.

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Voice vs Food

ADRIAN HEDDEN
Features Editor

JARED ANGLE
Photo Editor

For this episode of Voice vs. Food, two of our newsroom staffers journeyed out into the surrounding area to find the best and worst stops in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti for that juggernaut of finger-foods: sandwiches. “Wich” dish will survive the rocky road ahead? Read on to find out.

Sottini’s subs stand out

205 S 4th Ave.
Ann Arbor

Adrian: No. 1 Super Sub, 16-inch toasted. \$7.50

Italian bread, ham, salami, pastrami, provolone cheese, lettuce, tomatoes and mayonnaise



Upon entering Sottini’s, we were immediately greeted by a friendly young woman behind a glass display case showing all the fresh meats and cheeses to potentially be used for the imminent orders. Meet and cheese is freshly sliced as bottled soda and baklava make sweet additions to the subtly Mediterranean fare. A kindly old man wielding a bottle opener came from the back to open our sodas.

The super sub was massive. No added oil was necessary as the heated meat released flavorful juices to coat the delicately shredded lettuce and tomato. Cheese was added somewhat sparsely and melted thoroughly to hold the stuffed, nearly bursting three-meat sandwich together and the thinly spread mayonnaise was surprisingly sweet and tangy.

Overall, a bit greasy when toasted, but the bread charred nicely and was conveniently chopped in to four, four-inch segments for easy consumption. A good eat and fine service. Especially if you like grease.

★★★★☆

Jared: Humus Sub, 8-inch, \$4.77

I had the Hummus Sub. This sandwich consisted of hummus and mayonnaise spread on an eight-inch plain white submarine bun with lettuce and tomatoes. The bread was fresh but overcooked, and was a letdown compared to the great taste of the hummus and tomatoes. While the ingredients tasted great, there were simply too few and the sandwich was not very filling compared to the competition.

★★★☆☆

B-24’s charms between bread

217 W Michigan Ave.
Ypsilanti

Adrian: Turkey Pesto Sandwich toasted. \$5.99

Toasted white bread, sliced turkey breast, pesto mayonnaise, spinach, B-24’s is a hip and mellow coffee shop in downtown Ypsilanti. Known for its specialty sandwiches, the café boasts eight of them to go with the coffee along with its bagels and breakfast pastries. A friendly waiter greeted us at the door and offered us a drink. The only person on staff at that time, the man proceeded to swiftly prepare our sandwiches and we comfortably seated ourselves in leather chairs next to historic photos of B-24 bomber planes. This place had real charm.

The grilled sandwich I ordered was much smaller than previous orders. Toasted on the grill, it was evenly heated and the cheese was melted into a thick sauce. The pesto mayonnaise added an interesting zip to a tasty, but otherwise typical turkey sandwich. Spinach instead of lettuce was a clever touch, giving the sandwich more of an earthy feel. The only problematic aspect to this sandwich was its size. After only two bites, the single leaf of spinach was all but pulled out from between the bread, leaving the rest of the sandwich bland and lacking veggies.

B-24’s also serves a delicious chai latte among other delectable coffee drinks. Recommended for atmosphere, but won’t do much to fill your belly.

★★★★☆☆

Jared: Club Sandwich, \$6.75



I had the Club Sandwich, with turkey, ham, and bacon on grilled white bread, topped with Provolone cheese, lettuce, tomatoes, and mayonnaise. The deli meats were juicy and flavorful, which helped redeem the blandness of the mayonnaise. The bread had a plain taste, but otherwise it was crispy and lent the sandwich an authentic homemade style.

★★★★☆☆

edible expedition

Voice staffers judge local sandwich shops on the road for taste and service

Amer’s Main Street for Meat

312 South State Street
Ann Arbor

Adrian: No. 32 Main Street. cold \$7.99

Onion roll, hard salami, provolone cheese and yellow mustard



Our visit to Amer’s was slightly confusing. The sleepy restaurant had no lines and three registers. After waiting at one register for about five minutes, I was gruffly told by some voice in the back to move over. After moving three feet to the right, Amer’s was finally ready to take my order. The menus on the wall were cut off by wooden trim lining the top of the wall at the counter and the first four items of every page were unreadable. Despite this, Amer’s appeared to have a diverse offering of sandwiches with more than 40 different concoctions.

