



Washtenaw
students
build muscle
for cops
B8



Hail to the graduates



ADRIAN HEDDEN THE WASHTENAW VOICE

The voice of youth: Josiah Wilseck, 16, of Salem is the youngest graduate at WCC. During his four semesters as a broadcast student, he hosted a weekly smooth jazz radio show at Orchard Radio.

Sweet 16: WCC's youngest grad to follow in family footsteps

By ADRIAN HEDDEN
Managing Editor

As Josiah Wilseck entered the halls of Washtenaw Community College for the first time in 2010, his classmates were amazed as they attempted to guess the age of the small but friendly student who happily joined them in college before many could even drive. “It was a little strange being there with all the old people, but I got used to it,” he said. “It was funny the first couple of weeks, but that diversity was one of the best parts.”

Only 14 at the time, Wilseck would soon overcome the playful ribbing, trim his awkwardly round haircut and shed the taunts of “Beiber” or “Justin.” He will walk this spring as the youngest graduate from WCC at 16.

But his 4.0 grade-point average and charismatic confidence may have had its start years ago under the watchful leadership of his mother Andrea.

When Andrea moved her family from South Lyon to Salem in 2005, the mother of four was anxious to provide better opportunities to her children as college became imminent.

A student at WCC herself from 1985 to 1987, Andrea gained a transfer degree and studied social work at Michigan State University, where she found her career and a bachelor's degree.

Then after 16 years raising her children, Andrea was amazed at the

employability she had maintained through that final milestone.

“It’s not really a choice,” she said of her goal for her children to all gain four-year degrees. “That’s how I grew up. No one can take away that degree. You just dust off that piece of paper, and it’s still good.”

Now located in-district from Washtenaw Community College, the Wilsecks would see all four of their children graduate from WCC over the past three years, taking advantage of the Washtenaw Technical Middle College program for high school students.

But Andrea’s dedication to giving her kids the best education possible didn’t end with finding a school and moving. Home-schooled under their mother’s tutelage until ninth grade, the Wilsecks found their transition and gradual exposure to larger student bodies surprisingly enriching and well-supported as their academic careers took shape.

The eldest Wilseck, Ahna, attended WCC from 2008-2010 along with her brother Roy. They would both complete transfer programs to four-year schools.

This year, Lydia, 18, will be finishing a transfer degree and intends to study psychology at Eastern Michigan University as Josiah is leaving the WTCM program this year with associate degree in broadcast arts and liberal arts transfer.

And the siblings found that the natural collaboration they created

WILSECK
CONTINUED A6



ADRIAN HEDDEN THE WASHTENAW VOICE

Vintage chrome: MST graduate Tom Zempel, 72, of Ann Arbor with his Harley Davidson 1200cc Sportster. He is the oldest graduate.

Off into the sunset: 72-year-old graduates with new appreciation for his ride — and life

By BEN SOLIS
Editor

If Motorcycle Service Technology (MST) instructor Mark Daily could use one phrase to describe MST graduate Tom Zempel, he’d colorfully refer to him as “a Harley Davidson poster boy.”

“Have you seen him? He’s in great shape, the guy runs marathons. He wears leather jackets and jeans all the time. You could put him on a Harley poster,” Daily said of Zempel’s appearance, as if describing Peter Fonda’s classic character in the film “Easy Rider.”

A retired machinist and an avid biker for a good portion of his life, Zempel is more than just a physical remnant of an ageless 20th-century motorcycle fixation – he is also one of Washtenaw Community College’s oldest students, graduating this year with a certificate in Motorcycle Service Technology.

And at the age of 72, Zempel also clocks out as the oldest person in Washtenaw’s 2013 graduating class.

For the average student, the MST program is a means aspiring gearheads to go out and get work as certified motorcycle technicians or custom manufacturers. Yet Zempel’s motivations for taking and completing the acclaimed courses at Washtenaw stemmed from his lifelong appreciation of the almighty hog.

Starting in his mid-20s, Zempel became fascinated with motorcycles, but never really owned one except for a dirt bike he’d take up north, hitting as many dirt trails as he could.

When the responsibilities of family life took prominence, his dreams of fulfilling his highway hobby vanished, prompting Zempel to reevaluate the potential costs of running at top speeds on the open road.

“I was just starting to raise a family with kids and I thought ‘what would happen to them if I got hurt?’” Zempel said.

As the years passed, Zempel moved to Ann Arbor after meeting his second wife Shirley 22 years ago. Working for most of his career at Crosstown Tool and Die in Redford and later for Gladwin-Gladco in Taylor, Zempel made his way machining parts for automobiles, constantly reminded of the imitable thrills he received from riding.

Eventually, the subliminal pressure of working with auto parts for decades on end became too much for Zempel to take lying down, and in 2008 he bought a new bike to satisfy his old obsession – this time a Honda CBR 250.

“It was right after the economy went bad and gas was up \$4 a gallon, so I thought about getting another one,” Zempel said. “It wasn’t that good on the highway so I decided then to get a Harley 1200CC Sportster.”

His Sportster stirred him to buy two more motorcycles, a Softail

ZEMPEL
CONTINUED A5

Student Center food vendor switch marks sad end of era

By BEN SOLIS
Editor

While most students leave Washtenaw Community College with some sort of degree in-hand, or maybe a handful of transferable credits for a four-year university, long-time Edibles employees Karen and Andrea Sakall are leaving the campus with a much more dire set of circumstances: sudden unemployment.

After seven years of serving fresh-food meals to Washtenaw’s hungry students, Edibles and its parent company Continental Canteen Services will end its contract with the college on June 30.

Its replacement company, Aramark, is scheduled to take over the next day on July 1. With its arrival, Aramark plans to bring in a slew of new restaurants to the newly renovated Student Center, ranging from the Mexican cuisine of Zoca to shopping mall favorite

Panda Express.

Up until that June 30 deadline, the Starbucks-addled Bakuzio’s Coffee Shop will remain open for business for summer students. Afterward, the café will change its name to The Hub.

Subway, unlike the other two offerings, will continue to be a fixture as Aramark takes over.

However, Edibles was not lucky enough to be granted a stay of execution – the small grill and pizza shop ended its tenure two weeks ago as classes wound down for the winter semester.

For the mother-daughter team who cooked and served the food at Edibles so often they knew their regulars’ orders by heart, their last day on the job was filled with a solemnity that only a few words could describe.

“This is a sad day,” said Karen Sakall, 68, of Ypsilanti Township.

Due to the impending change in vendors, the space that Edibles called

home needs to be renovated, cleaned and updated with new equipment to house the nearly six new vendors, according to a packet of information given to the college’s Board of Trustees by Director of Budget and Purchasing Services Barb Fillinger.

Continental employees were notified of the change close to two months ago, giving many in its workforce the chance to start looking for new jobs. Neither Fillinger nor Continental General Manager Karen Course knew if Aramark planned to hire any of the existing employees.

Yet the same cannot be said of the Sakalls, who opened and closed Edibles each day the provider was open this year. With their busy work schedules and their dedication to the company, the Sakalls have had little time to go out and hunt for other positions.

Out of options, they are hoping they can be transferred to

other Continental-owned locations. “The job market is lousy, and I’m over 50 (years old),” said the elder Sakall, her infectious smile going flat as she contemplates the future. “They can’t place us until the contract ends, or until positions open up in the company. That could take a year.”

Course chose Karen and her daughter Andrea, 37, to be the face of Edibles because of the friendly atmosphere they brought to the lunch line.

The students they served noticed their upbeat personalities immediately, and for a few of them, the prospect of not having them around is an outrage.

“This is ridiculous. I am not a happy camper about this,” said Yvonne King, a criminal just major from Ann Arbor. “This is just a shame. I don’t eat anywhere else.”

Mary Brady, a 42-year-old environmental science major from Ypsilanti, shares King’s disappointment.

“It’s about the people, I could care less about the vendor,” Brady said. “I love them (the Sakalls). They ask me about my classes, they know the students orders. I hope they can keep their jobs.”

Course, equally devastated by the loss of Continental’s contract, said that feedback like that from their customers is why she got into the business of restaurant management in the first place.

“As a manager, we hope to portray to the customers that we do care,” said Course, fighting back tears as she speaks. “We’re not here because it’s our job. We’re here to take care of people and to make their experience enjoyable.”

Course will also have to seek employment elsewhere if Continental does relocate her.

Leaving Washtenaw, she said, “has been an emotional rollercoaster for all of us.”

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EDITORIAL

Rewards of vigilance

There exists in all of us an innate need to seek truth, to understand and to expose it – if not for own benefit, but for the benefit of our fellow human beings.

As the voice of the student population of Washtenaw Community College, we like to think that we have been the truth-seekers on this campus, the ones willing to go the distance to bring you the news you care about and the human interest stories that make a difference in your life.

The undertaking of putting together a 16-page newspaper, sometimes even more, every two weeks for two semesters straight can be arduous, especially when balancing the heavy strains of school, work and everyday life. But the rewards are splendid, and when we see our peers reading our work, there is no greater feeling as a journalist learning a craft in a top-notch environment like WCC.

Our success is measured in many ways, but mostly through your feedback, by your interest and the overwhelming support we receive from the entire campus community. This ranges from students to the staff and faculty to the top administrators who work hard to allocate resources appropriately.

It was with your unending support that we were able to produce the kind of award-winning content we have in recent years. At the Michigan Community College Press Association award ceremony held two weeks ago at Central Michigan University, *The Washtenaw Voice* won a stunning 49 awards, beating out several other Michigan community colleges in the General Excellence category.

As we reflect in this issue on the hard work we have put into this publication, we cannot begin to think on our trials without recognizing that our survival hinges on your natural need for news and the truth. Without your keen observations of what is going on this campus, we would not be half the publication that we are today.

It is with great honor that we thank you, Washtenaw Community College, for making us feel like professionals, and treating us as such. Next year, *The Voice* will see many changes to its style and core staff. A new batch of student editors and writers will take over, undoubtedly with a wholly disparate vision for what this newspaper should be – a fantastic prospect for those fortunate enough to be here.

Looming changes aside, the editors of *this* staff could not be more proud of the hard looks we have given to the many issues that plague our college – in particular, the growing pains associated with the philosophical metamorphosis of WCC.

It was our hope that these issues would be solved before our leadership team leaves Washtenaw for good. Unfortunately, they have not, yet progress is being made. Sadness engulfs the editorial team, realizing that we will not be here to see these stories to the very end – stories that we brought to the forefront of Washtenaw’s collective consciousness.

As a parting note, we ask *Voice* readers to remain ever-vigilant in the face of those who wish to hide or taint the truth. Question everything, even if doing so shakes the very center of your soul. Deception is like a dense forest blocking out the nurturing light of the sun.

Never be afraid to burn the forest down in the pursuit of an absolute truth. Never be afraid to give a voice to the voiceless.

Parting is such sweet sorrow



BEN SOLIS

I am a fond believer of divine intervention, and as I am writing this, I feel the divine watching over me.

I am drying off my eyes as they become watery, the salty sting burns them as I dab up the moisture with a fresh tissue. I’m sitting in my room listening to my favorite records, surrounded by funky rhythms and my favorite comic books.

I know that I’ll always have them, and that unless my house burns down, they won’t be going anywhere.

But by the time you read this, my two favorite things will be absent from my life: Washtenaw Community College, and *The Washtenaw Voice*.

Saying goodbye to the person you love most can be the hardest task imaginable.

That task can be even tougher when your loved one is an entire campus community.

Over the past three years, I have dealt with terrible relationships, terrible health and the loss of friends and family through grim circumstances.

Despite all of this chaos, the one thing that I could count on for solace

and clarity was the camaraderie of *The Washtenaw Voice* staff, and the challenge of filling 16 blank pages with copy for 18 issues every two weeks, year in and year out.

At the end of our cycles, as winter knee-jerked its way into spring, I watched as some of the kindest and most motivated people left *The Voice* and WCC for good, with proud eyes and an empty heart.

They’d always smile – even as they were fighting back tears. They’d pack up their belongings, give me a hug and tell me how much their time at Washtenaw has meant to them. How much Keith Gave changed their lives for the better, and how much they are going to miss the kind of headache-inducing thrills that only *The Voice* office can offer.

I am unquestionably convinced that God, the hand of fate or whatever spiritual force you choose to put your faith in places you exactly where you need to be at the exact moment you were meant to be there.

With that as a pretext, I know with absolute certitude that it was a higher power that pushed me through the doors of Washtenaw and into *The Voice* office on a balmy summer day in 2010.

Washtenaw saved my life and gave me a path to a brighter future.

I can’t imagine where I’d be right now without the guidance of the instructors I’ve had and the relationships I’ve forged with the builders of this college.

Well, that’s a bit of a lie. I know exactly where I’d be.

I’d probably be in a low-rent restaurant somewhere slaving away in front of a flat-iron grill looking forward to nothing but the bar after work and the random girl I just texted.

Washtenaw gave me a purpose.

It introduced me to one of the finest people I have had the great pleasure to call a mentor and friend, Keith Gave. WCC introduced me to the wild world of journalism, a low addiction that I can’t seem to shake since getting my first fix with my first byline all those years ago.

I’ve had people scream in my face and over phones and swear at me in ways that would make the late-comedian Sam Kinison blush (though that might be a slight exaggeration).

Yet I am a fond believer in divine intervention, and I consider WCC halowed ground.

I’m sure a few of you have been awaiting the day that this troublemaker of a student journalist walked out those doors for good, and with good reason: I like to stir the pot; it helps me get to the truth.

But for those of you that have enjoyed my work, have enjoyed picking up *The Voice* and have helped me in this crazy crusade to gather news on your behalf, I want to say thank you.

I want to say that I deeply love all of you and that as I move on to greener pastures, there will be no place dearer to my heart than Washtenaw Community College.

Write now! Thanks to WCC



ADRIAN HEDDEN

From ancient mythology to mathematical equations, I’ve learned a lot of things I never thought possible in three enlightening years at Washtenaw Community College. And my depth of study would reach an even deeper awareness as a student journalist and reporter.

I was lost before I came to WCC. Before that fateful call to our paper’s adviser, I had succeeded – to my surprise – in a few remedial classes. But my academics lacked direction until Keith turned my casual inquiry into the workings of *The Voice* into a week-long job interview and a stoic challenge that I could do it.

At first, it seemed like college was

easy. The week-long breaks and at-will attendance were perfectly catered to my past penchant for recreational drugs and library of aging action flicks. Ill-fated rock bands checkered my high school experience as I was always taunted by the artistic expression and body of work possessed by my idols.

Frustrated into oblivion, I had all but given up on what little I was able to do well: string words together. But as an adult and student at WCC, I was actually able to see where that string may take me.

Keith showed me a side very different from the sunny ease that I had experienced in my first semesters here. After working with him and climbing the ranks of *The Voice*, it was clear that I had found an avenue for my talents.

I always liked to write, but struggled with motivation, with themes and concepts that would propel my skills.

Here at the paper, I found my reason to write – and surprisingly to work with people for one common goal: The News.

But from the very beginning of my

employment at *The Voice*, the tides of change were already stirring among the internal workings of this campus. A newly appointed president posed a very different philosophy than her predecessor.

A rookie reporter at the start of last year, I found myself in the midst of a college in the midst of a stressful transition. But the anxiety I felt in those early days as a reporter marked the agonizing passion I had been searching for at WCC.

I’ve never felt more welcomed as a student than here at Washtenaw, encouraged by all my instructors to rebuild what intellect adolescence had disbarred.

And as I leave this sacred steppingstone for even taller challenges beginning at Central Michigan University next month, I am certain that WCC will continue to thrive as a stronghold for the movement of higher education in taking more idle minds to levels they never thought they’d reach.

I speak from experience, because it was here at Washtenaw Community College that I found *my* voice.

The graduating class of May 2013

DR. ROSE B. BELLANCA



Once again, it’s that time of year when Washtenaw Community College has the sincere privilege of awarding graduating students with the degrees and certificates they have worked so hard to earn. For some of these students, graduation means the achievement of a lifelong dream to go to College and earn a degree. For

others, it is the important next step toward additional education at a four-year institution. Some of our students will leave WCC and now have the opportunity to work in their chosen field for the first time - or perhaps be better positioned for a promotion where they currently work.

BELLANCA
CONTINUED A7

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Editor’s Note:

The Washtenaw Voice has a strict policy against printing anonymous letters to the editor. However, the content of this particular unsigned letter dared us to break our long-held policy just this one time. And we did

group. They DO NOT represent me and many others at the college like me, who do not agree with this ongoing fighting and challenging of Bellanca and the trustees!! She may not be perfect, but she is not as bad as she is portrayed by the union prez and vice prez!

Dr. Blacklaw probably deserved to be let go, he did nothing, but he was a puppet for the union goons, like the president and vice president who love to speak up in meeting and be quoted by this student journal. He never helped me, he was overpaid and underworked.

If the group of faculty are so unhappy, pick up their marbles and go play somewhere else...we don’t need your ongoing whining, harassment, dirty looks and the reflection of the rest of the faculty that they have to

I’m sorry to send this letter as an anonymous writer; however, I fear for my position at the college and cannot divulge my name. This newspaper and the issues continually hammered on by the union of our great college are a travesty to the college and to the administration of the college.

Although everything may not be perfect at WCC, they are far from the misdirected ire of this union, on a daily and weekly basis!! This union does not speak for the entire faculty, but for a group of discontented faculty that are used to getting their way.....with everything, whether its business or not! I’m tired of phone calls at home from this group, I’m tired of the harassment from this group and I’m very very tired of the continuous fighting from this

hide from this group of bullies.

As far as this newspaper, it’s another travesty! It’s simply a sounding board for the union thugs and one that is hurting WCC.

BACK OFF VOICE, YOU’RE A STUDENT NEWSPAPER!!! TRY PRINTING GOOD NEWS ONCE IN AWHILE! READ YOUR HEADLINES... THEY SOUND LIKE A BATTLE ZONE.

I’ll tell you this much.....I’m looking for a new place to work, a place away from the goonies like the few at WCC.

P.S.

I doubt you will do anything with this letter, but I’m also sending it to Dr. Bellanca and the trustees!

Sign me,

A thoroughly disgusted faculty member of WCC!

THE
WASHTENAW VOICE

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

Student publications are important in establishing and maintaining an atmosphere of free and responsible discussion and in bringing matters of concern and importance to the attention of the campus community. Editorial responsibility for *The Voice* lies with the students, who will strive for balance, fairness and integrity in their coverage of issues and events while employing the best habits and practices of free inquiry and expression.

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

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

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Always Listening



Victory! *The Voice* staff celebrating its 49 awards at the Michigan Community College Press Association ceremony held at Central Michigan University.

PETER LESHKEVICH THE WASHTENAW VOICE



MICHAEL J. HLYWA
Staff Writer

If anyone had told me that I would be reporting for a newspaper someday, I’d have laughed. I’d have politely explained that he must have me confused with another.

I have no desire to be some hack writer skulking around crime scenes and courtrooms, poised to sensationalize the next scandal or misfortune. Besides, I lack the audacity to ferret out news and charm information from people.

No, if I wrote at all, it would be behind a desk – quietly, unobtrusively and benevolently.

Then I met a savant who recognized promise in me and my writing.

He showed me that journalism bleeds integrity. He challenged me to step out from behind my desk and interact with the vitality that’s all around me – that’s news.

It was certainly awkward at first – still is, in fact – but gratifying too.

I realized that I don’t have to impose upon others; people want to talk to me. Everyone carries a trove of stories that most are too busy, humble or ill-equipped to write. They see me with a ready pen, an eager ear and an earnest heart, and they open up. And like a mosaic artist, I get to arrange the brilliant fragments of their stories into an illuminating showpiece.

Working for *The Washtenaw Voice* has allowed me to create art, and that’s nothing to laugh about.



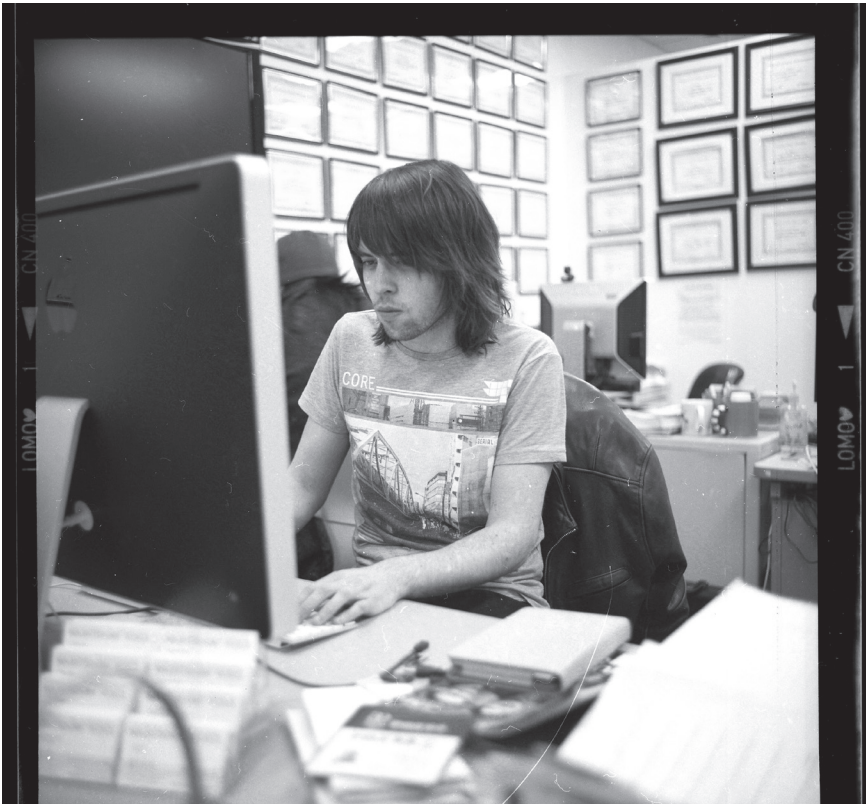
KELLY BRACHA
Staff Writer

Holy crap (can I say holy crap?) has it really been almost two years? Time flies when you’re having fun, as they say.

