



The Voice
celebrates
Record
Store Day
C1



Hash Bash
blows
through Ann
Arbor
A8

From behind bars to building cars

Student shows what is possible by battling challenging times

By BENJAMIN KNAUSS
Staff Writer

When times get tough, life gives you exactly what you need, when you need it, as long as you are paying attention and not busy giving up. Eric Jiskra, a lab tech with the Washtenaw Community College Custom Cars & Concepts program, has a story to prove that.

“It’s really weird how the chain of events have been unfolding in my life for the past few years,” said Jiskra, 34, of Ypsilanti. “Four years ago I started this program, but four years prior to that I was in belly chains on my way to prison.”

Jiskra worked in construction prior to being sent to prison for an alcohol related offense. During his incarceration he spent time learning how to work out. After his release, he came to WCC and enrolled in the nursing program so he could study physical therapy.

“The biggest thing when I got out, for me, was I wanted to find a way to give back to the public for being a scum bag,” Jiskra said. “As far as society is concerned, I have paid my dues, I did my time, and I got out. On a conscious level, for karma so to speak, I wasn’t in the clear with me yet. I thought physical therapy would be really good.”



Turning a new leaf: Eric Jiskra (right) works with a automotive student David Churchill, preparing a door for a coat of primer in their Auto Body Restoration (ABR111) course.

Not so much, he soon learned. “After my first year of basics, they denied me because of my felonies,” Jiskra said, referring to the nursing program. “I did not know what to do at the time, so I loaded down with a bunch of classes I knew would transfer and continued on.”

He went back to work in the construction field. One winter he built the foundation for a hot rod shop in

Dexter, a shop owned by Gary Sobbry, an Auto Services instructor at WCC.

“It was the middle of winter and I was hauling block,” Jiskra recalled. “He (Sobbry) says, ‘you know you’re working too hard for your money.’ The next thing you know, I took one of his classes – and now I work in the shop that I built.”

Jiskra has been working in that Dexter hot rod shop for less than a

year. He also started working in the WCC auto body shop as a lab tech three days a week last semester.

“I ended up down here (in the custom auto program). The doors opened and shut so fast, but I ended up being involved in the program that changed my life,” Jiskra said.

JISKRA
CONTINUED A6

Trustees double down on Bellanca support

Faculty union is ‘appreciative,’ but not very impressed

By BEN SOLIS
Editor

After months of holding their cards close to their collective chests, the Washtenaw Community College Trustees issued a formal statement of support for college President Rose Bellanca during its regularly scheduled public meeting on Tuesday.

The statement, tepid in tone and written in the form of an open letter from Board Chair Anne Williams, acted as the board’s direct response to the myriad concerns brought forth by the Washtenaw Community College Education Association, the college’s faculty union.

For several months, the faculty union waited for an official response from trustees regarding their trepidations, which were outlined in a 26-page packet of emails and other documents given to trustees in early February. Various union members expressed dissatisfaction that the trustees had not given them an adequate response, prompting several speeches

UNION
CONTINUED A5

Spring/Summer enrollment on decline

Officials point to summer jobs and changes financial aid

By ADRIAN HEDDEN
Managing Editor

For Christy Courtney, getting an education used to be a year-round endeavor. But the Ann Arbor resident and business major at Washtenaw Community College has recently seen her financial aid and desire to learn dry up in the heat, leaving spring and summer sessions an impossibility.

And as her trust in the viability of WCC’s Web offerings during the Spring/Summer session gradually evaporated as well, Courtney, 26, now would rather appreciate the recreational benefits of the warmest months of the year.

“I want to (take summer classes),” she said. “But the money is not there. I used up my financial aid but if there were more classes online that I needed, then that would be easier. Everything offered online during the summer is useless.”

“And no one wants to be stuck inside when it’s nice out.”

These sentiments are shared across campuses state-wide, according to Vice President of Student and Academic Services Linda Blakey.

She explains a drop in enrollment for WCC’s 2013 spring and summer sessions as reflecting a student body committed to finding work as year-round Pell grants begin to dry up.

By the end of last year’s spring and summer sessions, WCC had calculated a total of 42,262 budgeted credit hours, but currently has counted a total of

29,494 for 2013. With about a month until the first Spring semester session begins, credit hours are down about 30 percent.

And last week’s headcount for 2013 was at 4,834 students, down 33 percent from the final headcount of 7,243 students for the Spring/Summer semesters of 2012.

Those numbers could still change dramatically. Students can register up until 8 p.m., the day before their class is to start, and Blakey hopes that with the spring sessions starting a week later than last year on May 13, students will enjoy more time to register for classes.

She also asserted that some of the decline may be attributable to students waiting until the last week of registration to enroll.

“Looking at where other schools are, numbers are down across the state,” Blakey said. “People are working in the summer instead of going to school. They’ve used up financial aid and don’t have the funds to go in the summer.”

So it is for Jeff Ratliff of Ann Arbor. The 24-year-old photography major usually prefers summer classes to overcoming the extreme weather of winter when commuting by bus to get his education.

But busy working a wealth of summer events for local head shop Foggy Bottom Bayou, Ratliff will be sitting out school this summer, set to return to his studies in the fall.

“Usually I do (take summer classes), but not this semester,” Ratliff said. “My new employer gets really busy over the summer, but usually I like summer classes because I don’t like treading through the snow.”

“And I like that classes are shorter; you can get it done sooner, and it’s not as crowded.”

Hoping students will fill the halls of Washtenaw this summer, Blakey has planned a pilot program for the upcoming semesters, scheduling



Jeff Ratliff

back-to-back, six-week sessions to better allow for sequenced classes such as English Composition 111 and 226, to be taken before the fall. This practice, she said, can be found at other

institutions in the area.

“We got a lot of complaints that students needing to take a sequence of classes could not do that because the classes overlapped,” she said. “Eastern (Michigan University) does six-week sessions, so the idea was to mirror what Eastern does as we have a lot of students who attend both institutions.”

Typically, Washtenaw has offered 7 1/2-, 10- and 12-week sessions, but the six-week courses will replace the 7 1/2 sessions, allowing the various departments to compress their classes or expand to a 10-week offering based on the needs of the programs.

“Some departments went into the six because they could do sequencing, some classes were able to stretch it out to 10,” she said. “Some of the science classes are not going to fit the curriculums (into a six-week sessions). They didn’t fit it into 7 1/2-weeks either.”

According to Blakey, the college will be making phone calls to current students who have not registered for spring sessions and follow up with those who have begun, but not completed, the application process.

“We’re trying to help them walk through the process if they’re stuck somewhere,” she said. “That’s what’s happening right now.”



Linda Blakey

Marketing, Public Relations continues to build empire

College saves with consolidation, critics call it a ‘power move’

By ADRIAN HEDDEN
Managing Editor

Washtenaw Community College’s burgeoning marketing presence is going digital.

“A full-service, creative agency: that’s the model,” said Annessa Carlisle, executive director of Marketing. “Web Services now reports to marketing. Now we have more resources and they (PRM and Web) can work together to create the piece that goes on the website.”

“And still have the message that we want.”

The conversion was official as of last July and Carlisle was hired in the fall of 2012. Web Services previously fell under the supervision of Information Technology.

“In order to reach a bigger audience, you have to go online,” said Chief Information Officer Amin Ladha. “The availability of robust Internet infrastructure, availability of great tools like Word Press makes it easy for any organizations to manage many of their technical needs themselves.”

“IT’s role is more of managing the data center, security and all the backend support.”

Ladha said that the merger between Web Services and Marketing makes sense as more and more organizations have already made use of the growing convenience of online tools and services.

He estimated that when WCC out-sourced its email server to Google, the college saved about \$400,000.

“Forward thinking organizations are making web services

part of their marketing department,” Ladha said. “It is not just to cut cost, but to use the web as an integral part of any of their marketing campaigns.”

“It makes it very efficient when you don’t have to go through three people to make adjustments to the website.”

But sources familiar with the situation regarding PRM and Web Services at WCC have characterized the change as having nothing to do with resources. Rather, it constitutes a “power move” by administration to control the department.

The sources also questioned whether anyone in the Marketing or Web Services department has the adequate background in Web development to manage the school’s site. They also debated the possibility of the college looking to consolidate resources, explaining that personnel in both departments have recently seen little-to-no downsizing.

“We’re still trying to build that road map,” said Web Services Director Bryan Freeman who earned a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from the University of Michigan in 1999. “We’ve been working on trying to build our team here.”

Freeman joined the college staff on Feb. 11.

In building his staff, Freeman filled two vacant positions for a Web developer and programmer as of last week. The new employees begin on April 22, and Carlisle looks forward to developing her staff with the necessary skills instead of seeking outside consultation.

“I’d rather spend a little on training rather than looking for outside help,” she said. “It’s utilizing the talents that we have.”

And WCC’s message of affordable, higher-education has recently been

WEBSERVER
CONTINUED A6

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WESTERN MICHIGAN
UNIVERSITY

Student to intern with U.S. Sen. Levin

By MARIA RIGOU
Staff Writer

The leader of the Student Veterans Club, Lee Dawson, will intern in Washington D.C. this summer for the chairman of the Armed Services Committee, U.S. Sen. Carl Levin of Michigan.

“Working gives a wealth of experience,” Dawson said. “I will be able to see how the government works from the inside.”

Dawson, a former U.S. Marine and liberal arts transfer student, also works part-time as an admissions clerk in the Veterans Center. He is vice president of fellowship and service for the Washtenaw Community College chapter of Phi Theta Kappa and the president of the Student Veterans Club.

The 28-year-old will graduate from WCC in May and will transfer to a four-year college to further his studies in

either economics or law.

Jason Morgan, director of government relations at Washtenaw, said that this will be more challenging and exciting than he ever imagined.

“A big portion of interning in Washington is making connections with the staff, with other offices and with other interns on the Hill,” said Morgan, who got his start volunteering for various political campaigns in Washington D.C. and abroad. “A lot of interns get hired immediately after their internship. It opens a lot of doors for you.”

According to those who have worked closely with Dawson, he is a shoe-in for the position.

“This is the opportunity of a lifetime for Lee, and he’s earned it,” said Keith Gave, a part-time journalism professor and Veterans Club adviser. “He’ll be a great fit in the halls of Congress, especially working under the guidance and tutelage of Senator

Levin and his staff.”

Dawson said that he is nervous about this next step he will take, but that this is great for his future.

“It is great if I want to go to graduate school, or for my first job,” Dawson explained.

Peter Leshkevich, director of Student Development and Activities said that Dawson is an exemplary student who seeks out opportunities, challenges himself and carries through.

“He has earned his position with this internship, at PTK, the Veterans Center and at the newspaper,” Leshkevich said. “He has earned what he has accomplished.”

Dawson goes to Washington D.C. at the beginning of July for a five-week internship. He is hopeful that during the weekends he will be able to experience the nation’s capitol as a tourist and get the most out of this opportunity.

Securing job of your future — now

By MICHAEL J. HLYWA
Staff Writer

A summer spent delivering sandwiches for a freaky-fast sub shop or flipping burgers and not lovin’ it may pay the bills – just barely. But is it doing anything else for you?

As the Winter term winds down, students are turning their thoughts to summer, and for many that includes getting a job. Finding employment in the service industry may seem like the best and only opportunity for some, but unless they’re majoring in retail or restaurant management, a service job does little to lead students to their future professional selves.

Instead of bagging groceries, interim director for Career Services Ross Gordon challenges students to look for internship opportunities now.

“Your career starts whenever you’re ready to start it,” Gordon said, “and an internship is a good place to start investing to make sure you get your career off on the right foot.”

In fact, that’s how he got his start. While getting his bachelor’s degree, Gordon landed an internship. Three months later, his employer hired him as a regular employee, and Gordon worked there for five years before moving on to a new opportunity.

“If I would’ve approached that company without an internship – there’s no way,” Gordon said.

Unlike a run-of-the-mill summer job, internships allow students to apply what they’ve been learning in school and explore their chosen professions.

“It’s a great opportunity for them (students) to try on different roles, different companies and different jobs,” Gordon explained. “So if they’re early in their journey and they think, ‘maybe I want to be an IT professional,’ probably a good idea to figure out, ‘where do I fit into the IT realm,’ because there’s different paths that they can take – go do an internship.

“Then go, ‘okay, I know I don’t want to be in networking; I know I want to be a programmer,’ based on that experience. Very few strings attached, just a good experience. It’s hard for us to eliminate areas of interest without having experience in them.”

Gordon also says that internships solve the chicken-or-the-egg riddle of how do students get the experience required to do a job if they can’t get the job that will give them the experience.

Plus, for many an internship is the gift that keeps on giving. According to an Internships.com survey, 69 percent of large companies offered full-time positions to their interns in 2012. Better yet, 53 percent of surveyed companies plan to hire more interns in 2013.

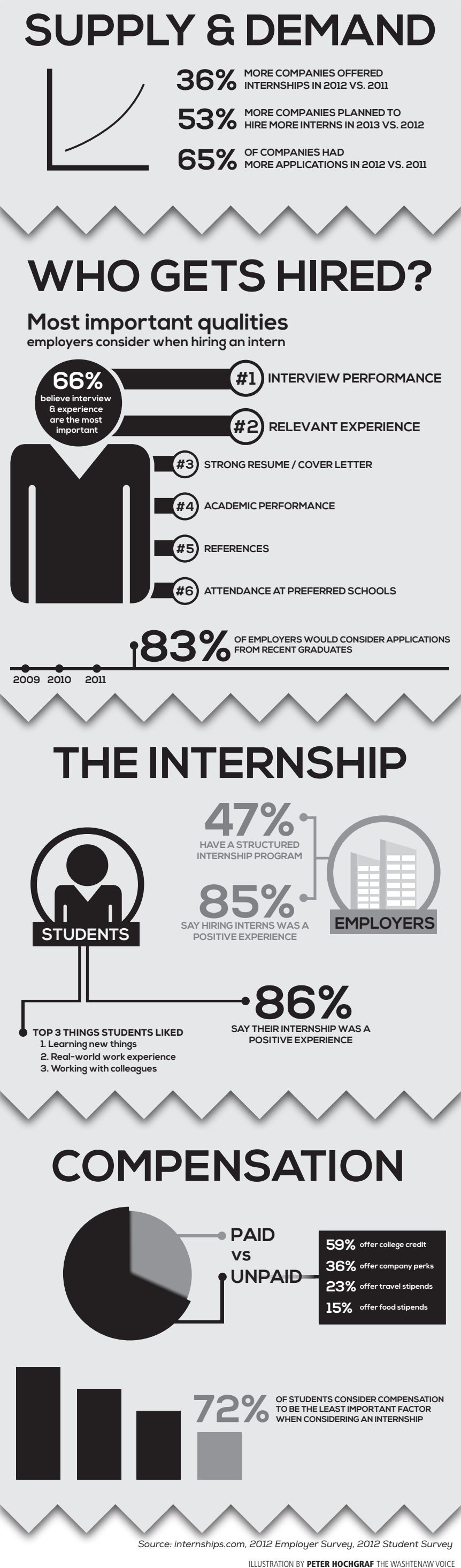
So the opportunities are definitely out there. But how do students find them? Go to Career Services.

“Over 1,000 local employers engaged with our office over the last two years,” Gordon pointed out.

He says that Career Services has been specifically targeting and working with companies to develop internship opportunities.

“We’ve got the employers’ attention,” Gordon said.

The staff at Career Services is also primed to coach students through every step of finding and securing an internship opportunity – or any job, for that matter. And the service is free to



SNIPS

Veteran Services updates it's schedule

Veteran students with PTSD who wish to help the school are invited to contact Brittany Powers. Powers, who works in the College Outreach Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, is coordinating a luncheon with students and faculty from the math department. The meeting will discuss the topic of how students have adjusted to having PTSD in a school setting. Powers can be contacted at Brittany.Powers@va.gov or 734-548-3452.

The WCC Student Veterans Club has moved to weekly meetings for the rest of the semester. Meetings will transpire between 4 and 5 p.m. every Wednesday in the Veteran Center until May 1. Students unable to attend the meetings may visit the Veteran Center to pick up a copy of the minutes and cast their vote on any club matter.

College to better serve vets according to DoD standards

By ERIC WADE
Staff Writer

Washtenaw Community College is joining the ranks of dozens of other Michigan colleges by taking steps to better serve military student.

By agreeing to terms of what the Department of Defense calls a final memorandum of understanding for a set of guidelines it describes as The Principles of Excellence, schools agree to the following:

- Provide students with a personalized form covering the total cost of an education program.
- Provide educational plans for all military and veteran education beneficiaries.
- End fraudulent and aggressive recruiting techniques and misrepresentation.
- Provide accommodations for service members and reservists absent due to service requirements.
- Designate a point of contact for academic and financial advising.
- Ensure accreditation of all new programs prior to enrolling students.
- Align institutional refund policies with those under Title IV

According to Sukanya Jett, director of admissions, WCC is already meeting many of those guidelines.

By signing the memo, WCC will be added to the Department of Veterans Affairs website as a school that accommodates veterans in what the DoD calls a “shopping list.”

“We have to provide a shopping sheet.

We will be doing that for the 2013-14 year,” said Lori Trapp, director of Final Aid. “But we already provide the same type of information to our students in their award letter, so it is sort of taken their award letter and looking at it a little bit differently.”

Camp Take Notice Awards

By ERIC WADE

Staff Writer

About two dozen homeless citizens, several of whom are former residents of Camp Take Notice, attended a recent awards ceremony to honor the many local churches and agencies that helped them get through a rough winter.

Mercy House hosted a Hawaiian themed dinner that included a band, balsa-wood sailboat race and ice cream social. The dinner’s first purpose was to give the homeless a break from the winter’s cold as well as to honor the numerous churches and supporters that help to keep the Camp Take Notice – the governing body that grew out the Wagner Road camp for the homeless of the same name.

Among those honored at the ceremony were Tom and Lisa Hirsh and Lisa and Steve Zawacki, from Saint Mary’s Student Parish, Mike Frison from Knox Presbyterian Church, and Kent Paterson. Among the churches recognized for providing meals for the weekly Camp Take Notice meetings each Sunday were: . Our Lady of Sorrows, Farmington; Living Peace Church of the Brethren, Canton; Westminster Presbyterian, Ann Arbor; Knox Presbyterian, Ann Arbor; Church of the Nazarene, Brighton; Zion Lutheran, Ann Arbor; Webster United Church of Christ, Dexter; WISE Bible study at Saline United Methodist, Saline; North Ridge Church, Plymouth; and Holy Faith Lutheran/ Episcopalian, Saline.

Some Camp Take Notice campers who displayed exceptional community participation were also given awards.

SDA Traverse City trip a go this year

After canceling its annual Traverse City getaway last year to low enrollment, Student Activities has announced that the event will run again this year.

The trip is scheduled for June 14-16. Tickets cost \$115 and includes transportation, lodging at Northwestern Michigan College, Sleeping Bear Dunes admission, rafting down the Platte River and three meals – two dinners and a breakfast.