I selected the “Main Street” sandwich. A sucker for salami, I envisioned the sandwich to be thinly sliced, heated and loaded with lettuce and tomato, like the Italian “Super Sub” from earlier. What I got was different. Squished between two onion rolls, was about six inches of cold, hard salami. Added cheese covered only a small fraction of this width, leaving the sandwich unbalanced and dominated by the seasoned pork. The mustard was extra tangy, but without any cool lettuce to ease the sharpness of flavor, this sandwich was overpoweringly salty and even somewhat tart.

The meat was moist enough and the bread wasn’t dry, but there was simply too much lacking from the “Main Street,” for recommendation. Garnishing their sandwiches with both pickles and cucumber spears was a nice touch, but too little too late.

★★★☆☆

Jared: No. 32 Main Street, \$7.99

This sandwich was made up of Dijon mustard spread on a thick, crispy poppy-seed bun filled with several layers of thick Genoa salami and a large slice of Swiss cheese. The salami and cheese teamed up with a very powerful taste, giving the sandwich a zesty Italian flair. The bun was very filling, and did not flatten or become soggy when covered with mustard.

The sandwich was accompanied with both a pickle and a cucumber, making a good appetizer for the meal, although the pickle was rather small compared to pickles from other restaurants.

★★★★☆

Taste comes first at Maize and Blue Deli

1329 S. University
Ann Arbor

Adrian: No. 38 Who Came First? Untoasted \$8.65

Texas toast, sliced chicken breast, fried egg, Swiss cheese, onions, green peppers and Russian dressing

Maize and Blue deli sits on South University, a few blocks from the bustling activity that is downtown Ann Arbor. The shop was incredibly quiet and laid back. Employees sat and watched television while awaiting orders, creating a calm and comfortable environment with no rush. The menu is massive and inventive, sporting more than 60 different sandwiches to choose from with a variety of meats. From the standard Italian sub to unique vegetarian and fish creations, Maize and Blue promised a lot at first glance.

Hoping to mix my diet up a little, I looked straight to the chicken section. Many of the chicken sandwiches were topped with an egg, suggesting a breakfast-like meal. The “Who Came First” was right up that alley. Served on thick slices of Texas toast, the sandwich tasted like an omelet with green peppers and onions joining the chicken and fried egg in morning-meal merriment. We’ve all had omelets with these ingredients, but Maize and Blue stepped up the flavor by introducing a zesty Russian dressing spread throughout the sandwich. It was a unique take on breakfast.

Joining the sandwich was the largest pickle spear I have ever seen. The thing literally exploded when bitten into, sending seeds and pickle juice affectionately all over the table. The sandwich itself could have used a little more heat to melt the cheese and cook the vegetables, completing the omelet illusion. Hearty but tasty.

★★★★☆

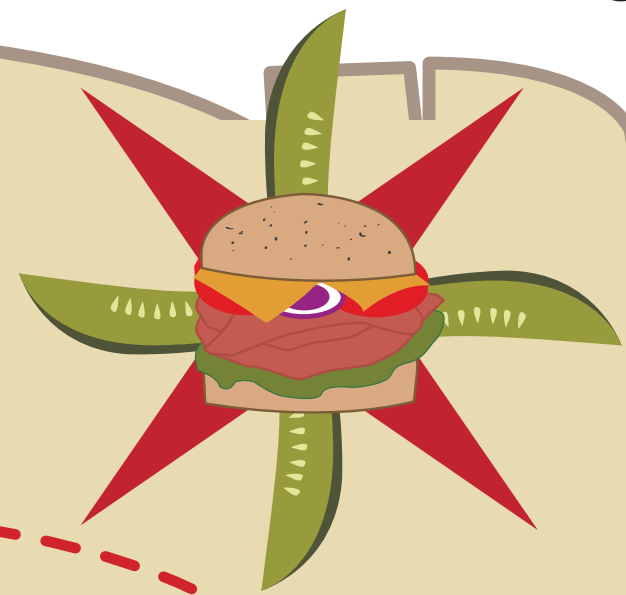
Jared: Bear Giggle, \$10.45



This sandwich had several ounces of top quality smoked salmon, hence the high price, on a grilled sourdough pumpernickel bun, topped off with cream cheese, tomatoes and sliced onions. The combination of salmon, cream cheese and tomatoes made the sandwich very juicy and sweet, with the onions providing a spicy, if not slightly overpowering, contrast to round out the flavor.