It’s so hard to write these things, since you’re condensing a year of crazy into 100 or so words. I remember there was a point where I thought, “Hey, I’m getting a pretty good hang of this journalism thing,” but every news cycle has presented a new challenge and new experiences.

When I started at *The Voice*, I had no clue what I was getting myself into or just how attached I would become. I wouldn’t trade the stress, tears and eventually pride I have felt throughout my time here for anything.

This office is my second home. I won’t try to predict what next year will bring; I just know it will be something I could not possibly expect – in the best way possible.



CHARLES MANLEY THE WASHTENAW VOICE

Focus: Designer George O’Donovan building *The Voice* from scratch.



NATHAN CLARK
Photo Editor

A friend once said to me, “all good things must come to an end,” and he was absolutely right. Of course he was probably talking about getting himself fired from a notable sandwich shop or running out of cake on his birthday. Sadly, my good thing coming to an end suffers from a severe lack of frosting; yet, it is still sweet to my heart.

After two years of top-notch higher education and working at *The Voice*, I’m graduating and moving on to continue my pursuit of life-long fulfillment and joy.

Working at *The Voice* has truly been an interesting experience. From starting out as a lowly contributor, working my way up to staff writer, then managing editor and finally to photo editor has been a phenomenal journey.

I met some great, and some not-so-great people during my time at *The Voice*. Leaving them behind is the most painful thing about my departure. I’ll miss everyone.

I can only hope that the students who follow in my footsteps will enjoy riding the journalism roller coaster that thunders through to newsroom in TI 106 as much as I did.

I’ll truly miss it.



GEORGE O’DONOVAN
Graphic Designer

As my first semester comes to a close at *The Voice*, I never thought I would be here right now.

In the past, I did some work for the paper, but never expected to be laying out pages every two weeks. As each issue lands on the racks, my drive to produce ideas keeps growing.

The newsroom has had its ups and downs but the passion is so strong. That is one thing I love about being on the team. Each time an idea comes up, I look for that unique part to bring into the design.

When everyone from the editors down to the correspondents work together on the stories, great things happen. Each issue has been packed full of great ideas from personality profiles of the instructors to more sensitive issues that students may not even think about.

I truly believe that this is only the beginning of a change for *The Voice*. While I am here, I will make sure that I work with everyone to illustrate our ideas together. If we keep it up, we will win more respect from our readers and the community we call home.



ADRIAN HEDDEN
Managing Editor

Working with the neurotically talented people at this paper has challenged my patience this year like nothing before. My work through these past two semesters has brought me to the edge of insanity as we’ve struggled together at putting together the best college newspaper anyone can imagine.

And as our optimistically constructed initial team ultimately splintered and became reborn stronger and more innovative than before, it is clear that there are no limits for *The Washtenaw Voice*. There’s no telling how truly great this paper can be as it will always prove as a living testament to the dedication and talent inspired at our beloved college.

This rag that saved me – and many of my coworkers – from mediocrity is in good hands for next year. Through the many trials and tribulations, a revolving door of staff has yielded the best and brightest possible to dig deep in search of the news and push my beloved paper to greater heights than I could ever imagine.

It would be an honor to serve with them.



BECKY ALLISTON
Advertising Manager

It is hard to believe another year has come to a close with *The Voice*. Over the last 2 1/2 years, I have worked with many different fabulous writers, designers and photographers, and I have learned something for each one.

This year has been no exception. As advertising has been successful, the writers have had to see some of their stories held, and the designers have had to place the ads for our clients’ benefit. The support I have felt from this group has been overwhelming and something that will be hard to replace.

In addition to the support they gave me, I have witnessed a comradeship among them that has been unmatched in my long work history. This is the last year for many in this group, and they will definitely be missed.



PETER HOCHGRAF
Design Editor

It began with a phone call, out of the blue from *Voice* adviser Keith Gave. I had attended the previous spring’s Open House, filled out an application but hadn’t followed through on it because I was bogged down with finals, and promptly forgot about it.

So when I got called near the end of the summer asking if I’d like to come and work for *The Voice*, I was pretty surprised. I had never really thought about working for a newspaper, but since designing news pages isn’t something that we’re taught in school, I figured it would be a neat learning experience, and I needed the money.

In the months that followed, our production Fridays were long and

tedious. But come every other Monday, we had a paper out on the newsstands that I’ve come to care for. I’ve met a great group of people I probably would have never even thought about meeting, including one long lost middle school friend. We’ve shared a lot of laughs, and while we may curse each other out on deadline, when it was all over we’d gather around the watering hole and have a good time.

In December I took over the Design Editor position and was able to hire a new designer, George O’Donovan, who I knew did great work. With a new team of designers raring to go, we introduced a redesign of the paper to show that we’re entering the 21st century.

In the end, I’ve had a great time with this great group of people and will miss them next year, as many of the core staff are moving on to bigger, better things. Readers will still have to put up with me for another year, though, and I am looking forward to working with this new group. It will be a different paper, but it will still be just as good as ever.



Meeting Notes: *Voice* staff get notes from Advisor Keith Gave during the monday meeting.

NATHAN CLARK THE WASHTENAW VOICE



MARIA RIGOU
Staff Writer

This past year was one of many changes for me. Big changes.

I moved away from the comfort of my parents' house in another country to the United States, to pursue a degree in journalism at WCC.

I must admit that at first I was hoping for the best, but expecting the worst – and it actually turned out to be the exact opposite.

I feel like I landed by chance at *The Voice*, and everyone welcomed me so nicely. I discovered that I have a talent that maybe would have remained dormant had I not come to Ann Arbor. A talent that is much appreciated.

I am now the leading candidate to sit in Editor Ben Solis' chair next year, which fills me with excitement but it also gives me uncertainty regarding whatever might happen next.

Thank you to the staff members of *The Voice*, to Ben, Adrian and Nate, and especially a huge thank you to Keith Gave – for encouraging me to dig deeper and find the reporter I had in me – and for making this a fantastic year for me.

Thank you to our readers, too, because you are what keeps us running.



TOM LEE
Web Editor

When I first took the position of Web Editor at *The Washtenaw Voice*, I wondered if I was getting in over my head.

I knew I had the skills to develop and maintain a news website, but it was all the newspaper stuff I was lacking.

But with all of the experiences I have had this year, from going to the national college media conference in Chicago, working with all the great editors and staff on the paper and even getting my first story published, I am no longer missing those skills.

The *Voice* has given me another tool to use wherever my career will take me.

This was by far my favorite year at Washtenaw Community College, and I will take away some wonderful memories – along with a degree in Web Technology.



BEN SOLIS
Editor

I am so blessed to have been a part of *The Voice* team this year, and I am so happy that *The Voice leadership* stepped up to the plate and bashed out every curve ball that was thrown at us.

We broke countless hard news stories that not only mattered to our campus community, but to the community at large. We followed investigations with finesse and panache, and even had our hometown news professionals chase us for news several times – of which there is no better feeling.

When I suffered a stroke in late August of last year, I thought my world had been destroyed. I didn't think I'd be able to come back to school for a

long time, let alone be able to write the way I had been.

But within months after the event, I was back here writing and working with the staff of *The Voice*. If it wasn't for the fine people at this college giving me their support and encouragement, I doubt I would have been able to bounce back as quickly as I did.

Not only did I receive countless gifts and letters of encouragement from President Rose Bellanca, various administrators, instructors and the college's Board of Trustees – which meant the world to me in ways I doubt they will ever truly understand – they allowed me to join *The Voice* on its annual fall conference trip to Chicago – all without me being an enrolled student at the time.

Their generosity and recognition of my talent, dedication and overall adoration for this wonderful college fueled my recovery.

I honestly would not be here today without these people, and I want to say thank you for believing in me as much as you have.

Ad astraper aspera. Through hardship, to the stars.



BENJAMIN KNAUSS
Staff Writer

I look back over the year past and only the last months stand out. Everything was calm and happy, normal life day after day. I was looking to the future, and all looked to be smooth sailing.

Things changed on January 7 when I lost everything in the Schooner Cove apartment fire. Losing everything sucks, no other way to put it. Even with insurance, emotional impact is much more than I expected it to be. But with loss comes regrowth and change, an opportunity to reset and look at things differently.

The Washtenaw Voice was a major player in my changing from the very beginning. I received the perfect amount of support from everyone on staff – just enough to know they care but not so much it smothers. Thank you to all of you who just asked me about something other than the fire, I hope you never have to experience why I found that so refreshing.

Sometimes I just needed to talk about it, thanks for listening also.

I moved on, did what I had to do in my personal life while all the time growing faster than I ever had as a journalist. I have read that a forest fire is a great thing as it opens new seed and that in just weeks the charred mess will once again be green with vegetation. I know what that means now. My career is young, tender and green, but growing thanks to a fire.



CHARLES MANLEY
Staff Photographer

I've been involved in projects with classmates and coworkers frequently enough to have a dreary idea of what to expect when working in groups. I'm happy to say, however, that my experience at *The Voice* has altered that notion.

Though every *Voice* staffer is identical in their passion for producing an exceptional newspaper, they offer a kaleidoscope of unique abilities working in tandem to produce the end result. I've never known a group of people to take their work so seriously and still manage, somehow, to have some fun along the way.

I was proud of every issue. It's been an exciting experience, and I'm humbled to have been a part of it.

SUSAN KENNEDY
Design Contributor

I'm just getting started at the *The Washtenaw Voice*, and I can already tell that this is going to be a very positive experience for me.

The team has been so welcoming. I have only been involved for a month and already almost everybody knows my name. I feel very included. It is such a great community of people who all produce high-quality work.

And even though I am a beginning design student, I have already been asked to format some pages of the newspaper. It's such a great way for me to learn a new kind of design.

I feel very lucky for this opportunity to work at The Voice, and I am really looking forward to being more involved this fall.



CHARLES MANLEY THE WASHTENAW VOICE
Open Boxes: Photo Editor Nathan Clark contemplates his next slice at the annual Voice Open House.



ERIC WADE
Staff Writer

The Washtenaw Voice is a real newsroom. It is filled with deadlines, and long days that stretch late into the night. It is coffee and energy drinks, pizza and fast food, stress, heartache and pain, but *The Voice* is also a family, a family of artists and warrior poets, of writers, photographers, editors, and designers.

The Voice staff is like any true family. They challenge, praise each other and provide the true knowledge of what to expect in the world of a newspaper. Although I found myself a part

of *The Voice*, it isn't where I expected to be at the start of the semester.

My story started in Keith Gave's Journalism 216 class, where early in the semester I pitched a story that grew to be my most accomplished work to date. It was my first story for his class, and the first I worked on that I felt really mattered. It was about the homeless in Washtenaw County. Gave's encouragement pushed me to get the story, and his experience helped me grow that article into a quality, award-winning news story that, thanks to Editor Ben Solis, was published on the front page.

Seeing my name on the front page of a newspaper was the greatest feeling. Without Gave and the staff of *The Voice* I wouldn't have been able to experience that wonderful feeling, and after seeing my article I knew that I wanted *The Washtenaw Voice* to be a part of my life.

I am grateful for the experience that it has provided.



NATHAN CLARK THE WASHTENAW VOICE
Intense Work: Managing Editor Adrian Hedden edits copy for The Voice.



KELLY BRACHA THE WASHTENAW VOICE
Long days: Designers work on setting up pages for The Washtenaw Voice.

Voicers win big at state-wide award ceremony

VOICE STAFF

Washtenaw Voice student journalists distinguished themselves once again at the annual Michigan Community College Press Association conference at Mt. Pleasant recently, winning 49 awards, including 19 firsts among 31 categories – and the General Excellence award for the third consecutive year.

Overall, 24 WCC students were honored this year. Big Washtenaw winners include:

Ben Solis, who won five awards – a first, two seconds and two honorable mentions. He finished second in the Student Journalist of the Year category.

Adrian Hedden, five awards – a first, two seconds, a third and an HM. Nathan Clark, two firsts and an HM

Matt Durr, two first and an HM
Eric Wade, two firsts
Charles Manley, four awards – a first, two seconds and an HM
“On behalf of the entire *Voice* staff, I want to say thank you to all the support we've received from our readers and the staff of the college,” said Ben Solis, the paper's editor. “This year has been particularly tough for all of us, and having a staff like we have overcoming the challenges we've faced is a feat in itself. These awards are well-deserved.”
Results of the annual contest were announced April 27 at Central Michigan University.
“Apleasure to read! Ambitious stories, solid presentation and a great sense of community. A solid newspaper representing all that is good in college journalism,” one judge said about The Voice.

“This is a standout newspaper. Reporting is excellent, with a good mix of localized, regional and national subjects, all locally written,” said another judge. “A professionally written and designed newspaper.”
“Thanks to tremendous campus-wide support, our newspaper has had quite a run over the last five years or so,” said *Voice* Coordinator Keith Gave. “But by any measure this is our best-ever showing. Our student journalists put a tremendous amount of care, effort and pride into every issue, and it's heartening when news professionals around the country recognize the quality of work our students produce when they bestow these awards.”

For a complete list of the awards, visit The Voice online at <http://washtenawvoice.com>

ZEMPEL FROM A1

Heritage and a Harley Davidson Bagger series, respectively.

But before he could get on the mounts of his steel stallions, Zempel decided to take a few motorcycle safety courses, choosing Washtenaw in 2009 because of its reputation and experience.

“I went (to WCC) before and took a few Lifelong Learning classes, so I knew a few of the instructors,” he said. “I thought ‘it wouldn't be a bad idea to learn a few new things about my bike,’ so I took one class (in MST).”

That one class turned into a 2 1/2-year commitment to learning everything Washtenaw could teach him about motorcycles.

Never missing a class and absorbing the information like a sponge, Zempel dove right in, taking on new skills without fear, such as welding and fabrication – these two aspects became his favorite parts of the course load, he said.

Daily wishes he had many more like him.

“For me as an instructor, having him in the class was a chance for me to gain some wisdom from him, because I don't see too many students like him,” Daily said. “These older guys have a different outlook on how they're approaching the classes. I've learned a lot of life lessons from him.”

“Different things that you just can't learn from a 23-year-old.”

The main difference between his young students and those like Zempel, Daily explained, is that the older guys aren't distracted by the same things that 20-year-olds usually are, like the natural anxiety of trying to find a job in a barren

market.
“Some of these older gentlemen, they've been riding motorcycles a long time, usually Harley Davidsons, and that's the culture they come from. They're coming from the biker culture,” Daily said. “Tom, he took the classes just so he could learn more about his motorcycles. He didn't have any aspirations or illusions about going out in the field and working again, although the curriculum is designed for people to go in the private sector and work.”

Zempel is content with his life right now. He's retired. He can ride when he wants to, sometimes with Shirley, 70, a nurse at the University of Michigan hospital. She took an interest in motorsports around the same time he did. Shirley rides with him on the back of his Heritage.

He has two sons, both in their mid-40s living in California. He has a handful of grandchildren and just recently became a great-grandfather.

But like any recently graduated college student, Zempel is itching to put his new skills to use, in one way or another.

“The tool-and-die industry is a dying trade,” said Zempel, weighing whether or not he wants to take his certification further by getting licensed as a motorcycle mechanic.

With his age, Zempel knows it would be tough to go back out, but Daily said his former student would be up for the challenge.

“The motorsports business is like anything else – it's a game. The ones that play right win,” Daily said. “Tom, the guy's just incredible. He ran a 13-mile (half) marathon at the time he was 71 (years old).”

“And he never missed a class. He learned everything I was teaching him in the curriculum. I think he can do it.”

Will work for tuition

By MICHAEL J. HLYWA
Staff Writer

If you're going to work to pay the college, why not let the college pay you? For students who qualify for and secure a work-study job, that's exactly what happens.

Work-study is a government-funded program that provides students in need of financial aid the opportunity to work part time at their college.

According to employment services faculty David Wildfong, those in work-study jobs currently earn \$9.18 per hour and work up to 19.5 hours per week fulfilling various tasks assigned by the departments for which they work. That's a pretty good wage, he says, but the money is only one of the benefits of the program.

"Most of the departments that have work-studies are flexible in terms of scheduling work hours so students can develop a work schedule around their class schedule and their life schedule," Wildfong said. Plus, he added, "You don't have to worry about driving to another site."

But the program is designed with a little more depth in mind than just assigning random clerical duties to broke collegians. Work-study tries to teach valuable professional skills that help build resumes.

"Work-studies work with a variety of populations on campus; they work with faculty and staff, potentially students and alumni – depending on where they're working out of – as well as the community also," Wildfong continued. "Work-studies have a great opportunity to network and get good references working under a faculty member or staff member here. It looks good on a resume."

Wildfong admits that many of the jobs available entail conventional support tasks like processing paperwork, managing appointments and answering phone calls.

For instance, Events Coordinator Rachel Barsch employs work-study students in the Student Activities office and Student Center Community Room to help distribute promotional advertisements, manage event

refreshments, and monitor the Community Room.

Barsch explains that due to the nature of the program, work-study students are more restricted than other college employees in terms of what they can do. Still, work-studies learn basic professional behavior, skills and etiquette that transfer to any job.

"The benefits are money and experience – you're not doing a lot, but you still get computer skills from this. And really, in any job, you do some kind of interaction experience with people," Barsch said. "And a lot of these students haven't had many jobs. This is sometimes their first job. So they learn a lot from having a job on campus. We're always looking for high energy work-studies in our office."

And students like 20-year-old Wesley Turner, of Ypsilanti, do appreciate the benefits that work-study affords them. Turner, a digital video production major and work-study student in the Community Room, likes that his job helps him balance his social, school and work schedules.

"I don't have to worry about, 'Oh I have to drive X-amount of miles to go here (to an off-campus job),' " Turner said, "and if they can't keep a steady schedule with my job and I have to keep going back and forth and struggle with the stress."

Turner is also learning to hone vital career skills.

"I'm learning people skills and leadership as well, talking professionally, doing things professional and how to handle certain situations on a more professional level," he said.

Many jobs, like monitoring the community room, are suitable for just about anyone. Others, like managing a department website, demand more specific skills. All of them, however, require work-study students to apply, interview, and be hired for the job.

"We don't place them," Wildfong explained. "We have a list of work-study positions and the students can look at the descriptions, and then they will go out and interview for the position. They may or may not get hired. Even if you do get the work-study

funding, you don't automatically get a job."

But Wildfong adds that most work-study-eligible people do find jobs. The college works hard to balance the work-study positions available with the students who qualify for funding.

So how do students qualify? Start by completing a FAFSA. Students need to indicate that they are interested in work-study opportunities when they apply for financial aid. Then in mid-August, the financial aid department takes the limited funding given to them by the government and distributes it to interested students, starting with those who demonstrate the greatest need, until exhausted.

And that's the big catch – funding is limited.

According to Financial Aid Director Lori Trapp, the college received only about \$230,000 to fund its work-study program for the 2013-14 academic year, which is reduced from prior years. So the Financial Aid office will work hard to award that money to those that truly want it. That's why it needs students to watch their emails and complete the required request for work-study form, accessed through MyWCC accounts, as soon as it's available on June 17.

"And it really is going to be the early bird gets the worm, because when we open up the app (on MyWCC), we will award students, if they are eligible, in the order that we receive their request forms," Trapp concluded.

After that, it's a mad dash as awarded students vie for the best jobs.

To students looking for a good work-study position, Turner advised: "Keep your head up. Don't think that it's always going to be difficult for you. There's a lot of jobs out there. This one, honestly, I thought wasn't going to be the job for me. But after I got it, I enjoy working here. So it may seem like something you can never do, but at least give it a shot. You'll never know."

Those, like Turner, who are smart enough to submit their FAFSAs early, lucky enough to receive funding and prepared enough to ace their interviews would agree: having the college pay you is awesome.

SNIPS

By MICHAEL J. HLYWA
Staff Writer

WCC pioneers free textbook program

Washtenaw will be the first Michigan community college to eliminate textbook costs by implementing free alternatives in a few sections of its most popular courses this fall.

The college received \$3,000 from the Cerritos College Foundation to pilot a curriculum that utilizes open education resources to reduce the cost of education for students.

Select sections of College Reading and Study Skills, Introduction to Psychology and Intermediate Algebra will use OER this fall.

"We chose subjects that represent some of our highest enrollments to pilot this effort," WCC President Rose Bellanca said in a press release. "Our goal is to give the broadest range of students, especially those at risk, access to all course materials the first day of class. It is a real honor to be the first community college in Michigan offering this opportunity to students."

Gallery One to drench walls with student art

WCC students will have a chance to display their best water works in Gallery One this summer for all to admire.

Every year, Gallery One hosts a student art show that showcases a sample of the best student work from Washtenaw's various visual arts programs.

"What we do for the student show is we invite the faculty to select the best work from that year, and then I get together with at least one faculty member and we get it down to a group that we can fit into the gallery," said Gallery One director Anne Rubin.

But this year, Rubin decided to mix it up a bit. In response to the college's "Year of Water" theme, she asked that student submissions incorporate water somehow.

"This is the first time that we have invited the arts programs at WCC to ask students to respond to a theme, so all the work will be on that theme," Rubin said.

The Gallery One student art show opens on June 6 and runs through June 28. The gallery is hosting an event on June 13 that begins with a poetry reading at 11:30 a.m., when English students will share both their own works and popular published poems. A reception, with refreshments, follows from 2-4 p.m.

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

Declining enrollment results in hiring freeze

The college has declared a hiring freeze for new part-time support positions.

