



What do you call  
someone who  
went to WCC?  
**Undead**  
**C1**

# Bellanca appeals to faculty union: ‘Give me a chance’



NATHAN CLARK THE WASHTENAW VOICE

**‘We are better than this’:** WCC biology instructor David Wooten speaks at the March 26 Board of Trustees meeting, denouncing the firing of the Vice President of Instruction Stuart Blacklaw.

## Union concerns come to light at contentious Trustees meeting

By BEN SOLIS.  
Editor

In a show of force and solidarity, over 50 unionized faculty and staff aired a second round of grievances toward Washtenaw Community College President Rose Bellanca in front of a standing-room only boardroom on Tuesday.

Their main concern: “anger” and “confusion” over the firing of former Vice President of Instruction Stuart Blacklaw – the faculty’s once-closest ally.

“We are better than this. Stuart Blacklaw deserved better than this,” Wooten said in a rousing speech as he addressed the college’s Board of Trustees and Bellanca in the public comments portion in the opening of the 4:20 p.m. meeting. “This is not the

**UNION**  
CONTINUED A5



NATHAN CLARK THE WASHTENAW VOICE

**In defense:** President Rose Bellanca addresses the faculty in attendance, defending the reasoning for why Blacklaw was fired.

# Tuition hike official: freeze for early registrants until Winter

By ADRIAN HEDDEN  
Managing Editor

Washtenaw Community College’s Board of Trustees voted unanimously last week to raise tuition for next year, holding the line for students who register – and pay – for classes early.

The resolution was adopted at the board’s March 26 meeting and will raise tuition \$2 for in-district students, \$4 and \$6 for out-of-district and out-of-state students respectively.

The increases mark a 2.2-percent hike for in-district, a 2.7-percent increase for out-of-district and


a 3.2-percent hike in tuition rates for students who reside outside of Michigan.

But for students who register and pay by Aug. 1, it’s a different story. They will be charged this year’s rate, seeing no change to their tuition until the Winter semester.

“I want to applaud administration for allowing us to keep tuition frozen for early registrants,” said Trustee Patrick McLean. “It’s an important function of this board to make these decisions while weighing the long-term needs of the community college.”

### Voice Box

Considering recent news stories like the vice president of instruction being fired and a mounting acrimony between faculty and administration, what do you think about this? Do these things impact you as a student and if so, how?



“Yes they do impact me as a student, mostly because disputes between faculty and administration leads to less getting done. And they obviously don’t seem to be concerned about the students in this because they’re just talking between themselves – or, rather, not talking. It’s a concern because they’re arguing, and people are leaving at the same time; it’s creating more and more tension.”

Jonathan Martindale, 17, Redford, Math and Science

**VOICE BOX**  
CONTINUED A3

**Editor’s note:** This article has been updated by Voice staff after it was determined that there were multiple critical errors in a Page One story in our March 18 issue regarding the college’s finances.

## Budget crunch

Despite declines in enrollment and government funding, WCC still operating in the black

By ADRIAN HEDDEN  
Managing Editor

Despite declining enrollment and annual reductions in state aid, Washtenaw Community College projects an increase of 1.2 percent in revenue next year.

“Over the past 18 months we’ve had a decline in enrollment,” said WCC President Rose Bellanca. “We know it impacts the budget, but how does it impact the budget?”

At the Board of Trustees’ annual spring retreat, Interim Chief Financial Officer Chuck Thomas and Budget Director Barb Fillinger delivered several surveys that explained many contributing factors to the college’s revenue over the past four years.

Factors included drops in enrollment since the college’s highest registration counts in 2008, while reductions in state aid and a decrease in revenue from property taxes were taken from that year as well.

Trustees discussed a \$5,000,486 decrease in revenue since 2008 due to lowered enrollment and tuition payments and they were presented another \$5,114,000 decrease since 2008 from their property tax budget which now stands at \$46 million.

“For those areas between tuition and fees and other revenue drivers, it’s about \$11 million,” Fillinger said of the reduction over the past four years. “It will mostly impact investment income because we will have less to invest, so therefore we’re projecting that to decrease.”

The college estimates that investment income has dropped \$500,000 as well and that recent sequestration laws may cost WCC \$40,000. Officials also anticipated that by this year, state aid is down \$600,000 from a peak in 2002.

“I added a few years to this because it’s a pet peeve of mine that for community colleges overall, there’s been no increase, as a matter of fact there’s been a significant decrease over that 11-year period,” Thomas said of projections presented to the board. “For us here at Washtenaw it’s about \$600,000 less than we received in 2002, which

**BUDGET**  
CONTINUED A3

## Why VP Blacklaw was fired

President explains reasons in review

By ADRIAN HEDDEN  
Managing Editor

A performance review conducted by college President Rose Bellanca on June 28 and acquired by *The Voice* staff through a Freedom of Information Act request revealed that Dr. Bellanca saw Blacklaw as unfit to perform the duties required of his position and that she felt he failed to adequately communicate with her and her executive leadership team.

“I have lost confidence in Stuart’s ability to lead and communicate with me in confidential matters when needed,” wrote Bellanca in the review. “The faculty and deans know that he does not support the president and believe that there is a conflict between us. With the exception of scheduled appointments and meetings, Stuart rarely speaks to me.

“As the President, it is up to me to ask Stuart for updates. Stuart has also lost the confidence of many of his colleagues because of his lack of communication with individuals on the team.”

Bellanca’s first issue with Blacklaw arose, she said, when the position of executive associate to the president was reassigned to his office. When she asked him to change the job description, she said he merely changed the title and sent it to Human Resources for approval.

She said the only reason Blacklaw was to be kept on through the 2012-13 academic year was due to his strong relationship with faculty and that she would not recommend an extension of his contract to the Board of Trustees.

“Stuart clearly lacks the experience needed to lead and make decisions as the Vice President of Instruction. Many of his duties have been reassigned because of lack of initiative on his part to learn and to become involved with the areas under his leadership,” she said.



Stuart Blacklaw

Bellanca further blamed Blacklaw for communication problems between herself and instructors.

“As the President, I believe that having a positive culture to work and learn in is very important,” she wrote. “Unfortunately, the deans or faculty members are not aware that their issues are not researched and presented as thoroughly as they could be and because of that, they often receive an unfavorable answer.

“And often the ELT (executive leadership team) is not apprised of issues early enough so that we can facilitate an appropriate, positive response.”

### BLACKLAW’S PERFORMANCE BEFORE BELLANCA

Bellanca’s evaluation of Blacklaw was in stark contrast to one he received a year earlier from former WCC President Larry Whitworth on April 25, 2011 which showed staunch support for Blacklaw, detailing his positive relationships with administrators and faculty alike.

“Stuart has done an exceptional job this past year at developing a positive, productive working relationship with faculty, department chairs and deans,” Whitworth wrote. “He contributes significantly to the management of the college, and I’m particularly impressed with his willingness to take on responsibility for difficult issues and to find effective resolutions.

“Stuart has done an exceptional job this past year, learning and becoming part of the Washtenaw Community College culture.”

**VP FIRED**  
CONTINUED A5



# WE CAN ONLY BE SAID TO BE ALIVE IN THOSE MOMENTS WHEN OUR HEARTS ARE CONSCIOUS OF OUR TREASURES.

~Thornton Wilder

Stuart Blacklaw is an educator in the finest sense, and **ONE OF THE BEST ADMINISTRATORS** I have worked with in 24 years. He understands our product is teaching and learning, and how to support that. He will be missed.

When the walls of my career as an instructor were falling down around me, Stuart brought me solace, support, and **LEADERSHIP**. He has modeled, for me, the true stance of a leader. His **NURTURING** and **STRENGTH** afforded me the ability to continue at WCC, grow as a professional, and realize my dreams. This place is lost without him.  
– Kimberly Shepherd, Ph.D.

Your **COMPASSION** and **HUMILITY** as an educator and leader will continue to inspire me. – Julie Kissel

More than anything I appreciate the **TRUST** and **RESPECT** you demonstrated in the **COMPETENCE AND PROFESSIONALISM** of the WCC Faculty. It was that which **ENCOURAGED AND EMPOWERED US** to give our best! You are an **OUTSTANDING LEADER** who will be dearly missed. – Ruth Walsh

A **GREAT LEADER** is one who helps people do their best work and be their best selves. Stuart, you were a great leader because of your **UNFAILING PERSONAL KINDNESS**, and because of your **COMMITMENT** to the well-being of WCC students and employees. We will really miss you.  
– Anne Heise

Thank you for your wonderful **SUPPORT** to the faculty and students at WCC. Your **PROFESSIONALISM** and dedication to education is an example for all of us to follow. **WE HAVE BECOME BETTER EDUCATORS BECAUSE OF YOUR WISDOM AND EXAMPLE**. We **THANK YOU** and send our **BEST WISHES**.” — James Lewis

“We can only be said to be alive in those moments when our hearts are conscious of our treasures.”  
~Thornton Wilder

Stuart, you are a **TREASURE**. It’s not many administrators who reach out to their faculty and ask what they might do to help us get through the semester—not many who remind us to get our sleep, and send us letters of appreciation for doing our jobs well. You did all of this and more. I want to personally **THANK YOU** for your **KIND, COMPASSIONATE, and SUPPORTIVE LEADERSHIP**. You made me proud to teach at WCC. **YOUR HUMOR MADE MEETINGS, NOT ONLY BEARABLE, BUT ENJOYABLE**. (How will we endure them without you?) Our loss is some other lucky institution’s gain. You will be deeply missed and I wish you and your family the best. – Max Gibson

**THANK YOU** for your humane and **COLLABORATIVE APPROACH** to leading the WCC faculty in your role as Vice President of Instruction. The legacy of your leadership will always be remembered as one of **GREAT INTEGRITY** and **COMPASSION** which **EMPOWERED THE FACULTY** to do their very best work for this institution that we love. – Carrie Krantz

**GREAT LEADERS MODEL GREAT LEADERSHIP!**  
– Cindy Haeck

It has been a pleasure and a privilege working under your **LEADERSHIP**. Thank you for all of your support during the JRCERT accreditation process and the renovation of the radiography lab. I wish you all the best. – Connie Foster

Stuart took the time to notice the contributions of part-time faculty and thank us for our dedication. He sent letters of congratulations when we received particularly high scores on the SOQ’s. He **ORGANIZED** a lovely dinner for part-time faculty and significant others, a couple of years ago, for those of us who had been teaching at the college for ten or more years. He came to an opening at Gallery One and spoke with everyone there. It was a great feeling to know that there was **SOMEONE IN THE ADMINISTRATION WHO APPRECIATED OUR SERVICE**. I will miss him.  
– Cathy VanVoorhis

For some time I have felt the need for a top administrator with **HEART** to support our faculty and students. When you were hired and I saw how your **POSITIVE APPROACH AFFECTED THE MORALE**, I was so pleased. You are an **APPROACHABLE, SUPPORTIVE, POSITIVE, AND THEREFORE, POWERFUL LEADER**. I grieve the loss of your influence at this college that I love. – Diana Clark

**THANK YOU**, Stuart, for supporting me in my survey of how faculty addresses sustainability issues in their courses.  
– David Mackres

Stuart, your **LEADERSHIP** on the creation of our Foundations of Numeracy course has touched the lives of hundreds of students struggling with mathematics. You **BELIEVED** in these students and the mission of our college and **LED THE CHARGE** in making sure these students had a place to start their mathematics education at WCC. On behalf of my students and myself I just want to say **THANK YOU**. You have given them the **OPPORTUNITY** to accomplish what they once thought impossible. You are a rock star, keep on shining. – Jason Davis

My remembrances of Stuart are numerous, since he understood the situation faced by adjunct/part-time faculty, and was always **SUPPORTIVE** of us. One memory that stands out was the Service Banquet when Stuart presented the 10+ year certificates to us. I’m sure this is seen as an ‘obligation’ by the administration, but he **SHOWED US THAT OUR CONTRIBUTIONS WERE GENUINELY APPRECIATED** by citing examples of what students said in feedback forms. The comments were alternately humorous and appreciative, and Stuart made the night quite memorable. My wife, who had no previous contact with WCC administration, was very favorably impressed. Stuart’s **GUIDANCE** and **COMPASSION** will be missed.  
– Fred Gruhl

Stuart is an **INCREDIBLY POSITIVE PERSON**. As a faculty member, I always felt he treated me as a professional, which supported my work in the classroom. Greeting me at a fall in-service, he asked about enrollment and was pleased to hear that my classes were full. Stuart considered the best interest of students, faculty, and the College foremost at all times, and he did so with **INTELLIGENCE, POISE**, and a **WONDERFUL SENSE OF HUMOR** that put me and others at ease working with him.

As VP of instruction at Washtenaw Community College, Stuart Blacklaw has delivered **EXCEPTIONAL SUPPORT** and **GUIDANCE** to faculty. He **TRULY CARES** about student success and is **PASSIONATE** about teaching. Stuart has **LED BY EXAMPLE**, continually **ENCOURAGING FACULTY** to grow and expand so that they can give their best to students. Stuart Blacklaw is **HONORABLE, APPROACHABLE**, and has **BROUGHT INSPIRATION, HUMOR & OPEN COMMUNICATION** to our faculty meetings. He works well with diverse groups of people, is a **COLLABORATIVE TEAM MEMBER** and a **GOOD LISTENER**. Stuart has been an advocate for many important efforts on campus. Personally I am thankful for his support regarding faculty professional development, STEM programs, NSF/NIH grant proposals, OnCourse programs and the Michigan Community College Biologists.” – Susan Dentel

**THANKS** for bringing such **INTEGRITY, HUMBLINESS, & AN INCREDIBLY SHARP WIT** to your office.”–Don Werthmann

Dr. Blacklaw was **FRIENDLY** and **ACCESSIBLE** which was evident during meeting both large and small. He and I had a few opportunities to chit-chat during his tenure and I never felt intimidated because he was a VP. In fact, I insisted on calling him “Dr. Blacklaw” even though he (ironically, in his capacity as VP) “ordered” me to call him Stuart. – Denise Crudup

I deliver the college a division filled with motivated and innovative people, dedicated to their work. They carry that excitement to our students. I do that by **INSPIRING EXCELLENCE**; by **SUPPORTING** and **FACILITATING**. I focus my interventions on areas of need when people or departments are not reaching their goals. I do not waste time and precious resources watching over the shoulder of exceptional people. Stuart Blacklaw 3/20/2013  
– Washtenaw Voice

**THANK YOU** for **INSPIRING, MOTIVATING, and EMPOWERING US THROUGH** your **LEADERSHIP, SERVICE, and PERSONAL EXAMPLE**. You ‘let us shine’ and you shine with us. We will miss you! – Physical Science Department and Foreign Language Department Faculty – WCC

Stuart, your **PROFESSIONALISM** and **INTEGRITY** will be greatly missed. – Randy Wm. La Hote, Chair, Department of Social Science

The Faculty Professional Development Committee is sincerely **GRATEFUL** to you, Stuart, for giving us your full **SUPPORT**. Always open and willing to promote events, you **PROVIDED** the financing that **ENABLED** this committee to reach out to faculty with events, scholarships, collegial dialog and camaraderie. **THANK YOU**. – Faculty Professional Development Committee.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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Soon after Stuart came to WCC, the LGBTQ student group (GSA, renamed Spectrum, now called Out Space) was trying to facilitate some policy changes. We wished to add transgender and gender queer to about seven policies. This would make WCC more inclusive of all students. We had done some research of other community colleges in the state and only one had this inclusive language in their policies. We spoke with Stuart about our intention and asked for his support. **WITHOUT HESITATION, HE SUPPORTED US** and believed WCC could be a leader in the state in moving this issues forward. Unfortunately, it did not happen. We were, and still are, **VERY GRATEFUL** for his support. – Ann Jones, Faculty Advisor Emeritus

Stuart Blacklaw is an **INSPIRING LEADER**. His **COMMITMENT TO STUDENT SUCCESS** and **FACULTY DEVELOPMENT** changed WCC culture for the better. Stuart’s **SUPPORT** of the On Course initiative helped us transform our classrooms and improve the lives of our students. Beyond that, Stuart’s **COMMITMENT TO FACULTY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT** for both full-time and part-time faculty **TRANSFORMED** how we **CONNECT** and **COMMUNICATE WITH OUR COLLEAGUES**. Stuart led by example, making time for anyone that needed to talk to him and taking an interest in us as individuals as well as professionals. On behalf of the Academic and Career Skills Department, we would like to **THANK** Stuart for his service to the college, to our students, and to us. – ASC Department

Stuart Blacklaw was the first college Vice President I have ever worked with that actively **SOUGHT TO CULTIVATE A POSITIVE WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH FACULTY**. Upon his arrival at the college, V.P. Blacklaw quickly **TRANSFORMED** the environment from one which had been punitive and riddled with hidden agendas, to one of **OPEN COMMUNICATION** and **TRUE SUPPORT** for faculty success. When V.P. Blacklaw made a commitment to support Teaching and Learning he followed through on that **COMMITMENT IN WORD AND ACTION**. Having personally worked on an academic team with V.P. Blacklaw, focused on **IMPLEMENTING IMPROVEMENTS** in a specific area of Teaching and Learning, I can say that it was one of the most productive, results-focused and rewarding groups I have worked on in an academic setting. V.P. Blacklaw **ACTIVELY LISTENED, EMULATED PROFESSIONALISM, and MUTUAL RESPECT**. Under his leadership, faculty were valued and he conveyed appreciation for the investments that WCC faculty make in students and their work. V.P. Blacklaw **DEMONSTRATED GENUINE CONCERN FOR FACULTY AND THEIR WORK WITHOUT STRINGS ATTACHED**. I am **THANKFUL** for the opportunity to have witnessed an academic Vice President who made it a priority to lead by example and who was able to **DEMONSTRATE THE POSITIVE OUTCOMES** inherent in true teamwork. – Bonnie Tew

I have been a full time faculty member for 17 years at Washtenaw Community College and during those years I have worked with several Vice Presidents of Instruction. Stuart Blackwell is **BY FAR THE BEST** VP I have worked with. Stuart is **INTELLIGENT, CREATIVE, DEDICATED, WARM, FRIENDLY and PERSONABLE**, but most important he is **ALWAYS SUPPORTIVE OF STAFF AND STUDENTS**. If a faculty member wishes to try something innovative he does all he can to support that faculty member. Stuart is very **APPROACHABLE** and **WILLING TO LISTEN**. It did not take Stuart long to fit into the Washtenaw Community College culture and become an **EXTREMELY VALUABLE** member of our community. He is a **TRUE LEADER** who leads by example and by creating an environment that allows a faculty member to grow and flourish professionally. I wish Stuart my best in the next stage of his successful career and I hope to work with him again in the near future. – Mike Quail

## SCHOLARSHIP

To honor Stuart’s leadership and his service to the college, the Stuart Blacklaw Leadership Endowed Scholarship has been established through the WCC Foundation. The scholarship will be awarded to a student who wishes to pursue humane and collaborative leadership in his or her chosen field. Anyone who would like to honor Stuart and to help fund this scholarship is invited to do so. If you write a check, please put “Blacklaw scholarship” in the memo line. You may also use payroll deduction for your contribution and designate the deduction to the “Blacklaw scholarship.”