Maize and Blue’s pickle was very large and juicy, and was probably as enjoyable as the sandwich itself.

★★★★☆☆



Retro Aubrey’s restaurant serves up classics in true form

2122 Whittaker Road
Ypsilanti

Adrian: Classic Ruben, \$8.99

Spiraled pumpernickel, corned beef, Russian dressing, Swiss cheese, sauerkraut

A statue of liberty adorning the front of the bar and restaurant in Ypsilanti’s depot town urges those of all backgrounds and pasts to step through Aubrey’s doors and get a taste for classic American dining. Already crowded and chatty at 3 p.m., Aubrey’s was a lively and efficient restaurant. Service was prompt and extremely helpful. One of nine signature pub sandwiches on Aubrey’s menu, the classic Rubén seemed in line with the classic themes on display.

With a mouthful of this Ruben in my mouth, I was nearly hypnotized by the delicately spiraled pattern on the pumpernickel bread. Never before has a sandwich melted in my mouth so eloquently. The perfectly heated beef gave off juices that mixed well with the hearty cabbage. A slathering of Russian dressing further increased the moistness of the sandwich. Heaping mounds of the sauerkraut tied the classic flavors together, stuffing me to the max and always encouraging that immediate next bite. This sandwich came out of the kitchen so hot, that I had to let it sit and cool for a few minutes, sipping on mildly priced beer as I awaited my decadent fate.

Service was top notch and the restaurant was lively and fun to be in with many elaborate decorations representing America’s past. Aubrey’s loses a point for burying my pickle in the chips. It wasn’t found until the end.

★★★★☆

Jared: Cajun Steak Flat, \$8.99

This baked pita came stuffed with shaved sirloin steak, peppers, onions, lettuce, tomatoes, Cajun seasoning, and Provolone and Gorgonzola cheeses. The sandwich was very filling, with a perfect balance between the spicy meat and tangy cheese.



The fries accompanying the meal had a perfect crunchiness without being over-salted. The only items on the menu with the capacity to trump the fries were the pickles, and Aubrey’s formidable beer lineup.

★★★★☆

Haifa Falafel takes customers on a trip to a distant land; flavor comes along for the ride

4585 Washtenaw Ave.
Ann Arbor

Adrian: #1 Falafel Pita Sandwich \$4.39

Ground and fried chick peas, pickles, Haifa sauce, red and white cabbage, carrots, onions, lettuce and tomatoes.

Intent on trying something new and different for the final stop of our sandwich tour, we elected to travel to Haifa Falafel, located on Washtenaw Avenue in Glencoe Crossing Shopping Center. We were greeted by a line of jolly young men preparing food behind the counter. Our orders were taken quickly and a soda fountain offered several Pepsi products. It was a calm restaurant, but after receiving our orders, we were not.

The brilliantly colorful vegetables packing the pita of my falafel sandwich excited and titillated me before the morsel had even entered my mouth. When I did take a bite, I was relieved to find a hefty dose of sauce mixed in with the falafel, which prevented it from being too dry, a common ailment in this type of sandwich. The even mix of falafel and veggies kept the meal easy on my stomach, filling but not overwhelming and with a tangy aftertaste from the pickles. All of the magnificent flavors were further complimented by a steamy heap of well-cooked brown rice topped with zesty mashed and diced carrots beneath a wig of red cabbage. Best meal I’ve had all month.

★★★★★

Jared: Beef Shish Kafta, \$5.35

At Haifa, I had the Beef Shish Kafta, with juicy ground beef on a crispy pita. The ratio of vegetables to meat was 60-40, with fresh onions, carrots and lettuce complimenting the spice-laden beef. The balance of vegetables ensured the sandwich was a full meal, without being too heavy on the stomach.