According to an email sent out by Director of Human Resource Services Christine Mihaly, this decision was made to "better align part-time employment with enrollment."

Held postings include clerical and non-clerical Level I & II Support; non-teaching faculty, including counselors, lab assistants, student advisers and librarians; and student-worker positions.

The freeze does not apply to part-time grant-funded or teacher positions.

Current part-time employees may be re-authorized for employment for the upcoming academic year.

This decision will be re-evaluated once final enrollment figures for this fall are in, Mihaly wrote.

Free training for HVA volunteers

Huron Valley Ambulance is implementing two new free training programs for citizens interested in volunteering.

The first is a seven-week program starting June 11 that prepares participants to take the state Medical First Responder certification. Classes meet Tuesday and Thursday evenings and some Saturdays.

The second will prepare volunteers to assist in community education and administrative tasks.

Those interested should call 734-477-6331 or email kcollins@emergehealth.org.

Family fly fishing fun

Ann Arbor Trout Unlimited is offering four fly-fishing classes to individuals and families in June.

Mike Mouradian and other AATU instructors will be teaching casting, knot tying, fly identification and entomology.

Rods, flies, fly-fishing instruction books and snacks will be provided. Casting is practiced on the lawn, so waders are unnecessary. Attendees should wear polarized sunglasses and appropriate attire.

One general fly-fishing class, open to anyone age 16 or older, will be held on June 2 from 1-5 p.m.

Two women's classes are held: one on June 1 from 1-5 p.m. and one on June 2 from 8:30 a.m.-noon. The cost for both the general and women's classes is \$25 for Huron River Watershed Council members and \$35 for non-members.

One family class, restricted to children 11 or older with an adult, is offered June 1 from 8:30 a.m.-noon. The cost is \$35 for HRWC member families and \$40 for non-member families.

All classes are limited to 15 registered participants and will be held at Lillie Park North, 4365 Platt Road in Ann Arbor.

Contact Derek Schrader for more information by phone at 734-769-5123 ext. 612 or email at recreation@hrwc.org.

Detroit a finalist in bid to host X Games

By KELLY BRACHA
Staff Writer

A long and arduous journey for Kevin Krease and Garret Koehler came to a pivotal point when ESPN announced that Detroit is now a finalist in the bid to become host city of the Summer X Games.

Krease, Koehler and a number of city administrators, business leaders and other supporters submitted their official bid for the project in April. Joining Detroit as finalist are Chicago, Austin, Texas and Charlotte, N.C.

This will be the first time in more than 10 years that the X Games will be hosted outside of Southern California's downtown Los Angeles area.

"The X Games have grown significantly and has been enjoyed by millions of fans over the past 10 years in Los Angeles," said Scott Guglielmino, senior vice president of programming and X Games, said in a statement. "Our partners AEG and the city of Los Angeles have been instrumental in our success. As we embark on a year of significant global expansion and transformation for X Games in 2013, we are excited about the potential each

of these cities bring, and look forward to identifying our next host city for the X Games."

Krease, 27, and Koehler, 26, started working on the bid last August.

"This final stage is really bringing them in and continuing this theme of opportunity, of creativity, of really, community grass-roots support," Krease said. "What we need to do now is expose the X Games to this community of support locally and continue communicating to them what we view as the changing tides of people and of new life and new beginning and new opportunity, and making ESPN feel like they're continuing this revitalization of the city."

Washtenaw Community College student and avid BMXer Ryan Marsden cannot wait for the opportunity to see the X Games in person.

"I always wanted to go to Los Angeles to see the games, but never had the chance," said Marsden, 19, a liberal arts major from Ann Arbor. "If they come to Detroit, it'll be like a dream come true for me."

Marsden has been interested in BMX (bicycle motocross) since high school.

"My friends and I used to make dirt paths and make our own obstacles and

ramps," he said. "I was hooked and since then it has been a huge hobby of mine."

ESPN may decide on a host city as early as June. Officials will be spending the next 4-6 weeks visiting finalist cities.

"The site visit is our chance to show ESPN an authentic feel of what it'll be like for the X Games to be in Detroit," Krease said. "Our motto is 'make it so ESPN can't say no.'"

The X Games could create a significant economic impact on the city of Detroit as well as a much-needed boost in tourism.

"Detroit will be the perfect venue," said Ben Clarke, owner of People Skate and Snowboard in Keego Harbor. "Detroiters will really work for it on a grass-roots level. You won't see the same passion or participation from youth and young adults in any other major city."

Detroit's bid started a Facebook and Twitter campaign and a website encouraging people to sign up and "join the movement." "To potentially connect with a city like Detroit, which clearly is on the way back," ESPN's Guglielmino said, "and to be able to support that is a very intriguing proposition to us."

WILSECK FROM A1

in those early years at home have strengthened their skills and prepared them for higher education like no study guide or tutorial ever could.

"Since the curriculum (at home) was catered to us, we were able to move along at our own pace," Lydia said. "This allowed us to complete assignments faster and gave us better studying techniques. By the end, we were basically reading the textbooks and teaching ourselves.

"Basic stuff that a lot of people struggle with became second nature to us. We've grown a lot going to school together; we check up on each other's

classes."

But the success of their older siblings did weigh on the minds of the younger Wilsecks as they attempted to persevere with little sympathy for failure.

"It was kinda like: 'you better do well,'" Josiah said. "But it was good pressure, made me work harder."

Such a will for success would manifest, especially in the beginning, as a light-hearted sibling rivalry steeped joyously in a dedication to the one common goal of graduation.

"There's definitely a lot of pressure," Lydia said. "My sister got all A's. But I thought it would be harder. There is a little bit of competition, but it's

mostly a joke. He (Josiah) gets more credit because he's younger."

But his age hasn't always been a credit to the last Wilseck to finish at WCC. Dedicated to the field of sports media and hoping to one day provide color commentary at big events, Josiah immediately recognized the importance of a good internship, but struggled to find one willing to hire a 15-year-old.

"He really had a hard time finding an internship at first because of his age," Andrea said. "They had things they might need him to do at four in the morning and he couldn't drive so it was very hard at first."

But as Josiah ultimately began to

drive, and break curfew, he was able to secure internships at Cumulus Media and a sports talk show on 1050 WTKA Ann Arbor, with the help of WCC instructors. These experiences, he said, gave him a behind-the-scenes awareness of the field he desired and furthered his WCC education beyond the classroom.

"Getting an internship was tough at first, being so young," Josiah said. "But I pretty much know all sports, whatever I can watch. I'd love to work at a place like ESPN or Fox. I've always wanted to work in sports."

And so his mother has resolved that she, too, now has some homework to do.

"I do have mixed feelings about him doing play-by-play," Andrea said. "He's just so smart, so I can't believe he just wants to be the guy who says who has the ball. But I just have to start getting more sports-minded."

Josiah will be furthering his studies at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas this fall, but he believes his hard-working philosophy and perfectionism will undoubtedly carry him wherever he chooses.

"Go to class, that's the most important thing," he said. "Just do the assignments even if you're unsure because any grade is better than nothing."



KELLY BRACHA THE WASHTENAW VOICE
Seeking refuge: Zimbabwe native, Vinoliah Mtshiyaa, told her story about her continuous struggle trying to find political asylum and how she wishes she could petition for her family, who have fled to South African.

Immigration, humanized

By **KELLY BRACHA**
Staff Writer

Vinoliah Mtshiyaa, a Washtenaw County resident and Zimbabwe native who immigrated to the United States in 2000, came to the states seeking asylum from a violent political conflict in her country. And 13 years later, she is still struggling to find refuge.

“When I first applied for asylum, we were under colonial rule until 1980,” said Mtshiyaa. “We went through genocide from 1981 to 1989, and most of my relatives were killed. The people I went to school with were killed. Things were just bad.”

Mtshiyaa shared her story along with a panel of other immigrants as part of a White House-sponsored Organizing for Action event to support Congressional action for comprehensive immigration reform.

“This is what immigration is like. When someone says it’s broken, that’s an understatement.”

~ Vinoliah Mtshiyaa

hensive immigration reform.

Mtshiyaa became involved in her community in helping people find food and shelter.

“The government just ignored people. We had to take care of each other,” she said. “I was part of the group of people who were trying to uplift others and make sure anyone seeking treatment that they need would get it. We were doing this as a community.”

The Central Intelligence Organization of the new government began watching the people in the community for anyone saying negative things about the president, she recalled.

“They were like the presidents ears,” Mtshiyaa said. “You said anything bad, and you might disappear.”

She sought refuge in the United States in hopes to gain asylum. With a price tag of \$3,000, she could not afford to apply, and by the time she was had the money a year had passed and so did an unknown window of time in which people are supposed to apply.

“I was told I should have applied the year of coming here. I was then sent to an immigration judge,” Mtshiyaa said. “In 2003 I went to Detroit, where a judge that told me I was being sent back to Zimbabwe. I was told ‘don’t bother appealing.’”

But she did appeal.

Able to stay in the country after doing so, in 2008, Mtshiyaa managed to reopen her case, and in 2011 she was finally given a court date that ultimately resulted in a withholding of removal status. But this made her ineligible to apply for legal permanent residence.

“Withholding doesn’t give you anything. You can be removed at any time,” she said. “I haven’t seen my family in 13 years. I can’t travel with a withholding status.”

Mtshiyaa wants to petition for her family, who have fled to South Africa, but she is unable.

“I am still struggling with the courts. I don’t know what’s going to happen tomorrow at my court meeting,” Mtshiyaa said. “This is what immigration is like. When someone says

it’s broken, that’s an understatement.”

Mtshiyaa’s account was one of several heart-wrenching stories shared recently at the Morris Lawrence building. The event, sponsored by OFA Washtenaw, might have been politically motivated, but the event helped to put a human face to immigration.

Ibrahem Jariri, the organizer for the event, shared his story with the audience of roughly 60 people.

Jariri moved to the United States in 2011 from Amman, Jordan. In Jordan, he completed college, worked for several non-profit agencies and participated in demonstrations that took place during the Arab Spring movement.

“I have seen how the government and police here treat people well, and I thought why don’t we have these freedoms in Jordan?” Jariri asked hypothetically.

When he returned home to participate in peaceful protests at the capitol during the Arab Spring, he said, he saw how violent the police were.

“They killed one protestor and arrested and injured hundreds of others,” he said. “I was lucky to escape the demonstration.”

But when government officials began visiting and questioning Jariri, he felt compelled to leave the country for his own safety.

“I arranged to come here as a camp counselor again and filed for asylum,” he said. “I called every lawyer in Michigan, and they all told me my case wouldn’t pass.”

Jariri finally found a lawyer willing to take his case, and it gave him hope.

“A month after, I had my case in Chicago,” he said. “This decision will be your future. It’s your life. Each minute waiting was like an hour.”

Several months later, Jariri received a letter from the Department of Homeland Security.

“I looked through my mail and saw the letter. All the blood rushed to my face. I was afraid to open it and see the results,” Jariri said. “I finally opened it and saw that my asylum was approved. I read, ‘It has been determined you are eligible for asylum.’ To make sure I understood, I typed that into Google translate.”

Jariri closed his story with a quote from by Franklin Roosevelt saying, “Remember all of us are descendant from immigrants and revolutionists.”

Among the other speakers were Heather Garvock, an immigration lawyer, Margaret Harner of the Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights, Charo Ledon, executive director of Casa Latina and other officials.

They all shared in spreading the same message: push Michigan’s Congressional delegation to support comprehensive immigration reform.

“When we talk about the immigration system being broken, that’s one thing, but to see it and hear the stories of the people directly impacted is another thing,” said Joy DeFrance, the moderator for the event. “It makes us not just sit back but to actually take action.”

Chasing Green or The Green Mile?



MARIA RIGOU

I guess the feeling can only be compared to what a small child feels on Christmas morning, as she unwraps gifts upon gifts looking for that thing she *really* wanted. Or maybe like in “The Hunger Games,” when everyone is waiting for names to be selected from a pool of candidates.

The uncertainty of today’s results kept me up at night. Am I going to get it? Am I going to have to try again next year?

The Diversity Immigrant Visa program is a Congressionally

mandated lottery program that is administered on an annual basis by the Department of State and conducted under the terms of the Immigration and Nationality Act. We call it the “Green Card Lottery,” because that is what it is, a lottery.

Every year, the United States government makes available 50,000 permanent resident visas to natives of countries deemed to have low rates of immigration to the U.S. My home country, Argentina has a low rate of immigration, and so, luckily, we are allowed to apply. Mexico, Colombia, Brazil and Peru, for example, send more than 50,000 immigrants a year, and so their citizens are ineligible for the program.

This means that, by applying, I have a mere 0.87 percent chance of getting a permanent residency. That’s nice. And very encouraging.

As I write these lines, I’m waiting to get the results, which are available annually on May 1 at 12 p.m. EST. The longest 20 minutes of my life.

I can now say that I feel like I’m in “The Hunger Games.” Names were selected and mine wasn’t picked. Only that this time, I am not going straight to battle.

Since I applied, I knew that my chances were slim. It is a mild disappointment that I didn’t get it, because, as everyone knows – and I make sure that they know – I want to stay in the U.S. If not permanently, at least for the next 5-10 years.

There are other ways to stay in the United States permanently. I could become a perennial student, or marry a citizen, or just never leave and stay here as an undocumented immigrant. But I am not sure any of these three options really suit me.

So from now until October, when the new application opens up, I hope that the Immigration Reform Bill is passed and that it actually benefit us. If the reform is not passed, then I will play the lottery again, and hope for better results.

BELLANCA FROM A3

There are many reasons students choose Washtenaw Community College to pursue an education, and all of them are valid. The accomplishments of our students are also tremendously important – not only to the students themselves, but also to the parents who provide emotional and financial support; to the husbands and wives who help with the kids and the chores while spouses study; and to the friends who cheer our students on as they pursue their dreams. From our youngest graduate - a 16-year-old with a 4.0 grade point average who has earned a degree in Broadcast Arts - to our oldest graduates – a 67-year-old who has earned a degree in Music

Production/Engineering, and a 72-year-old who has earned a certificate in Motorcycle Service Tech II - every single student will take their WCC education and its benefits with them, wherever their journeys next lead.

This year we will have 1,825 unique graduates, with nearly 42% of them graduating with honors. That’s 1,825 graduates who will be better prepared to contribute their skills and talents to our communities, across Michigan and beyond. I’m sure everyone at WCC joins me in expressing our sincere congratulations to each and every student, and we are extremely proud of all they have accomplished. As President of WCC, I am also very proud of the fine WCC educators, administrators and staff members who work so hard each and every day to

help these students succeed. They make WCC the strong, dynamic community college that it is today, and allow us to serve our students, communities and business partners by providing an excellent education.

Even while we say good-bye to our graduates and send them off with well wishes, we continue to look to the future as we work to implement our strategic plan and ensure that upcoming students receive affordable access to the best education we can provide. Our vision is clear, and our commitment to student success is unwavering. Day by day, year by year, Washtenaw Community College will continue to be here - ready, willing and able to deliver the vital education that can make all the difference in a student’s life – and all the difference in the world.

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KELLY BRACHA THE WASHTENAW VOICE

Gala galore: Family members, friends and industry professionals at the Media Arts Exhibit to see students display their semesters' and years' work.



KELLY BRACHA THE WASHTENAW VOICE

A body of work unfolds: Darlene Hawver, 31, graphic design student from Ann Arbor, displaying her work and branding designs as part of her portfolio showcase for the exhibit.

Digital Gala: A chance for students to get hired?

By KELLY BRACHA
Staff Writer

It marks the end of an exhausting but rewarding journey for many graphic design and photography students. But it also marks the beginning

of a whole other struggle – finding work. Marketing yourself can be just as important as the quality of work, at least according to Darlene Hawver, a graphic design major showcasing her work at this year's semester-ending Digital Media Arts exhibit, more

widely known as The Gala. "A Web presence is so important now," said Hawver, 31, from Ann Arbor. "A lot of people passing through have taken my resume and business card. But it's really competitive here." Hawver displayed her brand "Upper Peninsula Pasty" and other

designed products with an organic, handwritten feel. "As far as the exhibit goes, we do come expecting that it will produce some freelance work," Hawver said. "I've had a lot of freelance work, and I haven't even finished my associates." Linda Babcock, part-time instructor in business and computer technologies, was roaming the exhibit within the Morris Lawrence building, where more than 40 students displayed their work.

"This is a really terrific opportunity for our students to put their best foot forward and show their work to all kinds of people," Babcock said. "There are some employers that come, but this is also a celebration of their work." A few hours before the exhibit opens to the public, judges and some industry professionals seeking to hire take a look at the students' work. "There's not a lot of hiring going on in the field today," Babcock said. "There's freelance work, but it's a matter of marketing yourself." For any young professional, having an online portfolio or even a website featuring a resume is another way to put yourself out there. John Dinser, part-time business and computer instructor, compared job-seeking to apartment hunting in New York City. "Everyone has a different story on getting an apartment in New York, yet every-day people are doing it," Dinser

said. "It's different for everybody, and there's no specific path on how to do it." With the Internet, it has become increasingly easy, while simultaneously harder, to stand out among others seeking a job in graphic design or photography. "The Internet has made the pool a lot bigger. Before, there were barriers to get work. Before you had to be so good and advertise and be in certain circles," Dinser said. "It's a bittersweet thing. Marketing yourself is always the hardest." Within the graphic design program is a class specifically to prepare students on seeking employment. The Professional Practices (GDT 290) course gives students experience in job-hunting and portfolio preparation. During the course, students are able to conduct mock interviews with actual employers and creative directors. The students get constructive feedback on their interview and use the experience to further tailor their resume and portfolio. Photography major Joshua Chamberlain, 25, from Ohio, presented his portfolio at the exhibit. Among his work were large-format black-and-white portraits, each taking almost 16 hours to complete from studio setup to print. "We're all passionate about doing this long-term," Chamberlain said. "The expectation for work is there, but it's not the driving force."



KELLY BRACHA THE WASHTENAW VOICE

Artistic photography: Joshua Chamberlain, 25, photography major from Ohio, displaying his black and white photography.

Film and Animation students showcase a year of hard work

By NATALIE WRIGHT
Staff Writer

Five students took home awards at the annual Digital Film & Animation Festival presented by Washtenaw Community College's Digital Media Arts program. The prize for "Best in Show" went to Jeremy Liesen, a digital video production major, for his film "Transitions." The film is a music video featuring Liesen's own music and makes use of what he has learned about using a green screen in his video classes at WCC, he said. Liesen, 27, a resident of Ypsilanti, also won the "Most Creative" award for "The Projection Project" at the May 1 show. Steve Weed, another digital video production student won the "Best Editing" award for his film "Enter Dark Room." "Best Cinematography" went to Justin Erion for his film "Stark Dark." "Best Documentary" went to James Militzer for "Robert Fletcher Story," in which Korean War veteran Robert Fletcher describes his time in the war and as a prisoner of war, as well as the difficulties in transitioning into civilian life. "Best Promotional Spot" was awarded to Travis Reynolds for his flipbook film "Distracted." And "Best Motion Graphics" went to Shane Law for his film, "Internal Affairs." The festival, in its 12th year, was

held in Towsley Auditorium. The films were judged by a group of professionals in the video, television, production and art industries. Matt Zacharias, a digital media arts instructor who helped organize the show, said judges had a very difficult time settling on the winners. "I've never seen the judges so 12-angry-menish. There were four angry men in there. And they burned quite a few brain cells trying to decide," he said. "It was an absolute war zone in there," said Scott Allen, 29, one of the judges, and a former WCC student. This was the strongest year for the show since he's been at WCC, according to Weed. "I think it was better than previous years because there are a lot of more experienced students this year," said the Ann Arbor resident. "Things have improved quickly, incredibly, here at Washtenaw," agreed Dan Kier, another instructor who helped organize the festival. And even the students who went home without an award said they felt honored to have films in the festival. "I think the festival is great because it gives people the recognition they need and deserve for their work," said Jessica Brusher, 19, a digital video production student from Trenton. "It's just an opportunity to celebrate and share how hard we've worked and what we've made." The festival also gives the students a chance network with peers in their program.

"When we're in the classroom, we're isolated to that small group of people," said Marc Stephens, 40, a digital video production student from Ann Arbor. "We don't get to see the breadth of work in the program. Like 90 percent of the pieces this year, I hadn't seen before." Audra Meagher, another video

student, added that seeing other students' work can be very beneficial in a program like video production, where work is often done in groups. "We get to appreciate and scout other people," the 25-year-old Westland resident said. "If I see that someone has talent, I might want to work with them on my next project. There's some

hot talent here." Nick Campbell, 21, a video student from Saline said that the best part of the event, is the inspiration he draws from seeing his peers' work. "It just always motivates me to want to make more movies," he said. And because of that, the festival will live on.



NATHAN CLARK THE WASHTENAW VOICE

Reeling winners: Film festival winners Justin Erion, Jeremy Liesen, Steve Weed and Shane Law rejoice in their achievement. Liesen won Best in Show award for his film "Transitions"



BEN KNAUSS THE WASHTENAW VOICE

Dyno dash: Logan Owen, 25, of Ypsilanti, runs this Yamaha sports bike through the Occupational Education building's dyno testing lab.

American or metric, WCC motorcycle service technology program has the experience to teach

By BENJAMIN KNAUSS
Staff Writer

The Motorcycle Service Technology program at Washtenaw Community College does not have the immediate name recognition like nationally known programs – yet.

But once a student finds out about the MST program at WCC, all it takes is a visit and the other names and plans to attend elsewhere are quickly forgotten.

“I’ve been here seven years, and I’ve never had a parent and student come through here and not sign up,” said MST instructor Mark Daily. “No one’s ever walked away. I’ve never seen it.”