Voice Box

By MICHAEL J. HLYWA *Staff Writer*

Considering recent news stories like the vice president of instruction being fired and a mounting acrimony between faculty and administration, what do you think about this? Do these things impact you as a student and if so, how?

*Voice reporters Natalie Wright and Shayler Barnes contributed to this report.*



“I didn’t know there were problems, but I really should know about it. It does affect me. The faculty is here for us. They’re looking out for our

best interests, so we should be upset if their voices aren’t being heard.”  
*Claire Myers, 20, Ann Arbor, Elementary Education*



“I’m not sure if their disagreements really affect me. I’m mostly worried about tuition going up in the Fall. I was upset that the Vice

President Blacklaw was fired, though. From everything I heard, he was doing a good job.”  
*Roya Sadaghiani, 18, Canton, Undecided*



“I feel like nothing’s changed for me. I didn’t know about it. I feel like people fight and cause problems for other people so eventually it’s none of my business.”

*Becca Mason, 20, Brighton, Nursing*



“My professor, Sally Adler, talks about it a lot. She tries really hard to make the point that even though things are uneasy right now, it will change and will

get better. I don’t really know how it directly affects me though, other than that she always talks about it in class.”  
*Rachel Marengere, 18, Southgate, Child Care*



“It’s concerning to see that there’s issues between the faculty and the administration. It concerns me because then there could be issues with the

school altogether. And then it doesn’t concern me because I’m not faculty, I’m not an administrator, I’m one of the students so I don’t know exactly what really goes on.”  
*Amalie Young, 19, Ann Arbor, Liberal Arts Transfer*



“I can’t say it directly affects me. I haven’t really noticed any of it in the classroom. None of my teachers have really spoken about it. I’m sure it af-

fects some people – the teachers involved, it probably affects them – but for me, personally, none of this affects me.”

*Eric Loveless, 18, Ann Arbor, Sports Management*



“Of course they impact me. Any world or public event, when it has this much power in society, will impact us, especially if it has to do with

the administration. That has a direct impact on the student body. If you’re going to college somewhere then you should understand what’s going on within the administration because that’s going to affect you. Whatever happens, there’s going to be some ripple effect on you somehow.”  
*Elise Jayakar, 20, Ann Arbor, Human Services Transfer*



“I think it does because when you’re thinking about those who are running the school, if there are conflicts there, that’s going to eventually

seep down into the students, and that can cause problems in classrooms. It’s something that needs to be worked out because they’re the ones running the school, and if there are issues there, it’s just going to cause problems in the future for students. And I don’t know anybody that wants to go to a school where there’s issues that can’t easily be resolved.”  
*Destiny Cook, 19, Tecumseh, Communications*



“It sounds like the VP was an advocate for the staff and helped them do what they need to do, which is teach. The faculty

speaks for the students and their needs, and Blacklaw spoke for the faculty. If the president so abruptly got rid of him, I’m interested to know what her motivation was. She’s not on the same page as the faculty and the students, and she seems to only want to give vague, politician’s answers.”

*Bonny Hakken, 27, Ann Arbor, Nursing*



“Not directly but it does worry me a little bit. I’m not seeing an impact, but I worry about my instructors. How is it affecting them? I’m in the nursing

program, and we have a really close working relationship with our instructors. I haven’t really asked any of them yet, but I’m thinking about it and I worry.”

*Angela Whitter, 40, Ann Arbor, Nursing*



“I would say it affects us, because if the teachers are supposed to communicate what the students need. So if they’re not being heard, we’re not being heard. For

example, I’m in the video program. When our software becomes out-of-date and isn’t compatible with what we have at home, that would be our teacher’s job to communicate the need to the administration.”

*Jordan Lemanski, 20, Brighton, Digital Video Production*



“Clearly it hasn’t affected me much yet, because I didn’t know about what was going on. I did have a similar experience in high school, though, where

there was conflict between the teachers and administration and that definitely had a huge effect on the students. So, I would say I’m worried that if it continues it will start to directly affect us.”

*Colin Camper, 21, Westland, Transfer Student*

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was really the peak in state aid.

“And that, to me is just an incredible statistic.”

But Thomas commended the school for continuing to function despite the continued wane in state aid.

Thomas also said that the school has experienced a 26-percent increase in enrollment since 2002 and has continued to flourish.

“It’s a credit of community colleges that they can maintain their service to their communities in the face of this,” he said. “The college is growing and very healthy. Overall the trend is up.”

But WCC’s faculty community is on the decline. Fillinger reported that the biggest savings the school can expect are due to unoccupied instructor positions caused by lower enrollment.

“Our biggest empty pot is faculty,” she said. “We currently have 20 vacant faculty positions, but that’s tied into our decrease in enrollment.”

And non-personnel spending, Fillinger said, will be maintained from last year’s allocation, a facet of the budget she said she watches carefully.

“There really hasn’t been much of an increase, they’ve maintained relatively flat,” she said. “That’s something we watch very closely to make sure things don’t skyrocket.”

As a reduction in funds for a furniture-replacement plan was planned for 2013, according to WCC’s general fund budget projections, an incline in the budget from \$28,820 to \$175,000 occurred between 2010-11 and 2011-12. The budget for 2012-2013 is \$150,000.

Comparisons between WCC and other schools presented by Thomas for 2012-13 show that Washtenaw is one of the lowest-spending schools in terms of administration expenditures.

“Everybody is concerned that we’re not spending too much on administration,” Thomas said to the board. “You’re one of the lower ones in terms of the percentage spent on administration. I think it speaks highly of WCC and is something you folks should be proud of.”

CORRECTIONS

- Washtenaw Community College is not at risk of

realizing an \$11 million shortfall in revenue next year, as reported by *The Voice* in its March 18 Page One edition. Rather, the \$11 million in decreased revenue is an aggregate total from 2008 to 2012.

- The \$5,000,486 decline in revenue due to enrollment and tuition was also taken from 2008 to 2012 and it does not reflect a future or present loss, as reported by *The Voice*.
- The \$5,114,000 in property taxes was the difference between the property tax budget of \$47 million, and the peak in 2008. It is also the amount of revenue to decline from 2008 to 2012.
- These figures presented in the story were not reflective of next year, but of the past four years.

*The Washtenaw Voice* regrets these errors, and the student journalists who reported them endeavor to work harder in the future, with the help of the college, not to repeat them.

SNIPS

The Year of Water at WCC

By MARIA RIGOU  
*Staff Writer*

The Sustainability in Literacy Task Force is sponsoring a year-long series of events and activities focusing on Michigan’s waterways.

The “Year of Water” officially started in July and August of last year, but events are carried out throughout the academic year.

“The idea is to educate leaders for tomorrow who know about green issues,” said Emily Thompson, biology professor and task force member.

In order to do this, the task force outlined a series of events taking place the first weeks of April.

The Fleming Creek Nature Walk will take place on April 4 from 1-3 p.m. It will be led by naturalist Shawn Severance of Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission and water ecologist Jerry Frenzel of the Huron River Watershed Council. Register by April 1 at the Student Activities office. For more information contact David Mackres at dmackres@wccnet.edu.

A sustainability focused dinner prepared by WCC students, followed by the movie “Tapped” will be held on April 5 at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are available for purchase at Garrett’s from 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Monday-Thursday until April 4.

River Clean-up Day and Canoeing in Gallup Park will be held, weather permitting, on April 12. Register by calling 734-973-3500 or stop by Student Activities at SC112.

Help remove the invasive purple loosestrife near Fleming Creek at Parker Mills Park with Shawn Severance of Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission on April 18 from 1-3 p.m. Register by April 1 at the Student Activities office. For information call 734-973-3500.

WCC again stars at 2013 Autorama

By BENJAMIN KNAUSS  
*Voice Correspondent*

A mix of Batmobiles, jet-powered boats, Kid Rock and Washtenaw Community College were a major draw for what many call the Super Bowl of car shows.

The School of Automotive and Service Technology represented WCC at Autorama 2013, Mar 8-10, at Cobo Center in Detroit.

Motorcycle Service Technology brought home the hardware from the show this year with two first place trophies. Shawn Deron, instructor for the Motorcycle Service Technology program, said WCC had two custom, student-built bikes on display. Each bike received a first place trophy, one for Best Drag Bike and the other Best Antique Asian Custom.

“We also took an engine and a drive line cutaway and two frame tables to display,” Deron said.

Automotive Services displayed a 1994 Mustang drag car that students have been working on. The car was entered as an exhibit only and was not eligible for awards.

“We are getting the car ready to race April 27 in Milan,” Mike Duff, Automotive Services instructor, said.

A student-built custom 1968 Camaro was the contribution to the WCC display from the Custom Cars and Concepts program.

“Our car is a work in progress, it did not even have an engine in it,” said Bob Lowing, Auto Body instructor. “Autorama rules state that in order for a car to be eligible for an award it must be a running,

drivable car.”

The WCC auto and motorcycle display was used as a program recruitment tool at the show.

WCC language students Costa Rica bound

By MARIA RIGOU  
*Staff Writer*

Eight students traveling abroad this summer to study Spanish received a Foundation grant from Washtenaw Community College, college officials announced last week.

It will assist students in the foreign language study immersion program in Costa Rica. When students enrolled in the program, they were not expecting financial assistance. The grant will help offset student expenses.

Fast Track Reading

Students with a Reading Level of less than six are eligible to take Fast Track Reading for three weeks, starting April 1. The cost of the course is \$25.

Instructors guide students through a computer-based curriculum to help improve their reading score.

This is an opportunity for everyone to raise their reading levels and demonstrate it by retesting with COMPASS. Students interested have to attend at least three times a week, for a minimum of five hours.

Register with Student Connection. Limited capacity.

Earth Day

On April 12, WCC will be hosting an Earth Day Celebration from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. on the second floor of the Student Center building.

There will be a special presentation from 11 a.m.-noon by the Leslie Science Center.

Education about environmental issues and the measures taken to address them will be the primary focus of the event.

“We hope that our students and the community members who attend will learn about and discuss ways in which we can live on this planet in a sustainable manner,” said Kathleen Stadtfeld, who is helping organize the event. “We welcome nonprofits, governmental organizations and businesses to campus to share information about solutions to the many environmental problems we face.”

Participating organizations include The Ann Arbor Transportation Authority, The City of Ann Arbor and Batteries Plus, among others.

For more information about the WCC Earth Day Celebration, contact Kathleen Stadtfeld at 734-973-3487 or at kathys@wccnet.edu.

Ride for Recovery

WCC students, faculty and staff are invited to have a good time while supporting a good cause at Dawn Farm’s Fourth Annual Ride for Recovery.

The Ride for Recovery will take place on April 28 from 8 a.m.- 2 p.m. at Dawn Farms, 6633 Stony Creek Road, Ypsilanti. The event will include opportunities to participate at any fitness level, including bike rides and walks/runs. There will be activities for children of participants, tours of the farm, animals to pet, breakfast snacks and lunch with hot food.

Registration fee until April 1 is \$25, after April 1 it increases to \$35.

The Ride for Recovery provides an opportunity to support a critical Southeast Michigan community service.

For more information about the event, contact Dawn Farms at 734-485-8725 or visit <http://bit.ly/106b7Gc>.

SECURITY NOTES

A thermos was reported stolen from LA 200 at 9:30 a.m. on March 9.

A wallet was reported stolen from a restroom on the first floor of the Student Center at 1 p.m. on March 25.

A cellphone and charger were reported stolen at 2:13 p.m. on March 26 from the lobby of the ML building.

A hit and run was reported on March 26 at 8:28 p.m. in parking lot 7E. A Chevy Silverado was damaged in the crash. The case was turned over the Washtenaw County Sheriff’s Department.

*From redacted incident reports provided by Campus Safety and Security, and interviews with Director Jacques Desrosiers.*



EDITORIAL

# Talking past each other

For the past few months, Washtenaw Community College President Rose Bellanca and the faculty union have been locked in a simmering feud regarding the decisions she’s made and her attempts to effectively communicate with the employees of the institution.

The struggle has resulted in two public addresses before the college’s Board of Trustees, a show of force from 50 union members gathered together, and various emails, statements and columns published in *The Washtenaw Voice* by Bellanca.

None of these measures, however valiant, over three months have yet to produce any reasonable results or compromises from either party.

From the news and rumors flying around campus, interested parties would like you to believe that the issues at hand are one-sided, dictatorial, aggressively oppressive or not even about the issues at all – that the problems arising are the fault of one woman alone.

It is true that the president’s past record at other institutions has been wrought with hardship akin to the kind presenting itself now at our own gem of a community college. It is also true her past problems have given many here at Washtenaw and the community it serves cause to question her decision-making process and its intent.

Indeed, losing two top ranking administrators, both of whom have had a tremendously positive impact on the college during their tenure, is a sad case for any campus community – especially when they were both so well-liked. Worse, one of their departures showed obvious signs of a tenuous relationship with the new administration.

And while we can most certainly respect and support calls for greater communication between any two important campus institutions, the fact that the bickering and bold action is still taking place is a sign that neither body knows how to effectively communicate, or is willing at this point to reach a compromise.

Grand gestures such as showing up en masse to trustee meetings and giving pointed speeches may be historic for any unified body, but those actions come at a price, and that price is the perception of great pride and mulishness. Such gestures may give many a sense that what the union is doing is intrinsically right in the face of an administration that refuses to hear them.

Yet to say that Bellanca hasn’t tried would be patently false.

In an email sent out to faculty and deans on Feb. 15, Bellanca announced that she was forming a President’s Academic Cabinet, an advisory body existing outside the realm of the administrative team already assembled. This team would be made up of one member from each division including various department chairs, deans, faculty members and representatives from counseling.

Her goal, Bellanca wrote, was to use this body as the main form of communication between faculty, staff and her administration.

The effort was dismissed almost immediately, and not because it may have been inherently a bad idea. The faculty union scheduled a meeting with Bellanca for Feb. 18 to present their concerns thus far. Three days prior, Bellanca announced the cabinet via email.

This is not a case of one side refusing to hear the other, but rather an insult to injury by talking *past each other* at all the wrong moments. The union perceived this email as a slap in the face. Bellanca perceived this simply as doing what was asked of her – building a stronger means of communication.

When asked what we can hope for as students caught between these warring tribes, which are more akin to dueling cousins or aggravated spouses, both sides gave little in the way of a credible answer aside from what they alone hoped to achieve.

As this situation becomes clearer, as more information is gathered, it is apparent to the student body of this campus that the only outcome at present would be a unilateral victory as opposed to a bilateral compromise.

Instructor Dave Wooten proclaimed to trustees that the faculty union was willing and ready to come to the table. We hope that if approached by Bellanca, the union will accept her compromise as they make sacrifices of their own to end the months-long battle for the soul of Washtenaw Community College.

There is more at stake than finding a means for effective communication.

# Learning or ‘full of shit’?



ADRIAN HEDDEN

Since taking on the task of serving readers of the community as a reporter for *The Voice*, I’ve experienced my share of hot water. I’ve been accused of sensationalism, characterized as someone just out for a good story, and painted as being unconcerned with the repercussions of his written actions.

But no conversation boiled over like the recent tongue-lashing I endured from one of WCC’s most capable and trusted administrators. When I was summoned in the wake of colossal inaccuracies in my Page One story, I honestly had no idea what to expect.

It was like being called to the principal’s office. But unlike the many times I made that trip in grade school, my conscience was clear.

I’d done my best to report an elaborate and difficult story on the school’s budget as discussed at a recent Board of Trustees retreat without much help or support from college officials when I was fact-checking.

So in the face of subsequent bitter

accusations of negligence and irresponsibility from five different administrators, I could only stand before them and say, “We tried.”

After leaving the retreat and writing the story, I attempted to contact two different budget experts from the college to go over the numbers and correct any inaccuracies before they were made public. We were denied documents presented at the meeting, dismissed by the suggestion to submit a Freedom of Information Act request.

We were also told that these administrators simply did not have the time to teach us about the budget when all we asked was five minutes to go over the numbers. One said she didn’t have time, the other didn’t return a phone call.

Then how is the public to know – if we can’t know?

As reporters, we are tasked with seeking out information in public documents and in interviews with expert sources and to interpret this information for our readers and shed light on what otherwise might be shrouded under a cloud of bureaucracy. We seek truth and report it.

Campus officials occasionally have been surprised by our zeal and attention to detail. We’ve provided students with tuition possibilities ahead of trustee votes and printed word-for-word transcriptions from campus crime log entries, publicizing information that officials didn’t expect to get out.

“No one reads the (crime) log,” one administrator told us last year. “But everyone reads your paper.”

If this sentiment is shared, it is then essential for the administration to strengthen its relationship with this newspaper and share just a little time for the sake of clarity and accuracy.

Learning to be a good news reporter is a high-pressure pursuit steeped in stress. We deal with a lot of extremely important information and honest mistakes are made. Some of the finest and most experienced professionals in our business make huge mistakes that require corrections and clarifications.

This is not an easy craft to learn – especially when we’re throwing our work out there for all to judge. The on-the-job training we receive here at Washtenaw is both valuable and crucial to mastering and embracing what is necessary to survive and succeed in this field.

And I defy any other program at this college to share a story of student error resulting in an administrator looking that student in the face and saying, “You’re full of shit. The bell has been rung; you can’t un-ring the bell.”

If this campus community cares about its newspaper, then we can only hope she misspoke.

I’ve learned more, in making an error that I profoundly regret, than I ever thought possible. I can only hope there is another bell, another day, another story to prove what I have learned and why it matters.

