



STEVEN HARDY

Vice President Steven Hardy resigns suddenly

By ADRIAN HEDDEN
Editor

Vice President of Administration and Finance Steven Hardy has resigned his position after 11 years at Washtenaw Community College.

Administrators began sharing news of Hardy's resignation with employees last Monday, Nov. 26, upon returning from Thanksgiving break. *The Voice* confirmed Hardy's resignation through former President Larry Whitworth and several other sources, last week.

"I don't know why (he quit)," Whitworth said. "I can tell you he's a fine individual, talented and honest."

Attempts to reach Hardy and WCC President Rose Bellanca were unsuccessful.

Whitworth said he heard of Hardy's departure from a manager at The Health and Fitness Center during a workout last Wednesday.

Hardy served as the college's representative to the HFC, Whitworth said. The former president commended Hardy's work on the campus, certain that

the distinguished Eastern Michigan University graduate will find work elsewhere.

"He did an excellent job," Whitworth said. "People really liked him. I'm a little surprised. He's a young fellow, so I have to assume he has other prospects."

Hardy was hired as the controller at WCC in 2001 where he worked for the next seven years.

He was elevated to the position as WCC's interim vice president of Administration and Finance in January 2008 and became the

interim tag was removed about five months later.

As VP, Hardy managed an annual budget of about \$100 million, led the school through four clean financial audits, negotiated a commission agreement with the school's bookstore, which generated \$500,000 in revenue. He also revised the college's crisis management plan for emergency situations.

"He was an excellent manager," Whitworth said. "I have complete confidence in him."

The Washtenaw Voice

December 3, 2012

WASHTENAW COMMUNITY COLLEGE, ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

washtenawvoice.com

Facebook status: addicted

By MARIA RIGOU
Contributor

Are you addicted? Or just compulsive?

Love it or hate it, Facebook has an undeniable hold on its billions of users.

People around the world are addicted to social media; some might even describe their feelings when they have to abstain from using media in the same terms as when associated with drugs and alcohol withdraw.

It's true, social media can be addictive. And it can also be compulsive.

Answering the ding of a notification results in a hit of dopamine. Each hit recharges an addictive compulsion, similar to what crack, heroin, meth and other abusive substances do.

A 2010 study from the International Center of Media & the Public Agenda (ICMPA) at the University of Maryland concluded that "most college students are not just unwilling, but functionally unable to be without their media links to the world."

"(I check my Facebook account) about 15-20 times a day," said Rachel Zapata, 20, an early elementary education student from Farmington Hills. "It varies. Sometimes I do it way less, and sometimes way more."

Not in vain have China, Taiwan and Korea added Internet Addiction Disorder (IAD) as a psychological disorder. As much as 30 percent of children in these countries are considered Internet-addicted, mostly to social media and online gaming.

In 2013, the United States will add Internet Addiction as a "real" disorder. Internet Addiction Disorder (IAD) will be included in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-V), or what is colloquially referred to as "the bible of psychology."

"I like getting messages better than notifications," said Sarah Chapman, 20, a fashion design major from Brighton. "I get so excited."

FB
CONTINUED A3



CHARLES MANLEY PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Some unprepared students on campus are hoping the college can pull some strings to get the dispensers back in the women's restrooms.

One for the ladies, or none for the ladies

By KELLY BRACHA
Staff Writer

Gentlemen, you might want to avert your eyes for this one. This one's for the ladies.

We're here to talk about periods—and periods suck. Especially when they arrive in the middle of class when a girl is least prepared. And around Washtenaw's campus, that can be a problem these days, since all those nifty dispensers in the women's bathrooms have disappeared. So the not-so-prepared girl on the go is left to fend for herself, often digging deep into backpacks and purses hoping to find an errant tampon or sanitary napkin.

When that fails, other female classmates become the safest bet, but that's not always a success, either.

So where did the dispensers go and why are they gone? That's what Christina Burts, 23, a liberal arts major from Ypsilanti, wants to know.

"It's just one of those things you forget to take with you sometimes," Burts said. "In the middle of a three-hour class is the worst. You can either start asking girls around you for tampons—or panic."

Got a quarter? Never mind.

Women's bathrooms located in all buildings throughout the college are missing the rectangular wall-mounted, coin-operated boxes that dispense products women need. The last sighting of a gray, quarter-fed machine was within the lower level of the Gunder Myran building near the photo lab inside a unisex restroom.

"I remember seeing one of the dispensers there, but it was gone

midway through the semester," there because they haven't been said Katy Heuser, a 19-year-old communications major from Ann

Arbor. "I only noticed when I needed it for an emergency. I was surprised to see it was gone and had to resort to asking around."

Periods suck.

Barry Wilkins, recycle operations manager, explained why the dispensers have gone missing.

"Based on my knowledge and what I understand, it's because of damage and abuse," Barry said. "People were breaking into them, literally ripping the doors off of them to take the money out."

Damon Flowers, vice president of Facilities Development and Operations, says there are still a limited number of the dispensers on campus, but they are merely

vandalized yet.

"If there was a huge demand and not so much vandalism, we'd still have them," Flowers said. "They became a very difficult issue to maintain. There wasn't a compelling reason to have them. We would buy the products and have female custodians fill them, but the machines were always poorly made and kept eating money."

With the absence of the dispensers, Wilkins believes the college should let female students be more aware of where they can purchase the feminine products.

"If the college is not going to provide that, they need to let everyone know to bring their own," Wilkins said.

TAMPONS
CONTINUED A3

Local governments up in smoke over new pot laws



3RD COAST COMPASSION CENTER COURTESY PHOTO

An ounce of medically-issued marijuana now the lowest priority of Ypsilanti city police, if possessed by adults 21 or older.

Student-led law passed in Ypsilanti proves largely symbolic, officials say

By ADRIAN HEDDEN
Editor

After decades of substance abuse, battling addiction at rehab clinics and halfway houses, Tony Stiver only remained opposed to the vilification of one drug.

"Weed is really kind of laughable in rehab," Stiver said. "No one will disrespect you, but people know it's not really a problem. It's the lightest of anything."

Meeting weekly with Eastern Michigan University's chapter of the Students for Sensible Drug Policy (SSDP) and 19 months sober from alcohol, the 33-year-old psychology major at EMU and his fellow members recently petitioned successfully, gathering more than 1,100 signatures, to add the Lowest Law Enforcement

Priority initiative onto Ypsilanti's city ballot for November's election.

And after citizens of Ypsilanti voted by a 3-1 majority to pass the proposal, mandating that 21-year-olds possessing one ounce or less of smoke-able marijuana as the lowest priority of city police. Stiver believes his local government will save on funds better allocated by law enforcement.

"They're saving money, not wasting resources on petty crime," Stiver said. "It takes like \$88 a day

SMOKE
CONTINUED A3



20 Questions

We asked, you answered: Students spout off on everything from college life, guilty pleasures and preparing for the end of the world.

A Voice Box on steroids, eight pages worth. See Section B.

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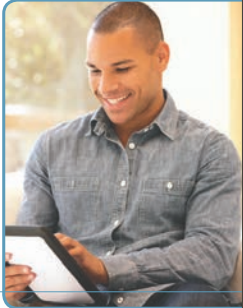


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LA’s second false alarm in a month raises concern

By ANNA ELIAS
AND KAYLEIGH CYRUS
Staff Writers

Sirens were blaring and students meandered confused and annoyed out of Washtenaw’s LA building Thursday morning.

It was the second time in November that the fire alarm has been pulled for no apparent emergency, according to custodian Beth McCowen. Earlier in the month, the fire alarm in the E stairwell of the LA building was pulled. Thursday’s event was caused by the alarm on the first floor of the LA building in the C stairwell.

“C’mon, twice in one month? Something has to be done,” McCowen said.

Meantime, students, faculty and staff milled about outside the building on a chilly but sunny morning. Some worried about things left behind in the evacuation.

“My wallet is in the classroom,” said Sarah Beard, 28, business major of Whitmore Lake. “In all honesty though, all of my money and cash is at home.”

Other students were apathetic,

questioning whether there was a real emergency.

“Why would I be concerned? They’ll take care of it,” said Nick Tibai, 18, engineering major, of Maybe.

But college security officials weren’t fooling around.

“We take fire alarms very seriously,” said security officer Renee Stokley. “Students don’t understand how quickly they could die in a fire.”

The mood changed when questions arose about how handicapped students were to be evacuated safely in an emergency.

“I’ve never been educated on it (evacuation procedures). I haven’t been talked to about it, but it would be nice to know,” said Colin Northrup, 19, a broadcasting major from Ann Arbor who uses a wheelchair. “It would worry me (if I weren’t on the main level).”

On each floor in every building, there are stretchers to assist handicapped students down the stairs, according to building maintenance staffer Carl Clein.

About then, a white Ford Escape pulled up, delivering



NATHAN CLARK WASHTENAW VOICE

Hundreds of students huddle together to stay warm outside the Liberal Arts building after a fire alarm was pulled falsely on Dec. 29.

building maintenance workers to “fix something” in the building, according to Clein. They were not first-responders to an emergency.

“That’s what they got security for,” Clein said. “It’s their job. They risk their lives, not ours.”

Apparently, the maintenance

workers arrived to fix a problem that resulted in overflowing sinks flooding women’s bathrooms.

“I was told by a different entity over the radio that all three (LA building women’s bathrooms) were flooded,” said McCowen.

She said she was told that the

water pressure was raised in the sinks, and with the alarms going off it somehow triggered the water to surge.

“Hopefully they’ll work out all of the kinks and this won’t happen again,” McGowan said.

FB CONTINUED FROM A1

Is it a mere coincidence that the more we get connected the more focus we lose?

In the year 2000, Americans reported attention spans of 12 seconds, but due to the increased accessibility of social media, by 2012, this attention span has decreased to eight seconds, according to a compiled report by Mashable.com, the social media site. Goldfish are reported to have an attention span of nine seconds.

Scary, right?

The average Internet user spends 8½ hours looking at a computer screen per day. And only 20 minutes reading a printed page. ADHD in the United States has risen 66 percent, mainly due to Internet addiction, according to Psychology Today, the magazine. The average attention span has dropped 40 percent in the last 12 years.

Larry Rosen, a California psychologist who studies the impact of technology use on society, has been researching how people have related to Facebook over the last couple of years.

“Baby boomers see it as another online activity, like surfing the Web or checking e-mail,” he told *the New York Times*. Newer generations, though, “see it as a part of everyday life, whether listening to music or

communicating. For them, it’s the same as talking on the phone or e-mailing. It’s a part of everything they do.”

Facebook has inevitably become part of the lives of its younger users, something that is not likely to change any time soon.

“We are always checking to see if anyone posted on our wall, if they liked a photo, responded to an update,” Rosen added. “For those who use it, they are feeling more of a need to look at it and check in and reduce the anxiety of feeling like they are missing out on something.”

Compulsive? For some it is.

“I deleted my account,” explained Alyssa Chisolm, 23, a liberal arts student from Ypsilanti. “I found myself checking it, and nothing would happen. It seemed pointless.”

But not all of it is as sour as it seems.

“I was adopted, and my biological family found me on Facebook,” said Julia Brooks-Malone, 39, a business management student from Ann Arbor. “After almost 40 years.”

For better or worse, Facebook is an important part of society nowadays. It rules how people interact, stay connected and get information. For some, it is absolutely necessary.



CHARLES MANLEY PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

SMOKE CONTINUED FROM A1

to keep someone in prison. Rehab’s a lot cheaper.”

Formed last February, the club initially suffered from a low validity in signatures when many supporters, unaware of Ypsilanti city boundaries, signed despite taking residency out of SSDP’s jurisdiction, according to the group’s leader, Miles Gerou, 20.

So they took to the streets, taking their petition door-to-door throughout the summer, achieving their goal of 1,000 signed supporters by the end of August.

“We wanted to show that we’re a real group looking to make a real change,” Gerou said. “We were confident it would pass just looking at Ypsilanti’s 80-percent vote for medical marijuana.”

Garnering support from the medical marijuana community and holding a press conference earlier this year, the sophomore native of Canton believe the initiative’s passage marks a progressive change in his community’s perspective on cannabis.

“We’re definitely the center of marijuana in the Midwest,” Gerou said. “Maybe we’re a state that is very industry-led and this is a new, exciting industry. When the economy goes, any way to make money is a good thing.

“It’s the nation’s top cash crop.”

But the EMU SSDP isn’t concerned with redirecting police attitude when enforcing low-quantity possession laws. Members say that Ypsilanti police have always been generous to small pot busts.

“They (city cops) don’t think it’s going to be too different,” said Joe Zabawski, a 19-year-old marketing major at EMU and Ypsilanti resident. “They’ve already been very lenient. But if it protects one student from

getting popped, that’s a victory.”

Law enforcement officials concur. City Attorney Bill Barr looks to increasing budget cuts in the Ypsilanti Police Department over the past five years reducing personnel and forcing the department to closely examine its priorities.

Unable to speak directly regarding the city police’s specific protocols when exercising the low priority, Barr agrees that cops in Ypsilanti have long proven merciful in marijuana enforcement.

Ypsilanti police were unavailable for comment.

“I don’t know that it (marijuana) ever was a serious thing,” Barr said. “The police have too much on their plate to go sniffing around to see who’s using marihuana.

“I think it’s an attempt to direct them for a low priority for adults possessing small amounts.”

According to Barr, the Ypsilanti Police Department has seen drastic cuts over the past decade but personnel reductions have become most vigorous over the past five years. Barr estimates the Ypsilanti Police Department to be operating beneath half of its maximum staff capacity.

“They have very low numbers at present time and devote their energy to more serious things,” Barr said.”

Law enforcement across Michigan has followed a similar pattern following this year’s election. In November, the City of Kalamazoo passed a proposal to allow the establishment of two medical marijuana dispensaries within city limits.

Last year, Kalamazoo passed a decriminalization law similar to Ypsilanti’s. Detroit, Grand Rapids and Flint have all followed suit in

2012 with similar ordinances, again reducing the criminalization of cannabis in the amount of one ounce or less if possessed within city limits by adults 21 and up.

Flint requires possessors to be 19.