For tickets and more information, visit the SDA office on the first floor of the Student Center, or call Rachel Barsch at 734-973-3691.

Trustees approve eight new programs

By MARIA RIGOU
Staff Writer

The Washtenaw Community College Board of Trustees has approved eight new certificates and degrees starting next fall, bringing the total number of degrees and certificates available to students to 125.

The new programs represent a broad range of growing industries, including health care, applied technology, digital media, social science and the arts.

Fine and Performing Arts (certificate) enables fine and performing arts students to develop their goals for a career or business as a working artist. According to the Michigan Department of Labor, Energy and Economic Growth, a 2.3-6.8 percent increase in jobs related to this certificate is expected between 2010 and 2020.

Medical Billing and Coding (certificate) provides instruction for classifying, coding, reporting, analyzing and managing medical data in physicians’ offices and large health care facilities. Positions for medical records/health information technicians are expected to grow by 15 percent between 2008 and 2018. There are 184 openings in the state of Michigan.

SECURITY NOTES

Lewd Behavior

A half-naked man was found “doing something inappropriate” by security officers in Lot 7 shortly after noon on March 27, according to Campus Safety and Security.

Larceny

An unattended backpack was reported stolen off a desk near the east entrance to the Student Center at about 2:10 p.m. on April 9.

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

Memo to trustees: What time is it?

EDITORIAL

Attempting to cover the news of our campus community has brought *Voice* staff deep into the underbelly of the college’s administration, tirelessly attending what some – even faculty and staff attendees – have called “boring” and “dry” meetings of the school’s Board of Trustees.

These public meetings have presented an unending supply of important news and feature stories that we believe to be relevant and interesting to our readers.

But attending them isn’t always easy when we don’t know when they begin.

Is it too much to ask administrators for adequate notice when changes must be made? As the newspaper staff last Monday met to plan coverage of the board’s meeting the following day in ML 150, we checked and double-checked the school’s website to confirm the time. We do this because we’re wary after past miscommunications.

All systems were a go and we agreed to meet Tuesday at 5 p.m. to prepare for the meeting an hour later. But when printing out the agenda for that meeting, we noticed a sudden, dramatic change.

The Board of Trustees meeting had been rescheduled at the last minute without any public announcement, less than 24 hours

before it was to take place.

Beginning an hour earlier than its scheduled 6 p.m. starting time, we ended up 40 minutes late to a meeting that could have posed several strong, interesting stories for our readers during its opening stages. When asked why a phone call or notice wasn’t sent by the college’s Public Relations team, officials at the meeting were quick to blame recently hired Web Services Director Bryan Freeman for the “error” in failing to update the college’s website in a timely manner.

So for the next few days we played catch up, hoping still to provide readers with accurate and informative stories from the meeting.

But this isn’t anything new. The college has been playing a shell game with meeting times all year. We’ve begun to wonder if these meetings are meant to be public at all.

In February, a special meeting of the board to discuss personnel matters was cancelled, last minute, due to weather. Members of the Washtenaw Community College Education Association, the faculty union, expressed great dissatisfaction with the stalling lack of notice or explanation, especially following the sudden termination of Vice President of Instruction Stuart Blacklaw in the following weeks.

The trustees also stirred up controversy when their next meeting was cancelled due to more bad weather, despite the college’s decision to require students to attend classes at the very same time that the 6 p.m. meeting would have taken place.

This left almost a month without a formal, visible meeting of these publicly elected officials.

So in light of recent concerns for internal communication breakdowns, and as the administration scrambles to affix an intangible, bureaucratic Band-Aid to the troubles, this recent conflict should come as a surprise to a college population that was promised better.

At the start of last week’s Tuesday meeting, trustees delivered a speech of support for President Bellanca. We missed it, obviously. This is an inexcusable breach of communication, and it’s confusing to us, since it would seem as though the trustees would want to make such support public – by having some media coverage of their position.

But reading a printed copy of the speech days later, it remains clear that the board is still struggling to address complaints of poor communication.

Eagerly listing off the array of her accomplishments in public relations, marketing and fundraising

since Bellanca took office last Fall, the trustees have in no way commented on communications between the president or any administrator and the rest of the school.

They describe hundreds of leadership meetings attended by Bellanca and a wealth of administrators, faculty and staff, asserting this laundry list as proof of communication skills. But what have been the results of such consultations?

Their letter of support entirely failed to explain what all this talk has accomplished and concludes with an empty promise for student success, lacking any concrete details or initiatives into how this would be achieved.

But again, this isn’t anything new. The supposed “commoners” on this campus have already expressed a sense of limbo and confusing ignorance into this administration’s plans for our future.

So rather than looking outward to figure out what WCC can take from its community in attempts to inflate the school’s mission beyond the established role of community colleges, Bellanca and her cabinet need to take a look in the mirror and address the confusion tepidly staring back at them.

That is their mission – and we as a campus community should hold them to it.

CFO search update

VP of Finance search continues

By ADRIAN HEDDEN
Managing Editor

Despite proclamations to the contrary, Washtenaw’s search for a new chief financial officer to replace Vice President of Finance and Administration Steven Hardy continues nearly five months after he walked off the job.

Hardy resigned suddenly around Thanksgiving, and shortly thereafter President Rose Bellanca said she hoped to have the position filled by mid-January. Last month, at the Board of Trustees’ annual spring retreat, Bellanca

said the search was down to two candidates and that she hoped naming a new finance chief was imminent.

On Friday, Bellanca said only that the search is ongoing.

“We are committed to finding an experienced, competent individual for this position with the skill set necessary to achieve the mission and goals of the college as identified in the strategic plan and the ability to continue to move WCC forward,” Bellanca wrote in an email to *The Voice*.

Profiting from paranoia?



NATHAN CLARK

Nothing boosts a stagnate economy back to life like a dose of panic and fear. It’s not the best way to stimulate an economy, but it works and, unfortunately, it happens all the time.

We are a society of professional procrastinators who only stock up on supplies right before something significant or disastrous is about to happen or just did.

Like clockwork, grocery store shelves full of can goods, flashlights, bottled water and batteries are quickly emptied after the forecast of a major

storm’s approach.

A person spending an insurmountable amount of cash, unknowingly giving the economy a boost, on supplies before a storm is nothing new, but what I’ve been recently seeing certainly is.

I was planning on going to the shooting range during Winter break for some fun, so I went to Cabela’s to buy some range ammunition. To my surprise, nearly all of the handgun ammunition was gone.

I asked a store clerk if there was a major sale I just missed. He told me no and that people have just been buying ammo up like it was candy, left and right. I didn’t think too much of until I went to the range and noticed that the gun shop at the range also had a shortage of ammunition and there were almost no handguns left for sale.

After talking to a few gun-store workers and fellow gun owners at the range about the dilemma, the

consensus seemed to be that everyone was buying up as much ammo and as many guns as they can before the government tries to take them away.

Are Americans really so paranoid that the government will take their guns away that they have been buying guns and ammo up to the point that there is a shortage? I hate to say it, but the answer appears to be yes.

The possibility that the government will take guns away from Americans is unlikely, but in the shadow of paranoia the same economic boost that occurs right before a storm hits also applies to the current firearms panic.

An economy only thrives when people are spending money. What they spend the money on, whether it’s batteries or guns, is irrelevant.

It’s sad to see so many people buy into the panic, but if it encourages people to spend more money and see the economy thrive for once, so be it.

THE WASHTENAW VOICE

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

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TO THE EDITOR:

Opposing the new Cabinet

A recent *Voice* editorial noted that communication has broken down between the Washtenaw Community College faculty and Dr. Rose Bellanca, WCC’s president. *The Voice* criticized the faculty for not accepting Dr. Bellanca’s proposed Academic Cabinet. As faculty members and department chairs, we would like to explain why we do not support this Academic Cabinet.

First, a new committee is redundant. There are existing Curriculum and Assessment committees whose charge is to oversee work on academic areas. In addition, there are already two groups of faculty who are elected to represent their peers: the WCCEA (faculty union), and the department chairs. All these groups have worked productively for many years with WCC’s previous presidents. Dr. Bellanca has had many invitations to meet with the department chairs as a whole, and as of this writing has not ever agreed to do so.

Second, this proposed cabinet would have many more administrators than faculty, and the faculty could not serve unless approved by the WCC administration. This structure gives one little confidence that faculty as a whole could be well represented.

Finally, the proposal itself demonstrates the loss of a collaborative culture at WCC. Rather than acknowledge a communication problem and work with existing faculty groups to solve it, Dr. Bellanca tried to create a new committee without asking faculty for any input whatsoever.

Sincerely,
Marvin Boluyt, Kathy Butcher, Connie Foster, Michelle Garey, Anne Heise, Carrie Krantz, Vickie Salter, Kristine Williman, Jason Withrow, Randy LaHote, Joyce Jenkins

Goodwill toward men

Compliments to staff writer Michael Hlywa for his article “Not-so-common courtesy” (April 1 issue), which I thoroughly enjoyed.

I have often experienced the same not-so-common courtesy with co-workers and can’t understand the behavior. I have literally had co-workers walk through my work area and not acknowledge me or my presence – as if I were invisible.

What I have learned in my personal and professional life is that it doesn’t cost anything to be nice. If you think about all the people in the world we live in, how few of them actually cross our paths, the least we can do is say ‘hi,’ or nod our head, or just a smile. We could actually make their day a little better.

This is the person I am and will continue to be. Thanks to Michael reminding us all about that.

Barry Wilkins

A plea for justice

We have read with great concern Adrian Hedden’s op-ed piece “Learning or ‘Full of Shit’?” in the April 1, 2013, issue of *The Washtenaw Voice*. We wholeheartedly support student efforts to learn at this college and are proud to have this award-winning newspaper that allows student journalists to hone their craft. We hoped never to read that a student working for this newspaper has been treated disrespectfully by employees of the college.

We hope that the administration treats this matter with the seriousness that it deserves and treats our students with the professional courtesy that we all expect.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Baker, David Fitzpatrick, Carrie Krantz, Dave Waskin, Tom Zimmerman

Iconic Herb David Guitar Studio in Ann Arbor closes – because it lost touch with its customers



BRIAN KONICEK

After a half century in business, Herb David Guitar Studio has closed its doors.

The reason for the closure isn't clear. David blamed downtown construction for the drop-off in business. But mention the iconic store to local musicians and peruse the negative reviews of it online, and something closer to what might be the truth begins to emerge.

"I feel like they never really embraced the concept of the store," said Zac Feinberg, 25, a local musician who grew up in Ann Arbor. "It's supposed to be a communal place, where you can

feel free to try out an instrument and not feel like you have someone baby-sitting you. If you're uncomfortable with people playing your instruments, maybe it's not the right line of business for you," Feinberg said.

The studio was held in high esteem as a premier outlet for high-end musical instruments in Southeast Michigan, with the likes of Eric Clapton, John Lennon and Bob Seger having their instruments serviced at the shop. It's a prime venue for downtown Ann Arbor; any business owner would salivate over the thought of having a storefront located in the iconic red house.

So why go out of business now? Stringed instruments haven't gone out of style, and despite electronic music becoming more of the norm on popular radio, a resurgence in traditional instrumentation and "the folk tradition" has also taken place. That sound has never left Ann Arbor – and it has been its niche for a long time.

Herb David's had little competition within the city, with Oz's Music, located on Packard, and Music Go Round, located on Oak Valley Drive, being it's

closest opposition.

Jonathan Apples, a local electronic musician, had conflicting feelings towards the closure.

"To be fair, Herb David's was in an undoubtedly expensive location, and probably had to operate on higher margins to survive," Apples said. "I would occasionally pay the premium for the convenience of the location and because it's a local business.

"However, as a musician and potential customer, the limited selection and general atmosphere of unfriendliness discouraged me from ever wanting to spend my money there. Any time I opened that door I was given the vague feeling I was an unwelcome guest in somebody's home, as opposed to a valued customer."

A few days before the doors closed forever, employees sheepishly offered a "no comment" on the closing. According to *Ann Arbor.com*, David reported a 50-percent decrease in sales during the construction of the underground parking structure on Fifth Avenue, which now has been complete since July of 2012.

Perhaps a better reason for the decrease in sales over the years is that Herb David's lost touch with seasoned musicians and beginners, who are at the heart of music stores' clientele. The shop merely failed to meet the needs of musicians as well as the common patron.

"I hated the fact that if you wanted to play an instrument you had to ask to play it, remove most of your clothing and have somebody hovering over you the whole time," said Rollie Tussing, a local blues guitar aficionado.

Several negative Google reviews also complained of inflated prices, poor customer service and even numerous quarrels with David himself.

"Twice a year for many years I made the same mistake: I would call Herb's and ask if they had item X, the person on the phone would always say 'Yes we do', and of course I would make the trip and they would not have it. Every time!" Tussing said. "I am bummed that a small, independent local business is gone, which furthers the mallification of Ann Arbor, but Herb was kind of a (expletive)."

Regardless of the reasoning behind the closure, it still leaves a hole in the city's menu of retail shops, especially with music being one of Ann Arbor fortes. Hopefully this will be seen as an opportunity for someone to put Ann Arbor back on the map as a complete musical destination.

So what will take its place? No plans for the main floor have been announced. But for now, the third floor will remain a repair shop operated by David Collins, Hesh Breakstone and Brian Delaney, former employees of Herb David's. It will be called Ann Arbor Guitars.

"We're going to deal with mostly fretted, plucked instruments like guitars, banjos and basses," Collins said.

Let's hope the new repair shop can pick up the slack that's been left behind from David's in recent years. Such a fair and reliable business is vital for the city.

Brian Konicek is a local musician – and a WCC journalism student. This is his first published piece.

Hitting the home stretch, finally



KELLY BRACHA

It might just be a number to you, but to me it's so much more.

School has been a struggle for me since I can remember, but when I used the new graduation audit using DegreeWorks and saw that I was 75 percent toward getting my degree, my goal suddenly became so much more tangible.

My parents never graduated college, as they were from a different country and got drafted out of high school. My brother attempted college, but took another path and found success through teaching yoga. I hadn't realized that no one in my family had graduated college until recently, which is when I also realized that I am slowly on my way to becoming the first among us to do so.

When I say school has been a

struggle, I mean since first grade. I have this hazy memory of my mother being pulled aside after class, and even at such a young age I knew something wasn't right. They spoke about holding me back, but my mother refused the idea.

I'll never know if that was the best idea, not holding me back. In retrospect, I think I could have used the extra year of math, the one subject I struggle with to this day.

Memories of high school are riddled with hiding my semester grades and notes home from my parents. I knew I wasn't a bad kid, but I just couldn't handle the pressures, the classwork, the tests and everything in between.

If there is a phobia of classrooms, I must have it. Bad grade after bad grade and the fear of asking for help. Mental blocks. I saw failing grades as normal and delayed dealing with them until the administration was forced to deal with me.

It was a close call, but I miraculously graduated high school on time. While all my friends were off to college, I needed a break.

I put off enrolling, telling myself I don't know what I want to study and it'd be a waste to take classes I

wouldn't need. I basically used any and all excuses to delay going to class again.

To pass the time I got a job and watched as my friends progressed through their college experience. It was when I was attending their graduations four years later that I realized I had just held myself back, and I would regret the time wasted.

I enrolled into my local community college in Southern California, and tried. The time off from a classroom setting made me less inclined to stick to the schedule, and once again I was failing. I told myself that maybe I'm just not right for school; maybe I need to do something else.

It has been six years since I graduated high school. I have barely anything to show for that time except some job experience. When I moved to Michigan, I dropped everything, moved as close as I possibly could to campus and devoted myself to trying this one last time.

So, here I am at 75 percent completed and 25 percent remaining until I go to a four-year university. Just 2 1/2 more years until I can truly say I conquered my nemesis.

It might just be a number, that 75 percent, but it's a number I cannot and will not take for granted.

UNION FROM A1

and shows of force at subsequent board meetings in the months that followed.

"We applaud our faculty members for all they do to help ensure that educational excellence is at the heart of all we do," Williams wrote. "We have listened very carefully to concerns that have been raised by some faculty members concerning their desire for more communication from President Bellanca, and for more collaboration on decisions that they believe they affect them."

Yet the response may not be what the union hoped for.

"We appreciate that the board has begun to address the issues at hand, but we are disappointed that the little of what she said had to do with what we think are the central issues, which are communication and collaboration," said David Fitzpatrick, the WCEA's chief negotiator. "We expect to have a communication for the issues at the college, specifically this administration's inability to adhere to Board Policy 5085."

According to the letter, Williams and the other trustees "have also looked very carefully at the evidence of President Bellanca's leadership, performance, and collaboration since her appointment as President 19 months ago."

Touting Bellanca's accomplishments at Washtenaw thus far, such as the \$2.9 million Department of Labor grant attained by the college and her ambitious strategic planning initiative, the letter of support coagulates sentiments mined from the individual statements made by members of the board at past meetings.

Because of these examples, and others listed in the letter, the board

believes that "there is clear evidence of her efforts to communicate and collaborate."

Hoping that the letter would be an acceptable response to the issues brought before them, Williams wrote that "we are confident that the combination of continued strong performance from President Bellanca and her ongoing efforts to work with the college's faculty and staff members will help to ease some of the discontent we have seen in recent weeks, and allow us to work together to accomplish the important work ahead."

Seconding Fitzpatrick's assessment, former WCEA President Ruth Hatcher told *The Voice* that Bellanca's attempts to communicate thus far have been half-hearted, and each of her moves have been more about attaining power than effective management.

"It's all about power for her," Hatcher said after a board meeting on March 26. "She wants it all and will do whatever she can to get it."

Hatcher added that the issues Washtenaw face now are unlike any that the college, its trustees and the faculty union have dealt with before.

Yet former WCC trustee and current State Rep. David Rutledge, D-Ypsilanti, said that he is positive Washtenaw will retain its union-friendly reputation.

"Washtenaw Community College has an excellent history of good labor relations and I expect that to continue," Rutledge said. "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."

"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" he added. "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."



David Fitzpatrick



NATHAN CLARK THE WASHTENAW VOICE

For the Earth: Raptor educator Sarah Gilmore, left, from the Leslie Science and Nature Center in Ann Arbor, talks to students about the kinds of amazing local birds they can find living their back yards, such as the Bran Owl resting on her hand, at the Earth Day celebration in the Student Center last week.

Voice Box

WORDS AND PHOTOS BY MOHAMED MAIZA *VOICE CORRESPONDENT*

With taxes due around the corner, we wanted to get an idea of what students have done with the most enjoyable part of the bitter business, their tax returns.

JAKE ORR
24, Belleville, Electrician Apprentice

"So far I have bought a lot of gas and dinner for my fiancée."

AMBER GARNER
19, Ann Arbor, Radiology

"Usually I just save mine. I just put it away for future college."