# Not-so-common courtesy



MICHAEL J. HLYWA

I encountered an older woman – maybe in her 40s or 50s – wheeling her rolling briefcase down the third floor hall of the GM building one afternoon in March. Three 20-somethings were sitting on either side of the hallway between the woman and me, one on a bench and two on the floor against the opposite wall.

Seeing that there was a path between the youths wide enough for only one person, I stepped aside to let the older woman through. She hurried past, eyes forward, without acknowledging any of us.

As she surged through the youths, her briefcase practically rolled over one of the guys’ feet. The woman hesitated for a millisecond – I could almost see the thought form in her head: *should I stop and apologize?*

Then it was over. Decision made. Keep walking as if nothing happened. No ‘I’m sorry.’ No ‘excuse me.’ Not even an apologetic glance. The woman just hurried on her way as though she was walking through an abandoned

parking lot toward her car on a cold winter night.

I expected a reaction from the young men – something interlaced with profanities and slights regarding her age. But they were surprisingly composed. If the young hit-and-run victim was bothered at all by the incident, he didn’t show it.

I, on the other hand, was astonished by the woman’s lack of compassion. I felt almost compelled to apologize to the kid on her behalf. What was that lady thinking?

Unfortunately, incidents like that are all too common on campus. It seems that we have forgotten the importance of common courtesy.

Think about the last time you walked unaccompanied down a long hall toward your next class. How many of the couple dozen strangers walking past said hello? One? Two? How many smiled or at least made eye contact with you? Four or five? Then think about how many walked right on by with eyes averted, as though entirely absorbed in thought – all the rest.

I know that we all have pressing matters to deal with on a daily basis, but are we all honestly so engrossed in our work that we tune out the people around us? I think that’s just a convenient excuse.

We have to ask ourselves why. Why is it so difficult to acknowledge each other?

We’re all more or less in the same

boat. We all share the same environment and have similar goals involving education – either getting it, administering it or facilitating it. Don’t we have enough in common to warrant a warm greeting or a friendly grin as we pass each other?

For me, part of it stems from fear and insecurity. I imagine myself saying hello to some guy walking past, he ignores me and I suffer rejection. Or, worse yet, he casts a bothered glance at me that says, “Can’t you see I’m deep in thought here,” and I feel foolish.

So, I don’t say anything at all. It’s easier that way. I don’t have to put myself out there and risk damage to my confidence or pride. And I repeat the same scenario with each individual I pass until I’ve made it safely unscathed to Spanish class – and missed countless opportunities to make a new connection or impact someone’s day.

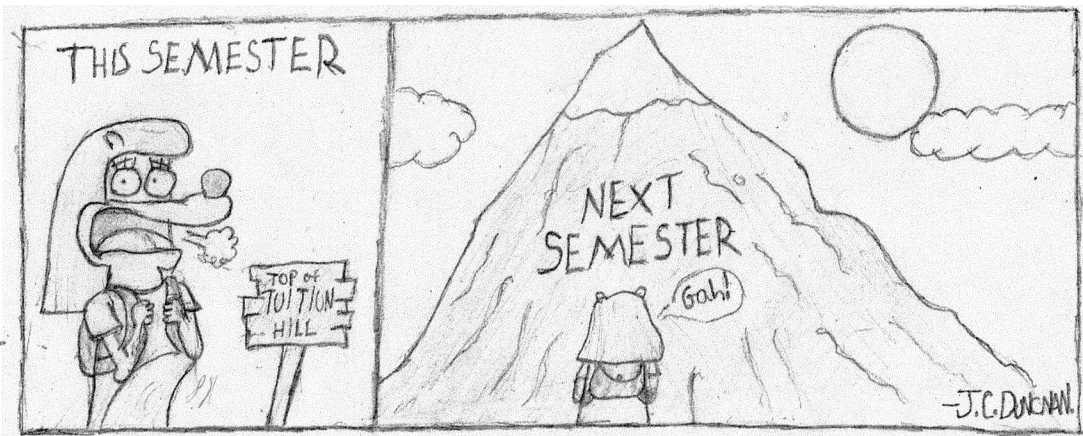
Or, I can cast aside all that negativity and recognize that I’m part of a community of people who rely on each other every day to achieve our goals. I can stride confidently down the hall generously sharing grins, glances and greetings with everyone I encounter. I can change my attitude and then watch it bolster the attitudes of those around me.

I’m not changing the world. But if the common courtesy I extend benefits just one other person, then I’m at least making this campus a better place.



NATHAN CLARK THE WASHTENAW VOICE

**Spring has sprung:** A group of students enjoy the warm pleasant weather of spring that has finally come to Ann Arbor by playing a pick-up game of football in community park behind the Student Center.



JASON DUNCAN THE WASHTENAW VOICE

## THE WASHTENAW VOICE

Volume 19, Issue 15

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The Washtenaw Voice is produced fortnightly by students of Washtenaw Community College and the views expressed herein will not imply endorsement or approval by the faculty, administration or Board of Trustees of WCC.

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 employing the best habits and practices of free inquiry and expression.

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The Voice is committed to correcting all errors that appear in the newspaper and on its website, just as it is 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, phone 734-677-5405 or email thewashtenawvoice@gmail.com.

A copy of each edition of The Washtenaw Voice is free to everyone. Additional copies are available at The Voice newsroom, Tl 106, for 25 cents each.

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Always Listening



VP FIRED FROM A1

HIGHLIGHTS OF BLACKLAW’S PERFORMANCE REVIEW

Although Bellanca’s June 2012 review of Blacklaw’s performance detailed his professional demeanor and high regard among faculty as well as his skills in verbal communication and the positive image he created for the college, she listed several areas she felt needed attention for a satisfactory review:

- Communicating with the college president and her executive leadership team
- Visibly support the college president in communications with faculty and staff
- Maintain confidentiality in regards to negotiations
- Skill in handling administrative matters with other departments in regards to last year’s concerns over WCC’s involvement in the Milan Speedway
- Make decisions on well-documented facts and objective review rather than basing it solely on the approval of reporting administrators; when asked why a matter has Stuart’s approval, his answer is “because I support my deans.”

- Initiative: learn the areas you are responsible for leading. The United Association contracts and Small Business Development Centers initiatives were realigned out of Blacklaw’s office due to a possible lack of leadership. Attendance at curriculum, on-line and other key instructional meetings; delegates all of his authority to his subordinates

BLACKLAW’S RESPONSE

When he agreed to provide a statement in response to Bellanca’s evaluation, Blacklaw refused an appeal and did not indicate any disagreement with her statements. “We well know that people learn in multiple ways,” Blacklaw wrote in response to his June evaluation. “It should be no surprise that people lead in multiple ways as well. “I am a servant leader, and I believe servant leadership is the only effective style of leadership for a group of individuals who, through tenure or contract, cannot easily be removed. One who inherits a protected workforce cannot move an organization through intimidation. You must achieve the institutional goals through inspiring the best performance of those assigned to you.

What they said

By VOICE STAFF

Aside from choosing to let biology instructor Dave Wooten speak for the collective faculty body, faculty members and others in attendance at Tuesday’s Board of Trustees meeting had much to say about Washtenaw Community College President Rose Bellanca’s response to their second round of concerns.

Below is a collection of comments gathered by *The Voice* during and following the meeting.



Anne Garcia

“I felt her response was very patronizing. She assumes that if there’s a complaint, it’s just about the process of change. She won’t acknowledge that our issues are substantive problems. She says she’s willing to communicate and collaborate, but only under her rules. This means that we have been told what is happening rather than being involved in the process.”

- Anne Garcia, psychology instructor



David Rutledge

“The only thing I will say to that is that Washtenaw Community College has an excellent history of good labor relations and I expect that to continue. It is a mutual respect between the union and the president, and conversely the president and the union. I am certainly a supporter of organized labor, the reason being that organized labor offers an excellent balance between an administration and its staff. The final note is if you look at our history, the college’s labor relations, whether it has dealt with faculty or staff, have produced a win-win situation for both the students and community. They have been excellent, and my expectation is that they will continue to be excellent, even given the ups and downs the college is going through.”

- State Rep. and former WCC Trustee David Rutledge



Rosemary Rader

“Bellanca said ‘change can be stressful, even if it’s for the better’... The problem is, we’re not convinced it’s for the better. We can’t be, because we are not involved in the change. Her email to the faculty said that she wanted to communicate with us. But essentially, to her, this means keeping us informed of her decisions. The administrators have come to the faculty for help, to speak out for them. They haven’t come officially because they have no voice.”

- Rosemary Rader, chemistry instructor

“I found her response to be very disingenuous. She has ignored all four requests from the faculty and has talked right past us. She has a lack of understanding about what our issues are. It is not just the issue of Blacklaw



Marvin Boluyt

being fired, it’s an issue about the general way she conducts business with the faculty.”

- Marvin Boluyt, biology instructor and Life Sciences department chair



Patrick McLean

“As a member of the Board of Trustees, I am not blind to your concern and to what you have brought forth this evening.

I think it’s fair to say that not a day has gone by in the last month where I haven’t looked at my role as a trustee perhaps in a different way. I have had some great concern about these issues as they are being brought forward. In fact, at the end of our conversations with the president, she has expressed her willingness to continue to reach out. I and take her on her word on that.

- Trustee Patrick McLean



Sherry MacGregor

“Mostly, we have no problem with what she said, but she never addressed the communication issue. Well most of them (the trustees) responded last week. At least he (Trustee Patrick McLean) acknowledged that there were communication issues, which I appreciated.”

- Sherry MacGregor, nursing instructor



Breege Concannon

“My reaction is it was the same old same old from Rose, and we’ve been having the same old same old since she’s been here. We need

action, and we’re not going to get any. We’ll have some communication between ourselves and collaboration to figure that one out. I felt like we were treated as if we were bold children in there. And I’m sorry, I’m not a bold child. “Faculty are demoralized – of course it’s going to impact students. Our productivity is going down. Why would I want to do anything new and innovative? Why would I? Why wouldn’t I just use the same handouts from five years ago?”

- Breege Concannon, chemistry instructor



Kathy Butcher

“This meeting was historical. This is the most faculty to ever attend. She had the perfect opportunity to just simply say, I started off badly. Instead, she gave a list of her accomplishments, and didn’t address our issues in any way. It’s an easy answer to just say change is always hard. All we want is for her to come to the table and address our concerns, so we can move forward,”

- Kathy Butcher, Department Chair of Chemistry.

Voice Editor Ben Solis and reporters Shayler Barnes, Michael Hlywa and Natalie Wright and compiled this report.

“Those who empower and respect their staff get better performance in return.”

Blacklaw quoted a letter he received last May from math instructor Jason Davis, who thanked the former VP for his leadership and the positive energy he felt Blacklaw created at WCC.

“I just wanted to take the time to say thank you for all that you do for WCC and its faculty,” Davis wrote to Blacklaw. “I’m sure that I don’t have to tell you that since you have come to WCC the culture here is so much more positive and uplifting.

“This college and its community are more important to me than I can sufficiently express in words, it is my lighthouse, and I know many of my students feel the same way.

“The joy that you protect for the work done here is infectious and it makes it that much easier to do our best work, so thank you from the bottom of my heart for the leadership you provide.”

Blacklaw defended himself as a motivational leader to faculty, a sense he felt reciprocated into the student population as well.

“This is not an isolated feeling,” he wrote of Davis’ support. “I deliver the college a division filled with motivated and innovative people, dedicated to

their work. They carry that excitement to our students. I do that by inspiring excellence; by supporting and facilitating. I focus my interventions on areas of need when people or departments are not reaching their goals. I do not waste time and precious resources watching over the shoulder of exceptional people.

“I have always seen my leadership roles as being centered on the development and growth of the people with whom I work. What has been the most exciting for me has been the impressive talent I have found in every group I have been charged to lead. I set goals and measure outcomes – and then serve as a resource and advisor for the leaders who report to me as they find the best route to those goals.

“My work as vice president in Ann Arbor, as a dean in Rochester, my previous administrative appointments and my department and program leadership has afforded me the opportunity to find ways to let the talent of the organization’s people shine.

“That, and the satisfaction of guiding excellent ideas into effective and inspiring new direction for the institution are what have made my work rewarding.”

Last Friday, the day after his termination Blacklaw spoke with *Voice* reporters addressing the college and



KELLY BRACHA THE WASHTENAW VOICE

Addressing concerns: WCCEA President Jennifer Baker speaks to the Board of Trustees, objecting to the method in which Blacklaw was fired.

UNION FROM A1

WCC we recognize.”

In his address, Wooten explained that none of the concerns brought forward at previous meetings have been actively addressed, and that faith in administrative decision-making has been strained even further with Blacklaw’s dismissal. His remarks were followed by Bellanca’s calm and empathetic defense of her actions.

“I’m asking that you give me a chance as we move forward,” she said.

The meeting, which typically begins at 6 p.m., began with a closed session at 4 p.m. Doors opened to the public at about 4:20 p.m.

Soon, faculty and staff members filed en masse into the usually lightly attended meeting in ML 150. So many members of the WCC Education Association attended the meeting, including two former WCCEA presidents, that there was talk of moving the meeting to a larger location.

“We are here because we are a strong faculty, we are a competent faculty, we are a cohesive faculty; but at the moment we are a confused and an angered faculty,” Wooten said. “We understand it is President Bellanca’s prerogative to hire and fire administrators as she sees fit. We have observed this since Day One with numerous changes to the organization of our administration; these changes have a direct effect on us as faculty, and they are concerning. Yet we are told they should not be our concern.”

For Wooten and the union, the fact that Blacklaw was fired was not the core of the issue, but rather the way that it was done – in secret and “under their noses.

“We accepted we were going to lose Stuart, plain and simple,” he said. “But, the fact that Stuart was fired, ‘effective immediately’ during a time when the entire faculty was in a meeting, the fact that he was in front of us not five minutes prior talking about his continued efforts for faculty support; the fact that he was not given the opportunity to leave his position respectfully and with prior notification.

“The fact that faculty were in a union meeting discussing how to communicate and collaborate better with this administration, while that same administration was firing our VP right under our noses without any communication to us is beyond ironic.”

In a final plea of for rebuilding all broken communications, Wooten said that the current mode

of solving WCC’s faculty issues “isn’t working and it needs to be fixed by those responsible.” He also added that union members “are ready and willing to come to the table” to correct the damages, and asked Bellanca, “how about you?”

In her response, Bellanca thanked the WCCEA for its passionate response to the issues at hand, and she said she agreed with what they were saying.

“You are what makes us great,” Bellanca said. “I respect that, and together we can work to reach our goal, together we can figure out a way to communicate effectively. It is going to take time, and I hope not too long. But we will continue to keep working with the same end in mind.”

To defend her actions thus far, Bellanca shared a list of her accomplishments, which included a \$2.9 million Department of Labor grant awarded to the college and expanded outreach to K-12 schools.

She also compared herself to former WCC President Larry Whitworth and his first 18 months in office. Bellanca has served a total of 18 months and 26 days.

“During that time, we have had three executive-level staff departures. In contrast, the immediate past president of WCC terminated a dean and 10 directors within the first 18 months of his tenure.”

Bellanca spoke for about 10 minutes. In concluding, she acknowledged that “change can be stressful for any organization, even when that change is for the better.

“I also understand that the anticipation of an unknown change – even though it may never occur – can be just as stressful. I am confident that our direction is the right one and that the decisions we have made thus far are sound.”

After the meeting, Bellanca told *The Voice* that he she was not surprised by the overwhelming faculty response, and that it shows just “how important all of this is to them.”

Prior to Wooten’s speech, WCCEA President Jennifer Baker, in her regularly scheduled faculty report said that “four weeks ago, in preparation for the February board meeting that subsequently was cancelled, I delivered to you a packet of information that outlined faculty concerns and asked for a response from you. One week later, our chief negotiator reiterated our concerns to you.

“We have yet to receive a response.” The packet of information was a

further explaining his stance that at WCC, instruction trumps all.

“Washtenaw is an awesome place,” he said. “There are faculty members here who are truly the best I have ever seen - and I have been in this business for 27 years,” Blacklaw told *The Voice*. “There are amazing people here who just somehow reach students and inspire them.

“I love that. I am excited by that. I think there is no greater achievement as an academic leader than to help faculty do their work -- give them the tools they need, the support they need and the encouragement they need to do great things. Washtenaw’s faculty do great things.”

Further documentation found in Blacklaw’s file said that he is not to come to campus as of March 14, except for necessary business and that he must “refrain from comment regarding this action and from making statements disparaging to the college, its trustees, its personnel or programs.”

Blacklaw was hired at WCC in 2010. He will continue to receive his annual salary of \$128,270 until his contract officially expires in June, totaling to three months’ pay at \$32,067.

Bill Abernethy, dean of humanities, social and behavioral sciences will act as interim VP, being paid \$131,400 per year.

26-page collection of documents and emails detailing all communications between faculty regarding their main points of concern – which go beyond the firing of Blacklaw and communication issues.

Aside from the two points raised by the union in front of the board, other areas of concern include chain-of-command processes, hiring decisions, financial expenditures regarding office renovations and new non-instructional staff.

According to the documents acquired by *The Voice* via the WCCEA, discussion about how to handle their issues with Bellanca began on Jan. 15. On Feb. 12, the department chairs met to follow up a several meetings to identify their concerns with a new path of communication that Bellanca was beginning to establish. WCCEA leadership also set up a meeting with Bellanca at this time scheduled for Feb. 18 to address the president on how the faculty would like to be dealt with.

According to the WCCEA, the intent was to work with Bellanca on a way to deal with the issues they saw arising in the long run.

Stating the need for a new mechanism for “problem-solving as it relates to student success, satisfaction and improved communication processes,” Bellanca sent out an email detailing the assemblage of a Presidential Academic Cabinet three days prior to the Feb. 18 meeting.

The cabinet, which is not the same as the administrative leadership team that already exists, would be an advisory body to the president and would be “comprised of one department chair from each division, the dean of each division and a faculty member and dean representing counseling and library services,” Bellanca wrote.

For Bellanca, this path was the best way to move forward with increased faculty collaboration. However, through many meetings, informal and formal votes, the faculty union chose to reject most of these measures on Feb. 19.

While the WCCEA members were proud of their efforts, culminating in Wooten’s speech, some were not impressed by Bellanca’s reaction statement.

“None of what she said was about the central issue that is communication. I have no heartburn with the factual content of her speech; it neatly skirts what the issue is and that is communication,” said David Fitzpatrick, the WCCEA’s chief negotiator.

M a r y a m Barrie, the union’s vice president, was more reflective than put off.