“That amount can’t really hurt anybody,” said Jamie Lowell, a partner of Third Coast Compassion Center, an Ypsilanti medical marijuana facility. “A lot of people are comfortable with that; it’s proven by the votes that the masses are accepting.”

“It’s not too much that it becomes anything more than what is reasonable.”

Lowell asserts that the widespread support for marijuana decriminalization marks a shift in thinking for citizens of Michigan, reconsidering pot’s place in society. Lowell expects the movement to continue to spread throughout the state.

“I think we’ll see more local governments doing the same thing on their own,” Lowell said. There will be more efforts in the future, more ballot proposals. It demonstrates that a lot of information that painted cannabis as something that is inherently evil and dangerous has not held weight.”

“The truth is on our side.”

Despite the support for marijuana reform laws in various cities across Michigan, Chief Assistant Prosecutor Steven Hiller sees little change at higher levels of government, unsure if the movement will ever reach a state-wide reform.

“By the time a case gets to us, we’re gonna do what we’re gonna do,” Hiller said. “I don’t think it’s going to make any difference in the (state) prosecutor’s office.”

Specifics of Ypsilanti Lowest Law Enforcement Priority initiative

Ypsilanti law enforcement has legally adopted their lowest priority of enforcement as:

- Adults 21 and up
- Possessing no more than one ounce of smoke-able marihuana
- Within Ypsilanti city limits

The Students for Sensible Drug Policy hold weekly meetings in EMU’s Halle Library at 8 p.m. Meetings are free and open to the public. Those interested can visit the groups Facebook page at facebook.com/SSDPatEMU.

TAMPONS CONTINUED FROM A1

The Student Center book store carries a variety of feminine products that students can purchase in case of emergency, but nothing beats carrying them with us in backpacks and purses. It’s the best way to never have to endure the ever-so-awkward desperate whispering in the middle of class.

And even that can be embarrassing for some.

“I always carry my own in my backpack, but it’s also pretty awkward taking it out of my bag in the middle

of class and hiding it up my sleeve or pocket,” said Kathrine Headlee, 20, liberal arts major from South Lyon. “I’d rather be able to just buy one in the bathroom.”

“I run out of my backpack reserve sometimes because other girls ask me for one. Either way, having them only in the book store is not exactly convenient.”

Have we mentioned that periods suck?

Although according to both Wilkins and Flowers there isn’t much of a

demand for the dispensers, the consensus among several female students interviewed for this story is that they would prefer to have the dispensers.

But until they are made more resistant to vandalism, it’s best to bring your own. And if that runs out, a mildly awkward checkout at the bookstore counter may be your best option.

Voice Staff Writer Anna Elias contributed to this report.

EDITORIAL

We’re not groupies

In the fantastic field of journalism, we get to see parts of the world where only the few have access to and meet interesting people from many different backgrounds. We talk to doctors, police officers, politicians, rock stars, actors and all sorts of other amazing individuals on a daily basis. Even college administrators, sometimes.

But when dealing with so many influential people, journalists need to stay their toes to make sure they are not being taken for a ride: pumping out public relations fluff instead of hard-hitting news and critical reviews.

While at the 2012 National College Media Convention in Chicago recently, student journalists from around the country were given the opportunity to meet actor Josh Peck and see an advanced screening of “Red Dawn,” a remake of the classic Cold War-era film by the same name.

At the meet-and-greet, student journalists crowded around Peck, excited to be so close to a movie star, forgetting they have a job to do and to remain professional when talking to him.

While meeting a big-screen movie actor may be exciting to the average student, someone working to become a journalist shouldn’t be star-struck so easily.

The only reason for the advance screening at a college journalism convention was obviously to solicit free publicity from college newspapers from all over the nation in one shot.

Understanding that this was still a great opportunity to see a movie and review it before its scheduled release, several staffers from *The Washtenaw Voice* attended the free screening.

While sitting in the theater, the staffers overheard several students say how much they loved the film before seeing it and planned on giving it a good review just because they thought Peck was such a swell guy.

At no time should it be OK to decide how a review, or any other kind of story, will be favored and reported on at a newspaper before gathering all of the facts.

After the movie was shown, our fellow student journalists set Twitter and Facebook on fire with hundreds of posts about how great the movie was and how cool it was to meet Peck; completely disregarding every journalistic ethic that asks for us to be factual and fair.

Everyone was so excited to meet a star and see a movie before its official release that they forgot to be objective about what they were seeing. Surely, there were a handful of journalists who maintained their composure enough to do their jobs properly.

But after seeing and hearing so many students blindly accept a free handout and spit out a favorable review, our faith in our journalistic brethren is on shaky ground reflecting the decline of the journalism as a whole.

Unless a story is about something personal – seen or experienced by the reporter – a journalist must remain unbiased and as objective as humanly possible: period.

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Instructor’s criticism unfair



MATT DURR

Usually criticism from readers doesn’t really bother me. When you put your name behind a story, you open yourself up to the opinions of others; it comes with the territory. I’m a big boy; I can take it.

But one thing I won’t deal with is being accused of “hasty-generalization fallacy and irresponsible journalism,” like I was in a letter-to-the-editor that was submitted to us based on a story I wrote recently.

Those accusations came from Suzanne Mahler, an English teacher here at Washtenaw Community College. Essentially, Mahler’s argument was that the quote we used,

from a student, in the headline sent a bad message about the election.

Mahler also said “as a college newspaper, you should be doing everything possible to encourage students to make their ideas heard, and to vote.”

No ma’am, that is not the responsibility of a newspaper.

Our responsibility is to provide coverage of newsworthy events and their impact on students at WCC. Which is exactly what that story was about. It chronicled students’ reaction to the presidential debate that took place the night before. The sentiment captured in the quote was summed up the reactions I received from students all morning.

That day, photo editor Charles Manley and I spoke to students all over campus, the majority of whom didn’t even bother to watch the debates. At one point, we stood in a hallway where roughly 15 students were waiting for their teacher to

show up, and I asked the entire group if any of them saw the debate, the result was disheartening.

Not a single student among them could be bothered to watch the 90-minute debate the night before. And that is exactly the sort reaction *The Voice* had received from most students when we ask about the elections.

They just don’t care.

Sure, there are some students who are devoted to knowing the issues, but for the most part, most of them aren’t.

We at *The Voice* dedicated a great deal of space in our newspaper to covering the election. Whether students use the information is not our responsibility.

But for Mahler to accuse me and the rest of our staff of not properly doing our jobs when she clearly does not understand the purpose of our mission, is, well, to use her words, a hasty-generalization fallacy and irresponsible criticism.

Procrastinating my break away



NATHAN CLARK

Like many students attending college, I promised myself I was going to take some time during the Thanksgiving break to catch up on all the school work I’m behind on—and that’s precisely what I tried to do.

I considered getting some work done on Saturday and Sunday when the break technically started, but I said to myself, “I’ll start working on Monday; I’m on vacation.” So I spent my time wandering around downtown Ann Arbor, looking for a good time.

Monday, I was ready to hit the ground running. I woke up at the crack of 2 p.m. and started going over everything I need to get done during

the break. After creating the list and seeing only a few assignments I need to get done, I said, “I’ll start working on all this tomorrow; I’m on vacation.”

On Tuesday, I was determined to get something done, but a friend called me early in the morning and asked if I wanted to go on an adventure. I can’t turn down an adventure, especially while I’m on vacation. I had an amazing time with my friend; but sadly, no work was done on Tuesday.

Wednesday would have been a great day to get some work done, but then I remembered I had just received a copy of “Call of Duty: Black Ops 2” in the mail. How can I possibly get any work done when I know there are thousands of children online who need to be put in their place? It’s okay, I’m on vacation and I’ve got plenty of time.

Thursday was Thanksgiving. Am I going to work while there’s turkey to eat? Yeah, that’s not going

to happen. I’m on vacation.

Friday, I was too busy watching “Black Friday” crowds make fools of themselves. Watching an old woman shove fully-grown men out of the way to get at a \$5 waffle maker is better than watching any sporting event. Trust me, I’m on vacation.

Saturday and Sunday rolled around and I realized I haven’t accomplished anything yet. Panic began to sink in. But I was too busy enjoying the vacation to get anything done.

I know it’s my fault for failing to work on anything during the week. I accept that. But don’t you dare judge me for my procrastination without taking a long hard look in the mirror first.

I’m willing to bet that you wasted just as much time as I did during the break. I’m not here to play the blame game; I just need to get that off my chest so we can all agree to never do that again.

Thanks, now let’s get back to work.

Mash Up

A chemical imbalance?

With the holiday gluttony continuing two *Voice* staffers have taken on the age-old argument of healthy eating.

Your wallet or your body?

BY AMANDA JACOBS
Staff Writer

On almost every shelf at grocery stores, the products are filled with hormones, preservatives and artificial flavors.

High fructose corn syrup and hydrogenated everything are on almost every ingredient list, and these days small family farms are becoming rare and industrial factory farms are growing bigger.

Sure, chemical preservatives can be helpful in keeping food on shelves longer in supermarkets. And artificial flavors and ingredients make it easier for companies to produce large amounts of food for lower costs to consumers.

But these additives may cause

acne or obesity, and some have shown signs of causing illnesses from depression to cancer. Our bodies were built to consume fruits and vegetables as they are, and we have only just begun to see the effects of what genetically modified foods can do to our bodies.

Whether you’re a carnivore or a vegan, I believe that factory farming is just wrong. They leave animals in tiny cages, torture and disfigure them to feed the masses at accelerated rates. These industrial farms are like concentration camps for animals, and whether they are sick or not, thousands of these animals are grinded into one burger patty.

And that fast food burger may contain bacteria like *Escherichia Coli* O157:H7, which is often the cause of recalls for these products. This strain of E-Coli can cause

bloody diarrhea, kidney failure and ultimately, death. With thousands of animals standing in their own feces in small spaces, there’s a good chance that your burger can contain this type of bacteria.

It’s true, organic foods can be more expensive. While there are places, especially in the Ann Arbor area that sell them for affordable prices, it’s understandable that a college student would rather spend a dollar on a mutilated cheeseburger than a little extra money on chemical-free meat.

The question is whether it’s worth the extra money to buy free-range meats and preservative-free foods.

For me, the answer is yes. I won’t support corporations who abuse animals and put harmful chemicals in my food just to save a couple bucks.

For more info on factory farms, visit <http://www.factory-farming.com>.

Eat your vegetables – and die anyway

BY MATT DURR
Staff Writer

We get it. Eating healthy is a good thing and not filling your body with unnatural substances is always going to be a good option.

But every once in a while I’m going to sit down with a greasy, cheesy, sauce-covered delight known as a pizza and I’m going to eat the whole damn thing. Terrible additives and preservatives or not.

And I’m going to love it.

If I’ve learned anything from my human biology class, it’s that our bodies are very capable of cleaning up the junk that we put into our system, as long as it’s not in excess.

To me limiting the intake of crappy foods is the real key.

Just because something could give me E. coli doesn’t mean I’m going to fret about it. I could get hit by a bus while walking down the road, but I’m not overly concerned about that potential accident.

Anything in excess can have an adverse effect on your body.

There are so many horrible things out there that do damage to our bodies. Even the sun, the very thing that helps keep life growing, can give you cancer. That is if you get too much exposure to the sunlight.

Ingest too much vitamin C and see what happens to your body.

It’s the exact same reason why eating McDonalds everyday will make you a fat, lifeless waste of space.

I’m no heartless jerk, but putting animals in cages so that they grow into delicious pieces of fried chicken doesn’t really bother me. I’m higher up on the food chain and sometimes a three-piece of bacteria covered chicken just hits the spot.

There are plenty of people who preach about not eating meat or staying away from fatty foods and preservatives that will stop a conversation to go outside to smoke or take a prescription med.

While I understand that there are very unnatural elements in my food, it’s not going to stop me from walking over to McDonalds to get a double cheeseburger

But I assure you that I’ll make sure I look both ways before crossing the street.

Shock and awe on Black Friday as a faltering humanity consumes itself with consuming



ADRIAN HEDDEN

Only a day after Americans enjoyed the euphoric gluttony of Thanksgiving and slumbered into the sloth of the holiday, their fellow consumers emerged from well-fed stupors, packing malls and restaurants energized and emboldened by the promise of Christmas.

Black Friday was upon them and America was under occupation.

Crowds squirmed under the burden of the material anxieties and rushed to find them absolved. Families in the midst of holiday bonding – hoping for an easy

lunch or day out – suffered as they were reduced to the desperation of a runt pig, hoping to nurse among oversized siblings.

But these weren’t the offspring of some barn-raised sow.

The creatures of Black Friday were born out of an aging tradition that continues to swell. Many of these savings-hungry savages cling to a belief in family bonding, buckling under the pressures to buy things for people out of guilt of imperfection.

They are deluded. Holidays like these are meant to allow everyone a moment to pause and reconnect with the important people in their lives. This bonding takes many forms, and in a consumer-based society, gifts represent a chilling monetary value placed on supposedly warm relationships.

The deals and long store hours on Black Friday are convenient for those embroiled in spending binges, hoping to clear their conscious before the stress of another progress-free year beginning in the New Year.

But as this capitalist tradition of holiday shopping and the culture of Black Friday masochism continue to grow and wobble under their own weight, American society digs deeper into decadence, threatening to topple beneath the girth of the once-almighty dollar.

This feverishly self-eager populous is doomed to be consumed by its obsession with possessions. With stuff.

Someday, people may begin to consider doing away with these trinkets offered in perverse tribute to the dangers of an economy teetering on the edge of a cliff.

Shoppers creep into Thanksgiving holiday

By NIKKI SNYDER
Contributor

For some bargain-hunters, Black Friday can’t start early enough.

At about 6:30 p.m. Thursday – Thanksgiving evening – about 50 people stood outside Target in Allen Park, with the line snaking around the side of the building. Colleen Panganis, of Allen Park, was first in line. She arrived four hours earlier.

“It’s worth it,” Panganis, 29, said as a group of teenagers stood nearby singing to music playing from a phone inside the jacket pocket of their friend.