BEN GRESLEY
20, Belleville, Animation

"I got a new phone battery. I never really get anything crazy."

ARTHUR SWEENEY
18, Ypsilanti, Computer Networking

"I mostly just put it towards more books for next semester."

LESLIE KAIN
16, Romulus, Journalism

"I save it in a bank account."

TARENZ ARNOLD
21, Ypsilanti, Graphic Design

"I usually spend it on things I need – laptop for school and groceries. I did go on a trip with my family, and the money was spent on that."

JAMES KELLY
20, Ann Arbor, International Business

"To help pay for bills the same as a pay check, I never really got one big enough to buy myself a gift."

JAMES HANCOCK
18, Belleville, Liberal Arts

"Tax returns? I haven't done any."

KELSEY LANDREAUX
22, Ann Arbor, Human Services

"I bought a lot of clothes, put money towards a car and bills."

RAYNARD SLATER
21, Ypsilanti, Business

"I don't work. I don't get tax returns."

TIM HOEFT
20, Ann Arbor, Liberal Arts

"Last year I got a double bass pedal for a drum set."

DAMON PETERSON
37, Ypsilanti, Criminal Justice

"I usually spend them on books and tuition. I get financial aid so my money goes right back to the government."

Happy Students Costa Rica bound

Foundation Grant helps students cover study-abroad costs

By MARIA RIGOU
Staff Writer

Eight Spanish students have been awarded a combined total of \$6000 that will pay for the last installment of the total cost for a study-abroad program in Costa Rica this summer – thanks to a Washtenaw Community College Foundation grant.

The \$750 will help with trip expenses, to cover both tuition and housing costs.

Nancy Ferrario, a foreign language instructor who directs the program, recognizes the importance of language immersion studies.

“It is a known fact that study abroad provides not only language experience, but prepares students to live and work in our multi-cultural world,” Ferrario wrote in a letter to the board members of the Foundation. “While abroad, students experience growth in language skills, intercultural understanding, maturity, flexibility, adaptability, self-confidence, problem-solving, and independence.”

Ferrario also suggests that the biggest obstacle to study abroad, especially for community college students, is the cost. The program chosen at the Universidad de Costa Rica is one of the richest in content and yet the lowest in cost.

Costa Rica was also chosen by the language department because it has a 98 percent literacy rate and it was named a green country in the Environmental Performance Index of 2012. Outside of the classroom, students will have the possibility to do



Excitement in the air: Students traveling to Costa Rica this summer as part of the Language Immersion program show their joy as they receive the news of the WCC Foundation grant funding the trip. Standing from left to right: Brittany Honos, Shanke Kirk, Kerolly Souza, Jessica Schemp. Sitting from left to right: Susan Goddard, Amy Swope.

extra activities, such as taking a tour of a volcano and visiting the rainforest.

Susan Goddard, a 58-year-old psychology student from Ann Arbor, also recognizes the benefits of study abroad programs.

“I am now working on a master’s degree in clinical psychology, and I would like to be a bilingual counselor,” Goddard said. “Becoming bilingual takes more than just learning a language. I know I need to immerse myself in the culture if I ever expect to understand my future clients.”

Ferrario acknowledges how forward-thinking the Foundation has been.

“Many foundations do not understand the value of study abroad,” she said. “It was a hard decision to make because every single one of the causes is a good cause.”

This study-abroad program goes in line with the recently approved global

studies degree.

“Study abroad is strongly recommended in this program as a means to help accomplish the goals and outcomes of the program and as a way to ‘transform the students’ frame of reference through knowledge of human cultures and history in order to guide the students to be inclusive, open, reflective, and capable of change,” Ferrario explained in her letter.

“Students will return to WCC with enthusiasm and openness and with a changed view of the world,” she added. “Their language skills will be greatly improved, and they will help improve interest and enthusiasm in the Spanish classes they attend here.”

Goddard is ecstatic about her study opportunity.

“How do I feel about going to Costa Rica? It is a dream come true to me,” she said. “(I am) so grateful to the WCC Foundation. Muchas gracias!”

INTERNSHIPS FROM A3

Washtenaw students.

But Gordon cautions against merely registering with College Central Network, the national online job-search system used by WCC. There are times, Gordon admits, when employers call Career Services looking for qualified candidates for an internship opening.

Career Services urges, but can’t force, employers to post their openings on the Network. So if students haven’t spoken with Career Services, they miss out on those networking opportunities.

And when it comes to landing a job in a competitive market, networking is key. Just ask 20-year-old Jordan Enterkin, of Tecumseh.

Enterkin, a computer science student, attended a computer technology advisory committee meeting while working for the college. During that meeting he met president of RightBrain Networks Jamie Begin. Begin was impressed with Enterkin’s knowledge and offered him an internship.

Because RightBrain works in a highly technical, “niche” business, Begin finds it exceedingly difficult to

recruit people with all the skills he needs. So he looks for people with the right foundations and traits, and then he trains them.

“(We need people with) an eagerness to integrate technologies and wanting to learn. Someone who’s willing to dive in and learn, and somebody who understands what their current limitations are and aren’t afraid to ask for help when they need it, because this is a big field and not everybody knows everything,” Begin said.

Enterkin values the depth of experience he’s getting at RightBrain.

“I learn specifics. I see everything in practice over here (at RightBrain), a lot more than I’ve covered over at WCC. If an opportunity presents itself, just go for it,” Enterkin said of internships in general.

Enterkin has been with RightBrain for about two months, and Begin says it’s been a great experience, one that he hopes will continue.

Not everyone can be as lucky in timing as Enterkin, though. Gordon concedes that finding an internship is not easy, especially considering there are fewer internships available than jobs. So it’s imperative, he says, that students start looking now.

Gordon also reminds students not

to limit their searches. If they can’t find an internship in the company or industry for which they want to work, students should consider others.

“You will still be gaining real-world experiences,” Gordon said.

Plus, not every experience needs to be a paid one for it to be a valuable addition to a resume, he added.

“Any young professional who’s looking to broaden their horizons needs to evaluate what they do with their free time,” Gordon added. “At the least, they should be considering volunteerism. Not only will it help better them, but it will help better their community, and that’s other great stuff that they can put on their resume.”

But when it comes to getting help finding an internship, students can trust that Career Services is focused on finding paid opportunities.

“Unpaid (internship) is not popular amongst students, and it’s not popular amongst my staff because we know the value our students can bring to an organization,” Gordon assured.

So now is the time to ditch the apron and visor. Make the walk to the ML building, talk to Career Services about finding an internship and start becoming the person you want to be – today.

JISKRA FROM A1

“He’s learning to know what they (the students) need and explain it in a language they understand,” Bob Lowing, WCC auto body instructor said. “He does not want anything given to him.”

Getting his hands dirty doing auto restoration work gives his life purpose.

“I want to bring stuff back to life,” Jiskra said. “I feel like I have been given a second chance, I want to give that to a car.”

And Jiskra isn’t shy about sharing his story with students in the program, and anyone else who will listen. He wants his story to be inspiration to others.

“Anytime I can break through to someone that might be heading the way that I was, to know they might not take that road because of it,” he said. “It makes all the struggles to get where I am now worth it.”

Tim Vanschoick, an instructor in the Custom Concepts & Cars program, hopes students get motivated by Jiskra’s story.

“We get a lot of kids come through whining about how hard they’ve got it living at their mom’s place, then you get Eric, who ain’t got nothing and he’s trying to make something for himself,”

Vanschoick said. “He’s got every reason in the world not to do well, but he chooses to pick himself up and make something of himself.”

Overcoming his prison experience is not the only lesson Jiskra has to offer. Never giving up is also something he hopes to inspire students with.

“For a long time I did not have a place to live, I did not have a car. I was sleeping on people’s couches,” he said. “Anything I had to do to get here and make sure I was still pursuing some kind of a future. I did not want to go back to where I was.

“I used to walk around with two backpacks, one full of school books and the other one full of clothes. It is rewarding being persistent and determined, but at the same time it can be quite painful.”

If that were not enough, paying for college became an issue just as Jiskra was about to finish his education at WCC.

“My last semester I had all my financial aid canceled on me, then I had to finish through scholarships,” Jiskra said.

In a few weeks, Jiskra is graduating – among his many accomplishments at WCC. At graduation Jiskra will receive his associate degree in occupational studies, a basic certificate

in auto body and paint, advanced certificate in chassis and body fabrication, and liberal arts MACRAO agreement.

Jiskra has applied to be a student speaker at this year’s graduation ceremony.

“I got put in a bad situation for making the wrong decisions,” Jiskra said, “but since then I have been trying to show people that there are good decisions to make.”

He has a story to share.

“The diversity, passion and dedication to auto body repair as a career is inspirational to all students’ campus wide,” Scott Malnar, department chair and Custom Cars & Concepts instructor, said of Jiskra.

How grateful is he for the opportunities he’s found at Washtenaw Community College? So much so that he has a tattoo of the Custom Cars and Concepts program logo.

“I owe a lot to this school; that’s why I wear the logo on my arm,” Jiskra said.

And it doesn’t end here. Jiskra will be transferring to Eastern Michigan University, where he plans to earn a bachelor’s degree in business management.

“Part of the process is to admit your shortcomings and just try and do better for yourself,” Vanschoick said. “I do admire him for that.”

Trustees endorse further growth of WTMC

By NATALIE WRIGHT
Staff Writer

A proposal to increase the enrollment cap for Washtenaw Technical Middle College from 400 to 450 students was approved last week by the Washtenaw Community College Board of Trustees.

The proposal cited a flood of applicants, as well as the success of the program as justification for the increase.

“If we keep at our current rate, I’ll deny 170 students at minimum,” Karl Covert, dean of WTMC, told the trustees.

WTMC had already received 376 applications for the 200 spots that were available before the increase.

The number of students being turned away was “troublesome,” admitted Trustee Diana McKnight-Morton.

Last year, when the cap was increased from 350 to 400 students, the college raised some concerns about the affect of a large presence of underage students on campus and their possible “disruptive behavior.”

This year, the worries about “disruptive behavior” were non-existent. Instead, WTMC students received nothing but praise.

“The success is not just on paper. They’re phenomenal students. They are mature, have direction and are excited about school,” said Trustee Mark Freeman.

However, their success on paper is also noteworthy.

The graduation rate for WTMC students is 92 percent, compared to a state graduation rate of 76 percent. And 95 percent of its students complete their college courses with a grade of C or better, compared to WCC’s overall passage rate of 78 percent.

“Our students are not only navigating successfully, but at a high

level. It’s only going to increase pressure for four-year institutions to accept them,” Covert said.

And the trustees agreed.

“What I’m particularly impressed with is how this helps with post-secondary readiness. They are ready when they enter college, and that is huge,” said college President Rose Bellanca.

The enrollment cap was established as a compromise between WCC and the eight in-district high schools, and was a crucial step in instituting WTMC, according to David Rutledge, who was a trustee at the time.

“We wanted to make sure we did this in collaboration with the surrounding school districts, so we agreed to cap the enrollment so we wouldn’t be accused of trying to take away from the high schools,” Rutledge said.

However, the increased cap shouldn’t affect those schools, because most of the students being turned away are out-of-district students, Covert said.

“And about 50 percent of these students come from being homeschooled, or from charter and parochial schools,” he said.

Another factor in the trustees’ decision was the increase in revenue that comes with the increased enrollment.

If the 37 applicants who were turned away for the 2012-13 school year had been admitted, the college would have received almost \$400,000 over the three years the students would have been enrolled.

The estimated revenue for the additional 50 out-of-district, full-time WTMC students that will likely be admitted in the fall is about \$177,200 per year, according to the proposal.

WTMC provides an opportunity for the college to grow in a “reasonable and constrained way,” said Trustee Richard Landau, partly because the increased enrollment would not require many large adjustments in staff.

Some renovations will probably be necessary to increase space, admitted Covert, but the trustees had already given that project the go-ahead.

WEBSERVER FROM A1

conveyed, Carlisle said, using all in-house talent and making sure to take advantage of all resources available, a sentiment shared by Freeman throughout his entire career.

“It’s just something I’ve always been used to,” Freeman said of the merger. “We don’t sit over there but we still would maintain a very strong relationship with IT. The website, through its evolution, for most companies has become that main sort of impression.

“And it’s really sort of that brand and marketing messaging vehicle. It makes sense that the two areas have come together.”

Operating under a budget of \$1,109,190 this year, which includes salaries and operating expenses, PRM’s funding was able to decrease by about 3 percent from last year’s budget of \$1,147,239.

This year, PRM has seen an expenditure of \$385,000 including advertising, support materials and other departmental materials and brochures, Carlisle said. She estimates that \$68,699 was spent on

cable, billboard and Web advertising.

At the college’s Board of Trustees’ annual spring retreat last month, President Rose Bellanca was surprised and commended Vice President of Advancement Wendy Lawson, who oversees PRM, for the reduction.

“I believed that with all the great things that we have been doing that we must have really overspent this budget,” Bellanca said, “and actually what she’s been able to do is, you know, do all the things she’s done and spend less money than we have in the past.”

Following WCC’s billboard campaign to drive extensive traffic to landing page on the school’s website, and the cable-TV broadcast of an informative commercial, Freeman hopes to continue to pursue media convergence even as his team remains in a developing state.

“It’s always changing,” Freeman said of PRM at WCC. “As we look toward the future, we’re taking a step back and saying, ‘Where do we want to be in three years?’ Thankfully, We’ve been able to continue to support faculty, staff and students through this transition.”



BENJAMIN KNAUSS THE WASHTENAW VOICE

Tuning up: Auto Lab Technician Eric Jiskra works on a Ford Mustang for the Dearborn Police department in the Custom Cars & Concept program at WCC.

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Plan on finishing your WCC degree and then start your hands-on business education at Cleary University.

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Upcoming Graduates:

Student Activities would like to display pictures and a short bio of our graduates in the window of our office at SC 112. If you are graduating in May, please submit a picture and a bio—which degree/certificate you will be receiving and what your plans are now. Submissions are via email to Rachel Barsch: rbarsch@wccnet.edu

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

Pizza and Dialogue

Thursday, April 25
12:30-2 p.m.

SC Community Room

Have ideas about events or activities that you would like to see next year? Would you like to help shape the events/activities list for the 2013-2014 academic year? Join us for pizza and talk!

Sign-up:

<http://tinyurl.com/PizzaTalkApril2013>

Traverse City Bay Getaway!

Friday, June 14-Sunday, June 16

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

Lunch with the President Sign-up

for a chance to win a free lunch with Dr. Bellanca!

Lunches occur on selected Mondays between Noon-1 p.m.
<http://tinyurl.com/wcclunchcontest>

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

UPCOMING SPORTS

Intramural Quidditch Tournament

Registration:

April 8-Wednesday, April 17

WCC Sport Office: SC 116

Tournament Date: Sunday,

April 21st at Noon

WCC Soccer Field

Remember to bring your WCC IS with you to the event!

Spring Intramurals—Happening Now!

Badminton
3v3 Soccer
Flag Football
Platform Tennis
Softball
Dodgeball

There is limited space still available for players to join. Please drop by the WCC Sports Office in SC 116 for more information.

Intramural sports are open to all WCC employees and any WCC student taking at least 3 credits with a 2.0 or better GPA.



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We Jammin’: Members from the band ‘Question’ perform using a steel drum and saxophone for a crowd on the U-M Diag at the annual Hash Bash.

TOKE-N PLEASURE



Sweet leaf: A woman walks dressed as a marijuana leaf on the U-M campus.

42nd annual Hash Bash is a smokin’ good time

PHOTOS AND WORDS BY KELLY BRACHA
Staff Writer

Every year, on the first Saturday of April, the University of Michigan Diag becomes a soapbox for advocates of marijuana use to speak freely about the legalization of the controversial plant. Speakers, live music and the Monroe Street Fair bring an estimated 6,000 attendees to the event. With Ann Arbor’s lenient laws regarding the possession of marijuana, Bash-goers partake in smoking in public, even on U-M campus and state property. Hash Bash has become an intricate part of Ann Arbor’s history. The event has been running for 42 years and is known as the oldest annual pot rally in America.



Dog Daze: A possibly heady dog hangs out at the U-M Diag.



Get lifted: Hash Bash attendees gather to watch live musical performances from a local religious group.



KELLY BRACHA THE WASHTENAW VOICE

Afterglow: An Ann Arbor police officer controls onlookers gathering around a blaze as firefighters arrive on the scene.

Fired-up U-M hoops fans put heat on furniture after NCAA Finals loss

By BEN SOLIS
Editor

As University of Michigan fans prepared to see their precious Wolverines take on the Louisville Cardinals in the Monday night NCAA basketball championship game – the team’s first championship game since 1989 – the streets of Ann Arbor were engulfed by a wave of maize and blue apparel and school spirit arguably unmatched by any school this season.

The faithful descended en masse into the streets of Ann Arbor, ready to show the world what it means to be a U-M fan – even if it meant taking a match to some furniture.

“Someone better be burning couches later,” said John Lentzinger, 23, a U-M fan from Romeo, standing outside Crisler Arena, where thousands gathered to watch the game on the big screen.

“We want riot status tonight!” exclaimed Tyler Berger, a 22-year-old Eastern Michigan University student from Onsted, while holding a beer around friends and other fans who seemed to unabashedly second his drunken musings.

As the Monday afternoon turned into the evening, a sea of U-M supporters fell on the bustling streets of the city. Lines formed from the entrances of bars and restaurants as early as 5:30 p.m., when the Michigan faithful escaped from their day jobs and classes.

“This place is absolutely packed,” said Meghan Hendershot, a 22-year-old U-M biology major who is set to graduate this semester. “I work at Pizza House and by 2 p.m., we already had a line outside the door.”

For the local businesses that bordered the center of the college town, the evening was more than just another opportunity to sell boxes of beer and bar food, it was a celebration of all that Ann Arbor holds dear.

By 8 p.m., hundreds of maize-and-blue-clad college students deluged State Street, the majority of them hanging around the outside of R.U.B. BBQ, some already inebriated and ready to take in the historic game.

Becoming reflective, Hendershot and her friend Emily Paup, 21, a fellow biology major, reflected on the season that almost didn’t end in such a glorious fashion.

“We were together for the Saturday game,” Paup said of Michigan’s win over Syracuse to advance to the finals. “It was just unbelievable. The entire campus exploded. Every time they won this season, the college just got more and more amped. We can’t believe they even made it this far.”

Inside R.U.B., the game was getting underway, and as the 9:23 p.m. tip-off approached, patrons were becoming increasingly rowdy—all

U-M STORY
CONTINUED B4

How welding and WCC saved a life



CHARLES MANELY WASHTENAW VOICE

Shaping bright futures: Sculptor and welding instructor Coley McLean operates a CNC plasma machine to cut shapes into metal..

By MICHAEL J. HLYWA
Staff Writer

Bold, engaging, dynamic and a little bent describes the tubular metal sculpture hanging above the TI building lobby – and its creator, sculptor and welding instructor Coley McLean.