The WCC program features training in every aspect of motorcycle service and is in the process of adding some fabrication classes to the curriculum. Students are often first exposed to the program at WCC by working with graduates of the program in the workforce.

“I work at a shop as a porter. One of the shop techs came here to the program,” said Philip Marcinkowski, 19, an MST student from Auburn Hills. “I hear him talk to the other kids about MMI (Motorcycle Mechanics Institute), and he’s throwing out the same knowledge as they are. It was no other choice than to just go here.” Tom Denig, 50, is an MST major

from Jackson who also works in a motorcycle shop with WCC grads.

“Working at the dealership alongside some of the other schools’ graduates, I can tell you first-hand this program, in my opinion, will benefit you as a tech more than what I have seen from the other motorcycle programs,” Denig said.

Daily concurred. “I’ve worked in the field for almost 30 years as a mechanic,” he said. “I’ve seen all the alumni that come from other schools. This is definitely the highest quality. WCC has raised the bar as high as I’ve seen it, and I have been a mechanic all of my life.” Marc Rosette, an MST lab tech and

a graduate of the program, did the research before choosing WCC.

“I went down to WyoTech and checked it out. WyoTech and MMI are definitely bigger, but everything’s here for you,” he said. “This is all you need, and it’s cheaper.”

Once a part of the program, students do not regret the decision to attend WCC over other programs.

“I was so close. I was getting ready to go to Arizona (to MMI). I was so happy to find this,” Logan Owen, 25, an MST major from Ypsilanti, said.

SPECIALIZED EDUCATION, NOT JUST A CLASS OVERVIEW
Dynamometer operations (MST

220) and advanced dynamometer tuning systems (MST 225) classes are two reasons the WCC MST program stands out above others.

A dynamometer, or “dyno” for short, is specialized equipment, housed in its own room that ranges in size from a closet to a garage. A dyno is used to measure output forces and performance of an engine. With motorcycles, any work done on the bike or changes made in parts can influence the performance more than with other vehicles.

“You need to come in here any time you make changes like pipes, air filters

MST
CONTINUED B2



MCT CAMPUS COURTESY PHOTO

Many happy returns: For military families, moments like these are among the most cherished. Yet for some, the thought of losing their loved ones is a never-ending battle of mental anguish.

War is hell for families left behind

Grab a letter, kiss it and cry, and tell the kids Daddy will be home soon – maybe

By JUSTIN BOGROW
Voice Correspondent

Why? It’s a question that resonates in Jen McCary’s mind as her kids ask her why Dad is not here, why they have to wait for a letter just to know how he is.

It’s a feeling of hopelessness because she can’t say for sure that their father will walk through that door again. She hopes, but at this point that is all she can do.

This is what many people who have loved ones fighting overseas deal with. The constant question the heart will ask. The same issues that stress a war-stricken family.

“It’s rough, they ask where Daddy is. I have to tell them he is off fighting for this great country,” said McCary, an early childhood teacher from Ypsilanti. “They ask when he will be home; I smile and tell them soon.” The stress overcomes her often.

“Sometimes I can’t sleep. I hold his picture close and cry. Hoping my kids don’t hear me,” she said. “I miss him.”

McCary’s husband Daniel has been overseas in multiple locations for a year and a half, serving in Iraq and now Afghanistan. He has only been home twice, for a total of three months. They have two kids, Bobby and Lester, 2-year-old twins.

Missing them is common; it can lead to a ton of stress, trying to live life without a major part of your life, and acting like it’s OK. It can lead to tough, dark times, like what Amber Shelley, an undecided WCC student, dealt with when her father left to fight in the Iraq War.

“I got into a serious drinking binge,” Shelley said. “I just wanted my daddy back. We wrote all the time. Then one day I stopped getting letters. They brought my dad back in a coffin.”

That idea that their loved ones will return safely is what gets them through the days.

“Without hope and faith,” McCary said, “I think I would have cried myself to my own grave.”

The most common idea of an Army hero is a man, covered in war paint pulling off James Bond moves as he takes down the enemy. That is

not always the case though. In the Fitzpatrick family, Anne fights for the country as father Jim stays back and raises their 13-year-old daughter, June.

“It’s crazy sometimes,” Jim said. “June really is paranoid about her mother. They were really close.” Jim said. June attends Lincoln Public School District.

“Yeah, I miss my mommy. I kiss her picture goodnight every night,” said June, a student at Lincoln. “Sometimes we Skype, but it’s never long enough. I have nightmares about my mommy losing a leg in a bomb explosion or being caught in fire. I guess I tend to worry.”

Now imagine a young girl shopping for a dress for a formal dance. Mom is there helping her pick out the one that matches her shoes. But what happens when Mom is thousands of miles away, across an ocean? Dad steps in, but thinks pink matches with orange.

“The roughest part was when June had her spring formal last year, and here I am trying to be Mom,” Jim said. “And when they went to take the mommy-daughter picture, June ran to her room crying. Nothing hurt more than

WAR IS HELL
CONTINUED B6

MST FROM B1

or anything like that,” Rosette said. “Any change you do, you need to make a change in the room. If you don’t have the right tune, you’re not saving your bike.”

The dyno room uses computer sensors to take readings from a motorcycle that is held in place and running at highway speeds. Operators of a dyno can make changes to a bike’s performance by analyzing the dyno data and making adjustments with a bike tuning unit.

“The best tuners you are going to get are Power Commander or Screaming Eagle,” Rosette said.

Students in the MST program gain hands-on experience with both the Power Commander and the Screaming Eagle motorcycle tuners over the course of full semester classes, not just a few weeks.

“I found out that at MMI, you don’t get as much time to be on a program. Like with the dyno room, you only get like a week to do it, and here we have a whole semester of being forced into the room,” Owen said.

The dyno education is something that Owen sees as a major advantage he has over others in the motorcycle field without even being graduated.

“I can go to a shop, and if they have a dyno I can literally run it, in and out. Most other people are like ‘I will learn it when I work there,’” Owen said. “Being able to walk in and say, ‘I know how, I know the tricks’ is a big selling point for anyone looking to get on the job market.”

David Koster, 45, an MST student from Bailey, did his homework, too.

“I did my research,” he said. “This is the best dyno program in the country.”

CLASSES WORTH DRIVING 160 MILES FOR

Bailey is a small town about 30 miles north of Grand Rapids. Koster makes the five hour, 320 mile round trip twice a week to attend classes at WCC.

“In the mid ‘90s, when I lived in the area, I took a bunch of welding classes, and I knew the welding program was top notch,” Koster said “They didn’t cut corners giving students what they needed in order to learn.”

In 2010, Koster was looking into motorcycle programs and found out that one was offered at WCC. He recalled his welding classes, and figured he’d find the same high level of education and instructors in the MST program.

“All the instructors are always willing to share their many years of experience they have from being in the field,” Koster said. “You can only learn so much from being in a classroom. If you can learn the stuff from the field from someone who’s been there, it’s invaluable.”

Koster says his drive averages 2 1/2 hours, one way, but in the winter it can often be 4 1/2 hours. Why would anyone drive that distance, passing at least four other colleges along the way?

“I value what’s here,” Koster said. “This gave me the opportunity to pursue something that I really enjoy, a passion, and make money.”

Koster does not take missing class lightly either.

“There is always something that I learn every day that if I was not here I would not get caught up,” Koster said. “Every class period, one of the instructors puts out information that isn’t necessarily written in the curriculum. It’s from their experience. That is something that may not be reviewed again.”

COME FOR YOUR OWN REASONS

Classes in the MST program are available for anyone who wants to learn, regardless of the reason.

“I just wanted to save money by fixing my own machines,” Andrew Coffey, 20, Ypsilanti said.

“For me, this is, like, the closest school around here that has this. There is no other school, that I’ve seen, that has a motorcycle program,” Marcinkowski said.

The program is a valuable steppingstone for those working in the motorcycle field looking for a way to advance.

“I started off working as a porter at a dealership and wanted to climb up the ladder at the dealership. I wanted a training opportunity that was close to home and was not at the same price as other schools,” Denig said. “I have succeeded and since been licensed by the state of Michigan. I have started wrenching for the dealership. It has been a successful endeavor.”

It is not just the students who learn in the MST program. Instructors and lab techs also help one another.

“I’ve even learned so much through this program just being a tech sitting in here listening to other instructors,” Rosette said.

The WCC MST program is located in OE 184 and is open to, and encourages, visits by prospective students.

“Everybody is welcome here. Everyone treats you right around here. It’s really relaxed,” Rosette said.

Just be forewarned that once you stop by, it’ll be hard to leave.



Lapping up the competition: Tom Denig hand laps a motorcycle cylinder as Brandon Whitt looks on.



Clean transmission: Andrew Coffey, left, and Philip Marcinkowski work on a motorcycle transmission.

CUSTOM CARS FROM B8

floor in the Ford display at SEMA with Washtenaw’s name all over it. That’s probably one of the biggest exposure things there is,” Malnar said. “We’ve had many cars at SEMA, but this is taking it up another notch, to have Ford put it in their big display.”

This year’s SEMA is from Nov. 5-8 at the Las Vegas Convention Center.

And Ford Motor Company is a major player in the WCC Dearborn Police Car Project, but not their only supporter.

“There are many other educational partners evolved with this car too like Recaro Seats and Steeda High Performance Parts. Varsity Ford, a local dealership, has donated parts. It is not just Ford buying everything, it is a group effort.”

WCC has done several projects of this caliber in the past, working with corporations as well as celebrities, including former Detroit Tigers Dmitri Young and Craig Monroe, and former major league pitcher Tim Redding, Malnar said.

A ‘69 Camaro project has been completed for Young. The Camaro is used in WCC displays to promote the college and auto programs. This year it was a main showpiece in WCC’s display at Autorama.

This is not the first time a police vehicle has been worked on by students. In 2010 the custom car program also worked with Washtenaw Sheriff’s Department to customize a 2009 Chevrolet HHR.

Past student builds have been recognized with national press coverage. The main hall around the CCC

and auto body programs has been developed into something of a “Hall of Fame” with displays of national press coverage the programs have received.

The reputation of Washtenaw’s automotive program speaks for itself,

leaving the shop a busy place.

“We don’t solicit the Big Three, they come to us. We don’t go out looking for it,” Malnar said. “Our name is big and we have done work for everybody. When something like this project

comes along, they call us up.

“Nobody really competes with us anymore because we are on top of it every second. We don’t knock anyone else. We just have a lot of pride in this program, students and the instructors.”





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True Blue: Lindsay Lou and the Flatbellys bring a rustic flair to Ann Arbor with their twangy bluegrass sound.

MICHAEL ERLEWINE COURTESY PHOTO

Turning bluegrass into ‘LouGrass’ with Lindsay Lou and the Flatbelllys

By **BRIAN KONICEK**
Voice Correspondent

On a routine Tuesday evening at the Wolverine State Brewing Company on Stadium Boulevard, friends are gathering at the bar and tables, or finding their way to the mock living room setup lined along the wall. What isn’t typical for this atmosphere however, is that the house band for the night has everyone’s attention.

As Lindsay Lou and the Flatbelllys, a Michigan five-piece, stand in front of

a backdrop painted with a map of their home state, the sound emanating in the room manages to be at once recognizable and instantly refreshing. They bounce back and forth between the original arrangements off their two albums, “Release Your Shrouds” and “A Different Tune,” and cover songs from Bill Monroe and the Bluegrass Boys to “Zombie” by The Cranberries. It’s obvious, both in sound and presentation, that this band is seasoned beyond its years.

Allen Williams, 24, who has

been working at Wolverine Brewing Company for two years, has seen the group grow right before his eyes.

“A friend and I used to go watch them play at the Circus Bar downtown and we really liked their energy, and we became friends,” Williams said. “We started to book them regularly at the Wolverine and they really started to gain a following.

“They just have a great energy that they bring every week and are so down to earth, going around and chatting with everyone who comes in.”

Garret Jones, 23, of Ann Arbor, is one of the regulars on Tuesdays.

“I try to make it every week they are in town. I just love the diversity of their set and how consistent they are as musicians. It’s a rare thing to see nowadays,” Jones said.

Lindsay Lou and the Flatbelllys formed in 2008 when founding members Joshua Rilko (mandolin, vocals) and Spencer Cain (bass) began performing while attending Michigan State University. During an open mic night at Dagwoods Tavern in Lansing,

the boys heard Lindsay Lou for the first time and knew she would become an essential part of their group. Fast-forward four years, with the addition of Keith Billik on banjo, Mark Lavengood on dobro guitar, and the full potential of the group had been realized.

“You know how all little kids have a dream job? Well, mine was to be a

BLUEGRASS LOUGRASS

CONTINUED **B6**



Barefoot and brazen: Julie Conley, 37, left, and Sherri Dotson, 43, both of Tecumseh, enjoyed their first experience running barefoot at the Burns Park PTO 35th annual run on May 5.

RAYA COOPER COURTESY PHOTO

Barefoot in the park

Runners forego the footwear, get a new feel for running

By **M. M. DONALDSON**
Correspondent

Manlo Blahnik, Merrell, Sperry, Nike – or none of the above?

Those were the choices for several runners at the Burns Park PTO 35th annual run held on a recent Sunday morning.

Consisting of 5K and 10K races, the fundraiser was selected for the official Michigan International Barefoot Running Day ’13 by the International Barefoot Runners. The group has more than 5,000 members and was able to coordinate 25 U.S. and 27 international barefoot runs for this May 5 event. “It feels like being a kid,” said Alan Adler, 59, of West Bloomfield. He has been running for 3 1/2 years – barefoot. “I’ve failed at running five times, because of pain,” Adler admitted. He had special orthotics made for his shoes, which still did not eliminate the pain. Going barefoot has been the only successful way of running for Adler, the current president of the International

Barefoot Runners Society Michigan chapter. With barefoot living, he has no pain, no injuries and no problems.

The ancient Greeks, the original athletes, may have been the first to run barefoot. Running barefoot, not very popular over the centuries, became trendy in 1960, after what was really an unfortunate event. Simple online searches reveal that Abebe Bikila from Ethiopia placed first in the Olympic Marathon running barefoot, a decision he made when there were no shoes in his size.

Most of the barefoot running articles on the Runners World website caution readers to attempt it very gradually. Going cold turkey on the footwear works different muscles and until one is used to it, injury could ensue.

Adler’s wife, Diane, 56, ran her first race barefoot at the Burns Park Run. She feels that barefoot is “the only way to move without pain.” She found her running as compromised as a mechanic “operating with gloves on.” The tactile sensations were less effective. She does other things barefoot as well, leading a “barefoot lifestyle.” The only time she has been hurt while barefoot is in her own home.

Diane finished the 5K in 37 minutes,

23 seconds.

Also running in the Burns Park PTO annual fundraiser was Julie Conley, 37, and running partner Sherri Dotson, 43, both from Tecumseh. The duo was encouraged to lose their shoes at mile five of the 10K as the beautiful morning, defined by clear blue skies, mild temperatures and all kinds of spring flowers in bloom unfolded along the tree-lined streets of the residential neighborhood.

“I enjoyed the concept with being in touch with the ground, the earth,” Conley said. She and her running partner discussed how it changed their stride and perception of running.

This is the first time they have ever run barefoot, and they received a lot of encouragement from race participants along the course.

Conley has two half-marathons to her credit; Dotson ran two. They are scheduled to run the Chicago half-marathon in the fall. Conley conspired quietly with another runner that going barefoot in Chicago is not out of the question.

Other runners Adler has seen convert to barefoot to lose the competitive drive, but have replaced it with fun.

“There’s nothing as simple,” he said, “as barefoot running.”



HEATINTHEHEARTLAND.COM COURTESY PHOTO

Lays goes all in with new-flavored chips

Like a fine wine, Sriracha chips need time to breathe

By **PETER HOCHGRAF**
Design Editor

Recently Frito-Lay rolled out three new potato chip flavors for a short time. These new flavors were selected from hundreds of suggestions from fans of potato chips. The company let its patrons decide which one was best.

The three finalist flavors are Chicken & Waffles, Sriracha and Cheesy Garlic Bread. While each sound interesting, only one moved on to be a regularly produced chip flavor, the company said.

After hunting around all of Washtenaw County, *Voice* staffers sat down with a bag of each for our own taste test to help you decide.

CHICKEN & WAFFLES

My first reaction when I heard of Chicken & Waffles flavor was, “eww.” However, I bit my tongue and dug in. The first thing that hits you when opening a bag is the overarching aroma of cheap hotel continental breakfast-style waffles. But the waffles seem to stop there. Eating a chip comes off mainly tasting of Maple-flavored corn syrup and BBQ.

SRIRACHA

For starters, this proved to be the hardest of the three to find in stores. When I first had a few chips I was fairly unimpressed. The hot sriracha flavor just didn’t seem to be there. It was mainly a tomato and pepper flavor with a hint of warmth. However, a day

CRISPS

CONTINUED **B6**



Daft Punk’s ‘Random Access Memories’ for human element

By **GEORGE O'DONOVAN**
Graphic Designer

After a long hiatus, Daft Punk has come back under a new light. Although its new album “Random Access Memories,” hasn’t come out yet, the sound waves are electric with the new buzz. Certain well-thought-out methods of advertising have aided this new stir.

Interviews with the duo Thomas Bangalter and Guy-Manuel de Homem-Christo, or the “Robots,” shed new light on the creative direction. One issue that Bangalter points out in a Rolling Stone interview is that “...electronic music right now is in its comfort zone, and it’s not moving one inch.”

He added, “That’s not what artists are supposed to do.”

He has a point. Listeners of electronic dance music, or “EDM” for short, are in a loop that explains why the duo stepped away from the computers and into the studio.

But they didn’t go alone. Nile Rodgers of Chic, Pharrell Williams, Julian Casablancas of The Strokes,

disco pioneer Giorgio Moroder, and Animal Collective’s Panda Bear are just a few who helped with the album.

Each one of these contributors gave their views on the album through “The Creators Project,” the album’s viral marketing campaign. Having their voices adds a rich background and is a great promotional piece.

With the release of the single “Get Lucky,” it shows what they have been working on since 2008. With vocals from Pharrell Williams and funky guitar licks from Nile Rodgers, it brings a new sound to Daft Punk’s story.

With this in mind, it is great to know that there are at least some artists giving a hard look at the music industry.

And this change in sound proves that Daft Punk, in all its musical endeavors, might actually be human after all.

Listeners will have to see when the album is released on May 20.

Genre: **Dance**
Label: **Columbia**
Runtime: **4:09**
Grade: **A**

The Stooges live on in ‘Ready to Die’

By **ADRIAN HEDDEN**
Managing Editor

The godfather of punk has breathed new life into his aging band once again. The Stooges have rekindled their nihilistic affront on high society, firing off an album of hard rock as informed by the wisdom of Iggy Pop’s eclectic solo career as it is biting with the aggression haunting them from the 1960s.

“Ready to Die” comprises the posensible oddity of the band’s leader while eagerly gouging at listeners with the Stooges’ established hard-rock toughness. But the road they’ve taken has been wrought with tragedy and exhaustion.

The initially innovative, but distorted electric diatribes would form the blueprints of punk and heavy metal in decades after, but when the Stooges reformed after a more than 30-year hiatus with 2007’s “The Weirdness,” its anger seemed tired and repetitive, struggling to rekindle the band’s past power.

And with the tragic passing of founding guitarist Ron Asheton in 2009, Pop enlisted the viscosity of former-Stooge James Williamson, who played leads on 1973’s “Raw Power,” filling in when the band’s collective drug problems resulted in one of its many early ruptures.

But here in 2013, Williamson’s walls of distortion and guitar-driven song structures sound just as fresh as in ’73. The tact and coordination worked into the heaviness of “Ready to Die’s” early tracks pose playfully energetic homages to the simplistic revolution committed by The Stooges’ early legacy.

And a droning-but-powerful saxophone played by Scott Mackay, who joined the group on the experimental follow-up to the Stooge’s self-titled debut in 1970’s “Fun House,” blends a cacophonous, danceable layer to the party-ready “Sex and Money” and the lyrical belligerence of “DDs.”

Pushing them to perform a broader range of rock music than ever before, Pop imparts his newfound wisdom onto the group in penning the contemplative but nostalgic ballad, “Unfriendly World” and the defiantly fearful folk charge of “The Departed.”

As his tearful emotions reveal his gnarled age, Pop’s attempts at sensitivity often ring awkward to fans of his violent wit. But the expansion of the Stooge’s lyrical repertoire is commendable after the speedy blandness of their initial reformation.

And the band does perform with a power that poses a challenge to both the force of its legendary early releases and the long-established expectations of its fans. As this cherished, inspirational group of rockers has dragged itself through hell and back, its nihilism has never been stronger than on “Ready to Die.”

Genre: **Rock**
Label: **Fat Possum Records**
Runtime: **37:56**
Grade: **A**



Third ‘Iron Man’ flick numbed by its own excess

By **ADRIAN HEDDEN**
Managing Editor

Blasting across screens at the speed of sound and taking viewers’ taste for action to gasping new altitudes, “Iron Man” is back to kick off the summer blockbuster season with renewed vigor and an ever-expanding list of weaponized special effects.

Continuing the decade-long streak of high-budget super-hero movies dominating Hollywood since 2000’s “X-Men,” “Iron Man 3” finds hero Robert Downey Jr. in the typical titular role surrounded by high-octane CGI, campy one-liners and a poorly developed cast of supporting characters.

Fans of the renowned comic series may gawk at the mind-melting effects, entranced in the animation and lost in the rapid plotline as it rushes through dialogue. Filmmakers seemed overly eager to display the latest IMAX-ready explosions and futuristically fictitious technology.