In a tradition that seems to play a larger role in Thanksgiving every year, the line of deal-sniffing shoppers grew by the minute, awaiting their shot at discounted toys, video games and that time-honored Black Friday symbol: cut-rate television sets.

As nightfall came, they huddled together, clutching sales ads and swapping shopping strategies. Kari Brown, 29, of Allen Park had it down to a science. The stay-at-home mother of

two said she was out the door of the local Toys R Us store in 30 minutes with a shopping cart full of Christmas gifts for her sons. Brown had spent a few hours in Toys R Us the day before scoping out her plan of attack.

“I started five years ago,” she said of her Black Friday experience as she wrapped a second blanket around herself. “I get 90 percent of my Christmas shopping done in one night, which reduces my holiday stress immensely.”

A recent survey reported by NBC indicated that consumer confidence is at a five-year high, and there were signs of that optimism in line at Target. As the crowd grew, customers talked about their own personal finances.

“This year is better than last year,” said James Babij, a 52-year-old Allen Park resident. This year, he said, he’s buying an extra-large TV to replace a smaller one. He claimed business at his small construction company was up about 60 percent.

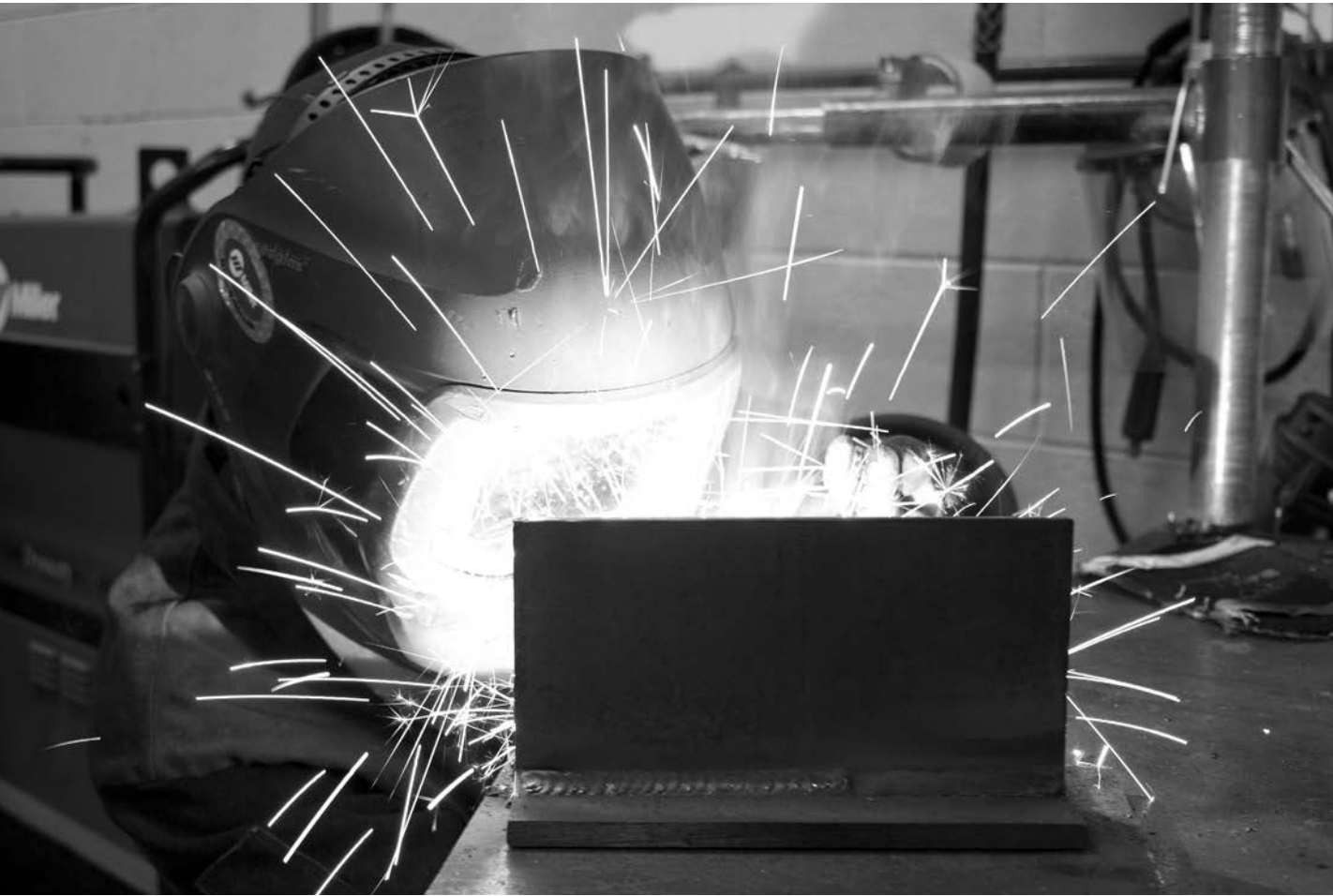
While these happy consumers were more than content spending the rest of their evening awaiting the store’s opening, others weren’t as thrilled.

This year, for the first time in his life, Virgil Humphries missed Thanksgiving dinner with his family. The 33-year-old Target employee was asked to come in at 2 p.m. Thanksgiving Day to start preparations for their 9 p.m. opening. According to Humphries, missing his son’s first Thanksgiving wasn’t worth his \$9 an hour pay.

“They don’t seem to care about the employees and the family time,” he said. “They care about the money.”

This was the first year Target opened on Thanksgiving Day, as opposed to its usual Friday, 12 a.m. start time.

“I just don’t get it,” Humphries said. “I remember when people actually slowed down and took a day off to enjoy their families. I’m truly grateful for the memory of a time when we were thankful on Thanksgiving for what we had and less concerned with what we ‘need.’ Somewhere along the way we lost our common sense.”



Welding student, Alex Pazkowski, finishes a weld at the OE Building

CHARLES MANLEY WASHTENAW VOICE

Welding student places first in national preliminary competition, heads abroad

By AMANDA JACOBS
Staff Writer

Washtenaw Community College’s Alex Pazkowski returned from Nevada’s preliminary SkillsUSA competition with a \$1,000 scholarship, expensive new gear and a gold medal.

Now he will have a second chance to compete as one of the top three in the country to advance to the 42nd WorldSkills competition in Leipzig, Germany in July.

The next competition will take place at the Daytona 500, and the winner will be announced on Feb. 23, the day before the Daytona Speedweek begins.

“He now has to compete against only two other students,” said Glenn Kay II, welding instructor. “They are going to give him them a tent at the track and announce who’s winning on the field at the Daytona 500 Speedway.”

In 2011, Pazkowski placed second in the top three preliminaries, and was

unable to continue to WorldSkills, an event for youth ages 17 to 22 from all over the world to demonstrate their skills.

“Last year, I didn’t have much to lose,” Pazkowski said. “This year, I’ve had four years of experience. If I lose, it’s like the last four years were wasted.”

Pazkowski and the other five competitors were given 22 hours during the competition to weld multiple projects, including a pressure vessel, two plate welds, a pipe weld, an aluminum project and a stainless steel project.

These projects were tested under x-rays for imperfections and pressure tested for their durability.

“It was an exhausting week,” he said. “I didn’t get to rest for three days. They literally make the competition as hard as they can.”

But Pazkowski has a bit further to go before he can rest. Until the next competition, he will be working vigorously to fix all of the imperfections that he felt he had in the last competition.

“Afterwards, I was more pissed off at myself for the things I screwed up than relieved that I had won,” he said. “There’s always something you could have done better.”

Pazkowski will compete against silver medal winner, Andrew Cardin from Blackstone Valley Technical High School and bronze winner, Tanner Tipword of Eastern Wyoming College in February to represent the United States at WorldSkills.

“We’re very competitive here,” Ashley Webel, a welding lab assistant said. “We’re hoping to bring home the gold!”

Although the WorldSkills competition is exciting, Pazkowski feels that his biggest achievement will be winning the competition this February

“If I make it to the WorldSkills competition, I won’t have anything to lose,” Pazkowski said. “I will have already won a \$40,000 scholarship, so it’ll just be for fun. But I want to say that I made it there.”

IN BRIEF

HOLIDAY FUN IN BIRCH RUN

Student Activities is selling tickets for a shopping trip to the Birch Run outlet mall, Frankenmuth and lunch at the Bavarian Inn scheduled for Dec. 20. Lunch includes soup or salad, one non-alcoholic drink and entrée. Only nine tickets are being offered for the trip. Tickets are available at the Cashiers Office for \$10 a piece. Contact Rachel Barsch in Student Activities for any questions about the trip.

WCC AND U-M SEAL DEAL

Washtenaw and the University of Michigan recently signed a reverse transfer agreement allowing students who transfer to U-M to receive an associate degree with credits earned from U-M. The agreement applies to students who transfer within 15 credits of graduating.

LIFE-SAVING OPPORTUNITY

A bone marrow donor drive benefiting Gift of Life, a Jewish bone marrow registry, and will be held on Dec. 5-6 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. in the Student Center to honor the life of Voice writer Anna Elias’ late sister, Mira. Take a few minutes to get your cheek swabbed and register

to become a donor – and possibly save a life.

FINAL’S FUEL-UP

Representatives for 5-Hour Energy will be giving out free bottles of their product for “Final’s Fuel-up” in the Community Room Dec. 11, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Additionally, Student Activities will also be giving out free goodie bags on Dec. 11 and 12 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Randomly, a few of the bags will contain a \$10 gift certificate for the campus bookstore.

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE

The Writing Center will host an open-mic event in the LA 355 featuring Writing Center tutors J.T. Lewis and Dan Travis reading parts of their book “America’s Mafia” on Dec. 7, 5:30-7 p.m. Admission is free.

VOLUNTEER TUTORS WANTED

Washtenaw Literacy is looking for volunteers to tutor adults in basic reading, writing, math and English as a second language. Anyone interested in being a tutor or have questions about the program should email Washtenaw Literacy at info@washtenawliteracy.org or call (734) 879-1320.

CAMPUS EVENTS

TUESDAY, DEC. 4

SPRING ARBOR UNIVERSITY, METRO DETROIT VISITATION

A representative will be on the second floor of the Student Center from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. to answer questions from students interested in transferring.

Wayne State University from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., on the first floor of the Student Center

Eastern Michigan University from noon to 4 p.m. on the second floor of the Student Center

Concordia University from 1 to 5 p.m. on the first floor of the Student center

ROCKS ACROSS THE POND

Richard and Kathy, parents of Detroit Tigers pitcher Justin Verlander will be at ML 101 from 7 p.m. 8 p.m. to discuss their new book about raising children in sports. The event is free and open to the public. Books will be available for sale.

WCC DRAMA AND THEATER’S FESTIVAL OF SCENES DAY 1

WCC theater students will be performing adaptations of various plays from 7 to 9 p.m. in LA 175. Admission is free for the two-day event continuing on Dec. 7.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 5

EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY VISITATION

A representative will be on the second floor of the Student Center from 1 to 5 p.m. to answer questions from students interested in transferring.

WCC VOICE STUDENTS SHOWCASE

The Performing Arts Department will be holding a showcase of WCC voice student performances in Towsley Auditorium from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, DEC. 6

COLLEGE VISITATIONS

Representative from the following universities will be on campus to answer questions from students interested in transferring:

FRIDAY, DEC. 7

WCC VOICE STUDENTS SHOWCASE

The Performing Arts Department will be holding a showcase of WCC voice student performances in Towsley Auditorium from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

SECURITY NOTES

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

between 9:15-9:30 p.m. The student reported he set his phone down in the lobby, went to the bathroom and the phone was missing when he returned.

IPHONE ISTOLEN

An iPhone left unattended was stolen in the library Nov. 15 at about 3:30 p.m., according to campus security. The owner of the phone told campus security she accidentally left the phone in the library and when she returned a few minute later, the phone was gone.

BACKPACK WITH LAPTOP STOLEN

An unattended backpack containing a laptop was stolen in the Community Room Nov. 26, between 1:30-3:30 p.m.

FALSE ALARM

A fire alarm was set off near stairwell C on the first floor of the Liberal Arts building on Nov. 29 just before 10 a.m. Students attending classes in the building were forced out into the cold until there was verification that there was no fire.

PHONE PILFERED

A student’s phone was stolen in the lobby area of the Occupational Education building on Nov. 26

Sudoku

				3	5			
		6		8			9	
4		3			1			5
	9			6		2		
3	6	4				1		
5			1				8	
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			9			8		

printable-puzzles.com

Crypto

POP YVFXDMFP DPMRYWP UA M DMS XR SUF TOPWP OP RFMSGR XS DUDPSFR
UA KUDAUWF MSG KUSHPSEXSKP, LYF TOPWP OP RFMSGR MF FXDPR UA
KOMVVPSEP MSG KUSFWUHPWRI.

— Martin Luther King Jr.
Puzzle #G358FF

AR UIR LWICRJ UKJ CWHJRJ FN WDI GBWDVBGO. GBWOR ABWOR CMKJO UIR
OBUYRJ FN ORHLHROO GBWDVBGO VMXR ZWN ABRK GBRN OYRUQ WI UPG.
ZWN LWHHWAO GBRC HMQR U OBUJWA GBUG KRXRI HRUXRO GBRC.

— Buddhist Proverb
Puzzle #U426RL

OVPXVGP VON VGTVPF PMXRVOGN – SMON'P CAN LRCF! VDE CAN XARNZ
PRKD CAVC V SVD AVP VDF DMQRGRCF RD ARP XAVOVXCNO RP CAN GRCCGN
LGNVPHON AN CVJNP RD MCANOP' XMSLVDF.

— Arthur Schopenhauer
Puzzle #T653HY

ZJ ZX ITTNG IZNF P HKBN, PYH VKPBNG IZNF P HKBN, AF RPLF PX
IFPGX XT BTYGGHFS XRF WTGGZOIZXM XRPX AF RPLF P GQPII PVKPPXZB
OZSH TJ XRF JPOZIM PYPXZHPF TY TKS RPYHG.