“The thing that I hope she understands is that collaboration involves coming to us before decisions are made,” Barrie said. “Not that we have to get our way; we just want to be consulted and involved in the discussion.

“We’re used to that. Maybe we’ve been spoiled as we have been shown a great deal of respect by past administration.”

Voice Managing Editor Adrian Hedden contributed to this report.



Maryam Barrie



# The many, missing faces of online education

By MICHAEL J. HLYWA  
Staff Writer

Washtenaw Community College continues to develop its online curriculum and is ready to announce four degrees that can be attained entirely online. But the concept of online classes is met with mixed reviews from the college's faculty and staff. Is it worthwhile for students to take an online class, let alone receive an online degree?

Computer instruction professor Michael Galea thinks it is. Galea teaches a handful of computer system classes plus a few online sections of CIS 100: Introduction to Computer Productivity Apps. He thinks that online classes are extremely convenient for students.

His online sections have recorded video lectures, so students don't have to worry about taking notes. In fact, they can review them as often as needed. Additionally, recording his lectures has a hidden benefit.

"The other factor from my perspective is: how many times can I demonstrate something before it's so rote for me, so boring, that I'm not really presenting it very well to students," Galea said.

Convenience was certainly one of the things that technical communications student Lori Sherman, of Hartland, most appreciated about the online section of CIS 100 that she completed.

"It was a summer class, so I loved not having to drive down here (to WCC). That's an added hour for every class," Sherman said.



Bill Reichert

But while most agree that online courses solve accessibility issues, many think the sacrifices aren't worth it. For Bill Reichert, computer networking professor, a college education is

more than acquiring the information necessary for a career.

"Having worked at General Motors for 32 years and (reflecting on) what I had to do there," Reichert said, "What I learned at college was only a teeny, teeny bit of what I did."

What college really taught him was how to think around and interact with others.

"(I learned) a way to attack problems and incorporate other individuals into my projects and thinking,"

Reichert said.

Had his education been online, Reichert doubts he would have learned those interpersonal skills.

This is a common perception that champions of online education, like James Egan, dean of distance learning, are comfortable countering.

"That's something that everyone raises, that the classroom, by its very nature, builds communities," he said. "It's not the case that all instructors encourage communities in the room because some are straight lecturers."

Egan admits that most instructors incorporate social exercises into their syllabi, and he certainly recognizes the importance of that. He also acknowledges that it can be challenging to overcome the isolation of working remotely. But Egan ensures that all online courses are designed with this in mind.

"They try to surmount that (isolation) by building in activities that encourage people to work in groups. Almost all of our online courses include at least discussion groups. They try and have people having conversations, and you do build quite a sense of identity about your classmates when you're in conversations together."

Galea definitely maintains a constant dialogue with his online students. In fact, he thinks his online students give and receive more communication than his campus students.

"Every week I'm sending something out," Galea explained. "So as a result of that, I'm getting more communication from students, and I didn't necessarily get that on campus. On campus, students are thinking, *I'll be in class next week; I can ask him then.*"

Yet Reichert is unconvinced.

"Don't tell me you're going to blog and have that teach you communication and interpersonal skills," Reichert said. "This is certainly amenable for some classes, but, as far as we're going to move more and more this way (toward online education), I think that's a big mistake."

Students like Mike Steklac, of Chelsea, agree with Reichert. Steklac graduated from WCC and is now in the information assurance graduate program at Eastern Michigan University. He took a couple of online classes that used forums to facilitate student discussions. He thinks that much of what can



James Egan

be said in the classroom is lost in translation online.

"(In the classroom) you can elaborate on things, and you get immediate feedback," Steklac said. "You can say, 'What do you mean by that?' Or you can see that somebody has a quizzical look on their face, and you can respond to that. That's not as easy online."

Issues of communication aside, proponents of online education point out a handful of additional perks. Students are able to learn in the comfort of their own homes. They can also work when they want and as fast as they want – another perk Sherman really appreciated.

"I just banged it out," Sherman said. "I got way ahead of schedule, and then if I had a week where I was on vacation, I had a cushion there. I actually planned to just finish it early, but I had things come up."

Indeed, Galea says he has students who complete the course in a couple of weeks. But he insists that students need to be disciplined to take an online course. They need to formulate a strict routine.

"You have to put it on your schedule that on this day at this time I'm going to spend a half hour, an hour, two hours – whatever the case may be," Galea said.

And, he adds, not being locked into a three-hour block of time is yet another advantage of an online class.

But what about employers? If students are getting a college education to ensure a bright professional future, then arguing the pros and cons of an online curriculum is only beneficial if employers want to hire online graduates over traditional graduates. Egan thinks that depends on employers' experience.

"At first you have to wonder, *is it the same thing?*" Egan said. "And maybe you need to experience that to believe it. I think you would find that (thought process) in employers. Some have taken an online class and are satisfied. Some never have, so they're doubtful at the outset until they see the proof."

Regardless, the dean is confident that WCC's online curriculum gives students what they need to succeed.

"When you build them like we do, they are supposed to be modeled off the face-to-face class, enhanced to work in the online world, I'm very comfortable that these are courses that are built as well. And we're giving students more options on what works for them."

The Department of Distance Learning encourages student feedback regarding online courses. Email comments to Pooja Panjwani, secretary to Egan, at ppanjwani@wccnet.edu.



Mike Steklac

# Boundless knowledge

## Washtenaw embraces 'open courseware' as education's future

By BEN SOLIS  
Editor

Mitt Romney may have had binders full of women, but Dean of Distance Learning James Egan has a briefcase full of MOOCs.

That would be articles on the Massively Open Online Courseware.

"I have about 100 articles in here on the use of MOOCs and many more on my computer," said Egan, describing the black bag he takes to distance learning conferences, the one that holds the research on the latest trend in open-sourced learning materials.

MOOCs, Egan explained, are not just the future of online and lifelong learning at Washtenaw Community College, they are the fruits of innovations that have been taking place for nearly a decade.

Originally founded in 2001 by the Massachusetts School of Information Technology (MIT), the Open Course Ware Project (OCW) was created to share MIT's vast high-performance curricula – an estimated 500 courses – with other institutions and those willing to take on studying the intense subjects in their spare time.

After 10 years of serving various campus communities with free material, OCW and the MIT's collaborators needed a way take their project a step further.

The result was the first MOOC, a way of teaching the material in a free, open and online environment.

"The difference between us (OCW) and MITX is that we're not focused on online learning, we're a publication of campus-based materials," said Steven Carson, director of Communications and External Relations for OCW. "The MITX team is focused on seven, narrowly focused courses. The experience of MITX (as a MOOC) is a fully online

learning experience, with slated contact hours and the availability to get a certificate at the end of the offering."

From Egan's perspective, this way of offering a MOOC at any campus can aid in a student's practice or introduction to a course load before they become registered at the college.

"If a student completed a pre-requisite class in a MOOC environment, they could very well, staff and resources provided, cut down on the sequence of courses that they need to take to fulfill a requirement of a degree or certificate," he said.

Yet the sheer newness of MOOCs and the lack of a clear implementation plan from MIT or Harvard prevent Washtenaw officials from adapting the environment here at home.

The issue? Most MOOCs offered now are small in terms of course offerings, and are singularly-focused on advanced subject matters. Minimal resources also prevent WCC from creating a homegrown MOOC.

"As opposed to offering something like Psychology 111, the current curriculum supports things like 'Anatomy of The Human Brain from 1920-45,'" said Stuart Blacklaw, vice president of Instruction.

Aside from a MOOC infrastructure, Egan offers more practical options.

The first option would be to use existing via Class-Central.com, a MOOC aggregator of sorts.

Second, Washtenaw could follow the University of Maine model by allowing a specific group of non-enrolled students to audit the class to receive some kind credit through test assessment or transferrable credit.

Finally, Egan describes a free BlackBoard component that would allow non-enrolled students to access the materials.

However, these concepts are still just ideas the college is exploring Egan said, and have yet to be grounded into the Washtenaw framework.

For now, Egan will have to keep diving into his luggage for the answer.

# The inevitable tech-savvy classroom

## WCC students, instructors say gadgets make learning easier

By MARIA RIGOU  
Staff Writer

We live in a tech-savvy world. And all those changes mean that books, eventually, have to disappear.

This is true for the close to 74 percent of teachers who use digital resources – tablets, computers and other mediums – to expand and reinforce knowledge in their classrooms.

PBS Learning Media conducted a national survey of pre-K to 12th grade teachers to find out how many incorporate technology into their daily classroom activities. Most teachers said that the most commonly used resources are online lesson plans, interactive Web games and videos, and online articles.

And more than one-third of the teachers said they use a tablet or e-reader in their classroom, a number that increased from 20 percent last year.

The report by PBS found that 74 percent of teachers believe that technology is a motivator for students. Of those teachers, a surprising 65 percent stated that technology helps them demonstrate something that they wouldn't be able to show any other way.

So things *are* changing.

At Washtenaw Community College, "mobile technology use in the classroom is at faculty discretion," said Janet Hawkins, associate director of public affairs. "I know that iPads have been used in automotive courses as aids to learning."

In 2011, the automotive technology courses did a trial run of the iPad to compare its effectiveness against

laptop computers.

"Its user-friendliness is awesome," said Ross Gordon, then-dean of Vocational Technology. "We did a little experiment. One group used the traditional scanning tools. Another group used the iPad. The students with the iPad did their assignment twice as fast."

That same year, the college invited Apple to campus to demonstrate the multiple uses of its wireless device and how it can be applied to everyday teaching. Instructors in radiography, industrial technology, nursing and natural sciences seemed to be trying to integrate the use of iPads into their classes. However, since the technology was at its earliest development, it wasn't pursued further.

"I don't know how much (having an iPad in class) would help," said Christine Kokkales, 19, a business major from Ann Arbor. "I have my own laptop that I could use in my classes, so maybe I don't need an iPad."

Alex Walsh, an 18-year-old undecided major from Brighton, thinks that it is an inevitable change.

"We should evolve with society instead of going against it," he said. "Everyone learns differently, and I can see how (introducing technology in the classroom) would improve the learning atmosphere."

However beneficial technology has proven to be, there are still limiting factors to introducing it in the classroom.

"I think we should use (technology) to a maximum extent," said Roger Palay, a mathematics instructor and former vice president of Instruction at the college. "But we still have to be sensitive about the levels of technology available to the student."

"If I could have all my students have computers, I would definitely use them in my classes."

# Game changers take to the Web and beyond



MARIA RIGOU

The Internet has changed our lives. No one can deny this. We can argue both sides, but we can't deny it has changed our lives.

From protestors organizing the Arab Spring on Facebook, to the millions of active Instagram users, the Web is constantly shaping our interests and points of view.

And this isn't its final form yet. There is more to come.

As of 2012, there were more than two billion Web users in the world; this is a 566.4 percent increase from the year 2000.

We have gone far. In every direction. Online, anyone can be an expert. Do you want to be an actor? There

is a place for you.

Every month, YouTube has more than 800 million unique visitors. In 2011 alone, the video streaming site reached one trillion views. This translates as roughly 140 views per person... who lives on the planet Earth.

Are you a photographer? There is also a place for you.

There are 90 million active Instagram users per month. Per day, users upload 40 million photos. Users tap 8,500 "likes" per second. And it was launched in October of 2010. So, if the trend continues, by the end of 2013, there will more than 15 billion photos that were only uploaded this year.

Are you crafty? The web has a special place for you, too.

Pinterest, the relatively new site dedicated to more than one thing, has seen a more than 1,000 percent increase in year over year unique visitors. As of September 2012, this site had 23.5 million monthly active users. In comparison, there are five million "stay at home moms" in the United States. Freaky.

Or perhaps you are a doctor? Because, no surprise here, there is also a place for you.

WebMD registers, an average of more than 107 million unique users every month, a 22 percent increase compared to 2011. In the third quarter of 2012, the site had 2.56 billion page views, which is a 24 percent increase compared to 2011.

But not only does it change the way we see the world or the way we interpret it, it is also defying the traditional canons of education.

More than 6.7 million students take at least one online course. And 77 percent of academic leaders rate the online learning outcomes as the same or superior to face-to-face learning.

So this makes us think: what is really happening around us? Is this good or bad?

I can't really answer for you, but I can say one thing: this is definitely a change. And if I really think about it, it kind of freaks me out.



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SC Community Room

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Registration is strongly recommended!

## Peter Pan Fox Theatre

Tickets: \$23/each  
Parking Pass  
available for \$9  
Sunday, April 21  
6:30 p.m.

## Relay for Life: Saturday-Sunday, June 22 and 23

Join our team!

<http://tinyurl.com/WCC2013TeamRelay>

Raise money and awareness for the American Cancer Society

## Apply to be WCC's 2013 Student Graduate Speaker

Eligibility requirements:

Be graduating from WCC and  
participating in the graduation  
ceremonies; Must be obtaining  
an Associate's Degree; Must  
have a 2.0 or higher GPA;  
Submission of a brief essay on  
why you'd like to be the speaker

Sign-up:

<http://tinyurl.com/wccgs13>

Or stop by Student Activities  
SC 112

Deadline is April 1!

## Traverse City Bay Getaway!

Friday, June 14-Sunday, June 16

Ticket includes: motorcoach  
transportation, two-night's  
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breakfast, hiking on the Sleeping  
Bear Dunes and tubing on the  
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Only \$115!

## Lunch with the President

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with Dr. Bellanca!

Lunches occur on selected Mondays  
between Noon-1 p.m.

<http://tinyurl.com/wcclunchcontest>

Purchase tickets at the Cashier's Office, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor SCB, M-F, 8:30 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

## UPCOMING SPORTS

### Women's Softball First Practices

Monday, April 1

Thursday, April 4

5:30-7:30 p.m.

WCC Softball Diamond

Note: in the case of inclement  
weather, the team will still meet.

Please stop by SC 116 or call  
734.973.3720 for details.

Please bring your WCC Student ID  
with you to the first two practices.

The team will practice on Mondays  
and Thursdays from 5:30-7:30 p.m.  
and games will be on Tuesday  
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WCC students taking at least 6 3  
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### Spring Intramurals— Happening Now!

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Washtenaw Community College



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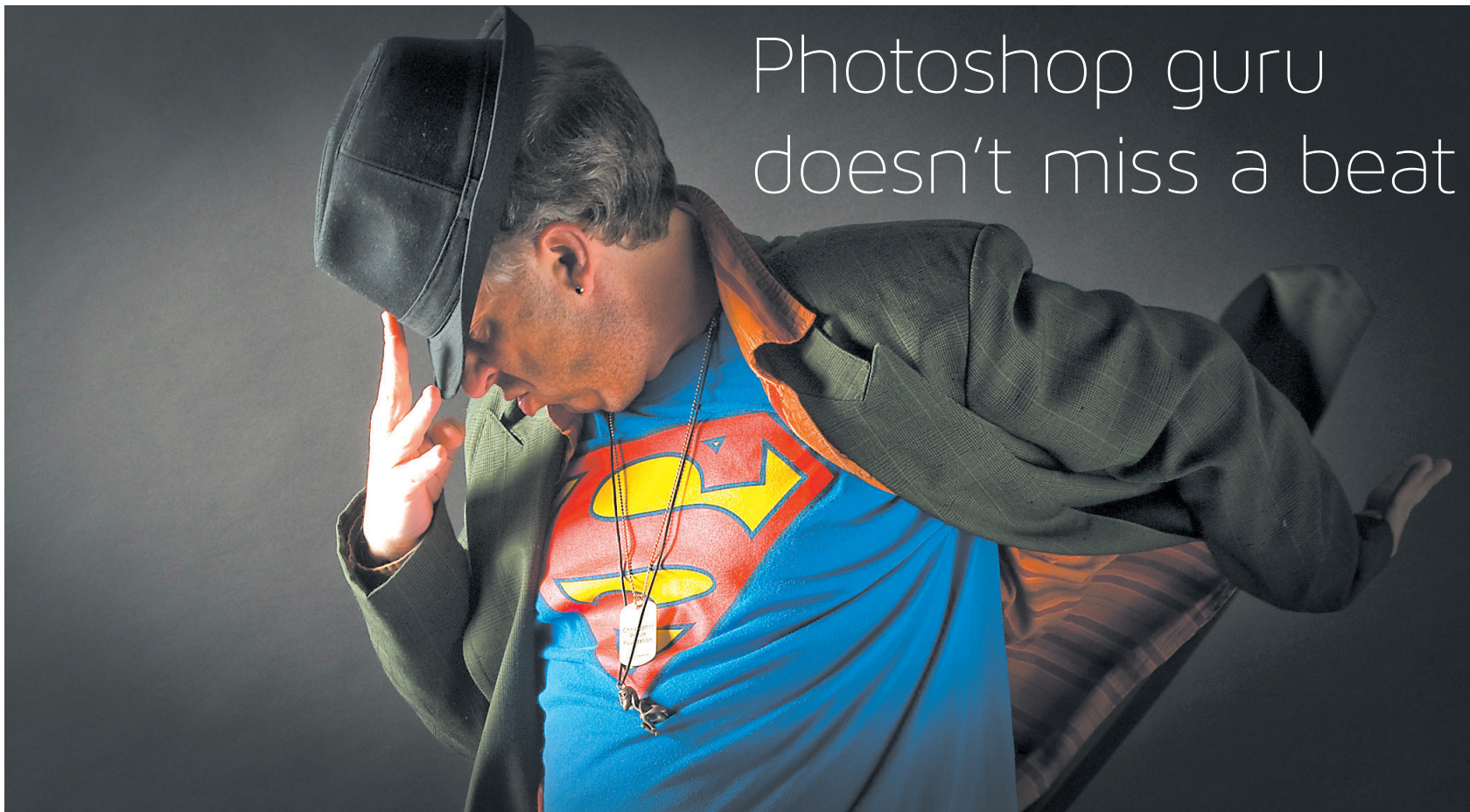


# SPOTLIGHT

THE WASHTENAW VOICE • SECTION B • APRIL 1, 2013

## MENTOR

**Editor's note:** Another in a series of mentor profiles by staff writer Michael Hlywa.



CAROLYN MCCARTHY COURTESY PHOTO

## Photoshop guru doesn't miss a beat

By MICHAEL J. HLYWA  
Staff Writer

"Robots, they work, you don't!" So reads the newest addition to Washtenaw Community College's art collection entitled "Man of the Future," a 7-foot-by-7-foot vibrant sideshow painting of a robot businessman, seemingly snatched from outside the big-top of a 20th century traveling

circus. The piece is awaiting installation – possibly in the north stairwell of the TI building.