But cinemaphiles who look past the haze of Hollywood’s mindless ambition will find little else. A second sequel usually comes with little expectation for decent writing, but with infinite source material developed in comic form for decades, director Shane Black has no excuse for the lack of substance.

Before being taken under the controlling wing of Jon Favreau, the director of the first two Iron Man flicks who is now found in the executive producer seat, Black had a penchant for inserting dynamic characters and dialogue as the scriptwriter for hunky action vehicles “Lethal Weapon” and “The Last Action Hero.”

His latest, “Kiss Kiss Bang Bang” in 2005 wove an interesting, unconventional crime drama relying on character relationships and personalities for its intriguing wit.

But by the end of “Iron Man 3” it is clear that Favreau and his corporate backers had simple instructions for Black’s talents. He was to lazily follow the form present in the last two features, with cheesy dialogue rarely coming to fruition amid the blur of stunts and effects.

Few new characters are introduced into the story; a cliché villain played by Oscar-nominee Guy Pearce restores little depth and Ben Kingsley’s oddball performance, the only thing unexpected about this film, does generate a chuckle here and there.

But from the legend that portrayed Ghandi in the 1982 epic biopic, Kingsley had been known to bring much more to a film than the occasional guffaw.

And even a clumsily fabricated political allegory couldn’t save this film from itself. Little time was allotted to develop potentially complicated themes as a phantasmagoria of action-packed slush nearly blinded fans, forcing a painful reminder that the summer is time for sunglasses, even in the dark of the cinema.

Genre: **Action**
Rated: **PG-13**
Runtime: **130 minutes**
Grade:

Nerdy actioners barrage 2013’s summer audience

By **KELLY BRACHA**
Staff Writer

Nothing beats a cold theater, a dewy pop in hand with a bucket of crunchy, ever-so-slightly buttered popcorn, on a hot day.

Movie-going has been virtually tailored to be enjoyed during the intensely hot summer months.

It’s no mystery why the biggest releases also happen at this time.

This year an abundance of highly-anticipated and somewhat nerdy films will be gracing the screens at theaters near you.



May 17–Star Trek Into Darkness

Those who have seen the 2009 resurrection of Star Trek, directed by J.J. Abrams, cannot deny the classic science fiction franchise has been brought back to life in a spectacular way. Fans and even casual movie-goers who were never diehard fans of the television series can’t help but anxiously await the premier of “Into Darkness.” In this film, Khan (Benedict Cumberbatch) is an unstoppable force of terror. Captain Kirk (Chris Pine) is called to action to put a stop to Khan while protecting the crew of the Enterprise.

Rated PG-13
Director: J.J. Abrams
Genre: Action, Adventure, Sci-Fi



May 24–Fast and Furious 6

A sixth installment. Yes, you read that right – and everyone is back. This time, Agent Luke Hobbs (Dwayne Johnson) and Dominic Toretto (Vin Diesel), who were fighting each other in the previous film, have teamed up to help bring a rival gang to justice. In exchange, Dom and his crew will have their records cleared. Joining the cast is notorious action star Jason Statham and reprising her role as Letty after being absent from the previous film is Michelle Rodriguez.

Rated PG-13
Director: Justin Lin
Genre: Action, Thriller



May 24–The Hangover Part III

In this movie there’s strangely no wedding and no bachelor party. But there is an intervention gone completely wrong. After Alan’s (Zach Galifianakis) father passes away, Alan develops mental health issues. The Wolf Pack decides to help Alan get treatment, and on the way to the hospital things get out of hand very quickly – in typical “Hangover” fashion. Having this being dubbed the finale, “Hangover” will undoubtedly attempt to outdo itself in every aspect. All bets are off with this one.

Rated R
Director: Todd Phillips
Genre: Comedy



May 31–After Earth

“After Earth” is set a thousand years after humanity has escaped from Earth after cataclysmic events left the planet uninhabitable. Mankind has found a new home on Nova Prime. General Cypher Raige (Will Smith) crash-lands on Earth with his son Kitai (Jaden Smith). Kitai must recover their rescue beacon to save his father’s life. This is not the first time Will Smith and his son Jaden Smith take the screen together, having worked previously on “The Pursuit of Happyness.” The film is directed by M. Night Shyamalan which leads speculation that audiences might be in for an odd plot and conclusion.

Rated PG-13
Director: M. Night Shyamalan
Genre: Action, Adventure



June 14–Man of Steel

In 2006, an attempted reboot of the Superman franchise came about with the film “Superman Returns.” The film wasn’t a big success. Now, seven years later, a second attempt is being made – and expectations are very high. “Man of Steel” begins with Clark Kent’s (Henry Cavill) coming of age story. The villainous General Zod (Michael Shannon) makes a return to the Superman universe in this film. Clark Kent must confront his heritage when Earth is invaded by Zod and his powerful forces.

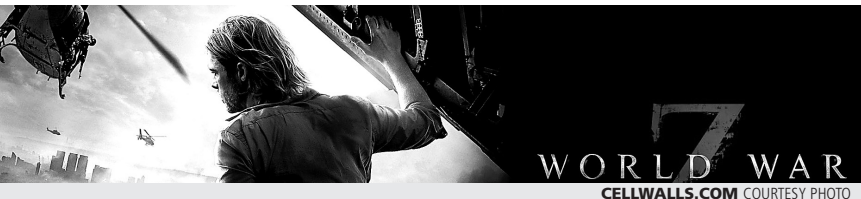
Rated PG-13
Director: Zack Snyder
Genre: Action, Fantasy, Sci-Fi



June 21–Monsters University

Set before Mike Wazowski (Billy Crystal) and Sulley (John Goodman) were an inseparable pair working together at the Monstropolis power company, the two were in college together, and not necessarily the best of buds. In this prequel, we see how Mike and Sulley go from being adversaries to the friends we saw in the first film.

Not yet rated
Director: Dan Scanlon
Genre: Animation, Comedy, Family



June 21–World War Z

The title is based off a novel written by Max Brooks, but that is where the similarities end. “World War Z” is about a United Nations employee named Gerry Lane (Brad Pitt) traveling the world to stop the zombie pandemic that is threatening humanity. The apocalyptic horror has rampant, fast-walking zombies, not the cliché slow, limping zombies, making them seem way more terrifying and deadly.

Rated PG-13
Director: Marc Forster
Genre: Action, Horror



July 12–Pacific Rim

Gargantuan robots fighting against equally gargantuan aliens; what more could you ask for? Earth is under attack by giant aliens and to fight them off, humanity must build giant mechanized warriors piloted by humans to counter them. The film is set in the near future where said aliens have mysteriously risen from the depths of the ocean.

Rated PG-13
Director: Guillermo del Toro
Genre: Action, Sci-Fi



July 26–The Wolverine

Set in modern day Japan, Wolverine (Hugh Jackman) encounters an enemy from his past. In an ultimate life-or-death battle, Wolverine is left forever changed and vulnerable for the first time. “The Wolverine” is the second of the stand-alone X-Men character films and focuses on the background and character of Logan, aka Wolverine.

Rated PG-13
Director: Gavin Hood
Genre: Action, Sci-Fi



Snoop’s ‘Reincarnated’ – the furthest thing from chronic

By **BEN SOLIS**
Editor

For more than half a century, we have been told by government agencies and the pharmaceutical industry that smoking marijuana can destroy brain cells, impair judgment and make you socially comatose.

Yet after decades of tampered experiments and piss-poor propaganda, we may have found actual proof that marijuana may cause all of the defects mentioned above with Snoop Lion’s (nee Dogg) latest album, “Reincarnated.”

Snoop Dogg announced last year that he would be changing his name and would only play a format of club Reggae music – particularly the manic, break-beat-heavy dancehall subgenre.

Initially, people cringed while laughing off what was widely considered a small jest previewing Snoop’s return to form as one of the great hip-hop artists of our time, with, of course, the added bonus of new pot jokes to last us another decade.

Gravely, the Lion was stoned serious.

There is an old joke that says there isn’t enough weed in the world to make bad music sound decent. Miraculously, Snoop must have found an ancient strain of cannabis in the jungles of Jamaica because “Reincarnated” is an ounce of stepped on shake, at best.

To say that this album is a disappointment would be an insult to understatements. “Reincarnated” is an absolutely awful adventure, filled to the brim with hokee, nightclub friendly beats provided by bro-step wunderkind Diplo and his act Major Lazer, and a multitude of shameful cameos by the likes of Akon and Miley Cyrus.

Yes. You read that right. No, you

are not losing your mind, but you should be – Miley Cyrus is on a Snoop Dogg album, which is much more unfortunate for Cyrus than it is for the Dogg.

“Reincarnated” is so off the mark that it will become a running joke to hip-hop historians for decades to come, much like the career of MC Hammer or the drunken incident that made Bushwhick Bill shoot his eye out.

The production is hand-tailored for your average radio-rocking moron who gets excited when four different stations play the same track in the same 10-minute period.

To make things worse, this album is basically a stoned-out Snoop crooning his way to Babylon with the aid of a less-than-obvious auto-tuner. While this may be a high point for the album, since so many in the industry use the wretched pitch-changing device so often and he has at least tried to cover his tracks, the automation is still noticeable.

Despite all of these failings, Snoop truly believes what he’s shelling out – that he is a reincarnated spiritual being sent by Emperor Haile Selassie himself to preach the good word of non-violence, peace on Earth, the virtues of gun control and the legalization of marijuana.

And while the album is probably one of the least exciting to come out this year, we can’t help but agree with him or his myriad causes – even if it’s physically painful to do so.

Snoop may have smoked himself silly, but this album will probably sell millions.

After all, who better to have his mind on his money and his money his mind than the Dogg?

Artist: **Snoop Lion**
Label: **RCA**
Album: **Reincarnated**
Grade: **F**

‘Mosquito’ bites – but in a good way

By **ERIC GARANT**
Voice Correspondent

It’s been almost exactly a decade since the Yeah Yeah Yeahs released their stunning full-length debut, “Fever to Tell.” Starting out with a raucous, sexual energy before descending into moodiness and full-on despondency, “Fever to Tell” was an indictment of the fastness of modern life and love.

Ten years later, Karen O and company have given us “Mosquito.” Though not nearly as successful, the album in many ways mirrors “Fever.”

Excepting the title track (which is aptly named, because frankly, it sucks) and lead single, “Sacrilege,” “Mosquito” is an album of slow, delicate, and spooky-sounding songs. Karen O’s voice, frantic and overpowering on “Fever,” is mostly wispy, almost weightless.

The bulk of the album deals with themes of dissatisfaction, of a wistfulness for mistakes made and repeated, and of the weakness of the flesh. “Take me please, oh alien / I want to be an alien,” Karen O pouts in “Area 52.”

But, like “Fever,” “Mosquito” hinges on its ending. Track 10 is the incredible “Despair,” which not only considers the condition, but addresses it directly. This is Karen O at her best: cutting herself open and lying for all to see, vulnerable and raw.

And “Despair” is not necessarily an unhappy song. Despair is not only suffered but also faced in this track, and as the refrain tells us, “Through the darkness and the light / some sun has got to rise.”

The album ends with “Wedding Song,” which O apparently sung at her own betrothing. It’s simple and even a bit goopy lyrically; it’s a song that depends on Karen O’s voice and its ability to convey her feelings. The song works because she does, because her voice doesn’t just create credulity, but empathy.

And that’s why the Yeah Yeah Yeahs are still worth listening to. When they want to, they can rock as well as anyone. But it’s Karen O who makes them uniquely fascinating and impossible to ignore – the way she combines the stage presence and overt sexuality of someone like Madonna or Lady Gaga with a true depth of feeling.

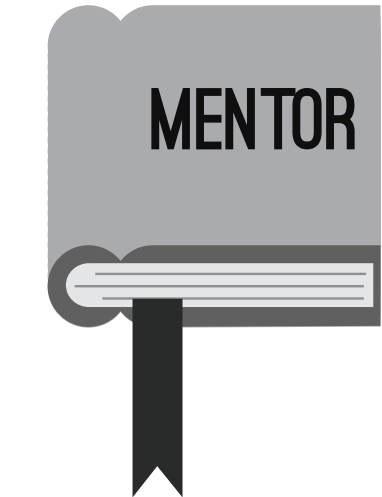
“Mosquito” isn’t nearly as good as “Fever to Tell,” or even 2006’s “Show Your Bones,” but it’s only marginally less interesting.

Artist: **Yeah Yeah Yeahs**
Album: **Mosquito**
Label: **Interscope**
Grade: **B**



A taste for the technical: English instructor Lisa Veasey talks about the joy of teaching young students at WCC in her office.

English teacher kneads success



MENTOR

By **MICHAEL J. HLYWA**
Staff Writer

The Writing Center computer lab was deathly quiet as nine students worked feverishly to wrap-up their technical writing final exams on Monday. But that didn’t stop most of them from flashing smiles and whispering “yeahs” when technical writing program adviser and English teacher Lisa Veasey sneaked into the room carrying a platter and wearing a grin.

“I brought homemade seven-grain olive oil crostini and sun-dried tomato spread, but I’ll just wait until you all are finished,” Veasey teased.

Veasey had been on sabbatical during the winter term, to the disappointment of her technical writing students. So they were delighted when she dropped by for the end-of-the-term fiesta that has become a tradition in technical writing classes – a

tradition started by Veasey.

But it’s more than just her baking prowess that people are drawn to. Many who succeed in English, particularly technical writing, thank Veasey’s knack for connecting with the people around her. And that passion for communication dates back to her youth.

“As a young person I wanted to be a teacher,” Veasey explained. “When I got a little older, I wanted to be a bilingual ed teacher. I was very troubled by the realization that children who spoke a language other than English as their first language were placed in classrooms with native speakers of English and just expected to figure it out.”

Unfortunately Veasey quickly realized that there wasn’t much of a demand for bilingual education teachers in Michigan at the time.

Then a friend from EMU suggested she look into technical writing.

“I loved it,” Veasey said. “It fed my desire to write, to research, to learn new things and to help people. So even as a technical writer I felt like I was a long-distance teacher. I was helping people understand or learn about technology in a way that they couldn’t or didn’t before.”

Veasey completed both her bachelor’s and master’s degrees at Eastern and went on to manage a technical writing department at Creative Solutions.

Then a friend of hers, who was teaching part-time at WCC, asked Veasey to be a guest speaker in his class.

“I prepared a lecture, and I came

and spoke to his class and *loved it*,” Veasey recalled. “And I didn’t realize that Dan Minock (in charge of WCC’s technical writing program at the time) was sitting in on the class – I just thought he was another student. Shortly after that, he offered me a part-time teaching position.”

Veasey started part-time at Washtenaw in 1995. She was so enamored with teaching that when a full-time position opened up in 1999, she seized it. Since then she’s been connecting with students one by one.

“One thing I believe is students need to feel comfortable in their learning environment,” Veasey explained. “And I make it a point to, for example, the first night of class I learn every student’s name. And I know every name by the second class.

“I think it’s important to build connections, not just between student and teacher, but among the students – that they have some rapport. It’s building a little mini-community within the classroom.”

But not every community-building experience is a seamless one, according to Joan Arnold, a 58-year-old technical communications student from Ann Arbor. Arnold recalls a group project in one of Veasey’s classes during which personalities collided. Arnold was impressed at the skill with which Veasey handled the situation.

“Lisa was able to have us all meet outside of class,” Arnold recalled. “She didn’t necessarily resolve all the issues, but she got us to work together. And I was really impressed with that.

She helped everyone move forward together.”

Veasey’s skill in communication impacts faculty too. English teacher Mary Mullalond knows first-hand that Veasey’s skill in building rapport transcends her classroom.

“Her ability to mentor – not only her ability to mentor students, but her ability to mentor other faculty – is astounding,” Mullalond said. “In general, we have really good faculty here, but not all faculty have the time or are willing to take the time to mentor part-timers.”

And, Mullalond continues, the fact that Veasey peppers her interactions with wit makes her all the more endearing.

“It makes her really approachable, I think. As soon as she starts talking to you she’s warm and she’s got this great sense of humor.”

Mullalond adds that Veasey has a really caring nature, doubtlessly perfected while raising her own two teenage children.

“She’s able to focus on you like she’s really looking at you and really hearing you, as if you were her child and she cares about you.”

Veasey’s maternal instinct also helps her command a mother’s respect.

Technical communication student Kayleigh Cyrus, 25, of Ypsilanti, explains that many students in the technical writing program have multiple classes with Veasey in addition to program advisement sessions. That, says Cyrus, affords Veasey the ability to really gauge what her students are

capable of – and when they’re not delivering it.

“I have seen students disappoint her,” Cyrus said, “and I never, ever, ever want to do it. It’s not like it’s scary, but it makes me uncomfortable because it’s almost like disappointing your mother. Actually, it’s *exactly* like disappointing your mother. When you’re parents are so mad at you, but they don’t actually say why or tell you that they’re mad, they just say, ‘Wow Kayleigh, I’m really disappointed in you.’ That’s the kind of feeling that I never, ever want to get from Lisa.”

But more than anything, students like 31-year-old Tom Butler, from Chelsea, cherish Veasey’s approachability and real-world experience. Butler says he started out in nursing but switched to technical communication after meeting Veasey.

“I had been taking courses to get into the nursing program, and I was burnt out,” Butler recalled. “I was only happy when writing essays.”

When Veasey shared her winding career path with Butler in response to his disenchantment with nursing, he felt really connected.

“It made me like, ‘Yeah! This lady is the real deal. This lady has been through the same types of things I have.’”

It’s connections like these that really help students find the strength to succeed.

Or is it the baking?

Because according to Cyrus, “That woman can make some bread!”

WAR IS HELL FROM B1

that moment, seeing her break down, down to the bone. It still kills me, every day.”

Sometimes it’s not a mom or a dad. Sometimes it’s the son or daughter who is in the danger of fighting a war. The stress is still the same; the feelings are just as strong. Alison Buchanan’s son Daniel has been in Afghanistan since Sept. 6. It’s no different for her, the worry and the fear.

“Ever held a letter as you fell asleep, and then waking up as tear stains coat it?” she asked. “Well I have done that many times since he (Daniel) left.” Jacob Russell’s story brings to light the meaning of loved ones being gone. His mom and dad are both at war in Afghanistan. He lives with his grandmother Ruth in Ann Arbor. He has lived with his uncle Jason Russell for a month, but then Jason got laid off and had to find a new place for young Jacob.

Jacob moved in with his grandmother at age seven. His parents have been gone since he was six years old, citing their need to fight for what they love.

“They have a calling, can’t fight what they like to do,” Ruth said as she gripped a picture of Jacob with his family. “Just wish I could do more for Jacob. I know he misses his mom and dad, and all I can do is say, ‘me too’”

A letter can mean many things though, and to these families it means safety and assurance. It’s something they can hold as they let their tears out.

“A letter, man, it means freaking

everything,” McCary said. “Hell, it’s to the point I read it in his voice. Then after that I hold it close to me and fall asleep. I know he isn’t here, but for a moment I feel like his soul is holding me.

“I even have a picture that hangs from my rearview mirror in my car. Keeping me safe as I drive.”

Technology is getting better, which definitely makes things better. Ruth’s husband Jack was killed in the Vietnam War. Now her daughter, Jacob’s mother Bridgette, is off at war along with her son-in-law Jared.

“Times for war have gotten better thanks to social media though, I tell ya,” Ruth said as she chuckled. “Back in the old days, you waited months for a letter. I would have died to get onto (Skype) and see my husband, but we just did not have that back then.”

Throughout time, war has changed as has the way families cope with it. The pain and worry is the same, though. That can’t go away, since they can’t hold their loved ones. They may never again – and they know that. They won’t accept that risk though. They have to tell themselves it can’t happen or they would go crazy.

“If I thought about all the possibilities, I would have PTSD,” McCary said with a laugh. “Honestly, I do think about it. I can’t help it. My kids ask, and the worst pops into my head. I swat it away but sometimes it’s stuck in there for a bit.

“Then I grab a letter of his and kiss it, let out a cry and move on. I call that Tuesday, just another day.”

BLUEGRASS LOUGRASS FROM B3

singer,” said Lindsay Lou Rilko, lead singer and songwriter of the band. “I wanted to be a singer so bad, and I remember being around 11 years old and finally telling my dad in a very serious conversation that I was determined to be a singer.”

The determination is paying off for her and the group, playing more than 170 concerts around the country last year, and trending to exceed that number this year. Their sophomore album, “Release Your Shrouds”, received critical acclaim for its infectious harmonies and the tightknit, interwoven instrumentation of the Flatbellys. It was nominated for the best album of 2012 by “Beat Surrender,” and Ann Arbor’s 107.1 WQKL-FM best songs of the year.

“I try to think about each song as a photograph. You aren’t coming up with anything new since whatever it is being photographed already exists. Your job is to work within the limited confines of the frame,” Rilko said.

“A lyricist has the duty of saying something that’s already there from their own position and through their own lens.”

What makes the group stand out in a crowded bar, or in the “Bluegrass” genre that can be often repetitious, is its ability to effortlessly sway into new territory, including Latin influenced chord changes, jazz inspired ballads or harmonies that recall the

soulful sound of the 1960s.

“My main medium for approaching the big ideas of music is writing. I use the lexicon of genres I know about from singing, and you hear it after it comes through my lens, and then is tweaked and elevated by the lenses of my band mates,” Rilko said. “We all draw from what we love and know, and our music is the end result. We keep things fresh by continually learning. That’s the only way,”

As the learning for the group continues, so does the writing and touring.

“We have a lot of exciting things in the future,” Rilko exclaims.

“Josh and I have this duo album in the works, which we recorded at Jim Roll’s Backseat Studios in Ann Arbor, and we have tentative plans to record another band album in the fall.”