— Douglas Adams
Puzzle #H226ME

Read more online at
washtenawvoice.com

Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
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32				33						34		35	36	37
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43				44		45				46		47		
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55						56	57			58		59	60	61
62					63			64	65					
66					67						68			
69					70						71			

printable-puzzles.com

- Across
- Half of DX
 - A prospector may stake one
 - Hart
 - Jai_____
 - Bombay believer
 - Argentine timber tree
 - Unravel
 - Related by blood
 - Magistrate of ancient Rome
 - Property owner’s right to limited use of another’s land
 - “Able was I ____ saw Elba”
 - Gets a glimpse of
 - Prime choice
 - Soft food for infants
 - Tijuana treats
 - French composer
 - Of lyric poetry
 - South African native
 - TV heroine with a sidekick named Gabrielle
 - Founded, on a cornerstone: Abbr.
 - Cocteau’s “Le Grand _____”
 - P.O. delivery
 - Juicy reading
 - ____ AC (Rolands rival)
 - Emmywinner Ward
 - On paper
 - Bar aspirants’ hurdles, briefly
 - “Not guilty!”, e.g.
 - Like yours and mine, grammatically
 - Jazz pianist Hines
 - Little bird’s sound
 - Month after Shebat
 - A great clan, in Ireland.
 - Glacial pinnacle
 - Pts.of cars

- Down
- Parrot’s spot
 - Clumsy one
 - Notes between sol and do
 - Gum-chewing girl in “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory”
 - 22nd Greek letter
 - Misrepresentation
 - Suffix with clear or perform
 - Light bulb, in cartoons
 - Mollusk often served marinara
 - Major irritant for American colonists
 - . George who played Sulu on “Star Trek”
 - Put in a straight row
 - Family in “Look Homeward, Angel”
 - He lost to Clinton
 - Those, in Mexico
 - Page sent by computer
 - Needs scratching
 - Charitable fraternity: Abbr.
 - St. Louis bridge
 - Patio gear
 - Firewater
 - Emerson products
 - Prefix with photo or phone
 - The “I” of I.M.F.: Abbr.
 - They hear
 - Multipurpose
 - ‘Rule, Britannia’ composer Thomas
 - Cheese sold in wedges
 - Turnpike tabs
 - Becomes a parent not by childbirth
 - Formerly allwomen’s college in Poughkeepsie
 - Holmes smoked them
 - Chou-

- Wind: Prefix
- Investment house T. ____ Price
- FrenchBelgian river
- 1871 Giuseppe Verdi opera
- Promo on the tube
- Relig. speeches
- North or Ross
- “Yada yada yada”

Answers

The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.

—MLK

We are formed and molded by our thoughts. Those whose minds are shaped by selfless thoughts give joy when they speak or act. Joy follows them like a shadow that never leaves them.

—Buddhist

2	1	8	4	5	6	7	3	9
6	4	5	9	7	3	1	2	8
3	7	9	8	1	2	5	4	6
9	8	6	3	4	1	2	7	5
7	5	1	6	2	8	4	9	3
4	3	2	7	9	5	8	6	1
5	2	7	1	6	9	3	8	4
1	6	3	2	8	4	9	5	7
8	9	4	5	3	7	6	1	2

S	D	V	H	C	A	V	E	S	L	O	I	S
H	V	D	V	T	E	E	M	T	R	V	A	E
E	A	I	S	S	E	S	O	S	A	V	E	L
S	L	V	S	L	A	H	O	E	H	N	I	S
	V	L	E	S								
S	T	E	A	O	N	A	H	S	V	R		
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E	I	L	V	S	S	O	C	T	A	V		
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V	T	V										
G	V	A	T	S								

Classifieds

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

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

Send ads to thewashtenawvoice@gmail.com.

Note: Deadline for the **Dec. 17** issue is Tuesday, Dec. 11, at 5 p.m.

SERVICES

VOLUNTEER TUTORS

Washtenaw Literacy needs volunteers to tutor adults in basic reading, writing, math and English as a Second Language. If in Help change lives – one word at a time! Contact info@washtenawliteracy.org or call (734) 879-1320.

NEED HEALTH CARE?

Are you between the ages of 12-22? Contact the Corner Health Center at (734) 484.3600 or visit online at: www.cornerhealth.org

Below is a sample of recent employment want ads that have been posted with WCC’s Career Services. Students are invited to read these ads and to contact the employers as indicated, or to stop by Career Services, located in ML 104, to review the complete posting. Or contact: or: (734)

677-5155; careers@wccnet.edu; or www.wccnet.edu/employment/

MAINTENANCE TECH

Opening available for a maintenance technician. Responsibilities include assistance with the overall maintenance and general repairs of the property. Qualified applicants must be able to pass a background/drug test.

Work with team members to improve testing procedures. Maintenance and working with manufacturing machines. Methodically run test procedures as defined/described. Assembly and testing of prototype units. Capture data and ability to organize information related to product testing.

SOUS CHEF.

Create and oversee new and upscale menu programs for

patient and guest food service operations. Research recipes, prepare purchasing lists, create and prepare new menu items. Effectively meet meal schedules and customer demands. Requires basic skills in reading, writing, and arithmetic. Two to three years related experience. Interpersonal skills and phone manners necessary to communicate with guests and other workers. Ability to read, write, and perform basic arithmetic calculations. Ability to concentrate and pay close attention to detail for up to 50 percent of workday.

STORE DETECTIVE.

Protect of company assets. Reduce stock loss and siability.

ENTRY LEVEL JAVA DEVELOPER. Experience working as a Java developer/Java programmer intern. Familiarity with Blaze, Python, Servlets, ORM, DI, some Web UI

frameworklike struts or JSF + HTML, CSS, JavaScript. Design patterns like MVC, Delegates etc. Intern or co-op programming experience in an object-oriented development environment. Familiarity with multiple programming languages. Familiarity with test-driven development (TDD).

FABRICATOR.

Sanding, metal fabrication, welding, electrical wiring, sign assembly. Seeking someone who is ready to learn and let their creative side out.

WEBMASTER.

Responsible for the content and user interface of the Internet2 website in cooperation with the Web Communications Manager and the Web Services Team, ensuring that the site runs smoothly and responds as expected. The Webmaster will fulfill day-to-day Web content change requests, assist other staff in their efforts to create and maintain web

content, and will assist the Web Communications Manager to ensure that Internet2’s content strategy is implemented according to plan.

SERVICE AGENT - CAR PORTER.

Responsible for the care and maintenance of the cars on the lot. This includes vacuuming and prepping the cars, shuttling cars to and from car washes and dealerships for servicing, car transports to and from offices, checking fluid levels and changing tires.

COOKS AT BAGGER DAVE’S LEGENDARY BURGER TAVERN.

Responsible for preparing food items served in the restaurant. This position is critical to Bagger Dave’s; the cook is the heart of the house and impacts the restaurant by delighting guests, supporting team members, creating great food items, and ensuring proper sanitation, portion control and quality standards.



complete
YOUR
COLLEGE
EXPERIENCE!
with Student Development
and Activities

UPCOMING EVENTS

U of M Credit Union Presents: How to Prevent Scams and ID Theft
Tuesday, Dec. 4, 11:15 a.m.
SC Community Room
Free! Light refreshments served
Avoid becoming a victim of fraud
Learn how to deter, detect, and defend against identity theft.

**Ticket: Snow White Story—
White as Snow, Red as Blood**
Thursday, Dec. 6, 7 p.m.,
Pease Auditorium, EMU’s Campus
Only \$8!

Toys for Tots!
Now-December 21
Bring in a new, unwrapped gift
for needy children! Box is
located outside of Student
Activities in SC 112.

Final’s Fuel-up!
Grab a goody bag ad get pumped for finals!
Tuesday and Wednesday, Dec. 11 and 12
Noon—while supplies last

Had fun at event?
#WCCSDAROCKS
Hash Tag it!

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

**Women’s Club Volleyball First
Practices/Tryouts**
Monday, Dec. 3, 9:30 11:00 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 8, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
WCC Health and Fitness Center
Must bring WCC ID with you!
Practices will continue on
Thursdays and Saturdays (except
during holiday break). Games will
be on Tuesday evenings
beginning early January.
Register at SC116

UPCOMING SPORTS
Intramural Darts
Must register prior to selected dates
Where: SC Sports Office SC116
Must bring WCC ID with you!
Monday, Dec. 3, 6:00– 7:30 p.m.
Cost: FREE!

Intramural Table Tennis
Must register prior to selected
dates.
Where: WCC Sports Office, SC116
Dates of Tournament:
Wednesday, Dec. 5, 6:00– 7:30 p.m.
Must bring WCC ID with you!
Cost: FREE!
Walk-ins are welcome

**Men’s Club Volleyball First
Practices/ Tryouts**
Monday, Dec. 3, 9:30 – 11 p.m.
Saturday, Dec., 8 6:30 - 8 p.m.
WCC Health and Fitness Center
Must bring WCC ID card with you!
Team will practice on Mondays and
Saturdays and games are on
Thursday.
Pre-register at SC 116

Intramural Foosball
Must register prior to selected dates
WCC Community Room
Tuesday, Dec. 4, 6:00– 7:30 pm
Must bring WCC ID with you!

Intramural Air Hockey
Must register prior to selected dates. Must bring WCC ID with you!
Located in WCC Community Room (SC First floor)
Date of tournaments:
Thursday, Dec. 6:00 - 7:30p.m.



STAY CONNECTED!
[HTTP://TINYW.CC/SDA](http://tinyw.cc/sda)
*Be the first to find out about
new tickets and activities!*

Enter to win an iPod Touch 8GB:
1. Sign up for email alerts from tinyw.cc/sda
2. Fill out our survey at: www.tinyurl.com/sdapromotion
Must be currently enrolled in three credit hours with a GPA of 2.0 or higher.

Talking trash on campus

WCC experiments with new compost initiative

By ANNA ELIAS
Staff Writer

Behind the Henry S. Landau building on a remote corner of the campus is a large tub filled with leaves, woodchips and food scraps that will improve Washtenaw Community College’s soil. Welcome to composting. Barry Wilkins, Washtenaw’s Facilities Maintenance manager and head of the college’s Recycle Operations, started the college’s new compost project on Nov. 27. “We’re diverting recyclables away from the landfill. It actually costs to trash,” Wilkins said. “Food doesn’t compost in a timely manner in landfills.” Composting is a pilot program brought back from RecycleMania – an annual national recycling tournament in February between colleges and universities. Washtenaw finished 52 out of 266 competitors with a recycling rate of 42.46 percent. The college uses a vessel for composting from Green Mountain Technologies called the Earth Tub. This tub stands on top of pervious concrete that allows rainwater and other

liquids to flow through and directly back into the ground. There are four bins surrounding the Earth Tub and each are filled with something different. Three tubs are filled with woodchips, sawdust and leaves for the bulking agents. Bulking agents are essential in composting. They are the carbon in the carbon-nitrogen reaction crucial to decomposition, according to Wilkins. The fourth bin is a “bio-filter” that includes woodchips in the process of eliminating the odor when the tub is turned on to churn newly added food scraps. Fruit and vegetable scraps are the only products allowed in the compost as the nitrogen part of the decomposition reaction. Wilkins says that soon they will add bread to the list. However, the college does not have the means to compost meat and bones. There are 10 departments campus-wide that have compost collection bins. Bazukio’s also contributes to the efforts by donating its used coffee grounds as a bulking agent. “We do have an interest from our student population to have access to a compost bin. I’ve got to come up with a method for collecting that material and add that to our

food waste collection,” Wilkins said. The current “recipe” for Washtenaw’s compost is one bucket of food scraps to one bucket of bulking agent. “If it’s too spongy or too wet, we need to add some more bulking agent to it,” Wilkins said. “There is a method to the madness...just churning food is a big slurry mess.” The compost will be distributed across the campus to enrich the soil. It will reduce the purchased compost by grounds maintenance for the perennial flower beds and other gardens. This is the first time Washtenaw has started a campus-wide compost initiative, and the numbers are not known on how much compost will be produced or how much waste will be reduced. “I think it’s a really good idea,” said Environmental Science student Brian Kirk. “It’s a perfectly good place to do it. We might as well be using it.” This is only one part of how Washtenaw reduces its carbon footprint. There are many more recycle-based waste removal and energy conservation projects on campus. “There’s no excuse for not doing the right thing when you have the means to do it,” said Wilkins.



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Still waiting

Home booze-making laws are changing

Michigan among states relaxing distilling laws

PHOTOS AND WORDS
BY BEN KNAUSS
Contributor

The smell of cooked corn floods the storefront as a man and his dog enter. The door is a part of a glass wall that separates the legally defined areas of manufacture and retail. On one side all kinds of things are for sale, from T-shirts to glasses. On the other sit several large stainless steel tanks – and a prominently displayed alcohol still.

“I owned a gun store before, and this had much more ‘red tape’ in order to get into,” said Jon Dyer, owner of Ugly Dog Distillery in Chelsea.

Dyer and his dog, Ruger, have been making vodka and rum commercially with Michigan ingredients since 2009. Ruger helps as the mascot of the brand, his face on the label of every bottle made. Each run of liquor is made in the tradition of the early American moonshiner, one small batch at a time. The still used at Ugly Dog is one that Dyer designed and constructed. Ugly Dog is licensed by both the State of Michigan and the federal government. That was not the case when Dyer was just learning how to distill alcohol at home as a hobby – in defiance of the state and federal liquor laws.

But it is not the making of alcohol that the law has an issue with when it comes to Dyer, or anyone else practicing without a license. It is the act of distilling.

Thanks to popular television shows such as “Moonshiners” on the Discovery Channel, Dyer is not the only one thinking about the business of booze or home-distilling. The craft-distilling movement is alive and well with many different aspects other than the traditional moonshiner.

Distilling without a permit from both the federal government and the state remains illegal, as it has been since 1791 when distilled spirits started to be taxed in order to pay for the national debt brought on by the American Revolutionary War.

This new tax, and later Prohibition, created an underground moonshine trade.

Many cases of unscrupulous individuals looking to make a quick buck by way of black-market booze have used unhealthy or toxic chemicals in alcohol distilling.

Lead has long been a notorious component of the backwoods still, as have plastics. Bleach and other undesirable chemicals have also been discovered in illegal alcohol.