★★★★★

And the winner is:

Haifa Falafel climbed the mountain for this edition of Voice vs. Food. A lot of dishes competed in this battle for sandwich supremacy, but the elaborate and exotic balance of flavors and textures pushed Haifa Falafel to smash the competition and be named by *The Washtenaw Voice* as the best stop for a sandwich across the great county of Washtenaw.



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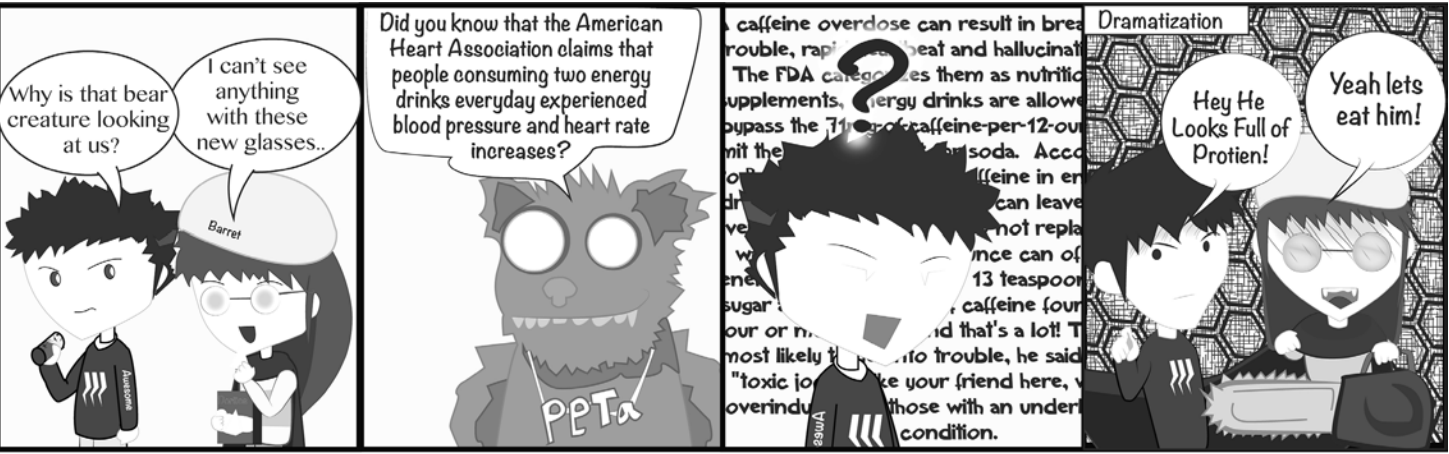
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Send ads to thewashtenawvoice@gmail.com.
Deadline for the April 9 issue is 5 p.m. on Tuesday, April 3.

SERVICES

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

FOR RENT

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

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

Water Park Staff (2538047) Positions available for cashier, concession staff, park ranger, water park attendant and park ranger supervisor. Seasonal, part-time and full-time, May-August. Washtenaw County

Bookshelver/Processor (2307049) Under the direction of the circulation manager and the supervision of the circulation supervisor, the bookshelver/processor is responsible for the efficient, thorough and accurate processing, sorting, and shelving of all library materials at the assigned. Required to work evenings and weekends as part of the regular work schedule. Part-time in Ann Arbor.

Automation Engineers (2511857) Positions for mechanical designers, robot programmers, simulation engineers, control engineers. Bachelor's or associate's degree in one of the following disciplines: electrical engineering; electrical engineering technology; mechanical engineering; mechanical engineering technology; computer engineering; robotics and automation. Full-time in Oakland and Macomb counties.

Kitchen Assistant (2490521) The kitchen assistant is directly responsible to the head cook. In the absence of someone designated as head cook, the assistant cook is considered to be in charge of the kitchen. Seasonal. Onsted and Lenawee, Michigan.

Freelance Videographer (2548435) Videography company is looking for freelance videographers to cover weddings. Available positions include Southeast Michigan (Metro Detroit & surrounding areas), Toledo, (and surrounding areas). Freelance in Michigan.

Roof and Gutter Cleaner (2481023) Must have reliable transportation and phone must be able to lift 65 pounds. No fear of heights. Hard worker who is honest, dependable, trustworthy and has natural leadership ability. Full-time Seasonal Ann Arbor.