After its last Tuesday gig in late April, the band headed east for a three-week tour of the coast, with several more road trips planned throughout the year. But when they’re not on tour, you’ll find Lindsay Lou and the Flatbellys at “home” on Tuesday nights at the Wolverine

Brewing Company.

What: LouGrass Tuesdays

Where: Wolverine State Brewing Company, 219 W. Stadium Blvd.

When: Every Tuesday, 8 p.m. –

midnight (when not on tour)

Price: Free

For more information visit:

<http://lindsayloumusic.com>

CRISPS FROM B3

later when I sat down to type this up they tasted much better. The chips seem to have gained some more Asian zing, along with a fairly spicy punch, very similar to the real thing.

CHEESY GARLIC BREAD

I felt like Cheesy Garlic Bread would be a walk in the park for Lays. They already have a few flavors out there that are similar. But the execution of the flavors here seem to be sub-par. With not much aroma to go off from, biting in doesn’t give you much to expect. The predominant flavor is fake butter (spray on?). There is some garlic in there, but I still can’t find any cheese in these chips.

Overall we enjoyed the Sriracha chips the best. I hoped that the rest of the Facebook world would enjoy the Sriracha as much as I did, but it was not to be; in the end, Facebookers liked Cheesy Garlic Bread potato chips best, and it won to be the next Lays flavor line.

It’s always nice to see large corporations listen to their customers more and try out new things. And Frito-Lay has made a good start here, but the execution on the actual flavors tends to have a bit half-arsed taste to them.

We can hope that the next company to do a similar contest will execute it to its fullest.



BEN KNAUSS THE WASHTENAW VOICE

Public safety wrench: Jon McGeorge, 20, of Brighton, works on a custom Ford Mustang for the Dearborn Police Department.

BODY BY WASHTENAW

From Ford’s world headquarters to the Tigers’ dugout, WCC program makes lasting impression

By BENJAMIN KNAUSS
Staff Writer

When a CEO of a worldwide corporation looks out his office window and

sees the competition’s product being used, things tend to happen.

“Bill Ford Jr. had gone over to the Dearborn Police Department, which is directly across the street from the world headquarters of Ford. He noticed they had another manufacturer’s vehicle that they were using,” said Scott Malnar, Auto Body Department chair and instructor.

Ford Jr., the company’s chairman, offered to replace the competitor’s car with a brand-new 2002 Mustang, and the Dearborn Police accepted.

After almost 10 years, the car Ford had given accumulated many miles, along with the normal wear-and-tear of being a police vehicle. The Dearborn Police Department was looking to replace the car, and that’s when Ford executive Dan Duderstadt got involved with Washtenaw Community College to restore the car.

“Ford contacted us, and we sat down with executives,” Malnar said. “The plan was to modify it, and the selling point was to drop the new 3.5 Liter Eco Boost Ford Motor into the car and

say that we can retrofit it into any car.”

The motor was not designed for a Mustang, and students would have to make big changes to the car in order for it to accept the new engine.

“Everyone agreed and said ‘that’s a great plan; we’ll do this,’” Malnar said.

And the modified car would soon be taken on tour.

“Ford Motor Company is going to display the vehicle in their SEMA display in Las Vegas, which is huge for the school,” Malnar said. “Along with that, probably around 20 other

shows ranging from Detroit Autorama, Woodward Dream Cruise, Carlisle Penn. Car Show and a few of the car auctions on display.”

After spending a year on the car-show circuit representing Ford and WCC, the Dearborn Police Department will get the car back.

“Ford is going to pay for everything. They are going to transport the car. They are going to put it on the main

CUSTOM CARS
CONTINUED B2



BEN KNAUSS THE WASHTENAW VOICE

Fresh ink: Wyatt Knick, 21, of Ypsilanti, loved Washtenaw Community College so much, he got a tattoo.

Wearing loyalty on his sleeve

By BENJAMIN KNAUSS
Voice Correspondent

Wyatt Knick loves his education in custom auto body at Washtenaw Community College so much that he had the program logo tattooed on his arm.

“It’s not just a logo to me, it has meaning. This is my life,” said Knick, 21, of Ypsilanti. “This is where I made my new start after high school.”

Knick moved to Ypsilanti from Ohio when he was 18 and did not know anyone. Proud to say that he got his education at WCC, his tattoo is a tribute to the relationships and knowledge gained at Washtenaw.

Knick got his interest in working with cars while attending high school in Piqua, Ohio. At the high school level, Knick competed in the Skills USA competition all the way up to the nationals. It was at the Skills USA competitions that he took notice of the WCC Auto Body program and its reputation.

After high school, Knick was offered full-ride scholarships to study at other colleges. He turned down all the offers in favor of the program at WCC because of what he saw at the Skills USA.

“None of the other colleges that offered me a full ride scholarship even had a student in the Skills USA competition,” Knick said.

While working on his degree, Knick has started a small auto paint shop out of his home.

“It is the one thing I’ve done best in my life,” Knick said. “I am an all-around guy. I can do welding and body work, but my passion is to paint. You are able to express yourself more in paint than in body. You can take what you have literally in your head and put it onto the car.”

“At the end of the day, I go for the look in the customers’ face when they see their car.”

Knick does not regret his decision to turn down the other more well-known schools. He feels the program at WCC is the best choice for anyone when it comes to an education in any of the automotive fields.

“We take pride in what we do. We go a step above and beyond,” Knick said, adding that he practices the advice given him by his boss in the Auto Body program.

“I try to learn one thing new every day,” he said, “and I have yet to fail.”



BEN KNAUSS THE WASHTENAW VOICE

Hitting the road: The lone semi-truck used for Washtenaw’s truck driving instruction course sits in parking lot 5 outside the ML building.

Truckin’ into the future

Washtenaw partners with firm to put 18-wheelers on road

By BENJAMIN KNAUSS
Staff Writer

Washtenaw Community College is riding shotgun with Trainco Truck Driving School of Ann Arbor in a partnership that puts truckers on the road where they are needed. “There is a very high demand. There are some companies that we work with that would take 10 students a week from us, if we had that many,” said Tom Kubicki, instructor with Trainco from Perrysburg, Ohio. “Four weeks and you will have a job,”

Starting salary ranges depending on what type of trucking a driver wants to do, from local to over-the-road, but a figure from \$35,000 to \$50,000 is not out of the question, according to Kubicki.

“Most of these students have family, they have children. They

like to be home on the weekends to see their families, so it is more regional drivers,” Kubicki said. “If you want to be out on the road for three months at a time, you will make more money.”

Trainco has several training locations for students to choose from, but they don’t just sign up and get behind the wheel.

“You have to have a fairly clean driving record,” Kubicki said. “We also take students through a medical DOT physical test to see if they qualify physically to do this job.”

Training is made up of classroom time at WCC, closed-course range time and on-road driving. Range time and state certification is done at Trainco’s Taylor location.

Class sizes are also small, with an average of five per class.

Students who graduate the Trainco program are given help with job placement. After leaving Trainco, a newly minted professional truck driver can expect additional training.

“Every company has a certain training period when hired. It could be two weeks, it could be three weeks, all depending on the company,” Kubicki

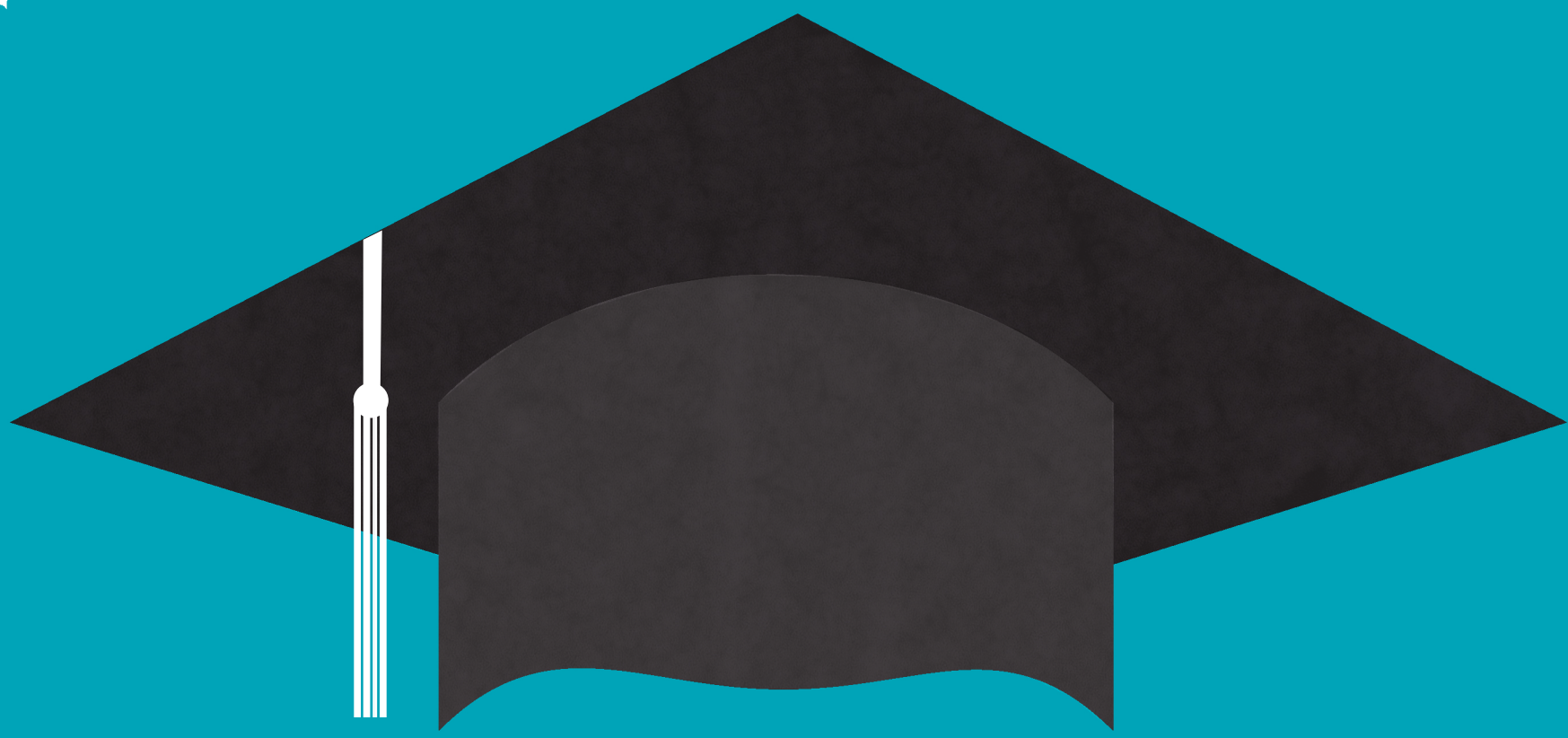
said. “No company is going to give you the keys and say ‘here, take this freight from point A to point B safely’ without additional training.”

Defensive driving is the key to being a safe and professional driver.

“The last time most drivers got any training was in high school. Do you still drive like they taught you to?” Kubicki asked. “How many times do you look in your side mirror as opposed to your rear view mirror? Do you ever look at your right mirror? We take them back to that high school year when you learn to drive, and we bring back all the things they forgot.”

Kubicki also has some advice to the students of WCC who commute every day and share the road with big rigs.

“That truck is 65-68 feet long. He needs room to make that right turn; he needs room to make that left turn. Just give him room so he can do what he needs to do,” Kubicki advises. “Most truck drivers are courteous. They are professionals. They are defensive drivers. They are looking out for you even though you are not looking out for yourself. They will cut you a break, if they can.”



Grad School?

Here at *The Washtenaw Voice*, we've been fortunate to have a number of staffers in recent years who had already earned their bachelor's degrees.

Several page designers had fine arts degrees from universities like Michigan. One of our editors had a psychology degree from Kalamazoo College. A photo editor-turned award-winning reporter was a former scientist at Pfizer who enrolled at Washtenaw to study photography, then photojournalism, then journalism – and now he has a second, very different career.

It got us thinking. If we're seeing so many students in our own newsroom with college degrees, how many

others are there in other programs at Washtenaw, and why are they here? Turns out, there are a lot. Nearly 13 percent of the 12,476 students in the Fall 2012 semester held college degrees. (Another 17.5 percent transferred here from a four-year institution.)

Those enrolled with bachelor's degrees or higher all have unique and interesting reasons for being here, but there is also a common theme: They're here to acquire the knowledge and skills to help them redefine their careers.

Here are their stories:

Researcher hopes to build future studying machinery at WCC

By MARIA RIGOU
Staff Writer

Dr. Ben Jones —not his real name, though he does hold a doctorate degree—has a good reason for not wanting his name used in this story.

He holds a distinguished position in research and development at a local

institution, and neither his employers nor coworkers have any idea he is studying at Washtenaw Community College – for the purpose of running his own company one day.

Jones acknowledges that for him, education is not all “do and be done.” It goes much farther than that.

“I had a business idea,” the 45-year-old from Brighton said.

Jones, who already holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics from Oakland University and also earned a Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Michigan, is enrolled in

the Automation Technology program at WCC, with a concentration in advanced manufacturing.

He says that his reason to come back to school revolved around two main motivations that were deeply interrelated.

“I wanted to make some things, but I didn't know how,” Jones said. “I needed (a special type of) machinery and it turns out WCC has a great program that is part of a larger advanced manufacturing program.”

Jones' current know-how places him well ahead of his classmates: he

knows materials and has the knowledge that can be applied to fabricate devices, but is still missing the engineering aspect of manufacturing.

And this is exactly his other reason for enrolling at WCC.

“I like the way (the program) enhances my other skillsets,” Jones said. “And I fell in love with the whole thing.”

The automation technology program at WCC prepares students for entry-level positions as an automated equipment technician who assembles, installs, programs, troubleshoots and maintains robotic and automated

equipment. Students have a choice to follow any of four different specialty tracks, which will prepare them for the various applications of automation.

“There are four ways of obtaining the Automation Technology degree, said Gary Schultz, instructor in the Industrial Technology department. “(One) is CNC machining, machines that are operated by programmed motors.”

Within this program, Schultz

From the courts to the grindstone

From witnesses to welding, student cross-examines a career

By MICHAEL J. HLYWA
Staff Writer

Sparks often fly around Eric Scheie whenever he's in the room, whether it's in the courtroom and, more recently, in the workshop.

Scheie, 58, of Ann Arbor, is a student in his last year of WCC's welding and fabrication program. But not long ago he was a lawyer living in San Francisco.

So how did he go from allegations to alloys? He met a girl on his journey through life.

Scheie's journey started at 18 when he followed his dream of living on the West Coast. He moved from his hometown of Philadelphia to California, where he attended University of California-Berkley and studied rhetoric.

While working odd jobs during college, Scheie realized, to his surprise, that he wanted to become a lawyer.

"I saw that the people I was working for were making good money," Scheie recalled. "I never liked lawyers all that much, but I thought a law degree would be a good thing to have for life. I could see that people who were lawyers had all kinds of advantages in life."

So after receiving his bachelor's degree in 1978, Scheie went on to complete his juris doctorate degree at University of San Francisco in 1982. He passed his bar exam the same year and spent the next 17 years practicing law in California.

But tragedy struck when Scheie's mother fell terminally ill. He packed up and moved back to Philadelphia in 1999 to care for her until she passed away.

While living in Philadelphia, a friend introduced Scheie to a fellow

Californian named Edie Ostapik. Scheie and Ostapik hit it off instantly, and they married a couple of years later.

"It's interesting because we're both Californians, but we met in Philadelphia," Scheie said. "Actually, she had returned to school late in life, and she was getting her economics undergraduate degree at Bryn Mawr College when I met her. She went from there to University of Michigan to do her graduate work."

So Scheie followed. "I'm what you call a trailing spouse," Scheie joked.

But it was thanks to Ostapik's move to Ann Arbor that Scheie found his next big passion.

"I've always been interested in welding, but I never had the time to do it," Scheie explained. "One of my best friends is an artist from California. He'd done a lot of metal work, and he was moving to other forms of art. So he said, 'I'll let you have my welder and my cutting outfit and everything,'"

"So that was a nice gift, but I had no idea what I was doing, and I thought, rather than blow myself up or burn the house down, maybe I ought to take a basic welding course."

So Scheie searched for renowned welding schools in the area, and he found a great one in Washtenaw Community College.

Scheie's return to college to study welding came as no surprise to his wife.

"He's the type of person that when he gets interested in something, he takes it to a pretty high level," said Ostapik.

According to Coley McLean, one of Scheie's welding instructors, it's not uncommon for people to end up in her classroom later in life.

"That happens a lot. If you talk to people about welding," McLean said, "it's usually, 'Oh, I've always wanted to do that.' But we do get quite a few students that this has always been a passion or a love or an interest. I mean, the (classroom) population's pretty

interesting. We get 16-year-olds to 70-year-olds."

And McLean loves having Scheie in her class. She says that, because of his diverse background, Scheie helps make class more dynamic.

"He's an ideal student," McLean explained. "He's very inquisitive, very polite. He's the kind of student that, when you want there to be interaction, he's the first one to start it, which is great."

"He takes it (school) more seriously. I mean, he's been out in the real world, so he knows what having a boss is like. He knows what making ends meet is like. Having that background, he can appreciate the education."

Indeed, Scheie loves the rejuvenation that college gives him, even if it does make him sweat a little.

"Being a student at my age is downright surreal. And I sometimes wonder, 'how in the world did I get into this?' because at my age, that's not what most people do," Scheie said.

Ostapik also supports her husband's newfound interest, in spite of the clutter that comes with it.

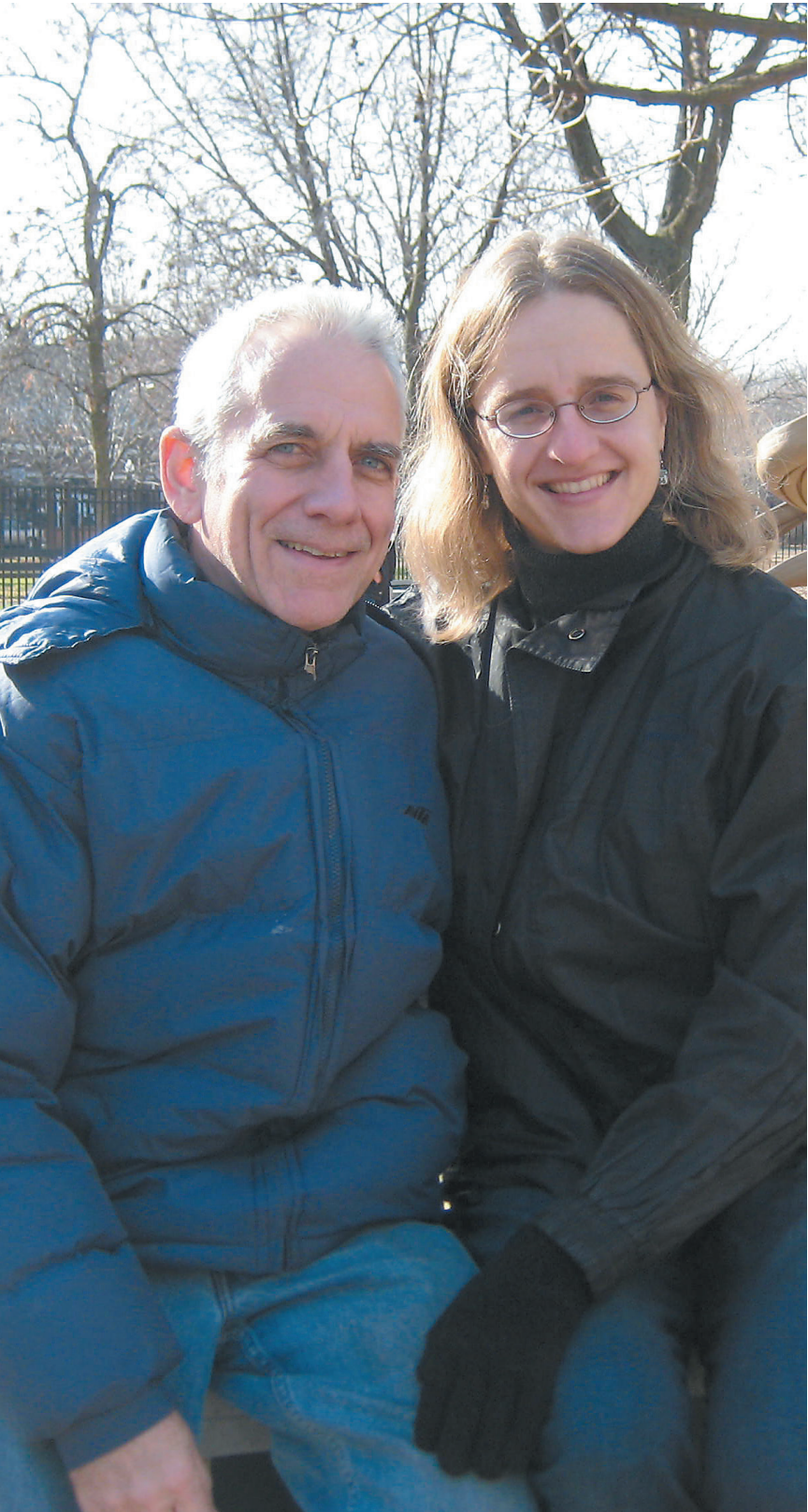
"I like to see him have a passion for something and pursue that. That makes him happy so that makes me happy. Though sometimes when our living room and dining room are full of metal, and I trip on them, that doesn't make me happy," Ostapik joked.

But studying welding is more than just a pastime for Scheie. After finishing at Washtenaw, he wants to get a welding engineering degree. Eventually, he plans to combine his experiences and consult on welding litigation cases.

And that, adds Ostapik, is the beauty of schools like WCC.

"Community colleges help people later in life to transition to a new career and find a new passion," Ostapik said.