Another issue that keeps home distillers outlaws is the safety of the equipment used. The thought of a still blowing up is just as common as the idea that one can go blind from drinking homemade booze.

With the advent of the Internet, those interested in the true craft of distilling got a chance to communicate. Many resources are readily available online and those looking to fully understand the art and see the full potential of distilling on a small, noncommercial scale can communicate with others from around the world.

A new era

But the social stigma remains when it comes to the home distiller and times are changing.

The idea of an old man in the woods with a gray beard and corn cob pipe, clad in denim overalls with his cobbled together copper still is an anachronism. Now the image of many distillers is one of a business-minded, health-conscious and educated individual in a suit with sophisticated equipment working in a dedicated environment and creating some of the best alcohol ever.

The old gray-beard still exists, but he is vastly outnumbered by the modern-day home-craft distillers.

The supplies needed in order to distill at home are readily available, both locally and via the Internet. Just because stores have the equipment, don’t expect them to teach you how to make anything illegal. Asking questions about distilling alcohol in a brew shop is received in much the same way as asking about marijuana in a smoke shop.

Adventures in Homebrewing on Jackson Road dedicates an entire back corner of the store to equipment and other required specialty supplies for alcohol distillation. Nothing is hidden from view, but at the same time its uses are not advertised. An employee of the store who did not want to be identified by name stated that the store sales are mostly online, but the demand is enough to have the products available on shelves.

Josh Bayne, general manager of Mile Hi Distilling, says the growing interest in distilling is a natural progression from beer and wine hobbies.

“TV shows are good for the



A table top electric still holds about one gallon. The glass bottles had wine that was going to be distilled into brandy.

hobby” Bayne said.

Mile Hi Distilling is known among those in the modern-day moonshine community as the go-to source online for quality equipment and products. The site operates in the open with nothing to hide. Moonshine and alcohol are referenced on the site and in product descriptions, as are disclaimers to the law.

On the homepage of the site, Mile Hi’s quality, education, the order wait time and warnings of the competitor’s reputation are more emphasized than the law or warnings.

The ‘art’ of booze

Distilling is not just about alcohol. Many known as “Preppers,” or those who prepare for a major disaster cite alcohol as only part of the reason to know how to distill. Bayne points out that distilling can be used in making essential oils, clean water, fuel and antiseptics.

“Everything we offer (at Mile Hi) is legal to sell and own” Bayne said, “We like to keep our head down, but also poke it up and make some noise every once in a while just to let everyone know we are here and what we do.”

Bayne believes that it is going to take intelligent people having intelligent discussions and educating politicians for things to change in the legal arena.

As the attitude about the art of distilling comes to light, educational institutions also look to capitalize on the trend. Michigan State University established artisan distilling program over a decade ago. Bayne is doing his part by starting the Craft Distilling Academy and offering professional classes for the home distiller.

Maureen Perault, instructor of the Principles of Beverage Services offered at Washtenaw Community College, says she is looking into adding some information on micro-distilleries to her class.

“Getting the equipment needed in order to learn would be expensive,” Perault said.

The change in attitude is something that Dyer has been sensing for a long time.

“When I started, Michigan had the second-most licenses (distilling permits), next to California.” Dyer said.

Still waiting for laws to change

The law has begun to relax at the state level on distilling. Focus has shifted to more impactful crimes such as meth production.

States have also started looking into changing laws to allow the development of business similar to microbrewery and local brands of packaged beer, only on the liquor side of things.

A number of states including California, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Utah and Washington, have passed legislation reducing the stringent regulations for small distilleries. The laws were a holdover from prohibition.

Missouri has gone the furthest of any state to date, having decriminalized the practice of distilling alcohol for personal use. As of Aug. 28, 2012 it is now completely legal, as far as the state is concerned, for an individual 21 years and older to distill up to 100 gallons of alcohol with no permit.

According to the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Trade Bureau website, the federal government still sees the practice of distilling without a permit as illegal.



The large still is a five-gallon keg, also known as a compound still (compounding a reflux and a fractionating still). The copper 5-shaped section next to it (the one with the close up photo of the top of it) is known as a distiller’s parrot. The parrot measures the proof of alcohol exiting from the still.

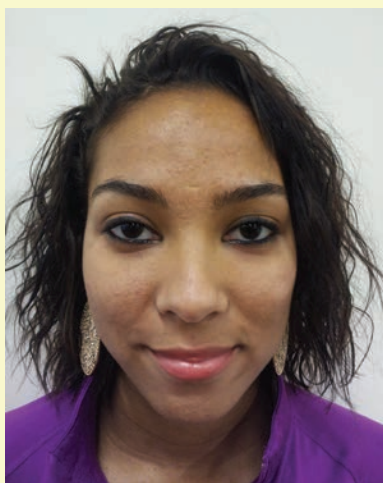
A common misconception is that distilling alcohol makes alcohol. Distilling does not make any alcohol; the method simply is separating different components of a mixture. Any alcohol that is received from distilling is made during fermentation, a step in the process that takes place before distilling.



An Apartment Still or ‘Mr. Distiller’ (a play on the old Mr. Coffee coffee makers).



A five-gallon still in Manchester, known as a keg still.



20 Questions



What are five words that describe your semester?

Interviews and photos by Michael J. Hlywa and Taylor Tucker

fun

challenging

time consuming

exciting



1



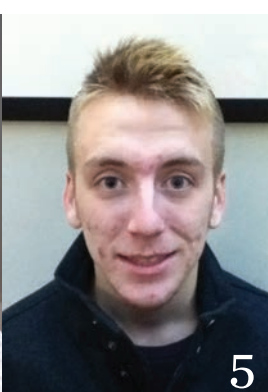
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8



9



10

1. "New, fun, expensive, different and hard"
Jessica Ballard, 18, Dexter, Psychology

2. "Resourceful, learning technical skills, learning proper research, helpful and fun"
Taylor Godfrey, 18, Howell, Dermatology Transfer

3. "Interesting, fun, amusing teachers, difficult and easy adjustment."
Rene Plase, 20, Togo, West Africa, Business

4. "Tiring, lots of studying, fun, new experience and meeting new teachers."
Tanya Mbanza, 19, Ann Arbor, Law

5. "New, exciting, difficult, time consuming and adventurous."
Logan Evans, 19, Tecumseh, Marketing

6. "Rough, drama-free, fun, different, and friendly."
Tara Pietila, 19, Brighton, Ultrasound Technician

7. "Easy, long, exciting, new and fulfilling."
Robert Herrera, 23, Ypsilanti, Computer Science

8. "Fast, difficult, helpful, time-consuming and a nuisance."
John McEwen, 19, Blissfield, Construction

9. "Productive, happy, social, quick and interesting."
James Elliott, 19, Ypsilanti, Business

10. "Interesting, challenging, exciting, informative and educational."
Alissa Gray, 20, Milan, Social Work

Washtenaw sounds off

By VOICE STAFF

We’ve got questions. You’ve got answers. You always do.

Voice Box has been, for many years, a staple in this newspaper. In every issue, we give readers – students, employees and sometimes even visitors – a chance to weigh in on a particular topic.

Sometimes the questions are a little off the wall, sometimes they’re serious. Almost always, your answers are fun to read.

This time, we got a little carried away with eight pages covering 20 questions and nearly 200 responses and photos.

It was a project in JRN 111, an Introduction to Journalism class that provided entry-level reporters an opportunity to develop one of the most difficult but important skills in our business: walking up to strangers and asking them questions.

We hope you enjoyed the way it turned out as much as we enjoyed putting it together.

Thanks to all who spent a few moments with these student-journalists for this assignment.



Do you have any ritual that you perform that you believe helps bring you luck before you take an exam or make a presentation in class?

Interviews and photos by Natalie Wright

“When I used to dance, I refused to eat anything before a performance. I was scared I would get too nervous and throw up. I always went to the bathroom right before a performance, too.”
Tara Keyes, 28, Howell, Liberal Arts

“Before I go hunting, I say ‘bye’ to my three dogs: Buddy my basset hound, Casey, my basset-beagle, and Ruby, my black lab.”
Mike Roussey, 19, Trenton, Welding Engineering

“I pray. And I have a little bracelet that I like to wear for good fortune. So after I pray, I shake it.”
Keith Malcom, 25, Detroit, Heating and Cooling

“I pray to God. That’s my luck. That’s who I go to when I have bad luck.”
Adam Williams, 21, Detroit, Music



“I always bring a picture of my dad. He passed away in 2011. So I think that brings me luck.”
Cara Hoelscher, 18, Ann Arbor, General Education

“I used to have a lucky pencil, but I lost it two weeks ago when my backpack was stolen.”
Charles Cooper, 35, Ypsilanti, Nursing

“I like to touch the walls going down the stairs before a test. I don’t know why, it just makes me feel better.”
Anthony Hill, 18, Ann Arbor, Criminal Justice

“I go in with optimism. That brings you good luck.”
Brad Risky, 20, Whitmore Lake, Psychology

“I buy a new notebook whenever I start something new. It helps me be creative. It helps me keep track of my thoughts better.”
Aaron Barton, 19, Westland, Video Production

What’s the worst song to get stuck in your head?

Interviews by Eric Boatwright
Photos by Taylor Drozdowski



“‘I Ain’t Got No Worries’ by Lil Wayne.”
Eshonte Stokes, 19, Detroit, Sports Medicine

“‘Call Me Maybe’ by Rebecca Black.”
Deandre Cole, 18, Detroit, Applied Science



“‘I Kissed A Girl’ by Katy Perry.”
James Bradbury, 21, Photography

“‘Call Me Maybe’ by Carly Rae Jepsen.”
Lauren Affholtre, 23, Ypsilanti, Liberal Arts Transfer

“‘Baby’ by Justin Bieber.”
Mary Kpcyzinski, 16, Pinckney, Physical Therapy



“‘Jingle Bells.”
Christine Williams, 18, Milan, Elementary Education
“‘I Kissed A Girl’ by Katy Perry.”

“‘Gangnam Style’ by Psy.”
Anthony Torres, 24, San Antonio, Texas, Math Science

“‘Friday’ by Rebecca Black.”
Ashley Lore, 18, Milan, Psychology



How long could you go without your cell-phone or laptop? Why?

Interviews and photos by Sawanya Phakphian



“Most likely just an hour. I constantly talk on the phone to people. I use a cell phone a lot, and I use Facebook quite a bit.”
Abby McIntire, 16, Saline, Environmental Science

“I don’t need them at all. I only use it probably once a week for homework, so I am sure I could go without them for a very long time.”
Sarah Ray, 15, Ann Arbor, WTMC

“I use computer a lot. I use it for homework. I probably could go without it for three days.”
Laura Schwartz, 16, Saline, WTMC



“A few weeks, I think. I don’t rely on that stuff’s much. If I want to contact people, I would just go and see them.”
Wesley Branton, 15, Ann Arbor, Psychology, Ann Arbor

“I can go without a computer for 2-3 days, but probably not a cell phone. I check my cell phone constantly, every 2-3 minutes, especially when it’s on vibration or mute. I take care of my business through my iPad. I activate hotspot to talk to others in a different country if I want to.”
Deandre Cole, 18, Ann Arbor, Culinary and Hospitality Management

“Probably an hour if I am at work. I use my cell phone to talk or text to many people. I use my computer to help with homework and email.”
Danny Cornwell, 24, Canton, Construction Management

“I can go for a long while, hours. I don’t think it’s that serious.”
Keyara Dauphine, 19, Ypsilanti, Dental Assisting



“I use it daily. A week at most, and I’d probably start freak-ing out. I use the Internet for social media, checking news and video games.”
Nick Morris, 22, Ann Arbor, Accounting

“Not very long. Maybe 2-3 hours, then I have to go to a laptop. I don’t have Facebook, but I just check what is going on through the Internet. I use my laptop for homework because it’s on the computer.”
Schelan Mizuree, 16, Ypsilanti, WTMC

“Forever. I used to have a cell phone and the Internet, but I rarely use them. I use my computer for homework. I probably check Facebook for five minutes, although I could go without it. No point!”
Christian Osorio, 19, Exercise Science, Plymouth



How did you determine your major/career path?

Interviews by Eric Boatwright
Photos by Taylor Drozdowski



“Ever since I was little, I made music with my mouth and my brain. It’s also the easiest thing for me to do.”
Michael Taylor, 19, Ypsilanti, Music Composition



“I looked into interests in high school.”
Johnathan Homrich, 19, Plymouth, Business



“I chose based on what I’m good at.”
Martino Jones, 21, Ypsilanti, Computer System Security



“I really love languages, and I really wanted to do something where I could travel. It combines two things that I love.”
Christina Benitez, 18, Brighton, Undecided



“It took me four years. I switched majors because I wanted to pursue what I really wanted to do.”
Andrea Armbruster, 21, Milan, Liberal Arts Transfer



“I narrowed down my skills to a future job that I could accomplish.”
Logan Evans, 19, Tecumseh, Marketing



“It’s what I’ve always wanted to do.”
Katrina Gunberg, 40, Ypsilanti, Nursing



“I’m trying to finish up prerequisites to transfer to U-M.”
Johnathan White, 22, Atlanta, Ga., Engineering



“It took me a long time. I did everything else first. I came here 10 years ago to start, and I was going to be a nutritionist.”
Garrick Beaster, 31, Ypsilanti, Mechanical Engineering

If you could have any dream job after graduation, what would it be?