So consumed with being an educator, career counselor, entrepreneur and artist, McLean barely has time for her pets, let alone a spouse or children.

It’s no wonder that McLean is absorbed by her job considering the profound impact welding had on her as a youth.

“I’m an after school special for Washtenaw Community College,” McLean said. “So when I was in high school – hated it, wanted to drop out – I was probably going to drop out. Then I discovered welding and it saved my life.”

Following high school, McLean went to study sculpture at Detroit’s College for Creative Studies. Once she completed the undergraduate program at CCS, McLean called WCC looking for a job.

“I always wanted to come here (to Washtenaw),” McLean continued.

She started as a welding technician in 1998 and joined the full-time faculty in 2004.

McLean attributes her success in teaching to her journey. She feels like she can relate to her students.

“The kids are fantastic, even the mean ones. They’re just like me,” McLean admitted. “They don’t have an attitude yet like (they might) at a four-year (college). I get them out of their comfort zone and make them really think about stuff.”

And getting her students from here to a college or university is always in the back of her mind.

“I have a small window of pushing them into a four-year program.

COLEY
CONTINUED B3

New Discovery TV show is a blast from Washtenaw’s past

By MICHAEL J. HLYWA
Staff Writer

Rocket-launched projectiles, water cannons, assault rifles and explosions galore punctuate the Discovery Channel’s newest reality-TV show, “The Big Brain Theory,” which premieres on May 1.

“Ten of the brightest minds in the country are about to go head-to-head,” announced Kal Penn in the show’s promotional video.

Penn, best known for his title role in the “Harold & Kumar” movies, hosts the series.

But he isn’t likely to be the reason WCC welding faculty and students tune into the show.

Among the series’ 10 contestants is 26-year-old Joel Ifill, a welding engineer from Pittsburgh, Pa. who works on nuclear reactors for the U.S. Navy. This master fabricator graduated from Pennsylvania College of Technology in 2009.

But before that, he was a welding and fabrication student at Washtenaw Community College.

Ifill says he definitely put what he learned at Washtenaw to use in the show.

“Yeah it helped a lot. I mean, I’m a welding engineer, but I also know how to weld and fabricate,” Ifill said. “I started it all in Michigan. It started when I started taking WCC classes from high school. So yeah, really all of my fabrication skills came from WCC.”

And welding instructor Coley McLean taught some of those classes. In fact, she designed the articulation agreement that Ifill used to transfer

to Penn Tech. McLean remembers Ifill being a well-rounded, apt, but quirky student.

“He was) a really cool kid – inquisitive. He was like a professional dancer, like a break-dancer or something. He’s just *that* guy,” McLean said.

“He went to my foundry down in Detroit a few times. In fact I still have his mold, and he wants it back so I’m going to use it as leverage. He dabbled in some interesting things. He was definitely a tinkerer.”

Ray Marcus-Kurlonko, a 27-year old part-time welding and fabrication instructor, also recalls Ifill being a multi-faceted character. The two became friends while completing Washtenaw’s program together.

“I met Joel – I think it was in fabrication class – and he was building a case for a computer; it was a Lexan sphere,” Marcus-Kurlonko recalled. “So he was into computers, but he was taking welding classes. He was probably 18 or 19 when we met.

“We were both dorks, so we kind of hit it off. He was into motorcycles, and I had a motorcycle. So we ended up riding motorcycles together and hanging out and stuff.”

Marcus-Kurlonko also remembers Ifill being driven.

“He’s smart. He’s a free-thinker. I remember he’d be in all the time. He knew which instructors he liked and worked well with, so he’d be in their classes more often. But he was in (the lab) extra time too. I just remember seeing him all the time in there.”

Ifill acknowledges some of WCC’s faculty for the role they played in rocketing him toward his current success.

“All the instructors in the welding program, specifically Clyde Hall and Coley McLean, helped me out a lot,” Ifill said. “They were just very enthusiastic and very good teachers. They made you want to come to class. I think that made a big difference. And

WELDING
CONTINUED B3



Joel Ifill

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ADVISING FROM A TRAIL OF EXPERIENCE AND SERVICE

By NATHAN CLARK
Photo Editor

Students seeking, or being forced to seek guidance from a counselor at Washtenaw Community College rarely wonder what qualifications their adviser has that makes them the go-to person for advice on academic success.

Veterans seeking academic advice and support at WCC are in good hands since Mark St. Amour, a man with years of public service under his belt, was hired last fall as adviser in the Veterans Center located on the second floor of the Student Center.

“Working here has already been a rewarding experience,” St. Amour said. “I like how diverse the campus is. It’s filled with lots of students from different backgrounds and different goals in life.”

Students changing their majors without filing paper work and students self-advising in college are some of the biggest concerns St. Amour has been seeing since he has been at Washtenaw.

“A lot of student veterans have not been taking the correct classes they need to meet their educational goals. I’ve been dealing with that a lot,” St. Amour said. “I want

to make sure the veterans are getting the education they need so they can get a good job.”

St. Amour joined the college as a counselor on Oct. 31 last year. And although dedicated to helping student veterans at WCC, this is not his first time working with military personnel.

He was an active-duty officer in the Marines from 1983-1987 and continued to serve as an officer in the Corps until 1998, when he left with the rank of major.

St. Amour is no stranger to studying in a high-education environment either. He spent two years at San Joaquin Community College in California, earned his bachelor’s degree at California State Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo and was awarded his master’s degree from Eastern Michigan University.

St. Amour worked as a lead detective with 27 officers under his supervision in the detective bureau at the Ann Arbor Police Department. He spent 20 years with the department, retiring in December 2011.

“He was upbeat, sincere and really friendly guy,” said Lieutenant Robert Pfannes, a detective at the Ann Arbor Police Department who worked alongside St. Amour for more than 14 years. “He’s a great

guy to work with. He’s really good at recognizing people’s humanity.”

Shortly after retiring, St. Amour decided he wanted to get away from it all and take time to reflect. Remembering a moment from his past from when he was in the Marines, he decided to do something not many people would be willing to do voluntarily. He hiked the Appalachian Trail.

“I got the idea 26 years ago when a friend and I hiked some of the trail together,” St. Amour said. “The idea kind of stuck around in my head since then.”

The trail, stretching from Georgia to Maine, traverses 2,180 miles through multiple national parks, rugged terrain and mountains. Hikers bring only what they can carry, usually a 30-40 pound pack with food, water, camping gear and other supplies. They usually have to resupply themselves every few days at towns near the trail.

“When he was in the police department, he saw the worst in society. It was good for him to get out and see that there are still good people in the world,” said Pam St. Amour, Mark’s wife of 26 years. “He lost about 48 pounds on the trail. He looked like a different person when he got back.”

Before St. Amour left to start his

journey on the trail, he asked his two daughters, Cierra and Sydney if they were OK with him being away for such a long time. He said he wouldn’t go if they didn’t want him to.

“Our youngest daughter, Sydney, is a ‘Daddy’s girl.’ So it was hard for her when he was gone,” Pam St. Amour said. “But the girls love their dad, and they said it was OK to go.”

“There were lots of ups and downs hiking the trail, but it’s more of a mental challenge than a physical one,” Mark said.

Sleeping in a tent along the trail was one of the most peaceful things he had ever experienced, he said, adding that the sounds of the loons on nearby lakes will put anyone to sleep.

“You lose your fear of being alone on the trail after the first month,” he said. “It’s beautiful and peaceful out there.”

At Washtenaw, he’s committed to keeping every student veteran on the right path, as long and winding as it might seem for them, to a great education. He encourages them all to stop by his office to discuss their educational and post-military career goals.

The Veterans Center is located on the second floor of the Student Center.

Morning along the trail: At 6,288 feet, Mount Washington in New Hampshire is notorious for weather extremes and gorgeous sunrises. The mountain is located along the 2,160.4-mile Appalachian trail that runs from Springer Mountain, Ga. to Mount Katahdin, Maine. **MCT** COURTESY PHOTO

COLEY FROM B1

Because the tricky part for these kids is, yeah they’re going to get jobs – guaranteed jobs – but whether they’re going to stay at that job at 40 grand for the rest of their life, that’s going to be the difference between a four-year and a two-year gig. And I’m trying to let them know that.”

Yet McLean is also conscious of the fact that many of her students won’t continue their education, so she lies awake at night worrying about all the information she wants to pack into their minds.

“It’s like with blueprint,” McLean explained. “This is the only blueprint class they’re ever going to have because they’re probably not going to go to a four-year. I’d better make sure they have everything they need, so that sucks. I just hammer, hammer,

hammer, more, more, more. I’m like, ‘I’d better show them ISO. I’d better show them this. They may never see it, but I want to show it.’ So, those poor little kids – they’re dying, but in a good way.”

And her students do appreciate that, even if they are sometimes stupefied.

“She covered so much information so fast, even I was stunned into, ‘uh, I’ll go look at that later,’” said 32-year old Reche Kirkland, a systems analyst at WCC who took welding for enrichment.

But according to Kirkland, McLean doesn’t just overwhelm students with educational material; she also inundates them with certification requirements and job opportunities.

“She spends a lot of time going out and finding local businesses that are hiring. She goes out, fields these (job opportunities), finds out what the

requirements are, finds out what the conditions are like, whether a student will like it or not, she goes through all of that and then maintains a huge list (on Blackboard),” Kirkland added.

McLean’s unofficial career counseling certainly helped one of her welding students, Nicholas Hilliard, 21, land a job recently.

“If it weren’t for her, I wouldn’t have applied for a job at Washtenaw, and I actually got hired in to be in the welding program as a welding support staff,” Hilliard said. “Coley’s a straight-shooter, and she really wants to help her students, no matter what.”

And that’s what her students value most about McLean, her passion.

For welding and fabrication student Eric Scheie, a 58-year-old California attorney who relocated to Ann Arbor, McLean’s fervor has helped redirect his life.

“I have a friend who’s an artist who

gave me a gift of some welding equipment he didn’t want anymore,” Scheie said. “So I enrolled in 105, which is an introductory course, and I was just hooked because of Coley’s infectious enthusiasm.”

Now Scheie wants to combine his legal experience with his newfound welding knowledge to consult on welding litigation.

Construction technology professor Cristy Lindemann, McLean’s colleague and mentor, sees the impact McLean has on her students. Lindemann credits McLean’s drive and ingenuity for her ability to reach so many people on so many levels. These skills, she says, come from being an amazing sculptor.

“I think her art background helps her a lot with that because she’s not stuck in a box,” Lindemann said.

And McLean definitely loves her art.

“Making art is so much fun, and then you have these huge things and you can’t sell them in Detroit. And then you’re like, ‘Sweet, well where do I put this thing?’ So now I’m making stuff that that I can either play with later, or I can hang stuff on it, or put my sheets on it or something else.”

In fact, she’s co-owner of Salt-Mine Studio in Detroit.

“I’m a silent owner,” McLean joked, “Silent owner means I pay the bills, I don’t know if you got that. Pretty much, I pay the bills and I have no say, but it’s still awesome.”

McLean’s students certainly think she’s awesome. Whether they’re young students struggling to find their paths in this world or veterans of life looking for a new inspiration, they tune into an often witty and always info-packed episode of McLean’s frenetic life to get a little educational guidance with an artistic welding twist.

WELDING FROM B1

they all encouraged me to go on, and they were happy to hear when I got my four-year degree.”

McLean is certainly proud of Ifill’s success and points out to her current students that it doesn’t take a rocket scientist to make it big in welding. She reminds her students that they’re really no different.

“I told my guys, ‘You are Joel. There’s no reason why you can’t be Joel.’ It’s still attainable (for them),” McLean said.

Beyond education and experience, though, Ifill needed to be opportunistic to nail his spot on the TV series. Ifill said he was looking for something “new and interesting” when he came across someone’s audition video on Reddit. Recognizing he was uniquely qualified, Ifill submitted a video of his own, endured a month-long interview process and beat out more than 10,000 applicants to earn his place next to



Ray Marcus-Kurlonko

some major innovators.

“Everyone on the show were very intelligent people,” Ifill said. “This is like Top Engineer, not Top Chef. Everyone was just really on top of their game, and some really famous engineers did some really amazing things.”

And that’s high praise coming from someone who’s not new to televised competition. Three years ago, Ifill was also a contestant on DIY Network’s skills-challenge series, “DIY Dominator,” where he faced off against two other welders to design and construct a 12-foot metal gate in only five hours that could withstand the force of a 150-pound wrecking ball.

Though Ifill didn’t win it, his experience on that challenge is one more tool he can use to blast competitors.

So tune in on May 1 to see how Ifill’s WCC training and subsequent experience stand up against nine other acclaimed challengers. It promises to be explosive.



JOEL IFILL COURTESY PHOTO

Steel bond: Former WCC student Joel Ifill and DIY Network’s Chris Grundy in front of Ifill’s gate on the set of DIY Dominator.

Sinking a 20-foot put with a beer in your hand?

By BENJAMIN KNAUSS
Staff Writer

Heading out on the links with cold drinks and great friends makes for a good day.

And it's even better when you don't have to spend half your time out there looking for that little white ball that sliced into the woods.

Terry and Sheila Calhoun have found a better way.

Terry is a two-time Pro Disc Golf Association world champion. Sheila is also a two-time PDGA world champion in the woman's division. In 2008, both won their age group world titles, the first time a husband and wife were world champions at the same time. Their son, Ben, has played at more than 1,000 different courses, a rare and celebrated feat in the sport.

Collectively, the Calhoun family owns and operates The Throw Shop, one of the largest disc golf pro shops in the nation. The Throw Shop is located on Lake Shore Drive in Ypsilanti Township, inside the Lake Shore Apartment complex and is also home to a 30-hole – or “basket” as the targets are known to the sport – disc golf course.

The rules and etiquette of disc golf and traditional golf are fairly similar. Then the sports part ways. Traditional golf can be very expensive in both equipment and playing fees; not so in disc golf.

“Most courses are free to play, at least 75 percent of them,” Ben said.

The equipment is not expensive, either, with a basic set of discs needed to play the game starting at about \$30. The game requires some different types of discs, each having a unique aerodynamic and weight profile depending on the required distance and accuracy needed to hit the target. No need for any special equipment for

left- or right-handed players.

The PGDA says the object of the game is to traverse a course from beginning to end in the fewest number of throws of the disc. Rather than trying to get a ball into a hole, players toss the disc until it enters a chain basket.

The popularity of disc golf is worldwide. The European and Japanese markets are growing at an astronomical rate. In the United States, courses are being developed all over.

“The sport doubles at least every 10 years,” Ben said.

And his father points to the game's practical use of natural resources.

“The sport has been a success for the public parks systems by turning unusable land into useable land with low environmental impact and minimum maintenance,” Terry said.

Disc golf is also a great form of exercise, with the average player walking three to five miles each round and doing any number of bends and stretches in order to pick up and throw the disc.

And for the serious-minded, the game can be about so much more than tossing a disc. Some players will play in any weather condition. Some even play at night with the use of Glow-in-the-Dark discs augmented with special, attached lights.

The learning curve for those new to the game is short. Most who give the sport an honest try continue to play and develop skills in order to compete quickly.

“Better than 50 percent that try it once keep playing,” Ben said. “You can be playing in a league or tournament and competing within a year.”

Most disc golfers are friendly and are very respectful to new players.

Ben Ross, 32, of Jackson, says he has played in three tournaments already this year traveling as far away as Mt. Pleasant in order to compete.

“It is a great sport, always a good time,” Ross said. “I love to meet new people.”

Chris Kerns, of Ypsilanti, says he has been playing for five years, four to five times a week.

“I enjoy the Michigan outdoors,” Kerns said. “It is cheap to play and has a friendly following and community. It's better than sitting inside and playing ‘Call of Duty’ all day.”

DISC GOLF AT WCC

Make room in your book bag for your golf discs. A round of disc golf can be played between classes, right on campus.

Student Activities, located on the ground floor of the Student Center, has portable disc golf baskets available for student use. All a student has to do is stop in the office and check out the equipment.

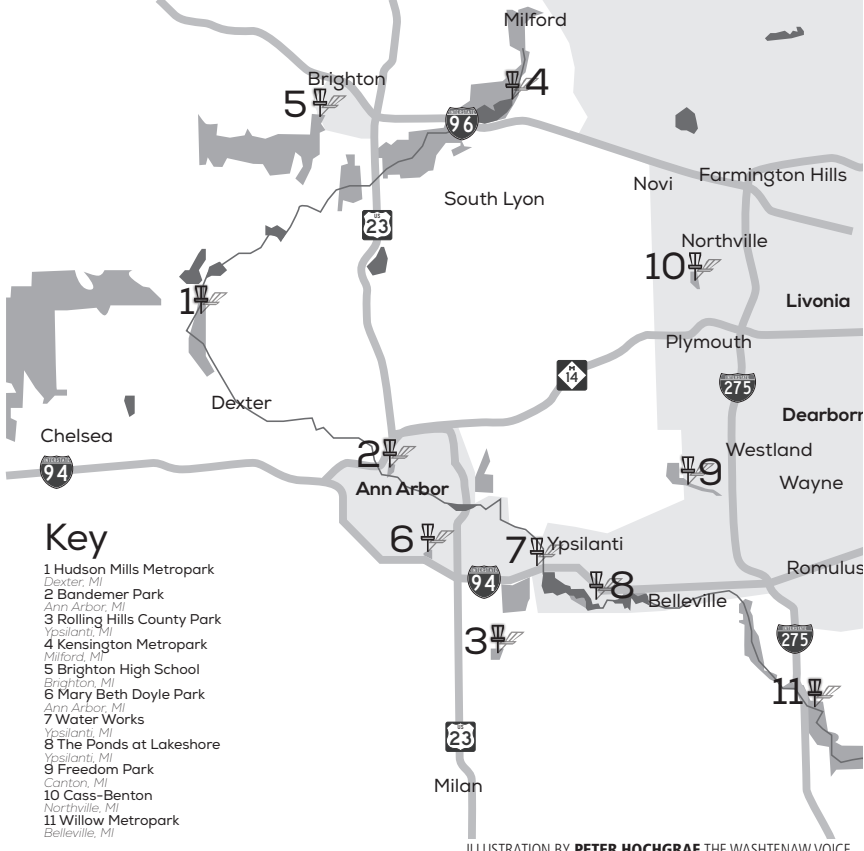
Interest in developing a permanent disc golf course at WCC came up in 2011. Pete Leshkevich, director of Student Activities, said talk of a course took place, but nothing more than a discussion as student interest was low.

“A student collected signatures on a petition to show interest. He collected 130 signatures over a few days,” Leshkevich said, adding that he'd need to see a lot more interest than that for a campus with an enrollment of more than 11,000 students.

Leshkevich acknowledged that as the sport grows, interest on campus may change and he would be willing to revisit the idea. Students are welcome to work with Student Activities on any idea they may have.

“Nothing is off the table,” Leshkevich said. “We welcome discussion, we welcome ideas, we welcome interest.”