Reflecting on the work, John Dinser, a part-time professor in the Digital Media Arts department, explained the painting's tagline.

"It says down in the corner, 'He works, you don't.' So that was meant to be both positive and negative, like 'he works and you don't – well you

can stay home and relax,' or 'he works and you don't – you're out of a job!'"

And Dinser ought to know – he painted it.

When Julia Gleich and Judith Hommel, both instrumental in the management of the college's owned art collection, first saw Dinser's piece last winter at a pop-up gallery in downtown Ann Arbor, they knew it belonged on campus. So when the

WCC Foundation recently received a grant to purchase more art, they asked Dinser if the piece was still available – and it was.

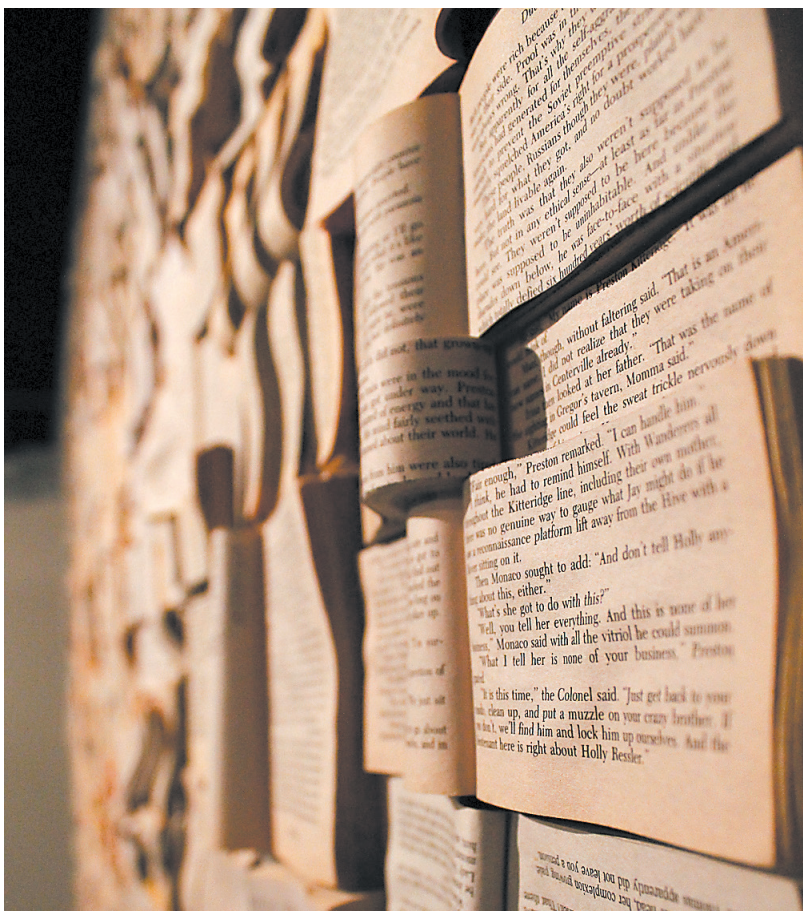
"We were thrilled to get it," Gleich said. "This piece is really amazing, so I'm glad we have it."

Beyond being visually spectacular, Dinser's piece is inspiring to students, as is the artist himself, Gleich believes. "John is a fine artist and illustrator

and has been all his life," Gleich explained. "I think students really enjoy seeing a teacher's work, not just in the classroom. They like him because he's sort of living the life, and I think they think that's inspiring."

Anna Hudzik, a 24-year-old animation student from Ann Arbor, agrees

DINSER  
CONTINUED B3



NATHAN CLARK THE WASHTENAW VOICE

**Words of reason:** Although the books are cut up and scattered, mixing with other unrelated books, people attending the gallery were compelled by the message.



NATHAN CLARK THE WASHTENAW VOICE

**Between the lines:** Artists Seoyoung Park and Young J. Chung created this work of art called 'Line #2.' It is made completely out of old books and represents the senses we lose when we only read through electronic means.

## One man's trash ...

By MICHAEL J. HLYWA  
Staff Writer

A glance through the window of Gallery One this month reveals a serene sculpture of gleaming ceramic, metal and glass that sits in confounding contrast in front of what looks like an array of trash strewn across the floor. The juxtaposition compels passers-by to stop in, if only to solve this visual conundrum.

These are just two pieces displayed in the gallery's third of a four-part series entitled "Emerging Artists." Every year, according to Anne Rubin, director of Gallery One, the gallery designs a series of exhibits around some aspect of art. This year, Rubin wanted to expose students to some more accessible artists.

"I thought it would be interesting, especially to the student body, to see what emerging artists were doing in our area," Rubin said. "Helping emerging artists get exposure is (also) part of the goal here. These are interesting people with interesting points of view and interesting things to say, especially about the area in which they live and about contemporary issues."

While their art deals with very different subjects, all four of the artists featured in this exhibit have ties to Detroit, and three of them graduated from Cranbrook Academy of Art.

The exhibit, which opened on Feb. 20 and ran through March 28, showcased the work of Andy Thompson, Cristen Velliky and the collaborative team of Young J. Chung and Seoyoung Park, who call themselves Line #2.

Upon closer inspection, the collection of rubble on the gallery floor is actually part of Thompson's dynamic and interactive installation that examines the symbiosis between Detroiters and Belle Isle.

Thompson lives in Detroit and, in addition to being an artist, is a part-time art teacher at four southeast Michigan colleges, including U-M. On his trips to Ann Arbor, he brings trash collected from Belle Isle, which he uses to recreate a birds-eye view of the island that mirrors his drawing on the wall behind it. One of the things he hopes people will get out of this aspect of his piece is to reconsider their garbage.

"Why is litter a problem?" Thompson said. "I want us to look at that and

investigate it. If people thought that there was aesthetic beauty to garbage, maybe they wouldn't throw it away. It could be in a gallery, so why would you throw it on the ground?"

Thompson also hopes that people will interact with his work through his companion drawing. He wants people to write down their thoughts, memories or experiences of the island and pin them on the wall. Thompson thinks this will elicit a much more honest commentary about the Detroit landmark than anonymous posts on blogs and news sites.

"I feel it's giving equal weight to my drawing and my contribution to the show, and then the audience members, they can then be participants. They can stand by whatever they want to say about Belle Isle in a more physical space than making a quick comment online," he said.

The Velliky pieces that surround Thompson's installment may look starkly different, but they also employ materials found around Detroit, albeit in a more cohesive way.

GALLERY ONE  
CONTINUED B3



NATHAN CLARK THE WASHTENAW VOICE

**Bits of Belle:** A work of art depicting the litter and trash that has slowly reclaimed Belle Isle entitled 'Belle Isle: Land Reclamation' was created by Andrew Thompson and is on display in Gallery One.



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**GALLERY ONE** FROM B1

“It’s a little more about natural objects than one would think of in terms of Detroit, but then Detroit encompasses a lot of areas,” Rubin explained. “In a way it’s kind of nice because it (Velliky’s sculpture) balances Andy’s, which is about the city center, but this is more about natural areas around the city or just outside the city.”

Velliky is an assistant professor at U-M Flint, teaching art classes including furniture, sculpture, ceramics and glasswork, so she understands diverse materials.

“My teaching as well as my work is as multi-material as possible,” Velliky said. “I think of artwork as a communication tool, and I want to have as many options available to me as I can to communicate my message. That’s why I choose to work in so many different materials.”

The artist also finds the hidden natural processes of the city inspiring.

“Being around the derelict buildings and the beauty of nature trying to take over buildings I think is really interesting. The natural process of decay, rebirth and re-growth is how I think Detroit influences me,” Velliky added.

The final piece of the exhibit takes a step back from the physical aspects of Detroit and references the city more abstractly. The work of Chung and Park, together known as Line #2,

deconstructs and weaves together old novels in an exploration of nostalgia.

In an artist statement, Line #2 explains that their name “means progress, present, and a transition period.”

Line #2’s piece begs people to consider the tension between the convenience of modern technology and the sentimentality of the objects that technology has replaced. Do modern conveniences bring us true happiness, they ask?

Rubin appreciates the question as she considers the piece. As a lover of books, she is torn between her discomfort in seeing dozens of paperbacks shredded and her identification with the work’s message.

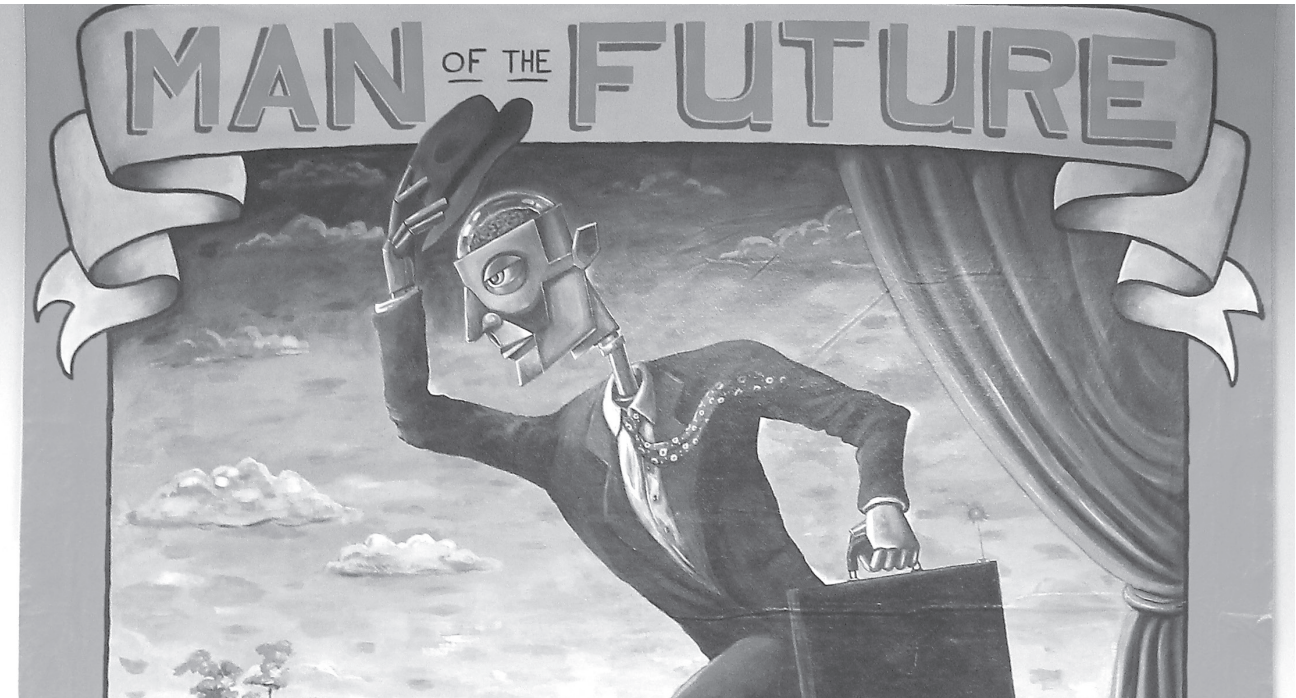
“It’s a very ambiguous situation,” Rubin said. “Does it make you happy? Does it not make you happy? Are you better off for Kindle? Are you better off with your paperback?”

These are the kinds of questions that Rubin and all of the exhibit’s artists want people to ask. The works on display are meant to elicit reaction, prompt reflection and spark conversation, but to do that, people need to stop in – and mind the mess.

Gallery One is located on the first floor of the Student Center and is open Mondays and Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.



**Diamond in the rough:** A piece of stoneware and glass artwork created by artist Cristen Velliky entitled ‘Four Sketches: Abbey, Field, Cavern, Meadow’ on display in Gallery One.



**The man of tomorrow:** Dinser’s painting may be displayed in the TI within the next month

**DINSER** FROM B1

that Dinser’s professional experience is a big part of what makes him so sought-after by students in the digital media arts program. Hudzik thinks that the playful, unique, skillful and thought-provoking qualities of Dinser’s painting also describes the man himself.

“He’s basically like a mini art director. He’s all about concept, which is wonderful. It’s what separates artists from people who know software,” Hudzik said. “He makes his class a lot of fun too because he’s a character. He’s very entertaining to watch and to learn from.

“He also pushes people. If he knows you’re capable of more, he won’t let you get away with it. You can’t just coast.”

Then Hudzik added, “He dances and he does the pop and lock.”

Indeed, Dinser’s life is full of surprising tidbits that his students don’t expect from the 49-year-old Ann Arborite.

For instance, Dinser married his high school prom date two years ago. The couple had recently reconnected when Dinser bumped into her at a nightclub where his disc jockey friend was spinning.

Dinser is also a WCC graduate,

and after returning with his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Kansas City Art Institute, he serendipitously received an offer to teach.

“I popped my head in here when I got back,” Dinser recalled, “and one of the full-timers who was going on sabbatical was like, ‘Do you want to teach next semester?’ And I said, ‘Sure!’ and I’ve been here 20 years this year.”

Graphic design professor Kristine Willimann has been a friend and colleague to Dinser since he started teaching at WCC.

“I think he’s got a lot of passion for what he does, along with considerable talent, especially with regard to Photoshop. He’s well-known and has a following of students that can’t wait to take a class with him,” Willimann said.

And like Hudzik, Willimann is amazed by Dinser’s style on the dance floor.

“You have to watch his YouTube video of him dancing Michael Jackson. He’s quite a dancer. You will laugh and be in awe at how he can move,” Willimann said.

For graphic design student Emily Stout, 24, of Ann Arbor, what attracted her to Dinser was who he had designed for.

“A big draw was he worked for one of my favorite bands, Red Hot Chili Peppers,” Stout said. “He worked on a

couple of CD designs for them.”

Stout quickly discovered that Dinser was a driven, skilled and student-focused educator who wasn’t afraid to share his enthusiasm.

“When I walk into Dinser’s class he has Pandora going. He has amazing Pandora stations that he’s not afraid to showcase,” Stout explained. “You can tell that he’s immersed in the arts.

“That’s the beauty of Dinser – that he’s not afraid to be himself, and that makes him more effective.”

It makes sense that Dinser uses his eclecticism to inspire his students.

“It really comes around to dancing again. One of the things with dancing is you learn the moves, and you learn what looks good and what feels good. And when the music comes on, you just do it; you don’t think about it,” Dinser explained.

“(With graphic design) it’s kind of the same way. You learn how all the tools work, you learn all the concepts and what makes a good design. And then once you get a project, you kind of have to forget about that and do what feels natural and just get out of your way.

“One of my favorite sayings is, ‘If you just get out of the way, the art will make itself.’”

Apparently, a pounding bass line doesn’t hurt either.



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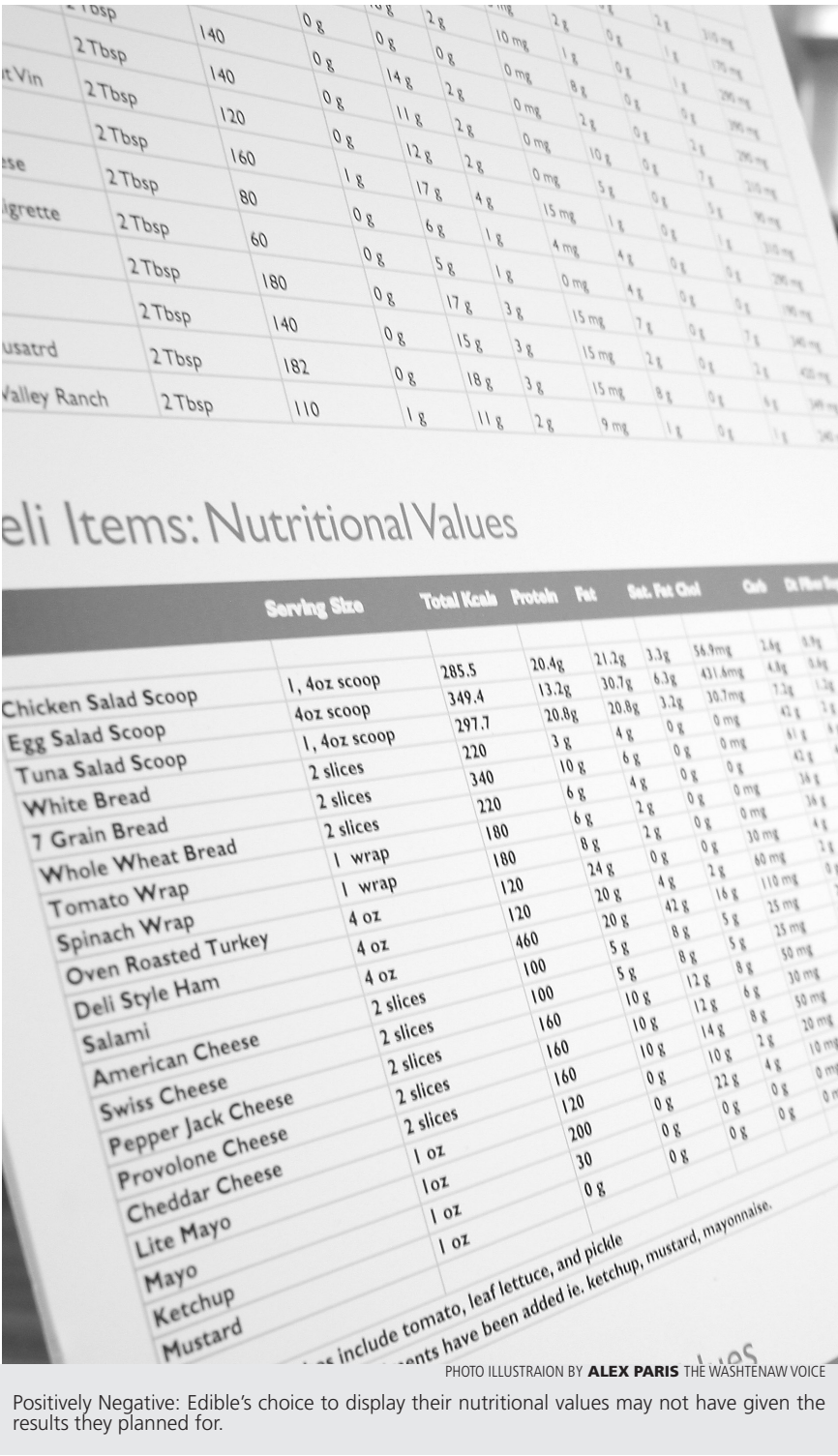
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**AIM HIGHER**





Positively Negative: Edible's choice to display their nutritional values may not have given the results they planned for.