Interviews by Mohamed Maiza
Photos by Terry Davis



“Writing articles for ESPN magazine. I like writing and I like sports so why not combine them.”
Charles Marshall, 18, Ypsilanti, Journalism



“I would be a surgeon. It makes a lot of, It helps people, and there is a lack of people in the medical profession.”
Joseph Dye, 16, Ann Arbor, WTCM



“Music and Art therapist. I like studying art and music, and then I considered therapy for a while.”
Leah Payne, 15, Ann Arbor, WTCM



“Studio musician, I like music.”
Alex Detassayi, 16, Canton, WTCM



“Physical Therapist Assistant. I like doing stuff with sports and helping people out if they’re injured.”
Griffin Fleissner, 19, Canton, Welding



“CEO of a billion-dollar enterprise. I am a businessman.”
Keith Malcom, 25, Ann Arbor, Heating and Cooling



“Registered dietician. I am really interested in nutrition.”
Heather Zahn, 32, Ann Arbor, Chemistry



“I want to be an animator. You get to express ideas visually, and who doesn’t want to watch cartoons.”
Ali Alshemari, 15, Ann Arbor, WTCM



“I would like to be down in Cambodia working with children that have been sold into sex trade, because there is not a lot of people that want to work with the children and they need a lot of medical and emotional help that they need.”
Carleena Adamo, 35, Brighton, Human Services



“I would be a special effects makeup artist, because I love art, I love fashion and I love makeup.”
Kaitlyn Tracy, 19, Plymouth, Chemistry



“Clinical pharmacist cause I like the idea of working in a hospital and helping people.”
Rebecca Loechli, 19, Saline, Chemistry



How does the diversity at Washtenaw Community College affect you?

Photos and interviews by Michael Hlywa and Taylor Tucker



“I guess it’s always good to see lots of different people together. It’s good to see that it’s open for everyone and it’s super accepting. You never see any type of prejudice here.”
Alina Morales, 18, Belleville, Biology



“I went to a very small Catholic school. I really liked it, but it wasn’t very diverse. (Here) it’s really nice because you get to meet a lot more people. It just gives me a better perspective. I get so many points of view on any one topic that I never would have had before.”
Matthew David, 15, Detroit, WTCM



“Should it? ... I like it. It’s interesting to see people from different cultures, different age groups, and different countries just all in the same place. I never thought that this little part of Michigan would be so worldwide.”
Joseph Briggs, 25, Willis, Computer Networking



“It really doesn’t affect me at all. I’m actually taking a class about multicultural things and we talk about how (culture) can affect things, but the things we talk about really don’t affect me at all.”
Gabrielle Nowak, 19, Tecumseh, Business



“Here it’s a lot different. I became friends with a lot more diverse people. I mean, I realize that they’re not really any different (than anyone else). They’re the exact same, basically. I guess it’s just opened up my views a little more.”
Wesley Havens, 16, Stockbridge, General Math and Science



“It’s really cool to be in classes with people who are so much older than me. I’m taking a PLS class, which is really awesome because people who are like, ‘When I was young, Reagan was president.’ It’s cool to be around that.”
Remy Vaclavek, 17, Westland, Healthcare Foundations

“I’m used to being in (high school) classes with people from the same basic neighborhood in Ann Arbor, and everyone has pretty similar perspectives there. (At WCC) it’s interesting listening to kids talk who are from all sorts of different backgrounds.”

Maura Farrell, 15, Ann Arbor, Technical Communications and Welding

“Well, I went to (Ann Arbor) Huron, so it wasn’t as diverse as it is here. I like meeting people with different traditions.”

Sarah Knock, 18, Ann Arbor, Criminology

“I think at a community college it’s important because it allows students to get their first access to the real world. I think that’s what makes education really important as far as the 21st century is going. (With) your parents and my parents, we were about segregation. Now we understand integration is the only way that you can come in with some truth.”

Ralph Hardin, 44, Ann Arbor, Substitute Teacher for WISD Program

“Well, it is good because you get to meet a lot of new people. There’s more of a variety of answers in class than you’re used to.”

Lea Holcomb, 19, Whitmore Lake, Literature Teaching





What’s your favorite TV Show “guilty pleasure” and why?

Interviews and photos by Bethany Hickenbottom



“I don’t have a favorite TV show. I take that back...’Criminal Minds.’ I like mystery, and the show is good at solving interesting situations.”
Shanice Harrison, 18, Ypsilanti, General Studies



“My favorite TV show currently is ‘Once Upon A Time.’ I like it because...I don’t know...I’m into that kind of stuff. I was the Harry Potter kid. The show is interesting, kind of original.”-
Asma Hussain, 19, Ann Arbor, Physical Therapy.



“NFL football is my favorite. I don’t watch TV much, but my favorite team is the Dallas Cowboys. I lived in Texas for 12 years.”- **James Popovich**, 54, Mt. Norris, Hydraulics, Electronics, and Robotics Instructor



“Probably ‘Deadliest Catch.’ I don’t know why. I like the action. It’s kind of real.”-
Cindi Howard, 55, Brighton, Supervision Management, Faculty of Tutoring Department and BOS lab aid.



“Probably ‘Family Guy.’ It’s just funny. It makes fun of every person or group. It’s not biased in its humor.”
Glenn Lendingham, 31, Farmington, Computer Networking



“‘Everybody Loves Raymond’...I watch that pretty often. I like it because Raymond... he reminds me of myself. He has the same type of humor.”
Roy Hickenbottom, 54, Ann Arbor, Custodian, Building Services



“I like ‘Catfish’ right now. It’s an MTV show about online dating. It’s about how people talk to people online and it’s not the person they think they are.”
Veronica Faulkner, 28, Maryland, Office Administration

What is the last thing you regret buying?

Interviews by Stephanie Nelson
Photos by Kayleigh Cyrus



“My last car, I bought a mustang, and I had just finished paying off what at the time was my brand new truck.”
Mark Klinger, 25, Troy, Secondary Education



“Microphone for a friend who was a singer in my band. \$150 on a great mic. We kicked him out of the band and he took the microphone with him.”
Michael Taylor, 19, Ypsilanti, Music Composition



“I guess, head phones that weren’t Skull (brand). The sound quality wasn’t that great.”
Mike Acerrano, 18, Wayne, Construction Management



“My (roller derby) skates. They were way more money than I wanted to spend!”
Brittiny Remson, 27, Ypsilanti, Culinary Arts



“I bought 8 stuffed animals at the Disney store on Black Friday. I don’t even need them, I’m probably going to return them.”
Samar Niazi, 17, Saline, Undecided



“Notebooks in the bookstore for my class. They’re so expensive here, but I needed them really bad for my class that day.”
Marie Azrak, 30, Ypsilanti, Elementary Education



“My phone! I bought it, and I few weeks later it was cheaper.”
Keith Malcom, 25, Detroit, Heating and Cooling



“A car that burns all my gas, it’s a V8.”
Bruce Williams, 33, Detroit, Automotive



“I don’t make bad purchases.”
John Burt Jr., 19, Ann Arbor, Business



“I do buy McDonalds a lot, and I regret it.”
Hayden Young, 18, Bellville, Undecided



“What’s your least favorite thing about the holidays?”

Interviews and photos by Cashmere Morley



“Having to visit family members I don’t like.”
Ashlee Rothfuss, 18, Manchester, Graphic Design



“Working during the holidays.”
Jack Oliveri, 17, Brighton, Engineering



“People celebrating the holidays.”
Griffin Hageman, 25, Plymouth, Undecided



“Holiday shopping in general, it’s just a massive flood of people and they’re usually all really rude.”
Jacob Farah, 18, Saline, Video Production



“You gotta buy everyone a gift.”
Richie Murrel, 21, Ann Arbor, Film



“Spending money, and forgetting about the religious meaning of the holiday.”
Erin Parker, 26, Ann Arbor, Undecided



“All the Christmas music.”
John Adamovicz, 19,



Ypsilanti, Undecided
“The craziness! The people shopping and getting all crazy about presents.”



Michelle Wilson, 20, Ypsilanti, Technology
“Spending money. You spend a lot of money during the holidays.”



Ashley Daines, 19, Belleville, Criminal Justice
“The stress of seeing extended family.”
Greta Niethammer, 18, Ann Arbor, Undecided



What’s your favorite TV Show “guilty pleasure” and why?

“‘NCIS’ ...I like crime shows. I always have. Abby’s my favorite. I like her personality; I like the personalities of all the characters.”
Amanda Taphouse, 19, Ann Arbor, Business



What do you think of the new Community Room in the Student Center?

Interviews by Eric Boatwright
Photos by Taylor Drozdowski



“I haven’t been there. It looks really nice from outside. It’s a good way to get a break from the stress. I think it’s a good idea.”
Karen Fivenson, 42, Ann Arbor, Law Enforcement



“I’ve never even been in there. I could see how it could be useful to pass time. I would prefer to see the money go somewhere educational.”
Allison Taranto, 20, Ann Arbor, Zoology



“I haven’t used it. I think it’s nice for people who like to play games, but it also takes away from the academic environment.”
Maggie Hopp, 19, Ann Arbor, Liberal Arts Transfer



“I haven’t been in the Community Room, but I would say that we need it.”
Adam Weiss, 28, Ann Arbor, Music Technology



“It’s kind of pointless. Overall, I like the fact that it’s diverse.”
Keyon Purite, 22, Detroit, Business



“I don’t have an opinion on it. I’ve never been in it before.”
Charles Hines, 18, Belleville, Undecided



“It’s nice to have it there, but I’d like to see more organized events in there.”
John Everett, 21, Ann Arbor, Liberal Arts Transfer



“I think it’s a good place to hang out between classes and relax from the stress.”
Katherine Durkee, 18, Milan, Baking and Pastry



“I don’t really use it. I don’t think it’s useful.”
Kristen Sines, 20, Clinton, Psychology



What is the least expected thing that has happened to you in college?

Interviews by Stephanie Nelson
Photos by Kayleigh Cyrus



“I’m enjoying college.”
Jeremy Burt, 17, Ann Arbor, Nursing



“My first semester I was going to school in Colorado. I ended up coming back.”
James Bradbury, 21, Pontiac, Journalism/Film



“The concept of, when you’re done with your work in class you can leave! It’s awesome.”
Katie Stimack, 18, Saline, Undecided



“I’ve had more time on my hands to do things, for work things and free time.”
Jonathan Brunk, 18, Ypsilanti, Undecided



“All my high school teachers said it was going to be hard, and it’s been easier. More flexible.”
Ashley Ketchum, 23, Grand Blanc, Business Marketing



“It’s easier, there’s no homework. And it’s less time-consuming for me.”
Tara Plee, 20, Brighton, Liberal Arts



“...Difficulty of classes. Especially science and math classes.”
Devon Oosting, 22, Ann Arbor, Psychology/Health



“Easiness of the process, making it straight forward.”
Bruce Pickens, 29, Ann Arbor, Art



“I started at Washtenaw two years ago, and I work here now in the Adult Transition Program.”
Beth Feldcamp, 32, Ypsilanti, Human Services



What is the least expected thing that has happened to you in college?

“I liked it better than I thought I was going to. It’s vastly different than high school.”
Rachel Powers, 24, Battle Creek, Biology



What is your most traumatic driving experience?

Interviews and photos by Sara Borg



“One day I was driving down Michigan Avenue with mom, and I saw two deer on the side of the road and stopped abruptly, my mom got all mad. But I have a deer phobia.”
Cheyenne Taylor, 19, Ann Arbor, Secondary Education



“I was late to work and was driving way to fast. I was coming around a turn, lost control of the car, did a 180, and went into a ditch. I wrecked my parent’s car.”
Luke Stolarski, 20, Ypsilanti, Welding Engineering



“It was spring time; I was late for work and driving really fast down a dirt road, spun out and hit a tree. Some lady pulled over and gave me a ride to work. I was still late, though.”
Sarah Stideham, 18, South Lyon, Liberal Arts



“My car flipped on me five times. I was driving on the freeway, hit a pothole and my car went flipping.”
Carlos Green, 20, Detroit, Broadcast Media Arts



“Last year around this time, I was leaving school and this old lady pulled out in front of me, and damaged the whole front of my car – 11 grand in damages.”
Clarissa Sturdidant, 17, Ypsilanti, Nursing



“I was driving to school like two weeks ago, and this kid swerved off the road into a ditch, and it an apartment complex’s sign. He shattered the sign, swerved back onto the road like nothing happened.”
Colin Camper, 20, Wayne, General Studies



“I was driving home from work during rush hour, when a vehicle two cars in front of me slammed on their breaks. The car directly in front of me swerved into the right lane and I swerved into the median. I was going so fast still that I almost went into traffic on the other side of the freeway. The only thing that stopped me was a foot of snow in the median.”
Kimberly Powell, 21, Belleville, Business

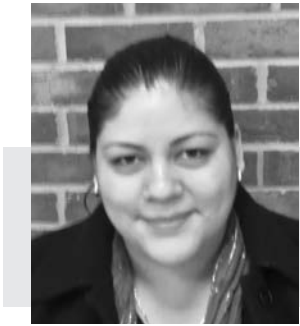
How does spirituality impact your college experience?

INTERVIEWS AND PHOTOS BY CANDACE PRUITT



“I’m here for the sake of saving God. I went to college before I entered before I was a sister, but now I’m here to become a teacher and serve God through teaching it’s the reason that I’m here.”
Sister Mary Ignatius Nesbit, 25, Ann Arbor, Elementary

Education
“It helps me abstain from drugs. It gives me a moral guide that keeps me on a straight path.”
Bushra Mohamed, 18, Madison, Undecided

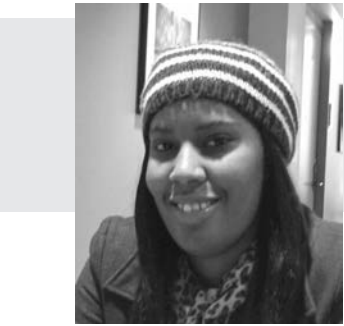


“For myself, I feel that me wanting to help people because of my beliefs, it makes me work that much harder in school. I feel that’s pretty much true in general when it comes to beliefs.”
Jasmine Franco, 26, Ann Arbor, Nursing

“From being in college, it makes me want to explore different religions. It also makes me compare things to my childhood to figure out if what I grew up with was right for me.”
Esther Maina, 22, Ann Arbor, Computer Science

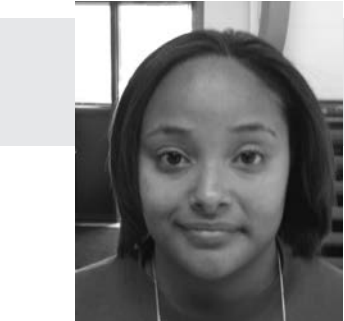


“I’ve joined a Bible study club to be more connected to other Christians, but it hasn’t affected me negatively.”
Colin Northrup, 19, Ann Arbor, Broadcasting



“I think it depends on your religion. As for Christianity, it affects you because your belief in God to through everything. For me it is the foundation for my life, knowing that God give me strength, courage, and prayer to get me through.”
Crystal McCaskill, 21, Ypsilanti, Biology

“Quite a bit actually. I’m an avid church-goer. It’s a big part of my decision-making, what classes to take, the direction I should go in as far as my school career and everyday life.”
Jameelah Moore, 19, Ypsilanti, Liberal Arts Transfer,



“It helps me prepare for school and my life goals. It’s what keeps me going in my daily life a strengthened relationship with Christ.”
Christianna Smith, 20, Ypsilanti, General Studies

If you could meet anyone dead or alive, who would it be and why?