Terry Calhoun of The Throw Shop in Ypsilanti has put together some design ideas for a course at WCC on land near the Health and Fitness Center. He estimated that a course could be installed on campus for between \$5,000 and \$6,000.



FORE!!!: A group of disc golfers wait to tee off at the course at the Ponds at Lakeshore disc golf course.



Smoke Signals: Firefighters extinguish the flames inginted by fans upset by Michigan's loss in the NCAA Championship game.

U-M STORY FROM B1

except Brandon Sims and his friends Matthew Wallace and Rianna Harris, who remained calm despite the anticipation wafting through the small bar.

“I didn't start following Michigan basketball until this year, but the way they've played this year changed everything,” said Sims, 21, from Rochester. “The energy was so high in the beginning, and then they were looking like a fluke. But the momentum kept growing and growing. As a comparison of how this team used to be, it's life changing.”

For Wallace, the experience of the up-and-down season didn't faze him, but the show of support at the tail end as the Wolverines got set to play their first NCAA championship game since 1989 brought almost brought tears to his eyes.

“I've never seen this many people on South U before,” said the 21-year-old from Fenton. “I didn't even think we'd get past the first round.”

Around 9:30 p.m., the once-roaring streets grew hushed as the legions of U-M sports junkies turned inward to their bars and house parties, transfixed by the action of the game. The only sounds that punctuated the night were the screams bellowing from living room windows after each thunderous shot was brought down

by the Wolverines.

At a house off of Arch Street, a group of young partiers had set up an HDTV on their porch, enhancing their ability to play beer pong while the game raged on.

“I hope they kick ass tonight, go out with a bang for the last win,” said Kendall Verbeek, 21, from Birmingham, who drank a SOLO cup of beer on between “Go Blue!” chants with her friends at Arch Street. “The expectations for this game are crazy high.”

Her friend Nick Asher, who owns the residence, said that Ann Arbor's pulse hasn't been this high in decades, even with U-M football.

“It's unreal how much school pride there's been around this game,” said Asher, 21. “People around here don't buy basketball tickets. They just don't, but they did for this. It's a complete change in the U-M culture, and it's especially life-changing if you grew up in Michigan.”

If the Wolverines had won on Monday, the crew at the Arch Street residence said that a couch burning would be in order, and that the area that makes up U-M's famous Diag would be on fire – metaphorically – as well.

“We're a force to be reckoned with,” said Annika Pathmanathan, 21, from Sri Lanka.

As the Wolverines entered halftime

at around 10:30 p.m., in the lead by a single point after a wild first half, crowds amassed outside of State Street's Quickie Burger, which not only sells fast food to drunken patrons, but gets them more drunk with its selections of cheaply priced liquor shots and pitchers of beer.

Camera crews from various local news agencies moved up and down State Street trying to capture the U-M spirit on game night.

Inside Quickie Burger, Michigan chants abounded as the cameras rolled. Berger and Kirk Cavell were among them.

Unlike Berger, Cavell is a transplant of sorts. Although he did grow up in Onsted with Berger, Cavell now works for the Tampa, Fla. Coast Guard, and also does personal trainer work for Special Forces recruits in the U.S. military. Cavell came back to Michigan to enjoy this once-in-a-lifetime sports opportunity.

“I have family here, so I've been enjoying seeing them, but to be here with all these Wolverines together is beyond magical,” Cavell said.

By 11:30 p.m., the game was in its waning moments and the Cardinals seemed to have the upper hand with a solid lead that kept them going throughout the second half.

Outside of U-M's Crisler Center, where many had paid \$5 a pop to watch the game on the arena's big screen,

the residents of the houses that surround the basketball court were biting their nails.

They included Lentzinger and his buddies, Evan Simpson and Austin Carie, also from Romeo.

“This game has been so thrilling,” said Carie, 21, almost preparing himself mentally for the eventual U-M defeat. “We're a talented team, but we're so young. There's so much more we have to learn, but this experience will get them there.”

Like their Arch Street companions, the trio set up an HDTV on their front lawn, in the hope that as more drunks left the bar, the party people would stop at their sidewalk viewing station to take in the loss together.

While the lawn-dwellers suspected some small hint of a loss, the thousands who filled the Crisler Center had not given up hope. The horde of fans stayed firmly planted and standing at attention as the final minutes of the game counted down. With each new foul, members of the crowd raised their arms and wiggled their fingers, as if to give some kind of costly, non-corporeal mojo to their team in Atlanta.

Alas, it was not enough, and with seconds to go in the game, Louisville had all but beaten the Wolverines. The Crisler crowd began to exit the building, heads hung low in sadness, but engorged with satisfaction that

for months, maize and blue dominated national sports coverage and put Ann Arbor back on the map for college basketball.

“They played awesome. It hurts that they lost, but this has been huge for Michigan,” said Gina Davis, a 48-year-old U-M alumna who took in Monday's game with her husband Bill and her two sons. Davis' older son, Matthew, works as a manager for the U-M basketball team and hoped that the loss was not too hard on him.

As Monday turned to Tuesday, just a few, scattered fires were set in the streets of Ann Arbor. At the Diag, a small group of about 60 people gathered. They criticized Louisville, complained about the referees and lit a few firecrackers off in the process.

Casey Todd and his girlfriend Jaci Gibbs, both of Lexington, Ky., were there to see the small support group burn off the well-deserved steam.

“We both go to University of Kentucky, so we were really hoping to see the Wolverines cream the Cardinals,” said Todd, 23.

The duo drove four hours just to witness the game in Ann Arbor, and their sorrow almost seemed to outweigh the aggression displayed by those gathered screaming at the Diag.

“It's really disappointing,” said Gibbs, 18. “We drove all the way here to see this. We really wanted them to win.”

‘Evil Dead’ reboot bathes viewers in violence



JOBLO.COM COURTESY PHOTO

By ADRIAN HEDDEN
Managing Editor

Deep in a non-descript but typically eerie wooded locale, newbie director Fede Alvarez took grisly liberties with one of the ‘80s’ most darling gothic exploitation films in “Evil Dead.” Eager to impress past fans and youthful sadists alike, Alvarez was hand-selected by the aging trilogy’s creator Sam Raimi to re-launch the dormant, cult-followed franchise with newly updated carnage via enhanced digital photography and shockingly rustic, old-school make-up and camera illusions.

Happily indulging the blood lust of today’s gross-out horror cinemaphiles,

the reboot posed a crudely-oozing but smartly topical tale of an unwitting band of young adults as they contend with drug addiction and the thrashings of a murderous, but unseen evil.

And a metaphor, re-informed for an audience still writhing from the depravity of reality television, specifically televised drug rehab, is tactfully woven into the paranormal chaos.

Viewers are perversely forced to invoke their newly realistic fears as they nervously struggle to discern between a young woman’s agonizing narcotic withdrawals and a supernatural affront on her very soul.

From its opening, “Evil Dead” is unapologetic as it shamelessly indulges idiotic legions of mindless,

body-horror-obsessed neophytes twitching at the gruesome feet of the disturbingly popular “Saw” and “Hostel” franchises.

But the cinematic gore forced upon viewers throughout the film’s 90 minutes of rotating demonic possession and unsettlingly rapid camera work is sure to sicken even the most desensitized, flesh-hungry movie goers.

Dramatic, unpredictable cuts forced viewers rapidly out into wide angles to gasp at the isolation of “Evil Dead’s” sprawling, haunted settings. Then the wicked cameras violently tore their perspectives inward, deep into the gooey, meaty details.

This phantasmagoria of human pulp was edited and arranged with an abrasive, discordant sense of visual

rhythm threatening a hasty attempt on the cinematic sadism of Tobe Kooper’s 1974 classic “Texas Chainsaw Massacre.”

Dispensing of the occasionally disarming comedic relief and indie-camp of the three quirky-but-classic films that preceded “Evil Dead” in the saga decades ago, this grotesque movie succeeds in maintaining an undeniably gothic mode of suspense and terror, without stumbling awkwardly through misplaced comic relief and exhaustive one-liners.

Instead, it’s young and idealistic director in his feature-length debut chose to go for the gross-out, but managed to restore some suspense through a largely unpredictable plot and successfully dramatic, albeit green, acting.

Pain and emotion was injected by the buckets full. Actors cried and winced with arresting realism while suffering their characters’ fates: bound and dragged through a belligerently modern-but-depraved blood bath with the dark inklings of classic horror’s haunting tact.

Viewers may be advised to done rain gear during this feature, or at least force a chuckle during its vile, biological excess. They will soon be infected by the corrosive, free-flowing blood of Hollywood.

Grade: **C+**
Genre: **Horror**
Runtime: **90 minutes**
Rated: **R**



PCGAMER.COM COURTESY PHOTO

BioShock Infinite: infinitely more fun

By KELLY BRACHA
Staff Writer

In 2007, Irrational Games first introduced us to “BioShock,” a game that led players through the undersea city of Rapture – a submerged and seemingly utopian world.

BioShock left players in awe of its originality and enthralling gameplay and storyline. The title received universal acclaim, but its sequel left fans underwhelmed.

Such is not the case with “Infinite.” In its third installment, Irrational Games takes us back 50 years to an alternate history version of 1912, on the floating city of Columbia.

Players take the role of Booker DeWitt, a former soldier and ex-Pinkerton with a troubled past, DeWitt is sent to Columbia to retrieve a girl named Elizabeth, and bring her to New York as a means of paying off his gambling debt.

Both Elizabeth and the City of Columbia are unknowingly held captive by a religious zealot named Comstock and a giant mechanical terror named Songbird. As you make your way through Columbia’s floating islands, it’s difficult not to be impressed with the scale and detail of its Americana-riddled environment and design, as well as its multifaceted citizens.

As Booker heads into the city to free Elizabeth, he runs up against Comstock’s soldiers and a rebellious movement called the Vox Populi, which speaks for Columbia’s subjugated and oppressed citizens who are fighting for social and economic freedom from Comstock and Columbia’s racist “masters.”

The game mixes first-person shooter action, roleplaying elements and the use of powers called “vigors,”

the game’s version of the original BioShock plasmids. These mechanics are similar in style and effect to what BioShock fans are accustomed to, but are accompanied by two new unique gameplay elements.

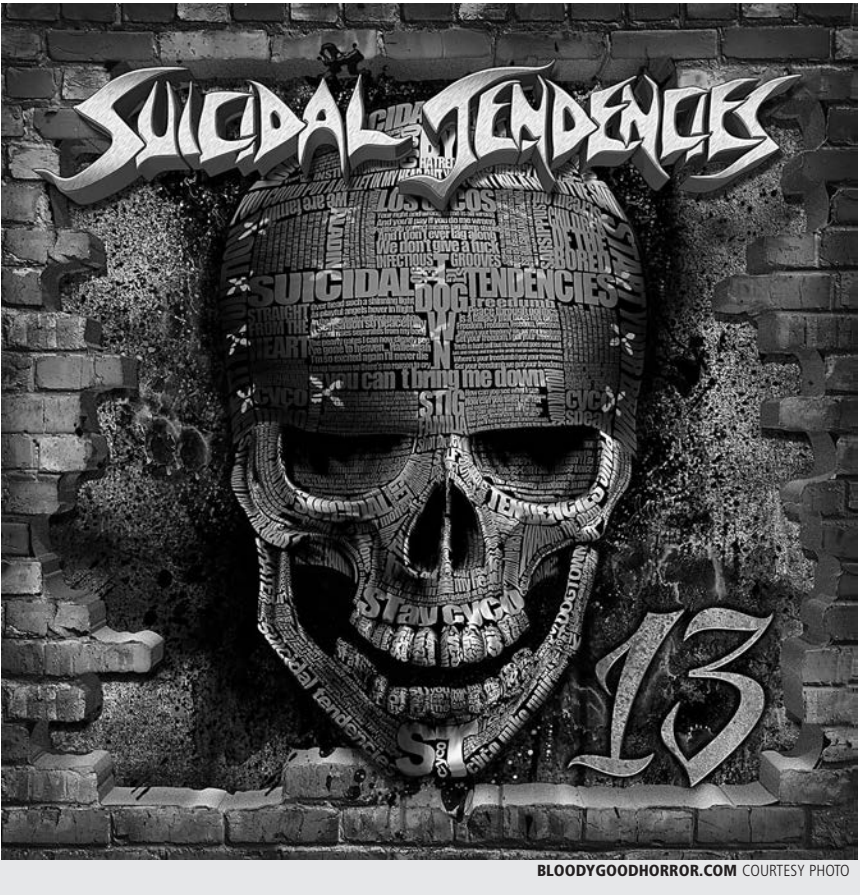
The first are the metal rails that Booker can leap up and travel along in a twisted and breath-taking race through the city and beyond. The second is the use of Elizabeth’s ability to open “tears” in the world around her. These tears also play a central role in the game’s narrative, as Booker and Elizabeth can walk through these tears into alternative universes.

Even with the inclusion of tears, unique vigors and vertical combat, BioShock Infinite’s gameplay is lacking. It is not the rush of battle or the fear of failure that pushes you through this title; it is the story, and the need to find answers to mind-boggling questions that takes center stage and why “Infinite” has received universal acclaim among the gaming community.

From the moment you encounter Elizabeth, it becomes more and more apparent throughout the story that this is not Booker’s journey, but Elizabeth’s and you are just along for the ride.

BioShock Infinite’s mark is not made by the intense gun battles or frantic exploration of Columbia’s masterfully designed cities and stages, but by its complex narrative – from critiques of American democratic ideals and personal liberty to populist movements and depiction of class unrest. The game is a well-written, and its story is engaging through a world that suspends our sense of disbelief and gives players an emotional experiences.

Grade: **A**
Genre: **First-Person Shooter**
Developer: **Irrational Games**



BLOODYGOODHORROR.COM COURTESY PHOTO

Suicide’s an alternative to ‘13’

By ADRIAN HEDDEN
Managing Editor

While listeners reel from the barrage of pretentious, self-loathing ground into the airwaves by 1990s alternative and hard rock, several supposedly rebellious boogeymen were repressed from tattered auditory memories.

But the self-deprecation of Kurt Cobain, the slimy excess of Stone Temple Pilot’s Scott Weiland and the campy psychedelic depression of Soundgarden and Chris Cornell at least remain to elude a sense of wisdom, albeit it forcedly depraved.

The same can’t be said about Suicidal Tendencies’ poster boy Mike Muir. The once-aggressively poetic and bitterly apolitical front man led the charge for heavy metal’s viability in 1983 as the video for band’s initial single: “Institutionalized” received top airplay on MTV.

Early on, they had the beginning of what many called an ingenious “cross-over” of punk and hard rock.

And subsequent releases would find a band steeped in youthfully uncompromising social commentary further pushing the abrasive boundaries of “cross-over thrash,”

a subgenre they may have very well invented.

But that was more than 30 years ago. And after a 13-year hiatus, Suicidal finds itself sprawled across the angry plateau it left off on.

A highly anticipated release, talk of “13” began way back in 2002, before the band’s creative energy seemingly stalled for the next decade.

An exhaustive performance schedule also found Muir and other members’ side projects touring across America and multiple continents, unable to commit the time to record and finalize enough songs to release a full-length album.

So, here it is: the result of Suicidal’s decade of mystery. It is an abbreviation of the band’s early tenacity, softened by embarrassing influence from their cheesy “melodic thrash” days in the mid-’90s

Muir, aged at 50, cries out his now tired, cliché aggression in a whiney-but-rapid drawl, painfully reminiscent of his teenage voice. The guitars and rhythm section dredge listeners through almost every overdone heavy metal and punk rock pattern known to man and child.

In an attempt to appeal to the legions of early fans with a somewhat punk-infused semi-return-to-form,

the band’s overall sound struggles to register even a past identity as they stumble schizophrenically between fast, distorted guitars and corny melodramatic balladry.

Opener “Shake it Out” jerks listeners into the chaos, but soon begins to saunter past the dreaded three-minute mark, a time frame unbecoming to Muir’s rudimentary lyricism and repetitive song structure.

Later tracks, “This Ain’t a Celebration” and “Smash City,” sprinkle interesting and original textures from highly distorted guitars and drums, but all riffs can easily be found in Suicidal’s back catalogue.

Rather than hold out for a full-length, 13-track disappointment, Muir and crew should have put out shorter, EP-length releases along the way to avoid building such large anticipation for very little expansion on their past efforts.

There is a decent four or five songs on “13,” but they are easily missed by listeners unwittingly consumed by the sardonic, recirculation of an over-weight reminder to grunge’s commercialized anger.

Grade: **D+**
Genre: **Hard Rock**
Label: **Suicidal**



Malleable Expressions: ‘Blocks no. 6’ by Kate Silvio is displayed in Gallery One this month.

Growing appreciation for local emerging artists

By MICHAEL J. HLYWA
Staff Writer

When a gallery director admits with a smile that an upcoming show is one she will enjoy walking through every day for the next month, you know you’re in for a real treat. That’s how Anne Rubin, director of Gallery One, feels about the current show “Emerging Artists: Michigan.”

“I love it,” Rubin said. “Every piece is so strong, so beautiful, so unique. I’m really excited about it.”

The fourth and final installation, which opened on April 8 and runs through April 27, in Gallery One’s “Emerging Artists” series takes a step back from a regional focus and showcases the work of artists from across Michigan. Like in the previous installation, the artists featured have something to say about life and use interesting, various techniques to say it.

When Rubin designed this year’s gallery series, she had only one theme in mind: highlighting up-and-coming artists who live in, were educated in or have something to say about Michigan. That the last show seemed to also have a theme of employing found objects was a fortuitous coincidence.

At a glance, the works in the show seemingly have nothing in common. Upon examination, however, the show’s artists, Marco Terenzi, Kate Silvio and James Rotz, all seem to explore putting down roots, one more literally and the others more conceptually.

Terenzi, an Oakland County resident and recent graduate from Detroit’s College for Creative Studies, definitely plays with botany, but in a surprising way. Terenzi started out by painstakingly crafting a seed bank for a collection of his family’s generations-old heirloom seeds, using antique tools and old-world techniques.

“All of the seeds these days are genetically modified,” Terenzi said. “It’s just important to have these original seeds.”

From there, he started to explore the collision of nature and industry.

“Then the other two pieces evolved from the idea of these engineered seeds,” he continued. “So they’re like a sci-fi-based what would happen if bioengineering got to the point where these things could construct themselves, like self-growing structures.”

“They’re made in old-world construction techniques. So they’re made using dying processes like riveting and ironwork. They’re like futuristic seeds from the past.”

Rubin appreciates Terenzi’s craftsmanship and his fusion of two distinct concepts.

“I’m really impressed with him,” Rubin said. “He has taken what is basically an industrial approach and made it organic. He’s done a really outstanding job at weaving these two things together.”