In the case of one attorney-turned-welder, Washtenaw certainly helped Scheie fuse his passions and spark his fervor for a new chapter in life.



ERIC SCHEIE COURTESY PHOTO

Lawyering up: Eric Scheie and his wife Edie Ostapik in the Hyde Park neighborhood of Chicago



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PHD FROM C1

explained, a student can either work on setting up and operating machines or programming machines from blueprints using CAM software, for example.

"(This degree) will open up doors for plastics production and move me over to the engineering side," Jones said. "Luckily, I have the chemical knowledge, because of my work, so I only need the knowledge on processes."

Jones hopes to move into the manufacturing industry in Michigan and hopefully make something out of his ideas.

"It's not 'make it and be done' for me," said Jones about his future ambitions. "I would like to open a shop" and apply the concepts he learned at WCC.

"His previous degrees are not hands-on degrees," Schultz said. "I really think that he is enjoying the hands-on."

Jones is one of many students at Washtenaw who have decided to continue studying in order to open up

more job opportunities for themselves.

"Ben is a hardworking (guy)," said Sean Wood, a 45-year-old science major from Saline. "He is a very down-to-earth person."

According to Schultz, there is a huge shortage of technicians in Southeast Michigan. Since the 2008 economic crisis, the manufacturing industry in the state has been in decline, but it is now back with a vengeance.

"One of our students... came here not having a clue what to do. He took Robotics I, and was hooked," recalled Schultz. "He transferred to Lake Superior State, got a Bachelor of Science in Engineering and now pretty much runs the paint line in the BMW plant in South Carolina. And he is responsible for, I don't know, literally about 100 robots."

Schulz sees similar potential in Jones.

"He is a very fun guy to have in class," Schultz said. "And I know he is going to be successful in whatever he does."

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Well-schooled digital video student: ‘Follow your heart’

By NATALIE WRIGHT
Voice Correspondent

John Mullins wore out a lot of career pathways before finding his way at Washtenaw Community College. Before he was a digital video production student at WCC, Mullins, 39, earned an associate degree in computer information systems at Henry Ford Community College, a bachelor's in business administration at the University of Michigan, and a master's in theology through an on-line school that, he says, “doesn’t really count.”

But he just couldn’t find something that stuck.

He spent some time as a flight attendant for Northwest Airlines, a job that he loved. But he was laid off soon after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 when the airline industry was hurting.

Finally, in 2011, Mullins made a deal with his mom that changed his course once again.

“She said she wanted to write a book,” he said. “So, I told her to go back to school. I made her a deal that if she went back to school, I’d go back with her.”

As he was scanning the course catalog, he came across digital video production and thought it sounded interesting.

“I was just curious how a movie was made,” he said.

He had never touched a video camera, or attempted to write a screenplay, but soon after classes began, Mullins realized that he had found his passion.

“I had no idea how much is

involved (in making a film),” he said. “It’s hard, but I love it.”

Mullins said his favorite part of the movie-making process is writing. While he admits the process gets frustrating at times, it’s very rewarding to sit back and watch a film that he’s created from start to finish, he said.

Two faculty members have been particularly influential in his writing. Harvey Ovshinsky taught Mullins in his screenwriting class during the summer of 2012.

“Harvey taught me so many things. He’s like Robin Williams in the ‘Dead Poets Society’ and Patch Adams mixed together,” Mullins said.

He said he is also grateful for the guidance and inspiration he received from Linda Chapman, who teaches writing for visual media.

“She’s an Academy Award-nominated writer. There aren’t many people who can say that,” he said.

Yet, despite all he has learned from his instructors, Mullins said he has learned more from his classmates. The diversity of the students at WCC is what makes for a great learning environment, he said.

“There’s a really nice mix of younger kids and older students,” he said. “And because it’s so spread out, it’s not uncomfortable for anyone, and everyone benefits. The younger students keep us young, and we keep them working hard, like parents.”

Mullins has produced five major projects since he began the program in 2011. He just finished his last film; he graduates this spring.

The film, which deals with domestic abuse in a homosexual relationship, is more “serious” than any of his other projects, he said.

Chris Ozminski, 51, is Mullins’ partner for the film. Mullins’ diverse life experiences make him a strong writer and a good classmate, according to Ozminski, a digital video production student from Brighton.

“He definitely has more depth of knowledge than most students,” Ozminski said of Mullins. “That can be a helpful resource for the other students in the program to have.”

Mullins said he keeps a scoreboard of reactions to the film.

“Six people have actually shed tears, there were three gasps, two people told me how brave I was,” he said, “and one person in my creative writing class came out of the closet to our class.”

Mullins said that after he graduates, he plans to continue with school and get his bachelor's degree in video production. He is even being recruited by several schools. After his dad broke his kneecap recently, his mom halted her studies to care for him.

“So I’m going to school for the both of us,” said Mullins, “but I’ll push her to go back when the time is right.”

The self-proclaimed “eternal student” said he’s just happy to have finally found his calling.

“I was pushed into my first degrees. People said, ‘Go for the money,’ they said, ‘Computers is where it’s at,’ but I hated it,” he said. “Now I’m getting the degree I really want. This seems to be where I need to be, and should have been in the beginning.”

Mullins applied to speak at the college’s upcoming graduation ceremony. He said he hoped to share the most important piece of wisdom WCC has given him: “Don’t listen to anybody else. Do what you want to do. Follow your heart.”

EMU business grad finds future in WCC motorcycle program

By MOHAMED MAIZA
Voice Correspondent

Fresh out of Eastern Michigan University with a brand-new bachelor's degree in marketing, John Kruzel, a 25-year-old Ann Arbor resident, felt unsure about a career in the field of his studies. When he started working towards his B.A., he had yet to put much thought into his future.

“At that point I was just thinking about what would get me the widest variety of jobs,” Kruzel said. “I think I was just making the safe choice. It’s an interesting feeling when you graduate. You finish, and it’s like ‘what now?’”

His previous work experience in the Audio Visual Department at EMU did not appeal to him, and in fact turned him off to the jobs in his field of study.

“I wanted to do something I enjoyed,” Kruzel said. “I didn’t care about the money.”

Despite job opportunities that might result after an advertising internship that one of his college professors wanted to recommend him for, Kruzel had another career in mind.

In the final semester at Eastern, Kruzel purchased his first motorcycle, a used Honda Shadow VT600. Promptly after purchasing it, he fell in love with riding. A career opportunity would arise to him as practicality: Kruzel needed to learn how to maintain and repair his bike.

“I got good at riding, but as far as repair goes I had no idea what I was doing,” Kruzel said.

So he enrolled in Washtenaw Community College’s renowned motorcycle repair program.

Kruzel had learned to ride at young age taught on a dirt bike by his father, Robert, an avid motorcycle rider. The elder Kruzel, 58, a retired tool and

die-maker who used to teach machine shop and auto repair, tried to teach his son a little about repairing bikes, but John was not interested at the time.

“He was not overly interested because I had him learn on dirt bikes before they could get a bike of their own,” Robert Kruzel said. “I didn’t have a bike at the time, just a four wheeler.”

Now Robert Kruzel is happy that his son found something to kindle his passion.

“I’ve had motorcycles all my life,” Robert said. “I just wanted him to be old enough to realize what he was getting into. I think you’ve got to find something that you really love to do and it’s definitely worth a try to see if you really like it or not.”

At Washtenaw, Kruzel had finally found something he loved, something he could spend the rest of his life doing. This became obvious to him in his new classes.

“When you find something you want to do, you go to learn, as opposed to going to school to get a piece of paper,” he said.

Kruzel sold his first bike, that Honda that inspired him to learn to repair motorcycles, to his friend, James Williams, 25, a cook from Ypsilanti.

“He didn’t sell it to me because he was trying to flip or dump it,” Williams said. “I got a good deal, probably like \$500 under value. John thinks that motorcycles are an important part of culture, or counter-culture, and he thinks they should be affordable by anyone who wants one.”

Now working toward finishing his second semester in the motorcycle repair program, Kruzel has begun putting thought into his future again.

“I want to get my two degrees working together,” Kruzel said. “I don’t know if I want to repair or sell, but the end goal is to be an entrepreneur.”



Blooming graduation: Students relaxing in the sunshine amid rows of blooming tulips outside of the Student Center during finals week.

Entrepreneur designing a career at WCC

By ERIC WADE
Staff Writer

A young entrepreneur at heart, Susan Kennedy thought she was on the right path when pursuing a bachelor's degree in business from the University of Michigan.

At first, a business degree seemed like the natural choice for Kennedy, 24, of Ann Arbor. Her extended family is heavily involved in local business as owners and co-owners that include Trenton Corporation, Ann Arbor Smiles Dental Group, The Bar (in Braun Court), Kennedy Associates and Midwest Accounting Systems.

When Kennedy was a child, she had her own “business,” too, opening Honey Springs Spa and Oyster Outhouse restaurant, using her little sister as an employee and mother, aunt and grandmother as patrons. The two young children would charge their relatives \$2 for spa treatments, and make

menus and signs advertising meals for their restaurant – meals that often consisted of chopped carrots.

Kennedy’s mother, Nancy Kennedy, was amazed at what her children were able to create at such a young age.

“(I was) blown away by how developed her operation was,” Nancy said.

Susan had detailed invoices for services and progress charts for Allison Kennedy, her younger sister and only employee. She even had survey cards asking customers how services were in hopes of identifying areas for improvement.

“Looking back on it, my favorite thing was making the menus and signs (for the businesses),” said Kennedy, acknowledging that this should have been a hint about where her future lay.

Kennedy admits she should have seen herself working more towards some type of major in art, but having three sisters who were comparatively more talented, she was discouraged to pursue a degree in a more creative field. So she pursued a bachelor's degree in business at the University of

Michigan with a minor in art history.

While at U-M, Kennedy challenged herself often by starting a sales club and working in sales for a summer. She anticipated a career in business and worked hard in school to assure that she would succeed.

After college, Kennedy worked as a technical writer. While grateful of the experience of writing and the early wealth of experience in the business world, she yearned for more. She realized when formatting and creating info-graphics that time moved at an incredible speed. She loved what she was doing when designing and wanted it to be a measurable part of her life. In discovering this hibernating passion, Kennedy felt it was time to develop it.

Not wanting to spend a lot of money exploring a new degree, Kennedy chose to explore graphic design at Washtenaw Community College. What she found at WCC was diversity, not only by race, but also by age and life experience, unlike like her previous experience with college.

In addition, she describes the

atmosphere of WCC as much different, with instructors committed to helping students and programs geared toward teaching what’s needed for a job.

“That’s what Washtenaw does. There’s no bullshit, no fluffy liberal arts,” she said, “It gets right to the point and gives you what you need to get a job.”

Today Kennedy finds herself using what she’s learned in her first two semesters at WCC in her budding professional life. She works with her family’s businesses, creating signs, calendars and business cards, and she’s starting to create other small business relationships to assure a successful future.

Furthermore, she brings her knowledge to the newsroom of *The Washtenaw Voice* as a page designer.

“*The Voice*, I think, is the best kept secret on campus,” said Kennedy, who first walked through the doors of the newsroom about midway through the Winter semester. “They’re already giving me this experience. I mean, where else could I go to get this?”

With many children, there are

signs that point to who they are going to be as adults. With Kennedy, the signs pointed in more than one direction. She chose one path, but found herself not regretting it.

Rather she used it to further a true passion. She knew somewhere inside that she enjoyed designing the menu of a childhood restaurant, and being in charge of the operations.

With a degree in business, first-hand knowledge of entrepreneurship and a solid background in design she is getting in the classrooms and the newsroom at WCC, Kennedy is confident that it’s just a matter of time before she owns her own business

“I think that is organically happening for me now,” she said when discussing her dreams of owning a business. “I’m slowly building up business and clients.”

Parents are often the first to see the signs.

“We could see her entrepreneurial spirit at a young age,” Nancy said, “We are not surprised that she is interested in starting her own business.”

Voice survival guide: ‘festy’ edition

The do’s and don’ts of successful festival fun

By CHANA ELIAS
Staff Writer

When Carissa Wilkie had to sit in the emergency room and tell her friend’s mother that she wasn’t sure if her son was going to live, she decided then and there that she was going to help educate others about drugs.

“We didn’t know anything about drugs,” Wilkie said. “I thought he was going to die in my house. It was really traumatic.”

Wilkie now works with DanceSafe as a National Outreach Coordinator, helping others realize the risk involved in using recreational substances, as well as educating them on how to party safely.

Many summer music festivals get a bad reputation for being drug parties, for being unsafe and not enjoyable because of these situations.

Fortunately, there are ways people can still enjoy festivals and other music events where they choose to take recreational drugs. Additionally, these same rules apply to those who choose to attend these events sober.

HYDRATE YOUR SOUL, OR AT LEAST YOUR BODY

The heat of summer makes these mostly outdoor events potentially dangerous, and water is the last thing on people’s minds when they are running to the next stage to see their favorite artist.

“People will often be dehydrated, and they don’t know it,” Wilkie said.

She said that DanceSafe recommends people who are consuming recreational drugs to chug 100 milliliters of water an hour.

Even when sober, dehydration is a huge risk.

Camelbaks are water bottles in a backpack with a unique spout that comes to your mouth without ever taking off the pack. Carrying a water bottle around like these may make it easier to drink as much water as you need, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Being thirsty is a sign of dehydration, so the CDC recommends drinking water before feeling thirsty.

There are a few steps to take to keep that Camelbak filled.

“If you’re at an outdoor event, make sure you know where to get water,” Wilkie said.

At indoor events, sometimes they will charge for water and make it less accessible. Bathroom sinks are always viable and free options. There may also

be booths of health promoting organizations or water companies that may be handing out free water.

“Drink water. It causes less problems later,” Wilkie said.

LISTEN SAFELY

We’ve all had the incessant ear-ringing after leaving a concert, which happens to muffle the sounds of the rest of the evening. If you’re lucky, you can hear normally again in the morning.

This is a sign of hearing loss, Wilkie said.

“I worked at a club for nine years and people make fun of me because I need a hearing aid,” Wilkie said. “I talk really loud because I’m deaf, I can’t hear myself.”

Hearing damage is possible after long or repeated exposure to sounds of 85 decibels or higher, according to the National Institute of Deafness and Other Communication Disorders. An average rock concert is 121 decibels.

“It takes seven seconds for you to be exposed to hearing damage,” Wilkie said.

Wilkie recommends wearing noise reducing ear plugs. Many companies sell reusable ear plugs, including Etymotics. Ear plugs such as these can reduce sounds up to 20 decibels.

While many people complain about the music sounding distorted while

wearing ear plugs, the benefit is to be able to hear the music longer into your life. Wilkie also says that ear plugs have come a long way, and now some are made specifically to not distort the sound of music.

“Once you lose your hearing, it doesn’t come back,” Wilkie said. “It’s not something you can regain.”

DROP SAFELY, NOT DEAD

Truth be told, people are going to take drugs at these events, regardless of whether they are addicts or occasional recreational users. If you are either one of those, safety is still important, even if the substance isn’t above the law.

“Test it before you take it,” Wilkie said.

There are many drug adulterator kits that work by the substance changing color. This is good to be able to know what is in the pill or powder before consumption. However, testing is not the only thing you need to be cautious about when taking drugs.

Everything around you when you take drugs needs to be considered, according to Wilkie.

“Drug use isn’t going to be safe; everything is risky,” Wilkie said.

However, she does have a few guidelines to make sure that the experience is as positive as possible.

Who are you with? What’s going

on in the environment around you? What’s your mental status like? These are all important questions she tells people to consider.

“It might not be the best time to take things if you have other issues going on in your life,” Wilkie said.

OFTEN FORGOTTEN, YET STILL IMPORTANT

While these topics are very essential to making sure that you and your friends have the best experience at festivals this summer, not remembering to pack a tent, warm and cold-weather clothing, bug spray and sunscreen can also ruin a weekend-long event. Furthermore, campfires are only safe when proper fire safety precautions are taken.

Having an unexpected child or unexpected, life-altering sexually-transmitted disease can also dampen a fun summer event. DanceSafe recommends that everyone is knowledgeable about contraception and sexual barriers. If participants plan to have sex, bring enough sexual barriers – such as condoms – with them to the festivals.

Whether you’re taking recreational substances or putting on a fire conclave, remember to be safe. “It’s all fun and games,” Wilkie said, “until somebody gets hurt.”



MICHIGANBEERBLOG.NET COURTESY PHOTO



MICHIGANBEAUTIFUL COURTESY PHOTO

Toasting at Ypsilanti’s Summer Beer Festival

By NATALIE WRIGHT
Staff Writer

Michigan may be losing its title as “The World’s Motor Capital,” but the Michigan Brewer’s Guild has proposed a new nickname: “The Great Beer State.”

Michigan is ranked fifth in the nation in the number of breweries, microbreweries and brewpubs, according to the MBG.

Of the 135 brewing licenses issued in Michigan, 105 are members of the MBG – and 74 of these breweries will be present this summer at the MBG’s oldest and largest annual festival, the Michigan Summer Beer Festival in Ypsilanti.

Breweries will set up tables and tents around Riverside Park in Ypsilanti’s historic Depot Town July 26-27, to pour samples of more than 600 beers.

Emma Jurek, 28, a culinary hospitality major at Washtenaw, has been bartending for seven years. She is a resident of Ypsilanti and has attended the festival for the last three years. One of the best parts of the festival, she said, is all of the specialty beers that are available. Bell’s Brewery, for example, does timed releases of specialty beers.

“It’s usually new stuff or single-issue stuff, or stuff that’s only available at their brewery, so you’d never get to taste it anywhere else,” Jurek said. “It’s stuff that I can’t have any other time than at beer fest, and that’s awesome but also kind of sucks because it’s all amazing.”

Grizzly Peak Brewing Company attracts guests by serving beer right from the casks instead of kegs, said head brewer Duncan Williams.

Dragonmead Microbrewery will be sampling four special beers at the festival that it released on St. Patrick’s Day this year, said pub manager Jennifer Locher.

“Three are Scottish-style ales, and

one is our Imperial Stout which is a Russian-style ale, and what’s unique is that they’re all aged in bourbon barrels,” Locher said.

Dragonmead also sets up flags and decorations to make its table to look like a castle, she said. And it isn’t the only brewery to use an elaborate setup to catch the attention of the festival’s patrons.

“Dark Horse sets up a path through an air-conditioned trailer to couches where you sit and wait. Then they take you into this tented area, where it feels like you’re being corralled,” Jurek said. “And you pick one side, dark or light, and then you pick like IPA’s or Ales. The whole experience feels like you’re going through a haunted house.”

But attendees shouldn’t let the elaborate setups of the bigger brewers distract them from the great beer in some of the smaller tents, Jurek warned.

“You can’t just focus on the big ones; go to the smaller breweries because you’re guaranteed to find a few diamonds in the rough.”

E.T. Crowe is part owner and marketing and sales director for Wolverine Brewing Co. Because it doesn’t have as big of a budget as breweries like Bell’s and Dark Horse, it stays away from the gimmicks and focuses on doing what it does best, she said.

“We just keep it simple and bring the lagers that people expect from us,” Crowe said. “Our two most popular summer beers that we’ll definitely bring are the Verano Mexican Lager and the Chrysalis Belgian wheat Lager.”

In addition to creating a fun atmosphere where the public can sample and learn about new beers, the festival also provides an ideal setting for marketing and networking for professionals in the brewing and distribution industries.

Jurek said it was a great place to make connections when she was in charge of alcohol purchases at BD’s

Mongolian Grill.

“It was beneficial for me to be there because I could make contact with breweries and find out who they were distributing through,” she said. “And I could ask breweries what they’re selling the most of and what’s new and what they’re excited about so that I can be the first on our strip to carry that name.”

The event also provides a great marketing opportunity for the breweries.

“The whole reason for the festival is to bring everyone from around the state into one tent, so people who live in different parts of Michigan, or another state, can get exposure to breweries and beers that they wouldn’t get to try otherwise,” Williams said.

“It’s almost a necessity to be there. I would never miss one (of the festivals). They’re invaluable to us,” said Crowe.

The Summer Beer Festival has been instrumental in getting the Wolverine Brewing name out there, she said.

“We used to have a lot of people come up to us saying that they didn’t know about us or our beer,” said Crowe. “But I’ve found that over the years participating in the festival, I’m getting less and less people who haven’t heard of us.”

Tickets for the festival are sold at MiBeer.com. They went on sale May 1, and organizers expect them to sell out quickly. Admission for Friday is \$30 in advance or \$35 at the gate – if tickets do not sell out. Saturday is \$35 in advance or \$40 at the gate.

Admission includes 15 drink tokens. Each token is redeemable for a three-ounce sample, though some rare, vintage, and higher-cost beers may require two or three tokens for a sample. Additional tokens are sold inside the festival for 50 cents.

Designated-driver tickets are just \$5, but designated drivers will not be granted any tokens, or allowed to purchase them inside.

Heritage by the riverside

By CHANA ELIAS
Staff Writer

Nat Edmunds originally wanted to be a historical tour guide for Ypsilanti, but the request for the grant money to fund this dream was denied by the Michigan Department of Commerce due to insufficient funds.

But Edmunds found a loophole: There was money for emerging festivals.

In 1978, Edmunds took the Michigan Conventions and Visitors Bureau employees who came to Ypsilanti to see what was so historic about it on her infamous tour. By 1979, the funds were in place for the first Ypsilanti Yesteryear Heritage Festival. In 1982, the yesteryear was removed from the name, but the annual summer festival still stood strong in Ypsilanti’s Riverside Park.

Thirty-five years later, the Ypsilanti Heritage Festival remains as a free-admission event alongside the Huron River in Ypsilanti. This year, the festival will be held from Aug. 16-18 in Riverside Park.