INTERVIEWS BY TERRY DAVIS
PHOTOS BY MOHAMED MAIZA



“Michael Jordan because he’s a great athlete. He is also very famous and rich.”
Michael Bond, 18, Belleville, Psychology

“I would probably meet Jesus Christ. He saved me from my sins. And he saved us from Lucifer.”
Bradley Welbon, 23, New Hudson, Culinary Arts

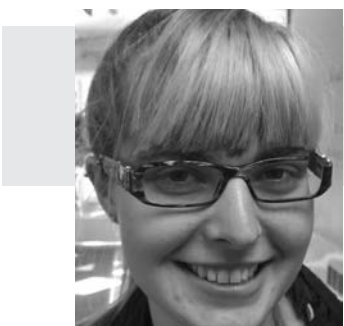


“Nicholas Cage because he’s in every movie! He’s loaded.”
Paul Embach, 18, Manchester, Digital Video Production

“It would be interesting to talk to J. Edgar Hoover. He was very influential as far as the FBI.”
Brianna Slavens, 22, Ann Arbor, Criminal Justice

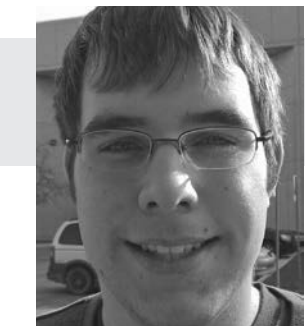


“I guess Martin Luther King Jr. because of his views and how he changed the world.”
Evan Zych, 19, Ann Arbor, Business Marketing



“I’d probably meet my favorite writer Sylvia Plath. I love writing and I think she’s really talented. She wrote autobiographies and she’s a poet.”
Kailah Cliffe, 19, Ann Arbor, Psychology

“John Adams maybe? He was an influential person in American History. He was one of the founders of the country.”
Michael Masterson, 20, Ann Arbor, Computer Science



“I guess George Washington. I think it would be cool to talk to someone from that time period.”
Eric Traud, 18, Brighton, Elementary Education

How much time is spent during class checking social media?

INTERVIEWS AND PHOTOS BY JOSEPH TWIST



“During class, checking social media takes roughly five to ten minutes. Usually professors don’t allow checking social media during class, but if they do then it is only for a few minutes.”
John Cochrane, 21, Tecumseh, Computer Science

“I don’t spend very much class time checking Facebook or anything, but it is probably because I don’t have a smartphone or anything at the moment... If I did it would probably be more frequent.”
Kacey Keel, 24, Ann Arbor, Applied Science



“At least five minutes. I will sneak my phone in almost every class. It’s an addiction.”
Joshua Strickland, 21, Ann Arbor, History

“I pull my phone (out) maybe twice an hour for two or three minutes.”
Anthony Lewis, 19, Ypsilanti, Liberal Arts



“I’ll be honest... I’m one of the ‘good’ kids. When I’m in class, all my hands are doing is taking notes or doodling.”
Alex Mojica, 16, Ypsilanti, Video Production

“It depends on if I need to keep up to date on something, such as E3 or WWDC. Other than that, I may check my phone during a transition or something.”
Isaiah Mahler, 16, Ypsilanti, Video Production



“None. I have to pay attention in class and I can’t focus on social media. I’m not a big fan of it anyways.”
Drew Benoit, 16, Ypsilanti, Computer Science

What have you enjoyed most this semester from your experience at Washtenaw?

INTERVIEWS AND PHOTOS BY ANNA ELIAS



“Physics. I’ve had a pretty good learning experience overall and a good professor.”
Jacob Wade, 24, Milan, Math and Science/Pre-engineering



“I enjoy the teachers. They are very helpful and they actually want you to succeed.”
Ben Peterson, 17, Ann Arbor, Health and Science

“The Writing Center. It’s very helpful. My high school had nothing like that. When I came here, I didn’t expect help with work. They break it down and show you how to do it.”
Marcus Robinson, 18, Ypsi, Automotive Technologies



“College isn’t easy, but the time range fits into my schedule (for doing homework). I’ve found such ease being here.”
Shawna Lloyd, 18, Ypsi, Science



“The social interaction. I’ve been out of high school for two years before college and kind of missed it. It’s nice to have people you can talk to.”
Marco Boudreau, 20, Belleville, Automotive and Motorcycle



“My classes. Everyday College Math is very informative and has opened my mind to stocks and mortgages; things that I never took a look at before the course.”
Kaylyn Calvert, 25, Albion, Childhood Education



“Surprisingly, with the random selection of teachers that I have chosen, I got some pretty good selections.”
Maria Maldonado, 18, Ann Arbor, Exercise Science



“Making friends who are in the same major as I am.”
Sarah Zimmerman, 21, Canton, Elementary Education



Service Technician
“Being able to come five days a week with one class per day instead of having 11-12 hour days.”
Billy Willhauck, 40, Newport, Computer System Security



“Getting closer to taking classes related to what I’m going to be doing.”
Amber Jeffries, 20, Howell, Teaching



Make some news

When the emergency alarm sounded, evacuating classes for the second time in a month, many students in the LA building seemed to enjoy getting out 50 minutes early.

But some of them in an Introduction to Journalism class, which produced this special student opinion section, kept working. Using what they learned throughout the semester, they whipped out their reporter’s notebooks and began interviewing students, first-responders, custodians and other maintenance workers arriving on the scene, to write the news story about the false alarm that appears on Page A3.

Nobody has more fun on this campus than the student journalists who publish their stories, photos, graphic illustrations and cartoons for *The Washtenaw Voice*, and who produce videos for its website, www.washtenawvoice.com.

To join the fun, consider taking a journalism course next semester and learn what it takes to whip out a press pass, grab a reporter’s notebook or camera and start producing content for one of America’s most decorated community college newspapers.

We’re good, but we need all the help we can get – and that’s where you come in. When you’re building your schedule next semester, consider a journalism class – where you can actually get paid for doing your homework!

The Washtenaw Voice Honors and Awards

- **First Place**, *General Excellence*, Michigan Community College Press Association, 2011, 2012
- **First Place**, *General Excellence*, Michigan Press Association, 2011, 2009
- **Third Place**, *Best in Show*, Associated Collegiate Press National College Media Convention, Chicago, 2012
- **Third Place**, *Best in Show*, Associated Collegiate Press National College Media Convention, Orlando, Fla., 2011
- **Second Place**, *Best in Show*, Associated Collegiate Press National College Media Convention, Louisville, Ky., 2010
- **Fifth Place**, *Best in Show*, Associated Collegiate Press National College Media Convention, Austin, Texas, 2009
- **Third Place**, *Best in Show*, Associated Collegiate Press National College Media Convention, Kansas City, 2008

To learn more about journalism or opportunities with The Voice, stop by our newsroom in TI 106, visit us online at www.washtenawvoice.com, or call us at (734) 677-5405.



The Washtenaw Voice staff proudly shows off its Third place “Best in Show” award received at the 2012 National College Media Convention in Chicago Sunday, Nov. 4.

What are you doing to prepare for the end of the world on Dec. 21, 2012 (when the Mayan calendar finishes)?

INTERVIEWS
AND PHOTOS BY
MARIA RIGOU



“I’m preparing to hibernate for the next 1,000 years. I’m practicing right now. I like to sleep.”
Anna Newcomb, 18, Saline, Illustration



“I’m trying to get bit by a vampire so that I survive (the nuclear war).”
Benjamin Rose, 18, Ypsilanti, English



“I’m building a rocket so that I can fly up to the sky lab.”
Joe Kennedy, 17, Ann Arbor, WTCM



“Honestly, absolutely nothing.”
Nicole Stitt, 19, Ypsilanti, Music



“I’ll be hanging out with my friends before I die.”
Corey Fellabaum, 18, Pittsfield Township, Meteorology



“Not much of anything. If it comes, it comes.”
Matt Johnson, 29, Ann Arbor, Computer Networking



“Absolutely nothing. Nothing at all. I don’t think the world is going to end. Just because the calendar runs out, doesn’t mean that the world will end.”
Aspen Ellis, 16, Ann Arbor, Biology, Evolutionary Biology or Ecology



“I’m eating as much food as I can.”
Alex Mojica, 16, Ypsilanti, WTCM



“Other than the fact that it’s illogical to prepare for the end of the world, it’s the end of the world! What can you do?”
Josh Havens, 18, Pinckney, Computer Science



“Most of the end of the world theories I have not taken seriously. The Mayans miscounted leap years, so I don’t consider this theory as a threat to my livelihood.”
Remy Vaclavek, 17, Westland, Health Care Foundation



“Just living my life to the fullest.”
Mohammad Wadi, 18, Ann Arbor, Nursing



“Just chill. That’s what I did before. I sat and watched TV. Hopefully nobody goes too crazy.”
Amariah Carter, 16, Ypsilanti, WTCM



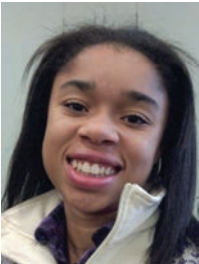
“Nothing. I don’t believe the world is ending. I’m actually working until 2 a.m. that night.”
Suley Abdirahman, 20, Ypsilanti, Genetics



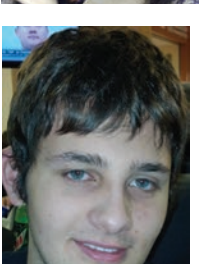
“I’m stockpiling guns and ammo, canned goods and made a new well for water. I added more armor on my cars just in case everybody else who is doing that can’t blow me up.”
David Robinson, 28, Flint, Pre-med

What do you think about fellow students bringing their children to class?

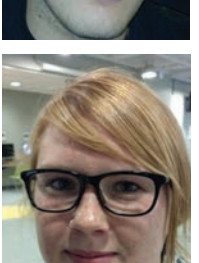
INTERVIEWS AND
PHOTOS BY
LELAND DAWSON



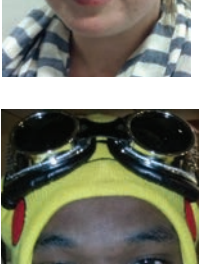
“They should use the daycare! It’s on campus for them. The classroom is a place of business, if we wanted to see kids, we’d go to the daycare.”
Special Jones, 18, Ypsilanti, Psychology



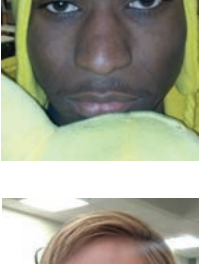
“I haven’t had any experience with kids in my classrooms, but I can imagine it’s annoying. The thought of it doesn’t sit well with me.”
Alec Metta, 18 Saline General Studies



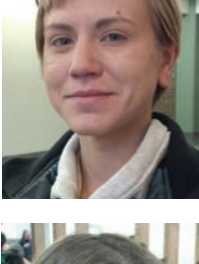
“It’s unacceptable in classrooms. They’re for people to learn, they paid for it. Daycare is offered for them, and children distract from everyone learning. As cute as they are, it detracts from studying.”
Nicole Kuhnke, 22, Milan, Social Work



“Why not? I’m cool with it, and it’s good for the kids. In my experience it’s 50/50, where some were cool and some were rowdy and uncontrollable.”
Jazz Wilson, 23, Ypsilanti, Dance



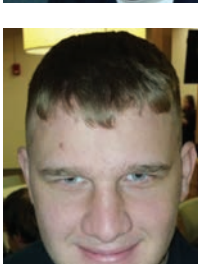
“I don’t have one, so I don’t understand what the parents are going through, but it really depends on the age. The young ones are potentially a distraction.”
Brandi Veldez, 21, Addison, Exercise Science



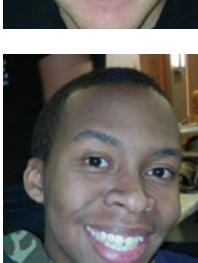
“I find them distracting, but if the parents don’t have a choice then it’s okay, unless there’s a test.”
Micah Davis-Culeertson, 19, Saline, Digital Video



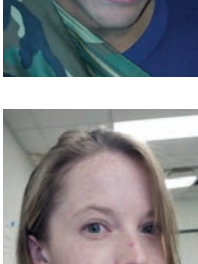
“It is unnecessary and not the right place. But if they need to bring their kids in, they should be well trained and not cause any interruptions.”
Chris Glenn, 18, Ann Arbor, Nursing



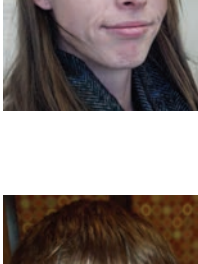
I have no problem with children in class; as long as the proper amount of duct tape is applied they’re not a problem.
James O’Connell, 21, Ann Arbor, Welding



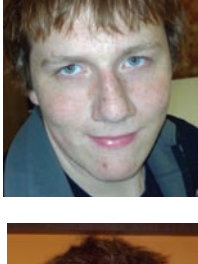
“It depends on the class; some certain classes require silence that kids would disrupt. And in other classes, it’s too dangerous for kids to be there.”
Darrell McClendon, 19, Ann Arbor, Auto Service



“I understand that sometimes things arise and there is not enough time to find a babysitter, but I’ve noticed that some people are in a habit of doing this constantly and it’s extremely distracting.”
Sarah Kennedy, 26 Whitmore Lake Secondary Education



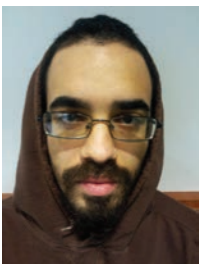
“I think that since it’s offered, the parents should use the daycare. When the kids are in class, that is distracting and they can disrupt classes.”
Carlos Vazquez, 18, Ann Arbor, HVAC



“I don’t mind it. As long as the kids aren’t disruptive I don’t care. I live with three other siblings so I’m used to it.”
Jalen Sparrow, 19, Ann Arbor, Graphic Design

How would you have voted if the same sex marriage issue was on the Michigan ballot in November?