Like Terenzi, Silvio, the show’s second artist, also completed her undergraduate at CCS, but then went on to get her master’s degree from Cranbrook Academy of Art. Now she lives with her husband and 18-month-old daughter in Grand Rapids and teaches sculpture and 3-D design at Kendall College of Art and Design. It’s evident in her older work that Silvio is also no stranger to organic forms. Being a new mother, however, has narrowed her focus to the creation and nurturing of life.

“I basically create my work in response to my life,” Silvio said. “The body of work that I’m working on right now is in response to being pregnant and this huge transition into becoming a mother, which is a crazy thing.”

“So I’ve been working on this body of work that revolves around the tradition of making quilts for a newborn child. (I’m) just thinking about that tradition and the heart that goes into it, the work, the handcrafted feeling and my attempts at creating those things out of rubber and steel.”

Most wouldn’t think to use industrial materials to convey the softness of a quilt or the tenderness of a mother, but Silvio says they’re the perfect means to represent the life-changing role of parenthood.

“You become entrenched in who you are, and then all of a sudden you’re nurturing,” Silvio explained. “So I think that those materials are ill-equipped to be comforting, they’re ill-equipped to take care and to nurture, and I think we all are as people ill-equipped (for parenthood). In my mind it’s trying to make those things work and become comforting and nurturing.”

The show’s final artist, Rotz, of Ann Arbor, recently received his master of fine arts in photography from U-M. His collection of three large photographs and three companion books, entitled “Kibbutz of Desire,” challenges people to take a fresh look at their surroundings, ignore the obvious and find the hidden beauty. In other words, recognize and remember why you took root here, wherever your “here” is.

“I add the notion of accepting your environment in its totality, including the negative attributes, physical and otherwise, rather than fighting, complaining, and ridiculing those attributes, you accept them, while reimagining the space or redefining the space’s poetics, these elements that provide identity, history, and personality,” Rotz wrote in his artist statement.

For Rubin, Rotz’s photographs are strikingly grounded.

“You can really feel where he was when he took these,” Rubin explained. “They do move you to the spot. And they’re all sufficiently familiar, so that’s easy to do. And I think that’s what it’s all about, finding yourself in the place you belong, dealing with the fact that it’s never going to be perfect.”

But to really understand Rotz’s concept, Rubin says you have to take the time to read his handcrafted books.

“Just buzzing through is not going to do it,” Rubin said.

In fact, that’s true of the entire exhibit. All of the artist’s pieces demand careful consideration. They have a lot to convey – more than can be said in a passing moment. And that what gives Rubin reason to smile.

It’s the painting on the wall—and the lesson of a lifetime



MICHAEL J. HLYWA

When I stop to ponder whether art has played a significant role in my education, I instantly recall my first trip to the Detroit Institute of Arts when I was 18. It was the first time I saw Diego Rivera’s massive “Detroit Industry” fresco cycle.

I spent most of my time on that trip standing in that one hall surrounded by Rivera’s depictions of manufacturing and industry in the 1930’s. I was transfixed by it. I learned more about life in Depression-era Detroit from Rivera’s mural in those 30 minutes than in my hours throughout school spent listening to history teachers and reading text books.

That experience perfectly captures the powerful role art plays in education. Unfortunately, it still fails to quantify art’s practical importance. How does understanding one moment in history help me earn a living and be a productive member of society? Therein lies the crux of the problem.

Then I think about some of the personality traits that I have depended on throughout life. Persistence, discipline, precision, creativity, flexibility – more than any technical skill or intellectual competence, these traits have made me successful in every endeavor. But where did I get them, and how did I perfect them?

I was socialized with these traits, obviously. I learned them from my parents and other role models. But my parents also taught me how to balance a checkbook, and I remain abysmal at that task today. So socialization merely introduced me to these traits.

To get to my current level of proficiency, I had to practice. So how did I do that?

Art. Singing in my fifth grade choir helped develop persistence. Playing the clarinet in sixth grade band instilled discipline. My high school drafting classes demanded precision. My college architectural design courses required creativity and ingenuity. And most recently, my writing has necessitated flexibility in addition to all the rest. And all of those traits also made me a better student in my other more academic classes.

Without those opportunities to explore and develop such characteristics, I wouldn’t have come nearly as far as I have. And that’s also true of countless success stories in our society, according to performing arts

professor Michael Naylor. “What we teach in the arts is what people (employers) are looking for,” Naylor said.

Look at many of the top executives of successful companies, he adds. Many of them have art degrees that taught them discipline, to practice four to six hours a day, problem-solving, creativity and passion.

So why does our society continue to relegate art classes to the snack shelf of our educational pantry?

English author and speaker Ken Robinson, in his 2006 TED talk, said, “My contention is that creativity now is as important in education as literacy, and we should treat it with the same status.”

Indeed, my Spanish professor constantly reminds us that we can memorize the lyrics to thousands of songs, and learning a language requires some of the same skills. Music can be a key to learning to read in any language, while simultaneously making the process more interesting and engaging.

But the institution of learning continues to take an archaic stance on art education. What you learn in school as a child is predicated on getting into college, which is paramount to success in life. Unfortunately, the system is lopsided and also fails to reach everyone, which is something Robinson believes must change.

“And the consequence is that many highly talented, brilliant, creative people think they’re not because the thing they were good at in school wasn’t valued – or was actually stigmatized,” Robinson said, “and I think we can’t afford to go on that way.”

It certainly seems that industry and commerce agree. Read any job posting today and you’ll see that the list of desired skills is shorter and takes backseat to the list of required personality traits. Employers know that they can train a worker how to operate their software, but they can’t train out-of-the-box thinking or dedication.

That’s why Noonie Anderson, dance instructor, thinks that learning the creative process is critical.

“One of the things your generation needs is to be creative,” Anderson said.

Creativity teaches you to adapt, she explains, and being adaptable is necessary to survive in our rapidly-changing world.

“The days of holding a job for 30 years are gone.”

That makes me wonder what Rivera would paint today. I imagine his mural of 21st century industry would probably have to be abstract. It would likely be less about the physical tools that people use to do their jobs and more about the characteristics they possess.

One thing is certain, though, if Rivera did paint 2013 on a wall, it would do more to educate the next generation than all the history books of the world.



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6. Classic drama of Japan
7. Actor Charles of "Hill Street Blues"
8. Complexion problem
9. Give ____ (leer)
10. Occupy one anew
11. Lewis and Sagan
12. Present a case in court
13. Blackthorn fruits
18. Put ____ to (finish)
22. Flippant
24. Ear-cleaning swab
25. Norton and Neil
27. Campus military grp.
28. Job-safety org.
29. Beat
30. Nuns' quarters
31. Most sound
35. Quotable Yank
36. Middlin'
37. Fed. agent in finances
39. Alcoves
41. City east of Utah Lake
44. Grampian hillside
46. Verona, in "Romeo and Juliet"
49. Wanted felon
50. Fed. securities
51. Large ray
52. Time in D.C. when it's noon in Chicago
53. Far from safe
56. Senate wear
57. "____ Diary": Twain
59. The M in GNMA
60. Big video game maker
61. Cave, in literature
64. Art-rocker Brian
65. Capital of Mich

ACROSS

1. Landed (on)
5. Take off the topper
10. Certain TV's
14. ___ fever (be hot)
15. Take illegally
16. ___ Spencer, brother of Princess Diana
17. Today's telex
19. Southern constellation
20. Actress Sarandon
21. Chess-playing computer
23. Written supply orders, briefly
26. Fawners' words: var.

27. Don Juan, e.g.
32. She-bear in Sonora
33. — dozen (plentiful)
34. Lovers' meeting
38. Calendar column: Abbr.
40. Chicken in Chihuahua
42. Rapid growth
43. Author Carr
45. Mets and Cubs, for short
47. Overseer of govt. office
bldgs.
48. Typical sampling
51. Wells' "The Island of Dr.
—"

54. Federal agents, informally
55. Licorice-like cordial
58. Chinese menu phrase
62. Capone fighter Eliot ____
63. Billet-doux
66. Toll road: Abbr.
67. Upper stage of a launch vehicle
68. Brand in the frozen food section
69. Vanderbilt and Grant
70. Performed really well, informally
71. Plane assignment



NATHAN CLARK THE WASHTENAW VOICE

Green day: Students packed the Community Room to celebrate Earth Day on April 11. Work from an introduction to graphic design class taught by Ingrid Ankerson was on display to inform the public on Earth safety and other environmental issues.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

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

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

Send ads to thewashtenawvoice@gmail.com.

Deadline for the April 29 issue is Tuesday, April 23 at 5p.m.

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GENERAL COOKS: The Real Seafood Company at 341 S. Main, is in immediate need of experienced cooks for its kitchen. Applicants can apply at any time in-person at the restaurant. For more information, phone 734-769-7738.

SALES ASSOCIATES, CASHIERS, LOADERS AND LABORERS: English Gardens seeks seasonal help. Positions available in Ann Arbor, Metro Detroit and Pontiac. All candidates must possess enthusiasm, initiative, excellent customer service skills and a willingness to learn. Must have experience in retail. Garden Center knowledge a plus. Must be able to: stand and walk up to 8 hours per day; move and

travel to work location; see small print; lift up to 50 pounds; maneuver racks and pallet jack, which can weigh up to 500 pounds; adjust to seasonal temperatures. Applicants must apply at: www.englishgardens.com/our-team

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; www.wccnet.edu/employment/

Information Center Representative. Undertake information-gathering activities aimed at making phone contact with hospitals, medical imaging centers, and related organizations. Determine what types of imaging systems are being used at these facilities. Identify decision-makers. Duties will involve making inquiries regarding end-user plans to upgrade, lease, or buy imaging equipment. Good Word and Excel skills. Part-time position in Ann Arbor.

Computer Technician
Infrastructure, Computer consulting firm has full-time position for candidate with expertise in server, workstation and networking products. Strong interpersonal

skills are a must. Consulting experience, Microsoft Certification, administration experience preferred. Full-time in Ann Arbor.

Lifeguard: Provide preventative lifeguarding at a public beachfront or outdoor water park. Monitor water-related activity and provide preventative lifeguarding services. Enforce water-safety rules and park rules and other duties as assigned. Must participate in the in-service training program, which includes American Red Cross Beachfront or Water Park Modules. Must be able to render emergency first aid and perform life-saving techniques. Full- or part-time position in Ypsilanti.

Grill Cook at Golf course, Clean food-preparation areas, cooking surfaces and utensils. Cook and package batches of food, such as hamburgers and chicken, which are prepared to order or kept warm until sold. Maintain sanitation, health and safety standards in work areas. Operate large-volume cooking equipment such as grills, deep fryers, or griddle. Prepare specialty sandwiches following specific methods that require short preparation time. Schedule activities and equipment use with managers, using information about daily menus to coordinate cooking times. Seasonal position in Canton.

Veterinary Clinic Intern, Reliable,
energetic and caring individual who can
provide compassionate care and assistance

to our animals; communicate amicably and effectively with the public, staff and volunteers; do lots of data entry; and help perform a variety of other tasks in our busy clinic, intake and animal sheltering departments. Basic knowledge of animal handling, ability to handle and move animals (which can weigh up to 100 pounds), and the savvy to handle sensitive information with discretion are required. Previous customer-service experience preferred. Part-time summer internship.

Auto Technician – Light Repair, Dealership has a rapidly growing service department and is looking for a State of Michigan certified automotive technician for a used-car technician position specializing in light repair: brakes, tune-up, and suspension. Experience with Ford and GM is ideal, as is other makes and models. Chrysler experience is preferred, but will not be the sole criteria. The right hire will possess an ability to work in a team environment, be able to diagnose and repair vehicles correctly the first time and have a good attitude. Full-time in Plymouth.

Welder/Fitter, For structural steel. Degree not required, but candidate must be experienced and must be able to arc weld. Full-time in Canton.

Assistant Infant Toddler Teacher,
Daycare & Preschool is looking for an
assistant teacher to start immediately.

Responsibilities include (but are not limited to) interacting with children, cleaning, helping children with toileting and hand washing, diaper changing, journaling, etc. Applicants should have CDA or working toward their child-care degree and have experience in a daycare center. Full-time in Saline location.

Technical Support Analyst II, Full
working knowledge of complex PC and network functionality, including troubleshooting techniques. Provide timely response to coworker requests with a high level of client service using the five steps to great service. Configure and deploy various computer hardware, software, and office equipment. Provide support and assistance for planning and maintenance activities throughout the IT support area. Full-time in Tecumseh.

CAN, Caregivers to work under nursing directives, in-home with the patient providing personal care, homemaking and companionship. Candidates must have at least six months home-care experience. Part-time position in Brighton/Pinckney.

Office Assistant/Bookkeeper, Banquet facility wedding office needs assistant to answer phones, schedule meetings, pay bills and data entry and help with Saturday tours. Must be proficient with Word, Excel and Publisher and able to draft business letters/emails and have basic ledge skills. Part-time position in Saline.



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April 15, 2013

DEEP

in the

GROOVE

Celebrating Record Store Day and vinyl culture



Handle with care

Music is one of the most sacred art-forms we have as human beings.

It was used as a communication tool before the creation of the spoken or written word. It was considered divine and even devilish – depending on the types of notes you played. The early Greek mathematicians studied its complexities along with geometry and astronomy.

As music became recordable via Thomas Edison's phonograph in 1877, its main medium became the vinyl record, which has spun

wild visions and a powerful magnetic lust in the collective imaginations of every American since its creation.

Silent movies, gin joints, jukeboxes, rock n' roll, soda shops, sock hops, school recitals; protests and mass burnings, lava lamps, hanging out in basements; drug use, long hair, guitar shops, head shops, concert posters, and any musician who sat in front of a set of stereo speakers wide-eyed yelling "hallelujah!" has the vinyl record to thank for the experience of sharing new sounds with the populace.

Generations of humans have worshiped the album, but on Saturday, April 20, the U.S. and Europe will again celebrate the glory of vinyl, as it has the past six years, with international Record Store Day.

In honor of Record Store Day, here is our guide to what new limited edition pressings will be hitting stores on Saturday. Enjoy an examination of Record Store Day, as told by the workers from a few south eastern Michigan record shops, and a selection of feature stories highlighting vinyl culture from Ann Arbor to Detroit and its suburbs.



CHARLES MANLEY THE WASHTENAW VOICE

Many modern artists also release albums in vinyl format as the trend of collecting records becomes more popular.



Record Store Day sucks

Is vinyl's biggest day scratchy, at best?

CHARLES MANLEY THE WASHTENAW VOICE

Albums like these and others will be up for grabs on international Record Store Day.

BY BEN SOLIS
Editor

After six years of flooding local mom-and-pop record stores with crates full of limited-release vinyl, free records and other goodies, international Record Store Day has given most music shops an annual rallying cry.

"It's like people filling a church on Christmas and Easter all at once," said Altan Zambo of Dearborn Music.

For those like Zambo, the day dedicated to the long-play album reminds them of a simpler time when record stores were always full. However, a few local shops say that the burst in popularity isn't all it's scratched up to be.

"Record Store Day is by far our busiest day of the year, and financially it's our best day, but it can be hectic and tension-filled," said John Kerr, owner of Wazoo Records in downtown Ann Arbor. "It's like taking finals. You have all these lists of records you have to choose from, you have to ask if you can afford to bring them in or not. The items aren't returnable if they're not right.

"There's a feeling of elation when it's over. There's some real relief there."

Occurring nationally around the U.S., Canada and in European countries such as the U.K., France and Germany, the annual Record Store Day started as a hearty "piss off" to big-chain music sellers and stores that were moving away from physical locations to the Web. Founded by a small group of men and women in 2007, the idea was for record stores to ban together and fight the machine they

saw attacking the institution of the independent record store.

By partnering with the artists, record labels and various independent shops around the country, Record Store Day could act as the foil against going-out-of-business signs and the ever-malignant Internet download.

And just how exactly does Record Store Day counteract those non-corporeal single-downloads? The labels create and push limited edition pressings of new material from new artists, or re-release rare or precious back-catalogs of old classics from the likes of Pink Floyd, or Paul McCartney and Wings.

The idea paid off, and each year on the third Saturday in April – this year on April 20 – patrons from varying generations swarm their hometown shops, with some even driving across state lines, to get their hands on those elusive collector's items.

But even with such lofty goals, local shops say that this day of worship is often heavily disorganized and caters only to corporate labels.

"Most of the indie record labels don't take part in Record Store Day," said Alex Taam, who works at Underground Sounds, located downtown at 255 E. Liberty St. "Sub Pop and others like them tend not to do it because most of the participants are big labels. Those big labels are good at their jobs, but the whole thing feels co-opted by the larger labels in a way."

Taam, 28, from Ann Arbor, has worked at Underground Sounds since it opened 10 years ago and can recall the headaches of planning for each Record Store Day.

"Some of the stuff you order doesn't come in until the day before," he said. "Last year Matt (Underground Sounds' owner) and I were up until 1:30 a.m. trying to get ready and were still getting our special orders in on Saturday."

Another issue Taam sees as an unintended byproduct of Record Store Day is the buying and reselling or the marking up of the limited edition vinyl releases – a cheapening of a day that already bugs him.

"It's just a bummer that immediately takes advantage of exclusive material," he said. "The stores that buy the pressings and then do a high mark-up are already making great money. The original mark-up is decent as it is. It just rubs me the wrong way."

Kerr, who has owned Wazoo on 3336 S. State St. since 1996, said that customer reselling of limited pressings is always a possibility.

"The people that are first in line on Saturday are usually people I've never seen before or will never see again," said Kerr, 58. "They could be collectors looking for something rare to say they have, but a lot of them could be reselling albums. I don't ask questions, but I've seen well-known dealers first in line."

In Kerr's experience – he started working at Wazoo in 1978 – he's seen Record Store Day grow from nothing to the big bluster that is now.

Outside of the cozy confines of Ann Arbor, Record Store Day is not looked upon with such bitter eyes.

At Dearborn Music located in downtown Dearborn at 22501 Michigan Ave., the day is all of the celebration it is hyped up as.

For Zambo, a 35-year-old student of Henry Ford Community College who has worked at Dearborn Music for three years, the charm of Record Store Day is seeing people get excited about vinyl again. For years, Dearborn music has sold record players and starter kits without much success. The main reason, Zambo said, was that most people didn't know how to use them.

"They'd take it home and try to hook it up to their desktop systems and of course it wouldn't work," he said with a laugh. "You're going to need more power than that."

Now, Dearborn Music can't keep a record player on its shelves for more than four days.

Addressing all the negativity toward Record Store Day from his Ann Arbor brethren, Zambo just doesn't understand the mentality.

"No one's making them participate," he said. "If they don't like it, why are they? They could just be fishing instead. It's always good to see that many people in a record store on a Saturday morning, especially with independent stores declining.

"It's not as big of a headache as others make it out to be."

Back at Wazoo, Will Lovick, an employee of the shop, said that what he does like about Record Store Day is the feeling of nostalgia that only a long-time music-shop rat can muster.