The Heritage Festival has something that most people can enjoy. Astronomy lovers can attend the Eastern Michigan University planetarium event or the skyviewing

in Sherzer Hall, all free and a part of the Heritage Festival. There are also museum, garden and historical home tours available.

But if outer space is something you’d prefer to leave outside your space, the Riverside Beer Tent and Casino will be open for specific hours during the event. A pinball machine will also be placed inside the casino, and all of the proceeds will benefit the Heritage Festival.

Heritage can be well described by food, which the festival will be anything but short on. There will be community vendors on site, as well as a few scheduled community meals.

DIYpsi will be at the festival and selling crafts alongside other local arts and crafts vendors. The marketplace allows community members to show off their crafts and other businesses, in addition to being able to find out more information about different local organizations.

Parades and children’s entertainment is ample at this event that pulls families from across Michigan to attend this annual low-cost event. A Native American pow-wow will also be featured at the festival, as well as live musical entertainment.

While admission is free to the Heritage Festival, many events do have a fee. Visit www.ypsilanthheritagefestival.com for more information and schedule of events.



MYRA KLARMAN COURTESY PHOTO

Summer festivals bring crowds to Detroit



DETROIT1701.ORG COURTESY PHOTO

The beat of the city: Hart Plaza in Detroit during a quiet moment.

By NATALIE WRIGHT
Staff Writer

Detroit’s Hart Plaza is the ideal setting for many of the city’s summer festivals. The season brings hundreds of thousands of people from all over the country to downtown Detroit.

The 14-acre plaza, which opened in 1975, sits on Jefferson Avenue at the foot of Woodward Avenue and is bordered by the Detroit River. The plaza is said to have a capacity of 40,000 people, which is clearly exceeded during some of the most popular summer events, such as Motor City Pride and Movement Electronic Music Festival.

Despite the decline of the city’s economy, population and infrastructure, many festivals in Detroit continue to grow.

MOVEMENT ELECTRONIC MUSIC FESTIVAL

There is one weekend, at the beginning of every summer, when the sidewalks in downtown Detroit pulsate.

The Movement Electronic Music Festival is an annual event held in Hart Plaza in the city that has been cited as the birthplace of techno music.

The event was named “Best Niche

Festival” by Rolling Stone in 2011. And last year, more than 107,000 people were in attendance. This was the highest attendance since the event started charging for admission in 2005.

This year, the festival will feature more than 100 artists on five outdoor stages.

Some big names appear on this year’s lineup. Derrick May and Kevin Saunders, two of “The Belleville Three” who have been credited with the invention of the Detroit techno genre, are both on the list.

Alongside them in the lineup is Carl Craig, a Detroit-based producer who was artistic director for the festival when it was founded in 2000.

Another act that is generating some buzz is Colorado’s “jamtronica” band, Big Gigantic.

The festival will be held May 25-27 from noon to midnight. With dozens of official pre-parties and after-parties taking place around the city.

In addition to the music, the festival features an interactive technology center and art displays.

One-day admission is \$49. Three-day passes started at \$69 for the “first wave” of buyers, but are now up to \$99 on the “fifth wave.”

MOTOR CITY PRIDE

In the 28 years since Michigan’s first Gay and Lesbian march in Detroit, the LGBT community has made significant strides in their fight for equality.

The Federal Marriage Amendment was defeated twice. “Don’t ask, don’t tell” was repealed. And President Barack Obama endorsed marriage equality.

Yet, only 11 states have legalized same-sex marriage, and Michigan is not one of them.

So the march goes on.

Motor City Pride is scheduled every June along with similar rallies across the country to commemorate the Stonewall riots of 1969. The event, which is hosted by Equality Michigan, is the largest LGBT gathering in the state.

This year, Motor City Pride will be held in Hart Plaza on June 8-9.

While a parade Sunday morning will pay homage to that first march in 1985, the gathering has grown to encompass many other events as well.

Live music will be played throughout the weekend. A family picnic, golf outing and beer garden are also planned.

A commitment ceremony will be

held on Saturday which gives same-sex couples the opportunity to publicly recognize their relationship, in lieu of a marriage. This ceremony symbolizes how far the marches have brought the community and how much farther there is to go.

DETROIT RIVER DAYS FESTIVAL

The Detroit River Front Conservancy was founded 10 years ago with the goal of transforming the riverfront into an area that could be enjoyed by the public.

In June 2007, after a major transformation of the riverfront, the non-profit organization founded the Detroit River Days festival.

“Detroit River Days gives us the opportunity to showcase our riverfront and all its tremendous vibrancy on a much larger scale to the region and to the world,” said Faye Alexander Nelson, president and CEO of the Conservancy.

Last year more than 150,000 people attended the gathering and hundreds volunteered.

The festival, which will be held June 21-23, includes interactive educational exhibits, sand sculptures, jet-ski demonstrations, river-boat tours

and carnival rides.

The crowds will be entertained by live concerts featuring more than 50 bands, and street performers including aerialists, living statues, bucket drummers, dance groups and magicians.

The Detroit River ArtScape is a national competition open to all artists and art of any medium. And 15 pieces will be selected for the exhibit, which opens June 14 and runs through the last day of the River Days festival.

The DMC River Days 5k begins Saturday at 9 a.m. Proceeds from the race will benefit the DRFC. Runners will receive free admission to the festival.

The festival will stretch from the GM Renaissance Center to the William G. Milliken State Park between Atwater Street and the Detroit RiverWalk.

It will be open at 11 a.m.-11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and 11 a.m.-10 p.m. on Sunday.

The festival is free on Friday before 5 p.m. After that, there is a \$3 admission fee all weekend. Children 3 and younger as well as seniors 65 years and older receive free admission.



MYRA KLARMAN COURTESY PHOTO

Grounded: Chalk Art will decorate Chelsea’s Sounds and Sights Festival in July.

Chelsea Sounds and Sites

By CHANA ELIAS
Staff Writer

From a sidewalk bazaar to a two-day, three-night event, Chelsea Sounds and Sites Festival creates a family friendly alternative for summer fun in a quaint, small-town setting.

This year, it will run from July 25-27.

The festival includes an art market, kid’s zone, fee-for-admission social tent with live music, food court, pet parade and classic cruisers night. And the inaugural “chalk walk” event will also be held.

The “chalk walk” is along East Middle Street in Chelsea. Participants will transform the road’s black asphalt into a “community quilt” of chalk art. Professional chalk artists will be present to both contribute to the community quilt, as well as assist the chalk-walk participants by

teaching them helpful chalk art techniques.

While this action-packed weekend is full of fun for Chelsea residents and attracts visitors from all over Michigan, the excitement doesn’t stop there. Due to its enormous success, the festival extends to Thursday nights for several weeks.

Called Chelsea Sounds and Sites Thursday Nights, 6:30-8:30 p.m. from June 6 to Aug. 15, the evenings include musical guests at various venues spanning downtown Chelsea.

Musicians include Ann Arbor local gypsy-folk jazz band The Appleseed Collective, and Ann Arbor jazz band The Dorkestra. Children’s entertainment is also available every night, as well as an open mic event and movie. Dance performance can also be found on most of the evenings.

For more information and musical line-ups on both of the events, visit www.chelseafestivals.com

BBQ and blues festival, small-town style

By BENJAMIN KNAUSS
Staff Writer

MANCHESTER – After a few trips to an annual blues event at Grant Park in Chicago, residents in this western Washtenaw community decided to have an event of their own.

The Manchester Men’s Club organized the first event almost 10 years ago, thanks to a friendly neighbor.

“One of our neighbors is a blues man and won the International Blues Competition in Memphis, Tennessee. He also happens to be

a chef and owns a restaurant,” said John Stedman, Manchester Men’s Club president.

This year’s event will be on Saturday, May 18 at Carr Park. Area barbecue vendors will be on-hand to serve up the food. Four blues acts are scheduled to appear, including Manchester’s own Chef Chris and The Rump Shakers, who headline the event.

Admission to the park is \$5; proceeds will benefit community projects.

“We don’t have overhead, we don’t have paid administrators. That enables us to give a real value for a donated dollar back to the community,” Stedman said. “What we raise goes into a general fund, and we pull it out

as we see fit. We try to help things that fall through the cracks.”

Part of this year’s event proceeds will be going to a community-wide project, in conjunction with other Manchester civic groups.

“We are going to pool our monies to improve the Little League baseball fields with new fencing, possibly dug-outs and redoing the top of two fields,” Stedman said.

Ribs and Blues is one of several events held throughout the year by the organization.

“The Men’s Club is always in favor of putting on a show or a party,” Stedman said, “so we can serve our community by sharing our profits.”



MCT CAMPUS COURTESY PHOTO

Grillin': Ribs like these will be served up at the annual Manchester Ribs and Blues festival.

Summer festivals bring world cultures to Michigan

BY NATALIE WRIGHT
AND CHANA ELIAS
Staff Writers

ARAB AND CHALDEAN FESTIVAL

Every summer thousands of people flood Hart Plaza in downtown Detroit for the largest Arab and Chaldean festival in the nation.

The festival, which is celebrating its 42nd anniversary this July, provides an array of events and exhibits that immerse participants in Middle Eastern culture.

The free event will be held July 27-28.

Belly dancers, international musicians and a fashion show are just a few ways guests can expect to be entertained over the weekend.

The fashion show, which takes place Sunday night at 8 p.m., is one of the biggest attractions at the festival, said Jacoub Mansour, the festival's president.

"We buy all of the clothes from Middle Eastern countries. Last year we had 22 countries represented. This year we are adding fashions from Kuwait, Qatar and Oman," said Mansour.

Clothes and jewelry similar to those worn in the fashion show will be on sale, as well as a variety of Middle-Eastern foods.

The children's fair on Saturday at 3 p.m. will include arts and crafts, inflatable games and other family-friendly activities, said Mansour.

Calligraphy artist Michael Shamat has been working with the festival since 1996. He displays his work and does demonstrations for attendees, often writing their names for them in Arabic, said Shamat.

The festival also hosts an art gallery that aims to educate attendees about different aspects of Middle Eastern history and culture. One of the exhibits features Arab folklore. Another exhibit, called "1,000 years of Arab Medicine" is new this year, said Mansour.



YA'SSOO GREEK FESTIVAL OF ANN ARBOR

If it's Greek to you, then just enjoy the party. George Kokkels, the director of the Ya'ssoo Greek Festival of Ann Arbor encourages anyone and everyone to take part in their annual celebration of Greek culture at the end of this month.

"You do not have to be Greek to have fun there. A lot of non-Greeks come because we throw a pretty awesome party," said Kokkels.

In fact, out of the 7,000 attendees at last year's festival, only about 1,000 were of Greek heritage, he said.

There will be plenty of authentic Greek cuisine to go around, thanks to the hundreds of volunteers who prepare for the festival, said Kokkels.

The Agora Marketplace is one of the most popular features of the festival, he said. There, attendees can purchase clothing, jewelry and other merchandise that reflects Greek culture.

Entertainment for the weekend will include two live bands, one that is made up of several church members, and one that is hired to play. There will also be a dance performance by a group of Greek school students.

Another big draw of the festival is the raffle. Last year almost 3,000 raffle tickets were sold, said Kokkels. Tickets are sold for \$5, with at least five winners taking home cash prizes. First prize starts at \$2,000.

The festival takes place at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church on Scio Church Road from Friday, May 31 to Sunday, June 2.

Admission is free before 4 p.m. on Friday, before 1 p.m. on Saturday and all day Sunday. There is a \$3 fee Friday and Saturday nights, but children 12 and younger still get in for free.

MACKINAC ISLAND LILAC FESTIVAL

Initially designed to celebrate the beautiful and fragrant flower for a one-day event, it has become so successful that "Lilac Sunday" turned in to the 10-day Mackinac Island Lilac Festival. For the past 64 years, attendees have been drawn to the horse-only island to indulge in festivities surrounding a light purple flower.

A Lilac Festival queen is voted on each year by Mackinac Island Public School students to honor someone they feel has given the most back to the community and other students throughout the year. The queen makes her debut during the Coca-Cola sponsored festival parade.

Amongst wine tastings, walking tours, hayrides and Grand Hotel tea time, the festival is family-friendly and has something to offer to everyone. Some events are free while others require reservations or tickets.

For more information, visit: www.mackinacislandlilacfestival.org.



ARTS, BEATS AND EATS

Low-cost family entertainment is not only important to offer so families of all social-classes can enjoy, but it is the very the purpose of this food, music and arts festival located in Royal Oak. The event is held on Labor Day weekend, Aug. 30- Sept. 2.

Magic and puppet shows are among the many events at the Kids Zone at the event in addition to the kiddie carnival. Being an event geared towards families, the event coordinators feel strongly about having adequate children's activities that are fun for all ages.

Also featured is a 5K run to benefit the Michigan Youth Arts Association, which supports art education in schools.

Musical performances have included G Love and Special Sauce, The B-52's, Wilco and Blues Traveler in previous years. This year's musical performers are still to be announced.

Admission is \$3 before 5 p.m. and \$5 afterward, which makes the event affordable to most families. This cost goes toward donations to various non-profit charities.

For more information and line-ups, visit www.artsbeatseats.com.

BLISSFEST MUSIC FESTIVAL

Originally named for the town it was held in, Blissfest is an annual "traditional and roots music festival" in Harbor Springs held on the 120-acre "festival farm." It's held the second weekend in July where approximately 4,500 people make an exodus to Northern Michigan for the nationally acclaimed "cultural heritage enrichment event."

Of course, there's music at the festival – bluegrass, Celtic, folk and Zydeco to name a few genres – but that's not the only thing Blissfest is all about. It's about finding your roots through educational and craft workshops, arts camp and having impromptu musical gatherings.

Ypsilanti's punk-bluegrass band Black Jake and the Carnies will be featured during the three-day event, as well as Ann Arbor's blues-rock guitarist Laith al-Saadi and folk band The Ragbirds.

Craft and food vendors are another essential part of Blissfest, in addition to the bike and outdoor gear service booths. Holistic healers also make an appearance at the festival, offering services for the guests.

Tickets are \$110 for adult non-members and \$85 for adult members. Additional ticketing and festival information can be found at www.blissfest.org.



SALINE CELTIC FESTIVAL

Contrary to the beliefs of many St. Patrick's Day partiers, there are aspects of Irish culture that have nothing to do with consuming alcohol.

The Saline Celtic Festival is an annual event that celebrates some of the more family friendly sides of the Irish, Scottish and Welsh heritage.

The festival is held at Millpond Park in Saline over the weekend of July 12-13.

The weekend will include events like Highland dance competitions, live full-contact jousting, Celtic weaponry and fencing demonstrations, and a limerick poetry contest.

The Highland amateur athletics competition will judge contestants in seven traditional Irish athletic events including a sheaf toss and heavy- and light-weight distance tosses. The competition is open to men and women of all ages.

The Mastadon Mayhem Run is new to the festival this year. At 8 a.m. on Saturday, 300 runners will take off on a course full of obstacles which they will have to jump and dodge.

Celtic music will fill the park all weekend between live music performances, music workshops and the pipe band competition.

Solas, one of the bands performing Saturday night, was named, "Irish America's most influential band," by NPR.

The music workshops include Celtic-style fiddling lessons and an Irish step dancing class. The workshops cost \$8.

Tickets for the festival are available online for \$10. Youth tickets, for ages 13-17 are \$5. Children younger than 13 receive free admission.

Admission at the gate is \$15 for adults. Tickets are also available at a number of sponsors' venues around the area. The full list of venues is available on the festival's website.

WHEATLAND MUSIC FESTIVAL

The Wheatland Music Festival is an "old-time music" festival held the weekend after Labor Day in Wheatland Township. It is set on the farm of Mark and Gladys Wernette, the local postmaster and his wife.

The first festival, called Wheatland Bluegrass Festival, in 1974 was held on a hard corn-and-pebble dirt farm. The event was successful, but the camping was hard. Wernette offered his 160-acre luscious farmland for the next year's venue, which also meant there was going to be a next year.

The WMF started when a food co-op in Mt. Pleasant in the early 1970s needed to pay rent, utilities and other essential costs to keep the co-op going. So, a few of the members banded together with local musician to throw free-of-admission concerts and benefits in parks and public halls stretching from Mt. Pleasant to Big Rapids.

From bi-weekly summer concerts to a three-day weekend festival, WMF has drawn attendees to mid-Michigan for 33 years. The festival includes local musicians on the main stage, arts and crafts vendors, a "kid's hill" and "tot lot" for children, as well as instrument and percussion tents.

The festival will be held Sept. 6-8 this year. Tickets go on sale June 1 to the public.



ANN ARBOR SUMMER FESTIVAL

From "Top of the Park" to various indoor film screenings and performance arts events, Ann Arbor Summer Festival is a three-week gala that has grown with the city.

Top of the Park was named for its location – being on top of the Fletcher Street parking structure in downtown Ann Arbor. Now, it has moved to primarily in front of the Rackham building where you can hear music and movies are in the South Ingalls Mall. Dozens of local vendors surround the Rackham stage as visitors grab a bite while listening to their favorite musician.

The outdoor events also feature many kid-based activities, including Tangle, which is an art project that involves children. A large "peg-board" is involved to help weave huge pieces of elastic to make a masterpiece that children can feel proud of making and adults and other passersby can enjoy the beauty of such a chaotic but artistic installation. This event takes place in the South Ingalls Mall.

The Power Center is now the home to paid-events such as the Les 7 Doigts De La Main circus company, stand-up comedians and a few movies.

A2SF runs from June 14-July 7 and is fun for the whole family. For more information and schedule of events, visit www.a2sf.org.

CONCERT OF COLORS

The city that used to foster the growing Civil Rights movement and the notorious Motown Records now is better known for color-run neighborhoods where gang violence runs rampant. New Detroit and ACCESS wanted to find a solution to end the ethnic war in historical Detroit.

These organizations, focusing on bridging the ethnic gap, founded Concert of Colors, an eclectic music festival to celebrate diversity. The festival has been held in midtown Detroit since 1993 and is one of the only remaining local events that have a no-cost admission.

This year, the festival takes place July 4-7 at various venues with a "tune-up" event on June 29 at New Center Park. The headlining events include funk group The Family Stone, and the Don Was Detroit All-star Revue where Was organizes a mash-up of eclectic local talent in an event many say is the highlight of the festival.

Other venues include the Charles H. Wright Museum of African-American History, the Detroit Institute of Art, Max M. Fisher Music Center and the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit.

For line-ups, schedules and venue information, visit www.concertofcolors.com.



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BENJAMIN KNAUSS WASHTENAW VOICE

Pittsfield Township's Fire Department stages a controlled burn of a barn as a training exercise in Pittsfield Township, May 9.



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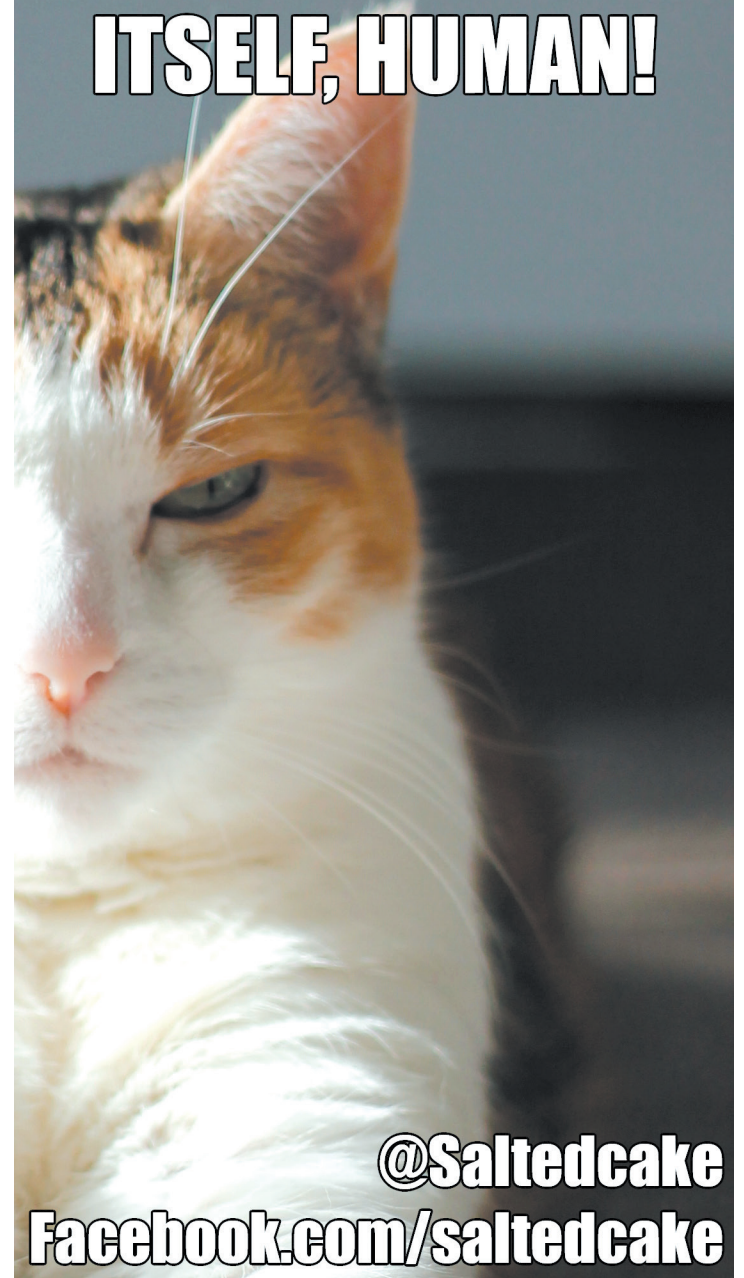
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