# Just the facts

Increased signage, healthy options mark reform for college food service

**By ADRIAN HEDDEN**  
*Managing Editor*

Errick Thomas is a diabetic. For the past four years his condition has left the Ypsilanti resident anxious to maintain a careful diet and selective intake, especially on campus.

“Us being at a community college, people really need to look out more for what they eat,” he said. “Stuff in the bookstore isn’t healthy and Subway, to an extent, isn’t all healthy either. “We’re not all teens here.”

But with a three-foot sign positioned near the counter at Edibles, the self-serve snack bar in WCC’s Student Center is leading the charge for visible and public nutrition facts.

“Just having the sign is great for people passing by,” said Thomas, a liberal arts student. “Reading that sign will give you selective knowledge of what you should eat. It’ll make a difference.”

The enlarged information marks a shift in philosophy for the food service commissioned from Continental Foods, a Michigan-based company that provides options at Edibles and Bakuzio’s, a coffee shop on campus.

Karen Course, general manager of Edibles, hopes the sign will better inform customers of what is offered and usher in an era of health-conscious consumption on campus.

“We had a smaller one previously off to the side,” she said. “But we thought with the new one, that we would give more promotion to healthier options.”

Optimistic that the sign will educate students toward more informed diets, Course feels that, student or not, everyone at WCC should observe the facts.

“It’s always been available, but with the remodel we had to change things up,” she said. “It gives them an option for healthier choices, the knowledge they need. I think it’s important for all of us to get that balance.”

And other students feel the promotion of nutrition information is essential to the proper diets of their peers.

“It’s definitely a good asset to have to let people know what’s in what they eat,” said Darnell Givhan, 19, a computer programming major from Wayne. “Some people really care and focus on their health so you need to have that aspect.”

Even more students posed further concerns for the imperative information. Giorgia Auteri, 25, ecology major from Ypsilanti, commonly packs a lunch, but demands to be informed better whenever she has to buy her food.

“It seems like a lot more of the basic items like pizza are left out,” she said of the sign. “That’s the stuff the most people buy. If I’m buying, I’d want to know what’s in it. I don’t want to make some poor decision.”

And Continental intends to work harder to prevent dangerous decisions into the future of food at WCC. According to Course, Bakuzio’s and Edibles will begin offering healthier options and smaller portions, such as mini pastries – at lower prices.

Her optimism was been incited by a recent surge, she said of student interest in healthful variety.

“There will be more to come as far as food options,” she said. “A lot of people are looking at it (the sign) so it is making some impact. We sell a little bit of everything and people are asking questions.

“That speaks volumes to the diversity on this campus.”

# Hate the drugs... or the behavior?



ANNA ELIAS

During the “acid tests” that Chief of the Merry Pranksters and author Ken Kesey hosted with early concerts from The Warlocks – now known as the Grateful Dead – drugs were used to open the doors to alternate realities, to explore a new way of life.

“But most people have no idea how to walk back through,” said Robert M. Pirsig in his 1991 book “Lila: An Inquiry into Morals.”

Reality television is now chronicling addicts and alcoholics both in active addiction and in rehabilitation facilities through shows like A&E’s “Intervention” and MTV’s “Celebrity Rehab with Dr. Drew.”

These shows bring the disease model of addiction into the forefront of the drugs debate. For decades, drug and gang resistance education programs have been instituted in public schools in an effort to deter deviant behavior.

But many people have said that these programs did not actually deter them from using the drugs, but rather helped to better inform them on what the drug looks like, how to consume them and explain their effects.

But is education of drugs really a bad thing?

Drugs are demonized. “Hard drugs” such as cocaine and heroin are derived from plants set on Earth by Hashem or “the big bang,” depending on your personal beliefs. But one thing is clear: these plants were not synthetically created.

How can a plant be demonized for a characteristic it has? Many times, these characteristics have been used positively, such as heroin as an analgesic and cocaine as an anesthetic. Certain forms of cocaine are still legally used in the United States as a local anesthetic for specific eye surgeries.

However, man has gone ahead and found ways to synthesize products to alter the state of mind. But even these synthetic drugs are not “bad.” When taken appropriately under suitable conditions, these drugs can still be used to open the door to the “alternate reality” Pirsig was talking about.

A select lot of people – no matter how much willpower they have – are never able to take drugs and alcohol responsibly because of this “disease” of addiction.

But there is a large majority of

people who can be responsible recreational drug-users when adequately educated.

The behaviors resulting from taking the demonized drugs is what should really be looked down upon. For every person who robs a store under the influence of cocaine, there are countless others who like to take cocaine to help them stay up later or be more open at parties.

If your sibling stole a pen from an ice cream shop she went to after partaking in the dance class, you wouldn’t her she couldn’t go back to the dance class because it makes her steal things.

Instead, you would sit her down and talk to her about the harmful effects of the behavior of stealing.

Same goes for drugs. Because one person chose to rob a bank, murder a neighbor or commit suicide after taking a handful of drugs doesn’t mean that the drug caused him to choose these behaviors.

For those with the disease of addiction, the behavior and drug seem more closely linked than for the recreational drug-user. But ultimately, someone struggling with addiction can also choose to go into sobriety with help, such as the classic 12-step program of Alcoholics Anonymous, and its spin-off, Narcotics Anonymous.

It all comes back to the behavior, the one thing that most of us have control of.

# Drugged drinks cause partiers to seek local safety measures



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY ALEX PARIS THE WASHTENAW VOICE

**By ANNA ELIAS**  
*Staff Writer*

Tales of drug-altered drinks have recently filled the ears of Ann Arbor Police resulting in University of Michigan sending out a crime alert about reports of drugged drinks at student parties.

“They’re putting themselves in danger when accepting open drinks in open parties,” said Lt. Robert Neumann, who is in charge of the detectives’ bureau at the University of Michigan Police Department.

It’s no secret that accepting a drink from a stranger is never a good idea. Date rape commonly occurs with drinks spiked with drugs such as GHB, health and law enforcement experts say. However, people continue to accept drinks from strangers, and sometimes with adverse consequences.

“Women find it flattering if someone hands them a drink,” said U-M women’s study graduate and WCC student Courtney Fredrickson, 23, of Ypsilanti. “They think it’s a chance to meet someone new.”

School and public programs, such as D.A.R.E., teach young children to “just say no.” But young children grow up and become curious and end up wanting to experiment with drugs and alcohol, regardless of the consequences.

Harm reduction is a way to create safe recreational drug use and experimentation.

DanceSafe is a non-profit organization designed to educate

non-addicted drug users on the effects and potential harm of drugs, such as cocaine, heroin and ecstasy. The organization is comprised of individuals who associate themselves with dance culture and want to create a more educated environment within raves, nightclubs and other electronic dance events.

“Sometimes drinks are drugged, and people are told before they take them,” Neumann said. “Some know and some don’t.”

Knowledge is important to both of those situations, according to DanceSafe. If an attendee knows that a drink is drugged, they should be aware of the potential effects of the drug. If they don’t know the drink is drugged, they should be aware that taking a drink from anyone – whether known or not – has potential for adverse effects from unknown substances.

DrinkSafe is another company that makes coasters that have spots to place a drop of your drink to test for unwanted drugs. The coasters used to be handed out at University of Michigan, according to Frederickson.

“You should have someone with you to remind you not to do something stupid – a buffer,” Fredrickson said.

Along with having a “buffer” friend with you at parties, students also said that they use designated drivers.

“Or sometimes I’m that guy,” said Ken McDonagh, 18, who frequents electronic dance parties.

But for English major Taylor Haibel, her desire to drink was taken away after she found a friend in her car crying after being raped at a party.

Haibel and a few other friends were

at the party together. They decided to go and watch “Twilight,” and left one friend at the party by herself.

After a game of strip beer pong in the basement of the house with two men, the friend found herself in her bra and underwear, and one of the men went upstairs. The man that remained in the basement ended up taking advantage and raping the girl, according to Haibel.

“She was traumatized for a while. It really messed her up,” Haibel said. “She didn’t even want to go out anymore.”

Haibel said that she only parties in the privacy and safety of her own home with friends.

“I never have paid money for drugs, it’s a useless thing to put my money toward,” Haibel said. “If it’s (marijuana) there, I’ll take it.”

She says that she and her friends decide whether the marijuana is safe or not on a case-by-case basis.

But is personally evaluating a situation enough to stay safe?

DanceSafe sells at-home testing kits to test for unwanted substances in ecstasy pills and other drugs. It also has booths at electronic dance events with literature and testing services to make sure that people are “dancing safe.” Most recently, it was seen at the New Year’s Eve event Skrillex headlined with Boys Noize at The Palace of Auburn Hills.

“Most people (who take drug-altered drinks) are probably already intoxicated by the time it happens,” Fredrickson said.

For more info visit <http://dance-safe.org>



# It’s getting better all the time

## Allies reach out to transgender students

By ADRIAN HEDDEN  
Managing Editor

As she shopped at a neighborhood Kroger, Jessica Myers found herself intrigued by a certain cashier. Over the next several months, the Ypsilanti resident and former student at Washtenaw Community College observed silently as the employee made a drastic change.

“I noticed he (the cashier) started to grow his hair out,” Myers said. “I thought they hired his sister. Now he has bigger boobs and it all seemed to happen so fast, but he has always been a woman inside.

“We started talking and became friends.”

The encounter caused Myers, 31, to return to WCC from her

medical-coding studies at Schoolcraft, aligning herself as an ally to the LGBT community and attending a seminar on transgender given by WCC psychology instructor Layla Ananda in early February.

Since meeting the cashier months ago, Myers said that she now has several friends born into a gender they did not identify with.

“As far as gender identity,” she said. “That’s internal. No one can tell you what yours is. Because you can’t see the hormones physically, people tend to think it (gender) is either-or. I wanted to learn more about it, whatever she (the cashier) goes through.”

And Ananda hopes to provide LGBT as well as heterosexual students with the information and resources they need to be supportive of a community she characterized as frequently misunderstood.

The second session of a three-part series of talks on LGBT issues held on campus, the transgender segment was

meant to inform the public and correct widespread ignorance regarding gender ambiguity.

“The myth is that it is a choice,” said Ananda of common perceptions of gender identity. “The goal (of the seminars) is to introduce people at WCC with the concepts of LGBT, what some of the definitions are and to correct misconceptions.”

Assigned male at birth, Danielle Mack, 32, a special-education major at Eastern Michigan University transferred from WCC at the end of last year. She said she noticed a large difference in public conception and attitudes towards her and other transgender students between the two nearby campuses.

“The biggest difficulty (at WCC) was dealing with some students who were not informed about how to deal with trans-students; they were constantly using the wrong pronouns,” she said. “While EMU doesn’t have the connectivity and student interaction

(of WCC) there is more awareness of the issues.

“The overall interest seems to be higher at Washtenaw.”

A new student club, Out Space, was established this semester while holdings at the LGBT resource center, now known as the LGBT Source, in the Student Resource and Women’s Center are being expanded.

### A double-standard tradition?

Layla Ananda, WCC psychology instructor, charges that gender has historically been considered as having just two possibilities: male and female. She believes things are more complex than that.

“We have minds that like to put things into categories and tend to over simplify things,” she said. “This is part of the cause of prejudice. If you put

things on a continuum, there are many, many things in between what biologically constitutes a man or a woman.”

Ananda recalls working in the reference department at Michigan State University in 1969. She remembers when her and some friends decided to break policy and were reprimanded and ultimately fired for wearing pants to work.

After the admonishment was protested, Ananda said, the policy was soon changed and to this day, she explained, continues to represent a double standard between appropriate dress for men and women.

“It’s mainly men who cross dress,” Ananda said. “Women can wear men’s clothes, but if a man wore a skirt it would be suspect. I think this is because in our society women aren’t as important as men and what they wear doesn’t matter as much.

# SUPREME MOMENT FOR SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

## CORPORATIONS SPEAK OUT ON GAY RIGHTS

By MARIA RIGOU  
Staff Writer

Facebook, Apple, Google, Microsoft and eBay are among the more than 200 companies that filed a brief earlier this month calling on the Supreme Court to overturn a federal law that defines a marriage as “a union between a man and a woman.”

Over the last decade, US public attitudes toward same-sex marriage have changed dramatically: 58 percent of the population is in favor of same-sex marriage, and 36 percent is against, according to the latest Washington Post-ABC News survey. In 2003, those numbers were reversed.

Former U.S. Sen. and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, the leading Democratic contender for the 2016 elections, announced her support for same-sex marriage. The president of the United States is openly defending same-sex marriage.

Things are changing in America.

The companies filed the document in the case against the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). According to these corporations, the law’s “definition of marriage forces national companies to discriminate against employees based on their marriage status, sexual orientation and state of residence.”

The U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments on consecutive days last week. A ruling should come in June.

For now, DOMA prevents the federal government from recognizing same-sex marriages in states where they are legal.

The existence of this act means that the differences between DOMA and state laws require discrimination

against LGBT employees when it comes to health insurance and other benefits. This discrimination violates legal requirements and companies’ policies, according to the brief submitted to the Supreme Court.

Corporations are also arguing that DOMA reduces workplace transparency, hurts the employee-employer relationship and adds unnecessary financial burden on companies as they navigate the conflicts between DOMA and various state laws.

Many of the same 200 companies also filed a separate brief in support of ruling California’s Proposition 8 – which bans gay marriage – unconstitutional.

Apple, Alcoa, Facebook, eBay, Intel and Morgan Stanley, among others, argue that Prop 8 sends “an unmistakable signal that same-sex couples are in some way inferior to opposite-sex couples, a proposition that is anathema to amici’s commitment to equality and fair treatment to all,” according to a report by CNN.

Meg Whitman, CEO of Hewlett-Packard and former eBay CEO and California gubernatorial candidate, recently reversed her position on Prop 8.

“I have come to embrace same-sex marriage after a period of careful review and reflection,” Whitman wrote on her LinkedIn account. “Same-sex couples and their children should have equal access to benefits of marriage.”

Minnesota Vikings player Chris Kluwe and the Baltimore Ravens’ Brendon Ayanbadejo also filed an amicus brief asking the Supreme Court to reject Proposition 8, something that



**Love triumphs:** Demonstrators gather in front of the U.S. Supreme Court March 27, as the court hears arguments on a part of the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act that prevents legally wed same-sex couples from receiving certain benefits by defining marriage as between a man and woman.

is pretty unusual among pro football players.

“Whether it was women’s rights or interracial marriage or civil rights, whatever it was, it’s all led to where we are today,” Ayanbadejo told the Huffington Post. “And now it’s gay rights. And it’s all the same issue even though they’re all different things. They’re all predicated on equality and treating people fairly.”

“What does this mean for the LGBT community? It’s awesome,” said Layne Machuca, a 25-year-old human services student from Jackson and secretary of Out-Space, an LGBTQA organization on campus focusing on open forum discussion and support. “(If Prop 8 and DOMA are invalidated), it will set a precedent that will overturn all laws, for example the Michigan ban of 2006. Courts will have to mandate same-sex marriage.”

### Same-sex marriage by the numbers

- There are about nine million Americans who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender, according to a 2011 study by a scholar at the UCLA School of Law’s William Institute.
- Nine states and the District of Columbia issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples. These states are Connecticut, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Vermont and Washington.
- 30 states, including California, ban same-sex marriage in their state constitutions. Ten states ban them under state laws.
- Gay couples have been marrying in Massachusetts for almost nine years. The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled in November 2003 that it was unconstitutional to ban same-sex couples to marry. The court allowed weddings to start May 17, 2004.
- In 2008, same-sex couples were allowed to marry in California for 142 days, before voters banned it with Proposition 8.
- 18,000 same-sex couples married in California during the window when it was legal.

Source: The Associated Press





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2			4			7		
	9	6						
	5			8	7			3
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Answers

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4	S	Z	E	6	8	I	9	6
8	I	L	9	I	8	4	S	E
9	E	6	S	L	Z	8	I	4

SUDOKU

ACROSS

- 1. En \_\_\_\_ (in full court)
- 5. Rag features
- 10. Degs. for would-be entrepreneurs
- 14. Food fish
- 15. “Adriana Lecouvreur” composer
- 16. Kelly of morning talk and daytime drama
- 17. Like health food
- 19. Nettle
- 20. Pug’s threat
- 21. Virgin Islands island
- 23. Pilates relative
- 26. University of Oregon’s site
- 27. Army Engineers’ span

- 32. Grade below dee
- 33. Toledo’s location
- 34. Bornean ape, for short
- 38. Barks in comic strips
- 40. Pups’ places
- 42. One before Judge Judy
- 43. Fiddled
- 45. “Purlie Victorious” author Davis
- 47. Be untrustworthy
- 48. Modern fashion-conscious guys
- 51. Fighting \_\_\_\_ (rival of the Nittany Lions)
- 54. 1999 film directed by Ron Howard

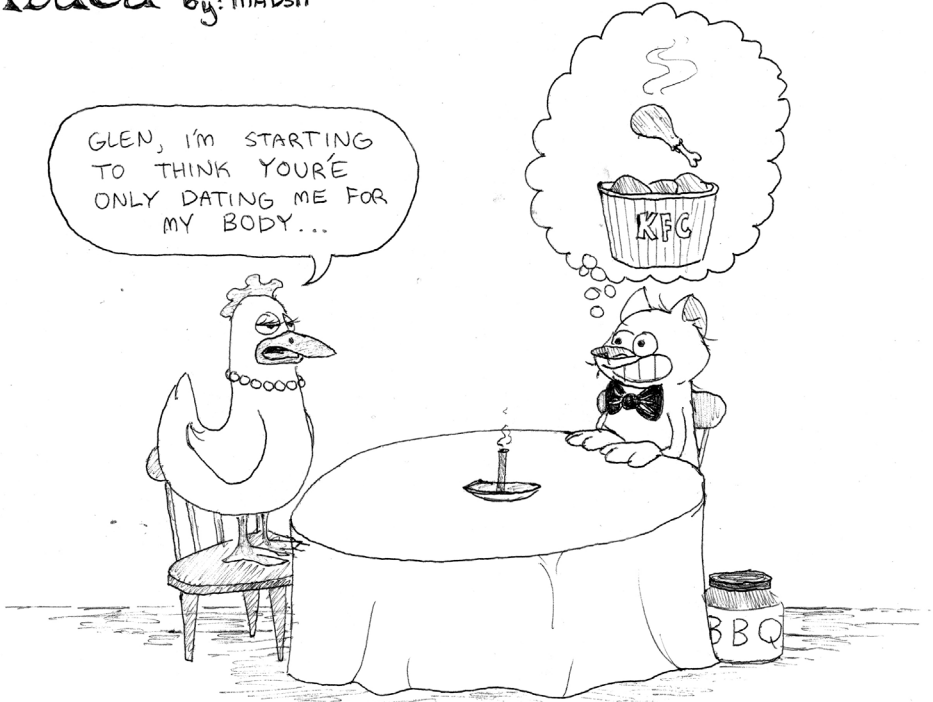
- 55. Becomes foolishly enthusiastic (over)
- 58. Actor Sewell of “Cold Comfort Farm”
- 62. Seeing through the deception of
- 63. Billy Graham, for example
- 66. Cheery end-of- week wds.
- 67. Dickinson of television
- 68. Low female voice
- 69. \_\_\_\_ Jemima
- 70. “If You Knew \_\_\_\_”: old tune
- 71. Side order at K.F.C.