"Every Record Store Day reminds me of how record stores used to be – with people standing around new releases just hanging out and talking about music," Lovick said. "That used to be the best part about it."

A place where vinyl is king

Café Ollie serves up coffee, beer and music as it was meant to sound

By NATALIE WRIGHT
Staff Writer

One night in Melbourne, Australia in the mid-1960s, an old drunk named Burgess Oliver jumped into an ill-matched bar fight and saved a man's life.

After declining the man's request to buy him a drink, Oliver suggested that if the man felt he had a debt to pay, there was another way he could pay it.

Name your first-born son after me, he said.

Decades later, the man whose mother refused to name him Burgess Oliver, named his restaurant Café Ollie in honor of his father's savior.

Mark Teachout, 39, and his wife Danielle opened Café Ollie almost three years ago after moving to Ypsilanti from Flint.

The café, nestled in historic Depot Town, is a result of the couple's combined visions. Danielle had been in the restaurant business for a while and wanted to open a coffee shop. Mark wanted to include some different elements to make the place more unique.

"So, we settled on kind of a European-style café," Mark said. "It's a place where you can get coffee and espresso, but also beer and wine."

He also knew that he wanted music to be a big element of the business. They were going to have a couple of performances every month, but when it came time to discuss the music they would play overhead during the day, the Teachouts realized that they only had one option.

"Between us, and everyone who was here helping us open, no one owned a CD player, but everyone offered to bring a record player," Mark said. "So it just happened very naturally. We spin vinyl because that's what we all like to listen to."

"I've been collecting records since I was growing up in the '70s. I just never really switched over. I always liked records better than tapes or CD's. And I never got into digital music."

Customers in the café can expect to hear a lot of local music and also a lot of Bob Dylan, Teachout said as Dylan's "One More Cup of

Coffee" was playing overhead.

Last year, the Teachouts decided to take the music element a little bit further. They joined up with Cousin's Vinyl, a record store in Plymouth, to sell some of their inventory in Café Ollie.

Though Teachout says this arrangement will be ending soon, he still plans to sell vinyl in the café.

"I'm just going to put more of my own records out and buy more new ones to sell," he said.

All of the records for sale sit in crates right by the front door. As customers walk in and see them, they are often shocked, though for different reasons.

"The older crowd always say either, 'I didn't know people still made these!' or 'Why do you have these?' and the much younger crowd, like teenagers have absolutely no concept of what they are. More than once I've heard someone say something like, 'Why is this CD so big?'" Teachout recalled.

"I was pleasantly surprised when I saw the records in front," said Malaika Pickell, 39, a

resident of Ypsilanti who frequents Café Ollie.

"I grew up listening to my parents' records, but I haven't really thought about them since I was a kid," she said. "It was like a nice little nod to the past when I saw them."

The only people who seem to find it commonplace to still listen to and sell records are those in their 20s and 30s, Teachout said.

And that is the kind of crowd Café Ollie is likely to attract with its new bar and dinner menu this spring.

The new menu will focus on pairing dinner food with their selection of mostly local beers and wines.

"We want this to be more of a hangout at night, even when we're not doing shows," Teachout said. "We want it to be somewhere people can come on a date or come have a drink, but it still feels like a coffee shop without the loud, annoying bar atmosphere."

But if Café Ollie can't keep out the rowdiness of the night crowd, and Teachout has to break up a bar fight or two, perhaps he will have the chance to tell someone: "Name your first-born son after me."



NATHAN CLARK THE WASHTENAW VOICE

Café Ollie owner Mark Teachout serves up his customers scoops of ice cream as old records fill the shop with song.

By BEN SOLIS

Editor

Distant relatives

Cousin's Vinyl takes back seat at Café Ollie

When Geoff Anderson and Justin Meyers graduated college in 2002, they had no idea where to go with their lives, but they knew they had a passion for used vinyl records.

"Justin had these boxes of 45s he had lying around and I had just been to a garage sale and bought a bunch of records," said Anderson, one of the co-founders of Cousin's Vinyl, reminiscent of the store's humble beginnings. "We opened up a shop on eBay and just started selling them."

With the small amount of money that they received from the short-sales, the duo would go out and buy more records, repeating the process and building a hefty collection. A year later, after coming across an old Northern Soul imprint, Anderson and Meyers inadvertently found a black goldmine.

"We found out that it was worth nearly \$100, and after the auction ran its course the 45 sold for \$1,700," Anderson said.

With that payday, and an extra dose of vinyl-junkie pride, the two Ypsilanti men quit their jobs, bought warehouse space off of Eckles Road in Plymouth, and, of course, bought more records.

For ten years the warehouse store, which consisted of two large rooms filled with nothing but crates of rare long-play albums and 45s, sustained the two relatives. It paid their bills, fed their families, and for a long time put them in the ranking as the third highest vinyl sellers on eBay.

"We were known for having upwards near 20,000 albums for sale online," Anderson said, touting the glory days of Cousin's. "At one point we sold a total of 500,000 records in the online store."

But alas, those numbers could not be sustained, and with families and other expenses coming out of nowhere – as they often do – the cousins had to downsize and eventually close up shop.

"I had to go back to school and get my degree, so Justin ran the store part-time, but then he had a son and it had to end," said Anderson, 33, who now teaches special education in the Ann Arbor school district.

While Anderson and Meyers always had the online store to keep their labor of love going, fortune smiled upon a physical store front once more, this time in the form of Café Ollie, a local vegan eatery and ice cream shop.

During a "Halcyon Sundaze" event that the cousins attend regularly at the Corner Brewery,

NATHAN CLARK THE WASHTENAW VOICE

Stacks of Cousin's Vinyl on sale now at Café Ollie.

COUSIN
CONTINUED C11

Punks on vinyl



Detroit punkers Aggro Or Die! discuss 'hardcore' on wax

BY TOM LEE
Web Editor

Punk rock has always gone against the grain of what the industry is doing. Go to any local punk rock show and on every merchandise table you will find bands selling music the way it was meant to be heard – on vinyl.

No band personifies that more than Aggro or Die!, a local trash punk band from Detroit. In the fall of 2007, band members put their money where their hearts (and ears) are and pressed 500 copies of their debut "Coming Out Alive," selling it at their shows.

"Vinyl is tangible, you can hold it," said lead singer, Jim Dixon, 37. "There's just something to be said about little grooves on a piece of wax that causes a needle to vibrate into a tunnel that creates that sound you hear."

Dixon knew it was a big gamble for the band, but growing up he recalled always listening to his favorite bands on vinyl and because of that, he said, "I always wanted to hear my band on vinyl."

Vinyl gives musicians another outlet to express their music through artwork and liner notes, said Dixon, who also did all of the artwork on "Coming Out Alive." He felt that with digital releases that attention to detail was lost in translation.

When Aggro or Die! went to start the recording of its new album, "Summer Dies," it was going to be a six-song 7-inch vinyl. But when band members realized how limited it was to song lengths, they knew it was not

going to work.

"We are no longer the minute-and-a-half punk band that Aggro or Die! was, with that 7-inch," said bass player Dan Bruce, 35.

Because of songs like "Escape the Suicide Season," which is 7 ½ minutes long, it is hard to fit the entire album on vinyl and keep it affordable to produce.

What it comes down to for most bands is to get their music to the masses, and for that there are many services like iTunes, Pandora and Spotify.

Musicians don't have to like it.

"What I think is kind of sad is like, because the immediate availability of music and the Internet and downloads and this and that," said lead guitarist Damien Gorecki, 32. "That's actually kind of devalued music in a way where it is more used to sell shit now and be background noise than it is for people actually to get into and invest time and emotion in it."

"Having a CD or vinyl record, something that actually really expresses a lot of what that band is all about and what they are trying to say through visual art as well as music, is more important now than ever because music is so bastardized by just everything."

More important, Dixon said, is that vinyl is permanent

"Music lives on forever," he said, "through vinyl."

To see Aggro or Die!

WHEN: May 3, doors open at 9 p.m.

WHERE: Simon's After Dark, 4936 Allen Road, Allen Park, Mich.

To hear Aggro or Die!

To purchase a copy of "Coming Out Alive" on vinyl, visit: <http://overdoseonrecords/store>. For a digital copy, visit iTunes

A camera looks at a music industry on life support



JAMES SAOUD

The music industry is destroying itself from the inside out.

As a global industry, music blew up in the 1940s and 1950s and has continued to over-expand and over-develop itself up until the past decade.

With the introduction of the Internet, a threat has been made to media of all kinds – books, newsprint, radio and cinema. But the music industry was hit harder and faster than any other medium.

Last semester, with my DSLR camera and a crew of made up of digital video production students from Washtenaw Community College, I set out to make a documentary on the state of the American music industry. The idea was to interview a slew of independent musicians, record store owners, and music journalists. What I anticipated to capture was a big middle finger to "the man," a "(expletive) you" to the physical media craze that built the industry. What I discovered was something much more tragic. I had grazed the surface of an industry on life support.

With modern advances in the technical side of recording and releasing music, money is no longer a factor. Nearly anyone with a single musical bone in their body has the ability to record themselves on a professional-sounding level.

When talking to independent musicians, the general consensus I found was that they no longer need money from the industry to do what they need to do. They can write, record and distribute from their own basements. All they need is a laptop and decent Internet connection.

It's not just independent musicians taking advantage of this new format either.

Vinyl Video

To see Saoud's documentary, visit *The Voice* online at <http://washtenawvoice.com>

Bands like Nine Inch Nails and Radiohead have been doing free or name your price online releases for years.

While the Internet has helped boost the industry in a lot of ways, it's also its biggest competitor. People steal music. This is a fact. Digital music has exploded in the past 10 years, making it the most common format in how people listen to new music.

However, this also leads to a lot of music piracy. While the Recording Industry Association of America has made some very desperate examples of people it has caught in the act, people continue to steal music.

I had a very open opinion on music piracy before making my documentary: Who cares? After talking with the people it affected the most, however, I found an answer to my question.

With the vast numbers of music piracy growing on a daily basis, something else has occurred in the music industry that has stunned insiders everywhere: a massive increase in vinyl record sales. In 2005, vinyl record sales were at roughly 860,000 per year.

Jumping forward to 2012, vinyl record sales have skyrocketed to 4.5 million per year. Compare that to CD sales: 600 million sales in 2005, but dropping to 194 million this year.

When I brought this up to my interview subjects, they all agreed that vinyl records not only sound better, but they also reflect a more personal connection to the music. Having a vinyl record that you love is something you can keep and pass down from generation to generation. As long as people love music, the vinyl-record format will stand its ground.

While the music industry continues to wither away, there are certain events that breathe life into it. For me "Record Store Day" acts as an encore for the radical show that the American music industry was – a chance to stick around and hear a couple more songs.

While music will live on forever, the industry that fed off of it for nearly a century will go hungry.



Patrons at Encore records browse the stacks of used CDs and vinyl records.



Some stores take great measures to keep their records safe.

Across *the* Universe

PHOTOS BY CHARLES MANLEY
WORDS BY BEN SOLIS

Independent Record Stores are holding the line against corporate, mainstream music outlets and the radio machine that feeds them. Staffed by know-it-alls, aficionados and music junkies a plenty, the independent store was once the safe haven for any head with a

few dollars to his or her name.

At the record store, an audiophile found refuge in new releases and the comfort of old favorites. In finding that one rare 45 single, a collector could become the king of his domain, if only temporarily, before the next obscure item happened up his way.

Capturing the essence of finding new gems and digging around for hours, these picture tell the story of life inside a record shop – of time spent searching for the next great sound.



Crates of records categorized by genre at Wazoo Records.



The Kiwanis thrift sale held every Saturday in Ann Arbor draws vinyl enthusiasts.

Fighting hunger with 'Comfort Food'

Local club promoters serve up eclectic beats, social solutions. But will the girls bite on this musical buffet?



BEN SOLIS THE WASHTENAW VOICE

Underground sounds are spun on alternating Tuesdays at Ferndale's Grasshopper Underground.

BY BEN SOLIS
Editor

FERNDALE — Between Motown Records and Detroit techno, residents of southeast Michigan have gotten used to heaping portions of well-cooked musical fare.

But in recent years, a few of the region's resident curators of sonic cuisine have noticed their people starving.

"We'd go to all these shows around town that would be these jump up, quick gratification types of sounds. We would have a good time and our family was all there, but what would happen is we'd come home and throw on Ninja Tune beats or Drum & Bass and wonder 'why aren't we hearing this the whole time?'" said TJ Winters, a 28-year-old beat-junkie and music promoter from Ferndale.

His friend Steven Miller knew it wasn't because of any shortage of local clubs — on any given night, promoters in Detroit and its outliers are throwing every kind of DJ show imaginable. Their partner Jyarsch Corbin knew it wasn't due to a lack of well-rounded denizens with complicated palates.

In the trio's opinion, what the area was missing was a big plate of musical comfort food. Something different that fans of underground sounds could sink their teeth into.

Quickly, the triumvirate, who had a hand in various club promotions with larger companies like React Detroit, got inspired to offer something more than the normal club date could — eclectic beats that no one was playing, with a diverse mix of DJs doing several genres in one sitting, much like the UK record label Ninja Tunes, their role models.

"For me personally, I look up to people like Ninja Tunes for the fact that they can put out these mixes that go wherever the hell they want," said Corbin, 30, from Detroit. "I like the idea of creating a night where we can have something like that, that's like break-beat hip-hop, and do Drum & Bass stuff, and go into house."

But if these entry-level bass-heads were going to start something that could seriously rival the slew of gigs going on around Metro Detroit, they'd have to get organized.

They called up all their local "chef" friends, the DJs they knew and loved, but also the ones they grew up with. They found a prime spot to open up their bi-monthly musical food stand, Ferndale's infamous Grasshopper Underground, which caters to live electronic music headliners on daily basis.

Using graphic pop art depicting a simpler time of beautiful women cooking slow-roasted, home prepared meals, they had a sexy

marketing plan.

And in honor of the guilty pleasures they wanted to play for the nearly 100 people who would eventually become their regulars, the group settled on a name that reflected their mission — Comfort Food.

Founded by Corbin, Winters and Miller — who is affectionately referred to as "Goat" — Comfort Food has been steadily growing into the spot for live music on alternating Tuesdays.

Since its launch in late February, the gig has been getting more attention, a larger audience, headliners that approach them for lead time slots and interested looks from newspapers like *The Detroit Free Press*. And by partnering with Ravers Against World Starvation, a charity organization that runs local food drives at DJ shows, Comfort Food can do a bit more than feed people's ears.

The added bonus — it's absolutely free.

For the creators of Comfort Food, the ultimate goal was to hold a weekday party that was inherently futuristic and funky, but with enough panache to attract the more striking members of the female club-going persuasion — the ones who typically wouldn't get off on break-beats.

"The whole concept was, 'how do we get girls out to these parties?' I've been to all these future hip-hop shows and it's like noth-

ing but producers and promoters just standing there," Winters said. "We thought, 'the style we're pushing is primarily a male dominated-sound,' because it is so futuristic.

"What we thought was, 'what *do* girls like?' They like comfort food — they like things that make them feel good."

By throwing a party that introduces mainstream club-goers to lesser-known tracks and artists, the Comfort Food crew is trying to build an institution of its own one show at a time.

Yet the Grasshopper's management needed a bit of convincing before it would give the keys to hip-hop triad, even on a bare-bones Tuesday night.

"The Grasshopper Underground is exclusively a deep house, techno venue in the city, so when we first starting talking to them we said the word hip-hop and they kind of cringed away," said Miller, 29, from Ferndale. "(The owner) had us make him a tape and basically said 'no live emcees.'

"He hit us back the next day and said he loved every (track)."

Corbin said the owner's turnaround was fitting with the group's mission at hand: changing people's minds about the music they are ingesting.

"It's so hard to categorize these things,



BEN SOLIS THE WASHTENAW VOICE

T3 of Slum Village spins vinyl in one of his first DJ sets.



JOSH HOPE COURTESY PHOTO

Comfort Food patrons enjoying a fresh serving of hot beats.



JOSH HOPE COURTESY PHOTO

Frank Raines, the mastermind behind Motor City Funk Night, picks rare 45s for play.

and everything is so thrown into a box these days," he said. "Half the time it doesn't even belong there.

"Instead of trying to categorize it, I'd love to say, 'we're going to bring good music.' I think it's what (CF has) developed into."

Down in the underground – and deep in the groove

On March 19, the habitually hopping downtown area of Ferndale is like a ghost town compared to its weekends. The few people walking down the Grasshopper Underground's stretch of Woodward Avenue are those looking for a quick bite to eat or a place to get out of the cold.

On most Fridays, the city's many parking spots would have been deluged, but tonight they are barren. Around 9 p.m., cars begin to fill the lot designated for the Grasshopper, and the party is underway.

Tonight is a special night for Comfort Food. Its first big headliner is playing this round, T3, a Detroit emcee known for his work with the ground-breaking hip-hop group Slum Village.

Slum Village was the avenue that the late producer J Dilla used to start his career, and Comfort Food is the place where T3 will branch out into playing the DJ like his deceased and honored friend. Others on the lineup included Thunder St. Clair from Ohio and R.C.U., one of Corbin's long-time friends Tommy Orozco.

By sticking with local cats, even in the case of their headliner choices, Comfort Food can grow on a grass-roots field, as opposed to doing a one off production, that may flop, Winters said.

As the three are setting up, Corbin dishes on what it is like learning a new craft, much like college students do when they're planning out their future careers.

"The No. 1 thing I've learned is how to hook up someone's audio," he said. "That was always a weird thing, and whenever people

music, but also to offer great variety so we wouldn't get bored.

"It's been nice because we only get electronic with it on one side of the month, the other side we keep it real soulful, so you have a little something for everybody."

The focus on soulful tunes is what gets patrons in the door. And since some of these old-school tracks are predominantly a part of vinyl culture, patrons enjoy Comfort Food's leaning toward mixing records – even if those records have been burned onto the artists' laptops.

"I look at like there are two different arts: vinyl is an art in its own right, just as far as what the technology is," Miller said. "But on the other hand, using laptops is a different art and they are different tools. You

learn them in different ways. Any of us should have the respect for both."

The reasoning for using vinyl controllers as opposed to tangible records? The artists like avoiding the pains associated with carrying crates upon crates of vital vinyl.

"I was taught by vinyl DJs. The whole tradition is really stuck in me, so you'll always see me playing with vinyl control records." Orozco said, "The laptop thing has to do with carrying a 45 pound crate. Five pounds versus 45 is just easier on the back and easier on everything. It expands because you can only fit about 100 records inside of your crate. Having a full library off your laptop is pretty killer."

T3 concurs.

"Every little bit helps. Partnering with (Ravers Against World Starvation) is a way to contribute to the city that has been so damn good to us over the years." - Corbin

rattled off, 'oh um DJM 600,' I had no idea what the (expletive) was going on. So every time it's happening, I'm looking at the mixer now. (Thunder St. Clair) just hit me up and asked me what kind of mixer I had, and I said, 'man I actually know this shit and I didn't have to call TJ!' It's beautiful."