Social Media Associate/Community Specialist (2521316) Need someone with 2-4 years of relevant social media marketing experience, building effective content for clients' social media platforms and managing their social media communities. The ideal candidate has experience working for brands on Facebook, Twitter, Blogs, YouTube, LinkedIn as well as other platforms. Full-time in Ann Arbor.

Welder (2556603) Mig Welder in mild steel in a production setting. Permanent job. \$12-\$14/hr. 2nd shift: 3-11 p.m., 3rd shift: 11 p.m.-07 a.m. 40 hours per week. Must pass drug test and weld test. No felonies. Full-time in Taylor.

Receptionist (2547001). Duties include phone answering and distribution of phone calls, entering A/P invoices, filing and other office duties. The ideal candidate would have completed one or two accounting courses. Monday through Friday 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Part-time in Ann Arbor.

Homeless Shelter Monitor/Aide (2554459) Part of a team that creates a shelter environment that is clean, supportive, and goal directed. Job duties are diverse and include everything from answering phones and cooking to crisis management. On call position providing coverage as needed when scheduled staff is unable to work. Part-time in Ann Arbor.

Mechanical/Process Technician (2557634) Supports engineering activities related to thermoforming production, process testing of product equipment, and assembling and disassembling prototype equipment. In addition, the

technician will develop increasing expertise and capability to assist in blending and forming various plastic materials. Scope will include troubleshooting, producing prototype and/or production thermoformed products and/or installation of new equipment and tooling. Full-time in Lansing.

Lumber Worker (2549096) Experience in measuring lumber necessary. This is an extremely fast-paced, first-shift position that involves a lot of heavy lifting. Full-time in Chelsea.

Network Engineer – Tier 2 & 3 (2478155) Seeking mid-level to senior level network engineers to aid in designing, deploying and supporting customer networks. Remote troubleshooting and diagnosis of network connectivity issues. Full-time in Commerce.

Gardener (2512095) Weeding, cleaning garden beds. Pruning trees and shrubs. Planting flowers, trees, shrubs. Raking leaves and general yard clean up. Loading and unloading of trucks. Part-time seasonal in Ann Arbor.

IMPORTANT CAREER TIP:

Present a professional image when using social media such as LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter. Potential employers do check these sites. Clean up your profile, if necessary, and remove any images that would leave a potential employer with a negative impression. For assistance with your job search, contact Employment Services at (734) 677-5155.

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Crossword

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Across

- 1 Stove fuel
- 4 Consent (to)
- 10 Sauna sounds
- 13 Tiny troublemaker
- 14 Drink ordered dry or dirty
- 16 Cheer word
- 17 *Where some carry keys
- 19 Pie ___ mode
- 20 New Mexico art colony
- 21 Volcano output
- 22 Flavor
- 24 Author Ferber and actress Best
- 26 *Behind-the-scenes area
- 29 Reno roller
- 30 "Now I ___ me down ..."
- 32 One more
- 33 Two-time N.L. batting champ Lefty
- 35 The Beatles' "___ Love You"
- 36 Physics particle
- 37 *Peugeot or Renault, e.g.
- 40 Coppertone letters
- 42 Remote batteries
- 43 Krispy ___ doughnuts
- 46 Nonbeliever
- 48 "This ___ ripoff!"
- 49 Farm worker?
- 51 *Campaign in rural areas
- 53 Slow, to Schumann
- 55 Brazilian writer Jorge
- 56 Velvet finish?
- 58 "Gypsies, Tramps & Thieves" singer
- 59 Grafton's "___ for Corpse"
- 60 School entrances, or, in a way, what each answer to a starred clue has
- 64 One for Monet
- 65 Evaporated
- 66 MGM mascot
- 67 Airline to Stockholm
- 68 Trattoria desserts
- 69 Time workers: Abbr.