DOWN

- 1. Flapper hairdos
- 2. With the stroke of \_\_\_\_
- 3. Snatcher of Peter Pan’s shadow
- 4. Actress Ladd
- 5. “\_\_\_\_ on parole...”
- 6. The first X of XXX
- 7. Nutmeg State Ivy Leaguers
- 8. Beef or bacon
- 9. Like most potato chips
- 10. Neighborhood guy
- 11. Region of life
- 12. Bee-related
- 13. Mud volcano
- 18. Ice packs
- 22. Justice Black
- 24. Swindles
- 25. Nullifier, in law
- 27. Cadence
- 28. Rainbow Man’s hairdo
- 29. Highly speculative
- 30. Aptly named laundry soap
- 31. Actually existing
- 35. Assembly hall in Berlin
- 36. Young of Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young
- 37. Some college tests, for short
- 39. Like Gouda or muenster
- 41. Secured
- 44. \_\_\_\_ Xiaoping
- 46. Newsboy cry
- 49. Sparkling crowns
- 50. Palate dangles
- 51. Jim Croce’s “ \_\_\_\_ Name”
- 52. The vowel sound in “dude”
- 53. Admit
- 56. Knee, to a zoologist
- 57. Hits ÷ at-bats stats: Abbr.
- 59. Pervade
- 60. Pete Sampas org.
- 61. Put on cargo
- 64. XXX divided by X
- 65. Formation of geese

Cartoons

Abaca by: MADSI



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**Below is a sample of recent employment want ads that have been posted with WCC's Career Services. Students are invited to read these ads and to contact the employers as indicated, or to stop by Career Services, located in ML 104, to review the complete posting. Or contact: or: 734-677-5155; careers@wccnet.edu; or www.wccnet.edu/employment/**  
**Technician Co-op Position** within major automotive manufacturing facility. Set up and conduct body strength, functional part, and seat evaluations according to test standards. Collect detailed data and prepare data for technical report. Take quality photos and detailed notes. Maintain test equipment. Fabricate test fixtures as needed. More advanced co-op positions are also available. Desired majors: automotive technology, welding or mechanical engineering. Position is for fall of 2013. Ann Arbor or Saline locations.  
**Math Tutor/Mentor,** Ideal

candidate must be very organized, with a dedication to teaching that evokes patience, and the ability to provide individualized approaches to teaching. Assist students one-on-one with math classes ranging from Algebra 1 to Calculus AB, as well as ACT and SAT math. Act as an academic mentor, helping not only with content but also with planning, organizing, tracking, and evaluating student work with support from the studio. Collaborate with parents, teachers, schools, and management to provide the highest level of service to middle school through early college students. Part-time position in Ann Arbor.  
**Help Desk Representative,** Chance for technically savvy student seeking a flexible, part-time growth opportunity. Must be able to multi-task and thrive in a fast-paced work environment. Interact with all levels and departments within company, ultimately providing technical advice and support to users and undertaking a technical troubleshooting role. Provide first-level support for all systems and ensure appropriate escalation to specialist teams. Part-time position in Plymouth.  
**Substitute Teachers,** Accepting applications for full- and part-time substitute

teachers in a well-recognized child care center in Ann Arbor. A completed degree is not required, but experience with young children (birth-5 years) is preferred. Must be reliable and hard working. Some flexible scheduling options available. Front-Desk Clerk, Newly remodeled hotel is looking for a front desk clerk, responsible for checking guests in/out of the hotel, taking reservations and assisting guests with any other requests. Previous hotel experience is preferred, but not necessary and applicants must be able to work weekends and holidays. The front-desk shifts are from 7 a.m.-3 p.m. or 3 p.m.-11 p.m. Full- or part-time position in Ann Arbor.  
**EMS Lifelink Assistant,** Seeking a self-motivated, independent worker who requires minimal supervision to fill a 20-hour per week, part-time assistant position to provide administrative assistance, install equipment and provide customer service for our EMS LifeLink program. EMS LifeLink is an in-home medical monitoring system that assists seniors and others with evolving healthcare concerns. Part-time position in Ann Arbor.  
**Drug/Alcohol Screening Technician,** Position involves

administering urine-saliva drug and alcohol tests, lab collections, data entry and customer service. Past experience administering random drug/alcohol collections and screenings desired (will train the right person); experience working with confidential records; medical background preferred, but not required; must have strong communication and Microsoft Office experience. Internship position in Ypsilanti.  
**Data Manager/Researcher,** Seeking an organized, smart, common-sense type of person to help us manage and research data about cars and publish this into our large-scale online customer facing proprietary software system. Need a responsible, dependable and well-organized person to manage multiple types of data for our online database. Comfortable working with a computer for research and using MS-Office. Ability to use Excel for managing data and being able to sort, file, etc. Part- or full-time position in Ann Arbor.  
**Demo Specialist,** Seeking someone with high energy, willing to demonstrate our new and exciting home products including cookware to a small group of customers. Involves working for a major retail chain. Part-time position in Brighton.





# ‘SPRING BREAKERS’ IS WASHED UP

By ADRIAN HEDDEN  
Managing Editor

As the unforgiving sun beats down on euphoric, sandy beaches, thousands of mindless college students party on endlessly, their minds far from the tribulations of higher education and enveloped in the booze-soaked, sexualized haze that is Spring Break.

An army of faceless, half-naked teenage partiers numbly populate director Harmony Korine’s latest cautionary romp into the problematic youth of America, but “Spring Breakers” hurriedly slips on its own hedonism, drowning in campy acting and cheesy, artistic camera work.

What could have been a hard-hitting, modernized crime drama threatened to dive deep into the underbelly

of college’s most depraved week with a story centering on a group of interchangeable blondies who must resort to violent crime in order to fund their vacation.

But after hastily rapid camera cuts rush through the initial action, the film drags to a near halt after mere minutes as the giggly stars soon find themselves encased in the tropical weather and drug-induced bliss of the steamy locale.

Over dramatic monologues begin to dominate the film early on as gaudy close-ups soon favor glitzy actors over the beautiful setting. Most scenes serve as mindless, plot-less floatation devices taking sleepy viewers into the empty waters of the static characters’ blank minds.

Hollywood’s latest 30-something-wannabe James Franco is on hand as a raucous gangster whose one-liners and eventual forays into poorly

conceived monologue retch painfully similar to his spray-on tanned costars’ endless drivels.

A formula was quickly established: introduce a character in less than five minutes and break into montage, repeat. The rushed character and plot developments were tortuously insulated by mind-numbing phantasmagorias of legions of raunchy beach goers.

What initially suggested itself as a contemporary, socially commentating action flick taking aim at the recklessness of youth, failed to address any real meaning as “Spring Breakers” creators were ultimately distracted by the bliss of their own self-indulgent fabrications of cinematic sex and violence.

Grade: **DD-**  
Rated: **R**  
Runtime: **94 minutes**  
Genre: **Drama**



# New ‘Walking Dead’ game is just plain terrible, lacks fun

By NATHAN CLARK  
Photo Editor

No one can deny that AMC’s “The Walking Dead,” is incredibly popular due to people’s love of drama and horror. So like with any other popular phenomenon on television, a video game adaptation was rushed into the works.

Zombie games are nothing new. So “The Walking Dead: Survival Instinct” had a lot of inspirational resources to pull from, taking the best ideas and filtering out the worst from other games to be the best zombie game it could be. Unfortunately, it looks like the game’s developer didn’t bother doing any research whatsoever, which is funny considering the fact that there is already a “Walking Dead” game, created by Telltale games, out on the market that was a huge success.

“Survival Instinct” is by far the worst video game I have played so far in 2013. The graphics are outdated, the dialog is painful to listen to, the zombie AI is unbelievably stupid (even for zombie standards) and the controls are wonky and aggravating.

“Survival Instinct” does have a few things going for it worth noting that could have made it worth playing if everything else wasn’t terrible.

Even though carrying multiple weapons, hundreds of rounds of ammunition and dozens of other support items makes fighting hordes of zombies easier, it’s incredibly unrealistic. So is finding supplies everywhere you go in a game. In “survival instinct,” every time you find a

solitary bullet or crossbow bolt it feels like a Christmas miracle squandered on a shitty game.

In other games, zombies typically get annihilated left and right by players like they were cannon fodder. In this game, unless you shoot them in the head, which will only attract more zombies, or sneak up on them, fighting a zombie can become an aggravating, or fatal battle rather quickly, especially if the fight attracts more zombies after that shot you fired, dumbass.

As said in the other two points, zombies are tough and resources are limited, but zombies are not. There are hordes and hordes of zombies wandering around. And even if you do kill a large group of them in one area, there will just be more around the corner. So the game encourages players to sneak around them... a lot.

Playing a game based on a TV show or movie feels awkward when the characters in the game sound nothing like they do on the show or movie. At least they got Norman Reedus and Michael Rooker to voice their characters Daryl and merle Dixon in the game. The dialog in the game still sucks, but that’s not their fault. They just read what the developer gave them.

There are two types of game developers in the video game business: developers who take their time to put out the best game possible because they love video games, and developers who are in it to make a quick buck.

Grade: **F**  
Rated: **M**  
Genre: **Shooter**  
Publisher: **Activision**



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# WCC’s doomsday device is now fully operational

BY NATHAN CLARK  
*Hype Editor*

Universities throughout America continuously strive to have the best, most advanced technology on the market to help encourage new students to enroll in classes at their institutions of higher learning. When it comes to acquiring the latest in high-tech equipment, Washtenaw Community College is no different.

WCC President Bell Habanero announced at special meeting earlier this week that the school’s recently purchased doomsday device is now fully operational.

“This is an exciting time for WCC and people of Washtenaw County,” Habanero said during the meeting. “WCC has been suffering from a severe lack of super-villain focused curriculum for the last 25 years. With our new fully-operational doomsday device, WCC will be the go-to institution for apocalyptic antagonists seeking an Associate Degree while toiling in the

state of Michigan.”

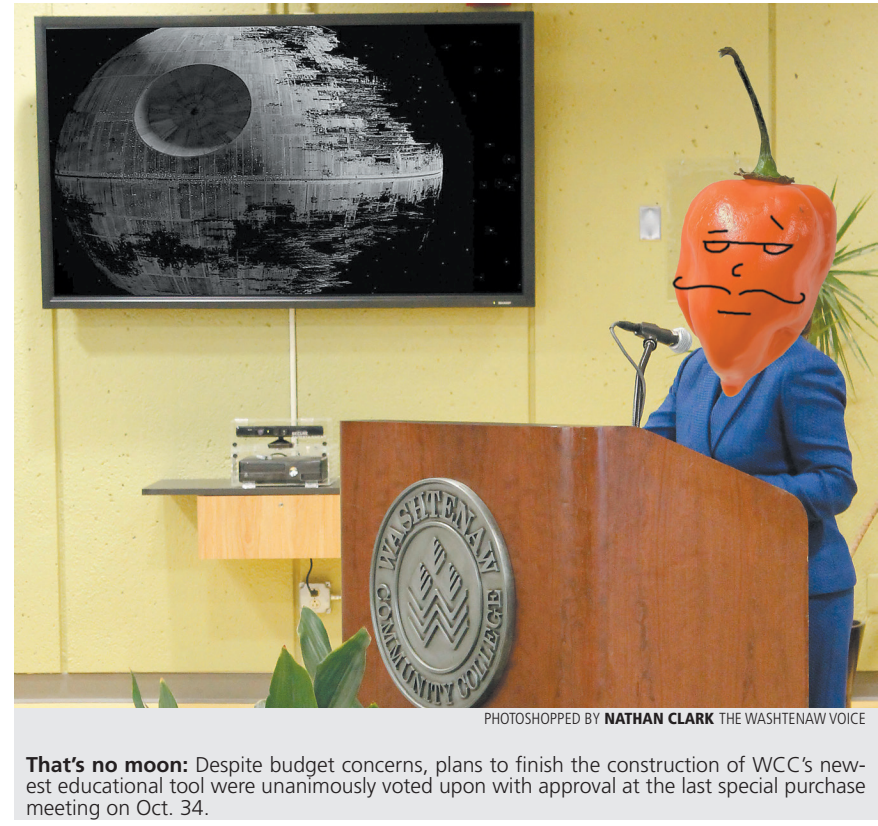
The purchase of the doomsday device was approved by the WCC Board of Trustees last year with a unanimous vote and little discussion about the enormous costs involved with the construction and maintenance of a space station that can destroy a planet.

“I can’t believe they just went ahead and bought the damn thing without really thinking about the costs,” said Johnson Tulip, vice president of facilities management. “This thing has cost the school roughly \$800 quadrillion. Where did this money even come from?”

According to a document provided by Public Relations Coordinator Jenny Birdeye, the funds used to pay for the device were provided by “a dark entity whose name shall not be spoken on pain of death.”

Student reactions to the announcement have been mixed with emotions

DOOMSDAY  
CONTINUED C2



# 24 students enter, one student leaves

By MICHAEL J. HLYWA  
*Staff Writer*

A normally stoic automation technology major Miranda Johnson erupted into hysterical fits when her name was announced at today’s reaping held in Towsley Auditorium.

Four campus security guards rushed to restrain the 19-year-old from South Lyon. But when she lashed out at them in desperate despair, one officer was forced to render her unconscious with a generous jolt from his taser.

As a limp Johnson was hauled off to the holding facility, Jeanie Raptor, Public Relations Director under President Bell Habanero and master of ceremonies for the welding and industrial technologies reaping, continued unruffled with the lottery.

The second name she drew, representing the young men of the welding and industrial tech programs, was Allen Pasgroviski, 22, the champion welder from Tecumseh recently returned from an international competition.

Many expecting another tirade warranting security’s involvement. Indeed, the 12 officers standing sentry around the perimeter of the auditorium looked ready to pounce. But Pasgroviski simply hung his head and followed his escort to the facility where the chosen tributes are housed.

As Pasgroviski was led away, Raptor concluded the reaping by reminding the student body that Habanero instituted the games to remind all students of their commitment to educational excellence. By fighting against the teams from the 11 other programs, Johnson and Pasgroviski will have a

rare opportunity to prove their worthiness of graduation and to bring honor to their welding and industrial tech colleagues.

“The one student who emerges from the arena victorious will claim his or her diploma and be awarded a full-ride scholarship to any four-year university,” Raptor declared. “Isn’t that wonderful?”

Then, like the nine reapings before it, the ceremony ended with the college’s anthem being played while the students solemnly shuffled out of the auditorium.

So went the tenth of 12 reapings to decide which students will represent their programs in the first WCC Hunger Games.

Tomorrow math and science students will convene for their program’s reaping. And finally, on Wednesday, Raptor will select the last two contenders for the games at the journalism, writing and broadcast arts reaping. Both ceremonies will be held at 10 a.m. in Towsley Auditorium.

Once the reapings are complete, the 24 tributes will begin a two-week training regimen at the Health and Fitness Center. During that time, WCC’s own professors will be educating the students in hand-to-hand combat, weapons handling and survival skills in preparation for the week-long death match that follows.

Biology professor Darren Woolen is eager to begin his lessons in botany.

“President Habanero announced that the students will be fighting in the woods surrounding campus,” Woolen said. “I plan to show them how

HUNGER GAMES  
CONTINUED C2

# College keeps classes open, in wake of cosmic devastation



BY NATHAN CLARK  
*Hype Editor*

Students were baffled last week after being told credit classes held on Washtenaw Community College’s main campus would remain open despite the destruction caused by an enormous comet plummeting into school grounds causing millions of dollars-worth of damage.

“What do you mean, campus is open?” said 28-year-old sensitivity coordinator Jonny Rage of Milan. “Campus is (expletive) up! There’s nothing to open!”

The comet, identified by NASA as a “campus closer,” descended from the heavens rocketing into the patch of Earth occupied by Washtenaw Community College earlier this week, damaging large sections of the Technical Industrial

building and incinerating the third floors of the Student Center, Liberal Arts and Gunder Myran building.

NASA notified WCC officials of the oncoming comet last month, warning of the potential danger involved with having students learning in the path of a celestial body, but were quickly told to not worry about it.

“Comets happen all the time,” said school President Bell Habanero. “We’re not going to close the school every time some high-velocity object from space destroys and a large section of school property. Closing campus hurts students’ educational goals.”

While other schools in southeast Michigan have been quick to close their doors when inclement weather effects the safety of students and staff, WCC has been notorious for keeping its doors open, no matter how bad thing are.

“I’m glad they didn’t shut down

the school when that comet hit,” said 19-year-old defecation major Stephen Sprinkle, of Ann Arbor. “Sure, the comet destroyed the classroom my class is held in, but we made the best of things and held class in the smoldering rubble of what was left. It sucked learning that way, but I need to graduate on time.”

According to official campus rules and policy letters, WCC appears to lack any formal plan of action for what to do in the event of a comet strike. However, the school does have a reaction plan to deal with a zombie onslaught: early registration and enrollment.

“Of course we have a plan if zombies show up,” Habanero said. “This is an open campus, we’re not just going to turn around potential students. Every zombie deserves a chance to get an education and excel beyond being just another flesh-eating monster.”