For Orozco, who played at the opening gig in February, Tuesday nights at the Grasshopper work so well – and not just because he's playing them, either.

"We felt like there was a gap, and we weren't getting what we wanted from every party," said Orozco, 30, from Detroit. "We wanted a place where we could come in here and play intelligence-based music, adult-based

"I carried records," he said. "And a lot of people don't remember carrying records and crates. That can kill you! Now I have all my vinyl that I have converted onto laptops. I am not upset with that. I'm still technically on vinyl."

But rocking those old sounds is what beat-junkies live for, and for T3, are vital to the recipe of a Comfort Food show.

"The recipe for a good Comfort Food show: the cuisine has a lot of fat on it, it tastes good; it's been fried in grease," said the emcee. "It's been tested and tried, and you know it works. That's comfort food, and that's the same thing with music. You know it's bad for you, but you love it so much. It's all of that."

Comfort Food for the homeless and funky

As the ternerion opens the club two weeks later on April 2, Comfort Food expands on its work in the community.

Tonight will be the first time that the collective has partnered with Ravers Against World Starvation, the charity organization that they feel most at home with.

RAWS, which was founded in 2011, collects canned food at DJ shows with the intent of giving the parcels collected to Detroit's less fortunate. If a patron brings any canned food item to a show where RAWs is working, RAWs will give that person two free glow-stick bracelets – a small reward for helping them get down.

Local sponsors backing RAWs include Burst Radio, club promotions company Night Sneak, BioTECH Productions and many more.

COMFORT
CONTINUED C11



A maze of vinyl selections at Wazoo in downtown Ann Arbor.



Customers browse the stacks at Wazoo Records.



Wazoo employee Will Lovick sits behind the counter surrounded by vinyl records and other music paraphernalia.



A vintange radio-phonograph combination set, priced for far less then it is worth.

COUSIN FROM C5

a beer tasting and DJ gig in celebration of the brewery's seasonal offerings, Anderson met Mark Teachout, Café Ollie's owner.

Over beers and while perusing through boxes of records that Anderson had brought to sell, Teachout and Cousin's owner worked out a deal to sell the vinyl wholesale at Café Ollie.

With the shop's vinyl heavy-theme – all of the coasters are made from melted 45s and its menus are pasted to the back of old albums – Café Ollie was the perfect spot to carry on Cousin's lost storefront.

"We already sell records, primarily those from just Ypsilanti artists, so having their collection here is an extension of that," said Teachout, 39, of Ypsilanti.

Aside from adding to his restaurant's branding, Teachout said he enjoys the collection because of the variety and rarities that might turn up.

"The records we sell, and the ones they give us, are definitely 'digger' records," he said. "It's the kind of collection where you're not looking specifically for one thing, but you find that one gem."

While the "new" store is more of a way just to offer Anderson and Teachout's hometown more options when buying music, long-time Cousin's Vinyl customer Ashley Kersh can't help but miss her local shop that she felt only she knew about.

"When I was shopping in that place alone, it felt like it was my record store," said Kersh, a 24-year-old student at Eastern Michigan University. The Eckles Road location was minutes from her apartment in Plymouth back when she visited the store in 2007. "I'd go there and find different albums that matched my mood and play them depending on how I was feeling."

"If someone else was there, I'd wait until they'd leave so it was just me in the room with all this vinyl. It was kind of my secret escape."

Anderson said he appreciates those who used to visit the old shop, and hopes that the Café Ollie store can bring back those kinds of feelings.

"It's different. It was super meaningful back then," Anderson said. "We've definitely scaled back but now it's just for fun instead of money."



CHARLES MANLEY THE WASHTENAW VOICE

Rare records like these are what give independent record stores their charm.

COMFORT FROM C9

Aside from offering canned goods, the group holds events that act as makeshift food kitchens, where the city's homeless can enjoy a hot meal and a fat beat. The events are aptly called "Beat While You Eat."

Corbin now looks at Comfort Food as more than just a way to get girls to parties, but also as a means for social change through having a good time. Adding the RAWS name to the lineup fulfills him, like a good beat spinning on through the night.

"Every little bit helps. Partnering with (RAWS) is a way to contribute to the city that has been so damn good to us over the years," he said.

However much Comfort Food does for the community, or how many people it serves hot plates of fresh sounds to, the focus will always remain on the people who make it worthwhile – his friends, and the ladies.

"I was getting down on the dance floor with an adorable little chica, and I took a look back by the speakers and saw all these people that I care about – just seeing all these smiles on their faces, or shaking their asses or deep in conversation," Corbin said. "I had some part in facilitating all of this. It's just mind-blowing to me. It's kind of like when you're riding on a road trip with a homie and you put on a CD with some stuff they've never heard."

"That feeling is unmatched."



CHARLES MANLEY THE WASHTENAW VOICE

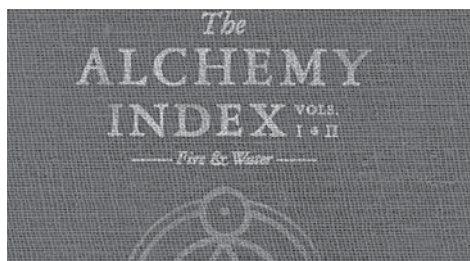
It puts the vinyl on the player. It does what it's told.

Liner Notes

Random notes from The Voice's Record Store Day interviews

Guilty Pleasures

At Comfort Food, playing obscure tunes is the name of the game. But some songs are just too weird for their own good. Here are the albums and tracks the promoters and DJs wish they could play but can't.



"Thrice's 'Water' album — I'd love to hear that played in a club and never will. It's one of the most electronically produced albums ever."
— TJ Winters



"Speeches by Malcolm X or Martin Luther King Jr., but I'd get taken down."
— Jyrasch Corbin



"Johnny Cash or Merl Haggard. They probably wouldn't support that very much but I could listen to four hours of that on the road."
— Steve Miller



"A track called Chemistry by Technical Itch, it's a beautiful track but it's just a little too tough for the venue. It's really hard and heavy. But the track is so well put together. It talks about evolution and chemistry."
— Thomas Orozco

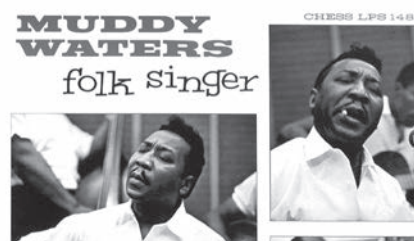


"Trinidad James, 'Everything Gold.' Gold is all up in my watch. I don't have it in my watch, but that song."
— T3 of Slum Village

WCBN's Jerry Mack traces Muddy's influences

Jerry Mack has been a member of 88.3 WCBN-FM, the University of Michigan's student-run radio station, since the late '70s. In that time, he's gotten cozy with the station's large collection of classic vinyl records.

On April 4, Mack — who runs the "Nothing But The Blues" program — sat down with Voice reporters to talk about the influence of Muddy Waters — April 4 was Waters' birthday. Here are his picks for his favorite Muddy Waters album and the four artists and albums that this historian of the blues thinks had the most impact on his creative career.



Jerry Mack's Favorite Muddy Waters album: "Muddy Waters — Folk Singer"

Notable influences:

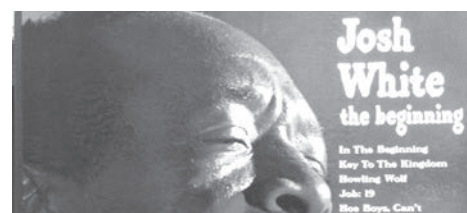
BIG BILL BROONZY
GOOD TIME TONIGHT



Big Bill Broonzy —
"Good Time Tonight"



Mississippi Sheiks —
"Stop and Listen"



Josh White Sr. —
"The Beginning"



Memphis Minnie —
"I Ain't No Bad Girl"

Charting the influence of Eno

Music production's great ambient innovator gets the Kevin Bacon treatment



BEN SOLIS

For decades, artists that sought to take their recording sessions to new intellectual and creative heights called upon one unapologetically anomalous man and his control room

full of reel-to-reel tape machines and synthesizers – the offbeat and always avant-garde music producer Brian Eno.

To some, he was like a wizard in a fantasy novel, conjuring up unheard of treatments to recorded pieces of music with a few twists and turns of various knobs and oscillators.

Pop superstar David Bowie called upon this mage when he wanted to get his life together – in return, the magician helped him make what many argue were his most creative three albums back-to-back, a holy trinity of new-wave music.

When Coldplay needed a healthy dose of adrenaline, it was the wizard who returned to give them wings on “Viva La Vida.”

But Eno just didn't produce pop albums. In fact, the majority of his work remains jarringly complex and abrasive, from his early work with '70s glam-rock outfit Roxy Music, to the strange soundscape ambient work he pioneered in practically the same era.

No matter where you turn, you can always find a Brian Eno connection, and if you obsess about the man's catalog like most heads do – me included – finding those connections can

be a relatively easy task.

In honor of Record Store Day, here is a little game I like to call “The Six Degrees of Enosification,” loosely-based off the old Kevin Bacon Connector – a similar game that tries to prove everyone and anyone can be connected in some way to actor Kevin Bacon.

Here are the rules:

Pick one person and, in only six moves, try and find a connection to Brian Eno (or Kevin Bacon if you want to be a dick about it). The connecting pieces can be people or things, but you have to fulfill all six moves.



The Batman

The most recent Batman was played by Christian Bale.

Bale played an adult cyborg destroyer John Connor in 'Terminator: Salvation.'

Each of the Terminator movies was a major vehicle for Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Schwarzenegger's first big film debut was in 1982's 'Conan the Barbarian.'

The film's sequel, 'Conan the Destroyer,' starred the androgynous singer and actress Grace Jones.

Jones' 2008 album 'Hurricane' features production work by Eno.



John Belushi

Belushi's big break came in the form of the fledgling 'Saturday Night Live' in 1975.

SNL thrives today with many talented actors, among them is Kennan Thompson.

Thompson got his big break on Nickelodeon's SNL-like sketch show, 'All That.'

One of Nickelodeon's early showcase programs was the cartoon 'Rugrats.'

'Rugrats' was oddly scored by musician Mark Mothersbaugh, of new-wave group Devo.

Devo's first album, 'Q: Are We Not Men? A: We Are Devo!' was produced by Eno.



Cuba Gooding Jr.

Gooding Jr.'s lesser-known brother is actor and rapper Omar Gooding.

Gooding starred in the late '90s television show "Smart Guy."

Girl group Destiny's Child guest starred in one episode of 'Smart Guy.'

DC's Beyonce Knowles, is married to dynamo rapper Jay-Z.

Proving Jay's versatility he rapped on a remixed version of Coldplay's 'Lost.'

'Lost' is featured on the Viva La Vida album, which was produced by Eno.



Walt Disney

The Disney corporation bought 3D animation studio Pixar in 2006.

Pixar was responsible for animating the lucrative Toy Story franchise.

Actor Tim Allen played character Buzz Lightyear in the films.

Tim Allen was the lead in 'Jungle 2 Jungle,' which featured a Peter Gabriel song.

Peter Gabriel originally sang lead vocals in (a less shitty) Genesis before Phil Collins.

Eno helped produce Genesis' 'The Lamb Lies Down on Broadway.'



Hugh Hefner

Hefner's Playboy Mansion is an infamous hangout for out of control rock stars.

Limp Bizkit front-man Fred Durst was a notorious guest during the nu-metal rise.

Durst performed vocals on 'All in the Family' with fellow nu-metal minions Korn.

Korn is known for notoriously bad mash-ups, like 2011's 'Get Up!' featuring Skrillex.

Skrillex helped to commercialize (bastardize) the popular UK trend of dubstep music.

Dubstep producer James Blake's new album features Eno on the track 'Digital Lion.'



Ray Lewis

Lewis spent his entire football career playing for the Baltimore Ravens.

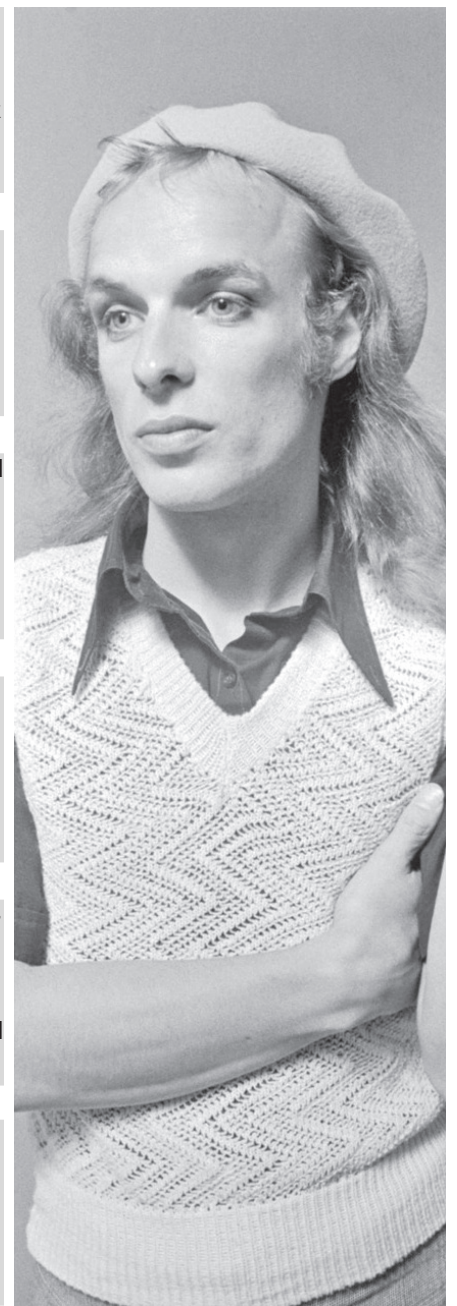
The Ravens were led to Super Bowl XLVII by coach John Harbaugh.

Harbaugh and his brother Jim grew up in Ann Arbor

Ann Arbor was also the early stomping grounds of Stooges front-man Iggy Pop.

Pop's first album, 'The Idiot,' was half-written and produced by David Bowie.

David Bowie's 'Berlin Trilogy' albums were produced and half-written by Eno.



The Top 10

The special releases for
Record Store Day 2013

While a good portion of Record Store Day can be spent digging through crates containing multitudes of unknown vinyl, the task of finding exactly what you're looking for can be daunting.

And as with any random mining expedition, there's no guarantee that what patrons will find is a certified collector's item. Luckily, some choice recordings are being dropped exclusively for this year's Record Store Day.

Here is *The Voice's* Top 10 list of the things you should hit your local shop for.

David Bowie – In celebration of his first release in 10 years, the Thin White Duke is releasing the album's second single "The Stars (Are Out Tonight)" on a special 7-inch single.

Soundgarden – The last remaining kings of grunge will release "Animals," the demos from their latest outing, "King Animal."

Sly & The Family Stone – Legendary rock and soul group Sly & The Family Stone will pump out a pressing of their seminal hit "I Want To Take You Higher" on a 10-inch single with previously unreleased material on Side Two.

Atmosphere – Hip-hop's most intelligent jerks will be dropping a new 7-inch disc with two unreleased tracks.

Paul McCartney and Wings – The last remaining "important" Beatle's popular power ballad "Maybe I'm Amazed" will be released on a 12-inch vinyl single with alternate versions of the hit song.

Grateful Dead – The heady "Rare Cuts & Oddities" is a special RSD release and marks the first time the album will spin on vinyl.

MGMT – Indie oddballs MGMT will be sending out strange vibes with a limited edition collectible cassette tape of their tune "Alien Days" including a code for a digital version of the track.

Notorious B.I.G. – The King of New York's legacy can be felt again with a rereleased "Ready To Die" two-LP white vinyl set.

Miles Davis – "Kind Of Blue Sessions '59." Miles Davis. Enough said.

GZA – Relearn the art of shadowboxing with the dynamic 1995 album "Liquid Swords" rerelease box that doubles as a chess set.

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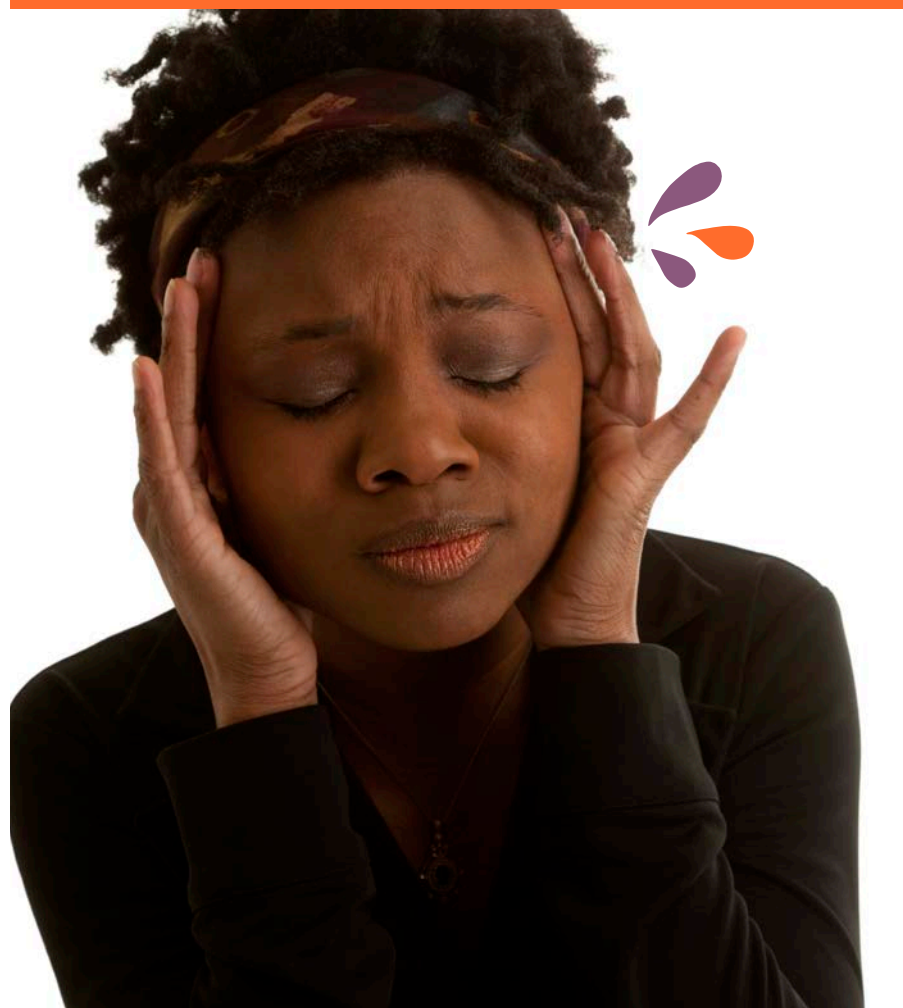


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