Down

- 1 Like geniuses
- 2 Medium with a lot of talk
- 3 Ate, as soup
- 4 Price to pay: Abbr.
- 5 Bullfighter's cloak
- 6 "Road" film co-star
- 7 ___ Sketch: drawing toy
- 8 Hagar creator Browne
- 9 Suffix with benz-
- 10 Wind River Reservation tribe
- 11 Kind of lamp with a tungsten filament
- 12 One who doesn't hog
- 15 "___ Easy": Ronstadt hit
- 18 Decoding org.
- 23 Something to wear
- 25 Sot's speech problem
- 27 Money
- 28 Atlantic Division NBA team
- 31 Balt. Orioles' div.
- 34 Step on someone's toes, so to speak
- 35 Mac alternatives
- 38 Brussels-based defense gp.
- 39 Shrinking sea
- 40 Marathoner's need
- 41 They may be coined
- 44 Street opening
- 45 Became a contestant
- 46 Gadget you can count on?
- 47 "This ___": "How strange"
- 48 Well-heeled Marcos
- 50 Sculptors' subjects
- 52 Rustic authority
- 54 Earth-friendly prefix
- 57 Neither an ally nor an enemy: Abbr.
- 61 Common URL ender
- 62 Slangy about-face
- 63 Printer resolution meas.

SQUATTERS FROM C1

Located at 700 N. Main St. near Ann Arbor’s Kerrytown neighborhood, The Squat is one of seven consecutive homes slated for demolition and owned, according to city records, by a partnership between the nonprofit Avalon Housing and its sister company, the Three Oaks Group.

As an organization that provides reduced-rent housing for economically disadvantaged individuals, Avalon plans to replace the blighted properties with a low-income apartment building.

But despite several attempts, *The Washtenaw Voice* was not able to interview the management of Avalon Housing about the houses’ present inhabitants.

Several neighbors on Fourth Avenue, whose houses face the abandoned homes, are

frustrated with both the condition of the homes and the periodical presence of squatters. Fourth Avenue resident Nancy Eavy, 44, suggested that an increase of property crimes in the neighborhood could be related to squatters and other people passing through.

Several residents said they suffered numerous small thefts from their yards in the past year, including outdoor items such as propane tanks for gas grills. One such property crime was more serious, involving a burglary resulting in the loss of valuable jewelry, among other items.

Citing concern over a possible decrease in the neighborhood’s property values, Eavy said she hopes that Avalon finishes demolishing the homes.

“Main Street is the gateway to Ann Arbor,” said Eavy, referring to visitors who come to the

city. “These houses are the first thing they see.”

Further down Fourth Avenue, another homeowner, an elderly man who declined to be identified, said that the abandoned homes were in livable condition before being neglected by the Three Oaks Group.

“They’re extremely ugly,” the man said. “They represent a safety hazard.”

His theory for the continued condition of the homes stems from Three Oaks’ original purchase of them. The houses were converted into rental properties before being closed in 2010 and stripped of plumbing and appliances.

According to neighbor Margaret Shankler, the homes used to be valuable, with one home being worth \$450,000 before Three Oaks purchased it. Shankler said that Avalon and

Three Oaks have been unable to proceed with the demolition due to a lack of funding—an issue debated by residents in the neighborhood and discussed at numerous meetings with the Ann Arbor City Council and the Ann Arbor Downtown Development Authority.

According to Ann Arbor Police Department records obtained through Freedom of Information Act requests, the department has had several encounters with individuals involved in squatting in the past. However, the incidents were not related to squatting and did not take place in the North Main Street properties, according to police documents.

When asked about the presence of squatters in abandoned Ann Arbor properties, AAPD Lieutenant Renee Bush said, “I am not aware of the issue that

you discussed.”

But Christine Schopieray, secretary to Ann Arbor Mayor John Hieftje, said the city government is aware of the presence of squatters, and that police officers conduct routine patrols of the properties to search for illegal occupants.

A recent search conducted by the AAPD of the area found that the houses were

not occupied, although a previously boarded window was exposed. Schopieray also said that Avalon Housing regularly investigates the vacant properties. Despite a fire set to one of the abandoned homes and several thefts and the burglary on Fourth Avenue, the mayor’s office does not view the abandoned homes or squatters as a significant problem, she said.



Trash bins in the back yard of 700 N. Main St. show signs of the house’s periodical occupation, including recently discarded clothing and food containers.

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