# Brain-obsessed students shamble to WCC

By MICHAEL J. HLYWA  
*Staff Writer*

Washtenaw Community College joined the undead movement when it announced Friday that it will open its doors to zombie students.

“We are proud to welcome recently-living students,” Jeanette Hankwind, Executive Manager of Public Relations said, “and, in the process, further our reputation for diversity by becoming the first college in Michigan to do so.”

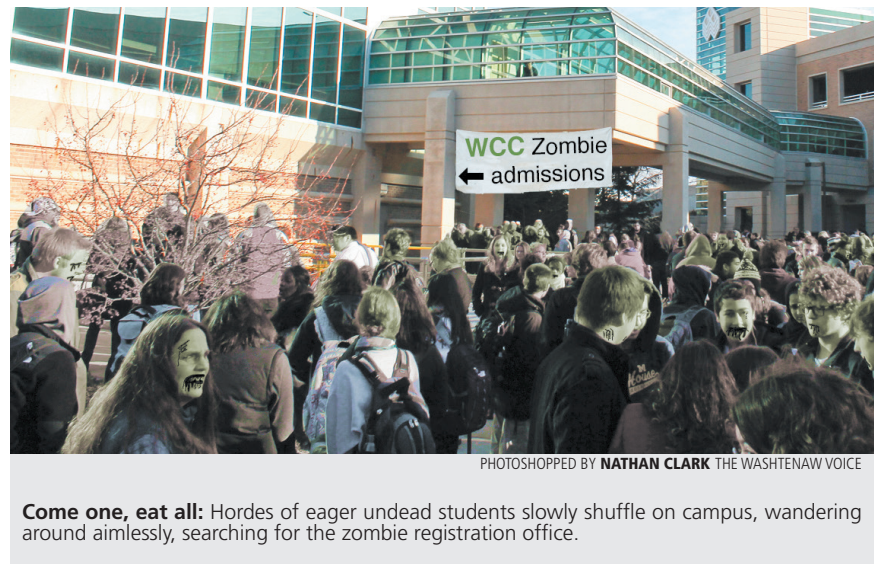
Hankwind added, “WCC students succeed in the job market, not only because they receive top notch instruction from industry leaders in state-of-the-art facilities, but because they are also exposed to a cornucopia of world-views along the way. Adding the experiences of the reanimated community to their knowledge base will make WCC students cutting-edge in a workforce that is only now beginning to embrace undead employees. We know that students from all walks of life – and unlife – will recognize and welcome this opportunity.”

Not everyone shares Hankwind’s zeal, however. Some, like political science major Billy Wilkins, 26, of Chelsea, think her idealistic proclamation belies a baser motive.

“WCC wants ‘recently-living’ students to enrich our diversity?” Wilkins asked sardonically. “I’m not buying it! The board just sees an opportunity to use zombies to beef up enrollment and make more money.”

Others, like Lindsay Roberts, a 17-year-old liberal arts student from Saline, are horrified by the prospect of sharing their school with the undead.

“I don’t really want them here,” said Roberts. “They’re dead! I don’t know what kind of diseases they got



before death and what kind of bacteria they carry since. If I have a zombie in my class, I’m not sitting next to it.”

Hankwind recognizes the challenge in overcoming the sentiments of students like Wilkins and Roberts but meets it with resolute optimism.

“Naturally, this will be an adjustment for everyone,” Hankwind said. “We will need to invest in a few changes in order to make our new students feel at home. We’ll need to add new restroom facilities, for instance, so that recently-living students have a clean and private environment within which they care for their decomposing flesh. And we’ll have to add new menu items to our food services offerings, of course, but I know our staff is up to the task.”

Indeed, it seems that zombie students will have some tasty treats to choose from in between classes. Subway, in particular, is thrilled about their new undead fare, which provides socially-conscious zombie sustenance.

“We are excited for the challenge,” said Subway manager, Patricia Alder, 29, of Ypsilanti. “Subway has always prided itself on bringing tasty nutrition to fast food. I think our reanimated customers are really going to groan

when they bite into a foot-long Honey Mustard Fish Brain sub!”

Not all WCC employees share Alder’s enthusiasm, however. Many staff members seem perplexed by the requirements of the incoming students.

“Zombie bathrooms?” asked Brett Johnson, a 46-year-old custodian from Ypsilanti. “What kind of sign do you hang on one of those?”

Many faculty are also struggling to acclimate. Biology professor Stephen Farrera, 39, of Ann Arbor, for instance, is worried about how to adapt his syllabus to zombies.

“I honestly don’t know what to think,” Farrera admitted. “Our students benefit enormously from their experience in the cadaver lab. I want to be able to offer the same opportunities to our recently-living students, but I’m afraid of the emotional scarring that might occur when they start cutting into another corpse.”

But faculty, staff and students don’t have much time left to sort out their emotions. Administration intends to open enrollment for the 2013 spring/summer term to zombie students. That means that at WCC on May 13, the dead will walk the halls.



Excuse me, WCC, but my teeth are in your neck.

By ADRIAN HEDDEN  
Has lost all sense of dignity

Deep into the dark of night, an unlikely cast of Washtenaw students thrive into the cold abyss. Without the ability to walk under daylight and driven by an insatiable thirst for blood, vampire students don't have it easy at WCC.

"We've never been understood; people think we're all just crazy, evil or both," said Count Mitterhaus, a WCC vampire student. "We've never been able to take daytime classes or even have our own club.

"The life of a vampire student is a lonely one."

Denied the right to form their own club, the vampires at WCC often congregate in the woods near the writing center, although their meetings have become sparser after the parking structure was built in that area.

"We've seen some strange people performing bizarre rituals, lighting fires out there in the woods at night," said Phil Lesh, WCC security officer. "I've even heard rumor of animal sacrifices but we haven't found any proof, no carcasses or religious items of any kind.

"Whatever they're doing, they're hiding it well."

But Mitterhaus would not comment on allegations of dangerous rituals held in the woods of WCC. He maintains that his group of vampire students merely wishes to be acknowledged as a group on campus and be allowed to inform other "vamps" of their presence through public representation.

"There will be no vampire club," said Director of Student Activities Bob Weir. "They have evil intentions. What has been masquerading as a misunderstood group of minority students is nothing more than a satanic cult hell bent on the overthrow of mankind.

"They pose no educational benefit and could very well mark the downfall of this very school if allowed to manifest as a legitimate group on campus."

But the vamps explain that their allergy to sunlight is the only reason they meet at night. However, they were gleefully unable to address the macabre charges.

"We can't walk in the day, we have to sleep until the sun goes down," explained Mitterhaus. "That is why we are out there at night. As far as any rituals or sacrifices...well...hehe...you'll have to join us to find out."

And unable to enjoy the beauty and function of daylight, vampire students have struggled to meet course requirements for years, only able to register for late-night classes. They've continued to lobby administrators to offer more night classes and to include course offerings in vampire-related activities such as blood-letting and witchcraft.

A vampire known only as Emil believed that it is unfair for the instruction department to continue to deny vampire-related classes as their population at WCC continues to climb.

"Mitterhaus and I are not alone," Emil said. "There are others. They may be hidden, they may be scared, but we will have our day. We will have our blood.

"The children will be the first to go."



PHOTOSHOPPED BY NATHAN CLARK THE WASHTENAW VOICE

**Sparkling students:** Rumors that there are vampires going to WCC have been dismissed despite growing reports of sparkling students being spotted in the student center for the past month.

HUNGER GAMES FROM C1

to identify the edible flora found in that ecosystem as well as some toxic vegetation that could help disable opponents."

But not all faculty share Woolen's enthusiasm. Carly Grands, English professor, frets over the disparity of the tributes.

"I felt just sick when I heard that 16-year-old WTMC student Michael Ridley was picked at the computer instruction reaping," Grands said. "He's asthmatic. He can barely climb a flight of stairs without passing out. He won't last two minutes, especially not if he runs into that criminal justice hulk, Thompson."

Unfortunately, none of the tributes were available to comment as they have been sequestered in a holding facility underneath the HFC until

training begins.

Cindi Wu, a 19-year-old computer security major who's shared classes with Ridley, disagrees with Grands about her classmate's chances.

"Mikey may look weak," Wu said, "but I wouldn't underestimate him. His parents are preppers, and he never goes anywhere without his copy of 'The Anarchist Cookbook.' Besides, I heard Thompson is agoraphobic."

Regardless of how different the contestants may be, they all undoubtedly have one thing in common – fear. For in nine days' time they will face each other in a fight to the death to determine who will win the right to graduate.

So to those 24 tributes, in the words of the games' motto: "May your chances be always favorable."

WCC girl missing, police chasing tails

By MICHAEL J. HLYWA  
Staff Writer

Police are piecing together the fate of a student who disappeared from the Washtenaw Community College campus Thursday night, but the outcome looks grim.

The last time anyone saw Rosalind Mantilla, a 19-year-old Ann Arborite studying liberal arts at WCC, she was headed into the woods on campus for a quick smoke break.

"I sit next to Rose in class," said fellow WCC student Jennifer Sitkewitz, 19, of Ann Arbor. "Our teacher gave us a 15-minute break at 6:30, and I saw Rose grab her bag and her hoodie and head outside. I figured she was taking a smoke break – she usually comes back reeking of cigarettes – but when she didn't show up after break was over, I assumed she just skipped the rest of class."

Jackie Allen, 20, of Ann Arbor, shares an apartment with Mantilla, but Allen never heard Mantilla come home that night.

"It's not unusual for Rose to hang out after class and not come home til late," said Allen, "but when she still wasn't home the next morning I called her cell. When she didn't answer, I started to worry. I called her friends and then her grandma, but no one had heard from her since yesterday. Finally, I called the police."

The Pittsfield Township Police Department began looking into Mantilla's disappearance on Saturday. They found Mantilla's car still parked, undisturbed, in the WCC parking lot. Officers then interviewed WCC faculty and staff that were on campus Thursday night.

Jacob Spencer, a 26-year-old computer networking student

from Ypsilanti, may have been the last person to see Mantilla.

"I was taking a quick smoke break during comp," Spencer said. "I was in the woods across from the parking garage – you know the spot where all the kids go to smoke – and I got spooked by snapping branches, like something was in the woods with me, so I high-tailed it out of there. I remember passing a dark-haired girl wearing a red hoodie on my way back into the LA building. I felt kind of embarrassed for getting scared, so I didn't stop to warn her. I wish I would have, now."

But Amanda Travis, 32, a nursing student from Saline, recalled a more unusual encounter that night.

"I was on my way home after class," Travis said. "As I turned right out of the parking garage, my headlights lit up something tall, gray and hairy for a split second before it ducked into the woods. I couldn't be sure, but it looked like a really big dog except walking on its hind legs like a person. I had been running off four hours of sleep, though, so I figured it was just my mind playing tricks on me."

These students' accounts prompted police to search the woods. It was there that officers found evidence

indicating that Mantilla was likely abducted.

Pittsfield police officer Rob Talbot was the first to find the scene.

"We combed through those woods pretty good," said Talbot. "We found a woman's torn red hooded sweatshirt dangling from a branch approximately 800 feet inside the woods south of the parking structure. The ground in that area showed signs of a struggle, including human footprints, which matched the girl, and what I could only describe as the paw prints of an enormous dog. We also found a few tufts of gray hair in the branches."

A subsequent analysis of the hair revealed it to be the same synthetic material found in faux fur.

Coincidentally, WCC's campus security received a report on Monday that the new school mascot, a tall gray wolf, was missing and hasn't been seen since Thursday morning.

Pittsfield police are now anxious to question the mascot.

"We need to talk to that wolf," Talbot said.

Officials are requesting that anyone with information about either Mantilla or the mascot contact the Pittsfield police immediately.

Missing student Rosalind Mantilla is described as:

- Hispanic female.
- 5–feet–4–inches tall, 110 pounds.
- Medium-length black hair.
- Brown eyes.
- Last seen wearing a long-sleeved black T-shirt, light blue jeans, and black and white Converse tennis shoes.
- Possibly carrying a black and pink Hello Kitty backpack.

The WCC school mascot is described as:

- Canine male.
- 6 feet tall, 210 pounds.
- Tall, pointy ears (the better to hear you with).
- Big gray eyes (the better to see you with).
- Long, pronounced nose (the better to smell you with).
- Large, sharp teeth (the better to EAT you with).

Editor's Note: The column below is a response from the newest addition to the Washtenaw Community College family, the MIG welding cell robot that will find its place in the college's welding lab in the 2013 Fall semester. To translate this article to text, copy the column from the web version of this story and visit the website <http://covertbinary.com>.

One spark is all it takes



MIG WELDING CELL ROBOT  
#957843376  
Guest Columnist

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Riveting column, eh? Our welding robot worked hard on it. To finish this story and to convert the binary, visit The Voice online at <http://washtenawvoice.com>

DOOMSDAY FROM C1

and comments ranging from mildly amused to total indifference.

"I guess having a doomsday device is kinda cool. I mean, it's no volcano lair or anything, but I guess it's alright," said 22-year-old sandwich assembly major Denny Jenny from Ann Arbor.

Sara Underoo, a 19-year-old liberal arts major from Canton, and possibly a robot sent by another school, appeared to be the only student at the meeting who was excited to learn about the completion of the device.

"Well I think it really beep boop beep grrrr 0101001010001101," Underoo said before exploding in a cloud of sparks and thick smoke.

Campus administrators said they have no intentions of using the device for anything other educational purposes, but they are not afraid to unleash its raw power on an unsuspecting planet to set an example to others.

"We would never use the device nefarious purposes," Habanero said. "But then again, a nefarious purpose is kind of a subjective concept, isn't it?"

Classes in super-villainy are scheduled to begin next fall. Students interested in enrolling in one of the classes are encouraged to sign up early, as the seats are likely to fill up quickly.



PHOTOSHOPPED BY NATHAN CLARK THE WASHTENAW VOICE

**Back in town:** Former counselor Cole Jordan, also known as Ronald Stanley Bridgeforth, who was convicted of assault with a deadly weapon, returned to Washtenaw Community College to give a seminar on taking aim at your dreams – and firing away.

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# Student Activities’ Barsch abducted by aliens



PHOTOSHOPPED BY NATHAN CLARK THE WASHTENAW VOICE

**Getting too old for this:** After learning of Barsch’s recent encounter with extraterrestrial beings, Interplanetary Affairs Liaison Jean-Luc Picard wallows behind his desk in Student Services questioning why he bothered taking the job.

By BEN SOLIS  
*Soon to be out of a job*

A fluorescent glow engulfed campus Friday afternoon, and the sound of what could be described as intense laser beam fire boomed across the Washtenaw Community College landscape.

By all accounts, we were being invaded.

“It was terrible – like your worst nightmare come true,” said Gerri Frock, a 22-year-old work-study student who often works the front desk of Student Activities. “No one knows what happened. All we heard were the laser beams.”

According to other students, faculty and staff, Wasthenaw had been attacked by an alien armada seen hovering above the college, and that laser beam fire destroyed a circular section of the Student Activities area of the Student Center near the rear of the offices.

No alert was issued by the college.

Yet even after multiple formal reports were made to Campus Safety and Security, local law enforcement, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Central Intelligence Agency and space crime officers at NASA, college officials still remain steadfast that nothing happened.

“If there was an alien attack, we would have known about it,” said Jean-Luc Picard, a former united federation ship captain and the current WCC liaison for Interplanetary Affairs. “We have a CERT training module worked out for such an occasion and we didn’t have to use it.”

Some are calling Picard’s cavalier response a farce and a lie.

“They knew what happened on Friday! Don’t let the media and the government twist this! Where is Rachel? Where is the justice for Rachel!?” said

24-year-old Micha Johannsen, another SDA worker.

The cause for alarm now is that coordinator Rachel Barsch, an outspoken proponent of fun campus events, has not been seen or heard from since Friday afternoon, leaving some to believe the genius events planner was abducted in the attack.

The portion of the building that was destroyed from Student Activities was in the area housing Barsch’s office.

Prior to the attack, Barsch was outside in the main WCC entrance courtyard by the art installation known as the “Open Doorway.” She and other students were playing a nice game of concrete bocce ball when according to *Voice* hype editor Nathan Clark, an actual inter-dimensional doorway opened up inside the two leaning pieces of metal and ripped the façade apart within seconds.

According to Clark, three alien ships shot out of the doorway, which rose to an elevation of 2,000 feet in the air with one hovering over each of the main buildings.

“That shit was totally (expletive) up. What the (expletive) was that shit?” Clark said.

As the alien ships appeared, students ran for cover with Barsch helping them to safety. Witnesses said after Barsch’s heroic actions, she turned around quickly enough for Clark to snap yet another photo of her, and then high-tailed it to her office where she sought cover.

SDA officials say that a rumbling sound shook the SC building and that her office was lifted out of the interior, like a slim silo, and absorbed into the first ship.

Shortly after, all accounts reported that the beam fire stopped and the rumbling ceased. All alien evidence beside the building damage was nowhere

to be found.

When reporters went to search for answers, they were immediately shuffled to Washtenaw’s Public Relations department and were referred then to Picard.

Even Barsch’s vehicle was under Top Secret jurisdiction as it was covered and towed away by men in black suits.

A transmission was recieved by *The Voice* over fax and is as follows:

“This is the high commander of Zolar. We are a peaceful species; a fun species, with students of The Spacing Guild akin to your own. We come with good tidings and explanation for the horrific events suffered by your Washtenaw Community College on what you refer to as Friday.

“For generations, our Spacing Guild students have been toiling in work cells without exposure to movement, sunlight or physical stimulation, as our students plug in for 12 years and do not go out into the galaxy until their minds have been uploaded with the far-reaching knowledge of the known universe.

“We have abducted the one you call Rachel in an attempt to foster more student activities for our Spacing Guild. She will be returned Monday afternoon to fulfill her duties to your students. We are happy to have her at the moment, and our students have never had more fun visiting the Canyon of Snoorrlath, or riding the great metallic chariots of Kaecono than they have with Barsch.

“She has this message for you.

“The Zolar students are so cool!” she said.

“Any attempts to retaliate will be met with further attack on your school. And Picard, I want my 400 renulan you owe me from that Romulan ale tab you cheap son of a . . .”



PHOTOSHOPPED BY NATHAN CLARK THE WASHTENAW VOICE

**Missing in action:** Student Activities Events Coordinator Rachel Barsch remains shocked after being abruptly abducted by interplanetary beings.

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Courtney Keller, WCC '11, SHU '14

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