INTERVIEWS AND
PHOTOS BY
ANNA ELIAS



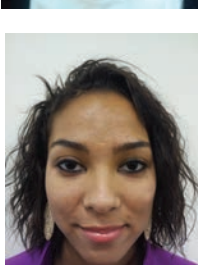
“For it. I have a sister that’s gay.” --
Richard Reid, 24, Ypsi, Liberal Arts and Communications



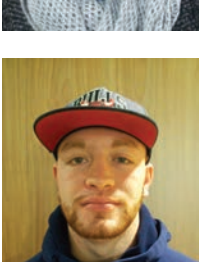
“I would have voted against it. I just don’t think it’s right.”
Joe DeLellis, 17, South Lyon, Engineering



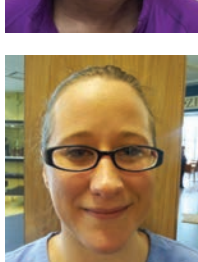
“Sure, yeah, ‘cause it’s right. I’m not judging against anybody. It’s pretty free to do whatever.”
Iasia Lovelace, 18, Ann Arbor, Math and Science



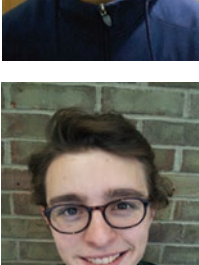
“I totally agree. I think you should love who you love. Love has no gender.”
Brittney Lee, 18, Ann Arbor, Health Sciences



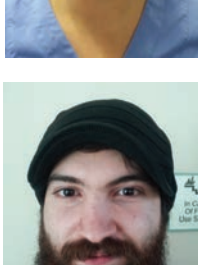
“Yes, people deserve to be happy.”
Kyle Adams, 22, Belleville, Health Sciences



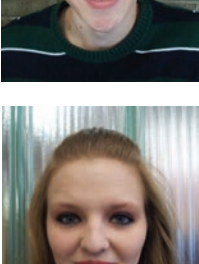
“For it, absolutely. I don’t think stuff that was written thousands of years ago is meant to have been taken verbatim. It needs to adjust the times, and the times are changing. Why should anyone not be allowed marriage?”
Marilee McVey, 28, Ypsi, Nursing major



“Pro because I don’t see any reason not to. I don’t see an argument against it.”
Kullen Hutchison, 18, Howell, Engineering/Undecided



“For it. I know a lot of gay couples. I feel they should have marriage abilities. It’s a basic human right.”
Mike Sears, 25, Pinckney, Computer Animation



“I’d vote for it because gay marriage should be legalized. Equal opportunities for everybody!”
Jena Jenkins, 17, Ypsi, Liberal Arts



SPOTLIGHT

THE WASHTENAW VOICE • SECTION C

Swede dreams come true at DreamHack

The opening ceremony of DreamHack is marked by switching off the venue's lights and firing up an epic laser and fireworks show.

**WORDS AND PHOTOS BY
KELLY BRACHA**
Staff Writer

JÖNKÖPING, Sweden – The gaming world can be a confusing and a seemingly juvenile place for an outsider. But over the years, gaming as a culture has grown and developed into a massive business, filled with sponsorship deals, professional players, teams and large scale tournaments that can rival any professional major league sport.

Esports (electronic sports) has exploded in the United States over the past few years. Professional gamers gather every few months to play for huge sums of money at events run by organizations like Major League Gaming, IGN Pro League and North American Star League.

These prizes aren't in the thousands; they're in the tens of thousands. Professional gamers travel the world, have huge fan bases and make a living doing not only their hobby, but something they love dearly.

Every six months in the small town of Jönköping, Sweden, more than 15,000 gamers gather for a "Bring Your Own Computer" event for what is the largest LAN (Local Area Network) party on the planet.

DreamHack Winter and DreamHack Summer attendance has been increasing every year. Large airplane hangar-like halls are filled with rows and rows of tables where gamers can setup their computers and play for three days straight while live Hardstyle and Electronic DJ's perform

on stage.

Players from across Europe, Latin America, Asia and the U.S. fly in for the eSports aspect of the event. Games like Counter-Strike: Global Offensive, Quake Live, League of Legends, Heroes of Newerth and Super Street Fighter IV: Arcade Edition are taken to competitive heights as pro-players and teams fight for first place.

It's massive casual gaming, interlaced within a highly competitive arena, all while a 24-hour-long party is taking place in the midst of it all.

Organized, gaming-nerd chaos that many may not understand, but it's an emerging culture that just keeps growing.

DreamHack is the serious gamer's ultimate fantasy.

Author Kelly Bracha, a veteran eSports journalist, traveled to Sweden to photograph the event for S2 Games, a Kalamazoo-based video-game developer.



Adam Tensta, a Swedish rapper, performs on the main stage at DreamHack in Hall D, the main hall filled with the thousands of gamers who brought their own computers to the event.



A gaming enthusiast plays on his system, adorned with neon lights.



Gamers from all over the world gather in the main hall to set up their computers and monitors to play non-stop, all weekend, along with thousands of other gamers.



WCC students who enroll in PEA 115 can use the WCC Health & Fitness Center all winter semester while earning half a credit.*



The Health & Fitness Center at Washtenaw Community College has all the latest exercise equipment, group exercise rooms, two pools, luxurious locker rooms and is right across the street!

Register now. For more information call the Student Connection at (734) 973-3543.

4833 East Huron River Drive, Ann Arbor wccfitness.org



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AT WASHTENAW COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Live life to the fittest.



*Must also be enrolled in at least 3 WCC credits for winter semester.



Courtney Keller, WCC '11, SHU '14

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CHARLES MANLEY THE WASHTENAW VOICE

A group of students practice choreography for 'Neo Nutcracker' a modern take on 'The Nutcracker' in the Morris Lawrence building.

Contemporizing the ‘Nutcracker’ for a new generation

BY NATHAN CLARK
Managing Editor

Music echoing down the hallways of the Morris Lawrence building is hardly a new thing, but when a mix of classical, hip-hop and swing music emanate from the same room, it becomes obvious that an interesting show is in the works.

Washtenaw Community College alum and dance enthusiast Christine Sampier has put together a contemporary version of “The Nutcracker” to raise money for WCC’s struggling Performing Arts department and to give student performers and dancers from around the community a chance to show their skills.

The show, titled “Neo Nutcracker,” is set to run Dec. 15-Dec. 16 in the Towsley Auditorium in the Morris Lawrence building. Tickets are \$5 at the door.

“WCC has a lot of kids who have never performed a show before and we wanted to give them an opportunity to do so,” Sampier said. “I pitched the idea of doing this show back in January. I’m excited it’s finally going to happen.”

The Performing Arts department at Washtenaw has been struggled for



Nutcracker director, Christine Sampier, watches the performance from the sidelines during a rehearsal at the ML building.

more than a year with low enrollment and ensuing budget cuts.

WCC music instructor John Lawrence will open the show with a live performance doing what he does best—playing amazing music.

“We’ve been working hard to keep the production cost down for the show,” Sampier said. “I worked with a friend over the summer on all the music we’re using for the show. It’s going to be great.”

It will feature some of the music from the traditional “Nutcracker” ballet, but what makes the performance unique is the mix of hip-hop tracks, swing music and other contemporary elements.

“We’ve been rehearsing for about a month and a half now, two to three times a week,” said Gayle Martin, who has been working in the dance department for more than 35 years. “The performance is made up of seven different groups, each with their own style. It’s really going to be something.”

Sampier took every dance class offered at WCC, graduated in 2004, went on to study interior design at EMU and continues to take dance classes at WCC just for fun.

And now she’s creating it.



CHARLES MANLEY THE WASHTENAW VOICE

A student takes a break from practice to watch the rehearsal.

WHAT: ‘Neo Nutcracker’

WHO: Student and community dancers

WHEN: Dec. 15, 7:30 p.m.; Dec. 16, 4 p.m.

WHY: To raise money for WCC performing arts

TICKETS: \$5, on sale at the door two hours before shows

Women’s Health and Fitness Day 2013

Women’s Health and Fitness Day is a **FREE** community event sponsored by the American Medical Women’s Association (AMWA) at the University of Michigan Medical School. Our goal is to raise awareness about health and fitness issues important to women and men of all ages.

- Attend educational and fun workshops*!
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Toothless Lions

They fumble and bumble on the field – and at the draft table

By **MATT DURR**
Sports Editor

What if? That’s a question that fans ask about their favorite teams year after year. And for fans of the Detroit Lions, “what if” has been on their minds for more than a half-century. With this season essentially over, fans have turned their attention to next year’s draft as a source of hope. But if history tells us anything about the Lions, the draft is usually a disappointing experience. With that in mind, we took a look at what could have been, had the Lions

made different picks over the last seven years. Fans may be shocked to learn how different (and most likely better) the Lions could look had they been more successful in the draft. But in order to keep things fair, here are the ground rules for our findings. For players selected in the first or second round, we did not select anyone who wasn’t within eight picks of where the Lions actually drafted that season or would have drafted if not for a trade. In the third round or later, we extended that rule to be within ten picks of a Lions draft choice. Any undrafted players are fair game. Finally, in the interest of fairness, we went back to 2006 to get the last three years of the Matt Millen era and the current team built by Martin Mayhew.

2006	2007	2008
Lions 1st round pick: Ernie Sims, linebacker, 9th overall What could have been: Haloti Ngata, defensive tackle, 12th overall	Lions 2nd round pick: Drew Stanton, quarterback, 43rd overall What could have been: LaMarr Woodley, linebacker, 46th overall	Lions 1st round pick: Gosder Cherilus, offensive tackle, 17th overall What could have been: Aqib Talib, cornerback, 20th overall
Lions 2nd round pick: Daniel Bullocks, safety, 40th overall What could have been: Roman Harper, safety, 43rd overall	Lions 2nd round pick: Ikaika Alama-Francis, defensive end, 58th overall What could have been: Ryan Kalil, center, 59th overall	Lions 2nd round pick: Jordan Dizon, linebacker, 45th overall What could have been: DeSean Jackson, wide receiver, 49th overall
What they missed out on: Cortland Finnegan, cornerback, 215th overall, Tremon Williams, cornerback, undrafted	Lions 4th round pick: A.J. Davis, cornerback, 105th overall What could have been: Paul Soliai, defensive tackle, 108th overall	Lions 3rd round pick: Kevin Smith, running back 64th overall What could have been: Jamaal Charles, running back, 73rd overall
Neither Sims nor Bullocks are still with the team. But Williams and Harper played key roles on Super Bowl-winning teams, all four players listed have made a Pro Bowl since joining the league.	Again, none the players listed who were drafted by the Lions are still on the team. The ones they passed over: all Pro Bowlers, with Woodley winning a Super Bowl with the Pittsburgh Steelers.	Cherilus and Smith are still with the team, but neither has panned out the way the Lions hoped they would. Charles was an AP All-Pro in 2010.

The Red Wings in 1997: A year of piss and vinegar



BEN SOLIS

Last Wednesday, the time and date on my cell phone read 7 p.m., Nov. 28, 2012. As I drove over the St. Clair Shores city limits line, however, time began to reverse itself, eventually settling on March 26, 1997. Any dullard living in Metro Detroit for the past two decades remembers the savage beating that took place on that fateful evening in Joe Louis Arena, when the Detroit Red Wings/ Colorado Avalanche match-up resulted in a vicious, vengeful brawl. As I pulled into PB’s Sports Grille off Harper, the date reads 1997 inside, but in 2012 the National Hockey League is still negotiating its way out of a lockout. To ease the suffering, PB’s and a local radio station teamed up to “re-air” that iconic March 26 game with the added bonus of guest Darren McCarty – the man who started the brawl – hanging out with the crowd to sign autographs and share beer-drenched tales of violence and sportsmanship. Watching McCarty watch that game made me wonder what he was thinking in those brief moments before turning on Colorado’s Claude Lemieux and pummeling him into submission while every player on the ice was waging hand-to-hand combat in refrigerated warfare. What was going on inside Mac’s head, beside the obvious? A theme song. “Walk, by Pantera!” McCarty said. But why? “Because it was (expletive) war! And I love metal music,” he said, more enthusiastic than before. “The whole song, the sound of it, the DUN DA DUN DUN DUN, DA DUN DUN DUN, the sound of the whole thing just gets me pumped. Like I should have listened to it before I came out.” Thirty miles away in Canton it is the real March 26, 1997. I am 9 years old and surrounded by my friends watching the madness on screen, screeching as pre-adolescents do

when they see something cool on television. My father had been guilty of working too much and had made up for it by allowing 10 hyperactive children sleep over in his living room. McCarty’s antics and game-winning goal kept Detroit glued to its television sets, ignoring lit cigarettes or spilt drinks in the wake of the network-sanctioned brutality that hockey markets so well. The scenes of inexplicable carnage caused us too to ignore the necessities, such as bathroom breaks, while downing gallons of Pepsi. A cigarette can burn a hole in a carpet, but a full bladder can ruin quite a lot more. So it was that night when a greasy-haired neighbor boy – who no one wanted around anyway – was losing the battle to find a proper toilet and decided in a sleepwalking stupor, that my television looked enough like a urinal to do his business. The next day, my father, appropriately high on his own heroism, was met nose-first by an entertainment center covered in dried, sticky urine, VCR and VHS tapes and all destroyed in one foul, though innocent act. Back at PB’s the other night, there were 18 minutes into the first period, and the present-day McCarty seemed the least affected by the manufactured nostalgia trip. PB’s patrons were not far behind him. “I saw this crap 15 years ago,” one drunkard yelled. Another proclaimed her frustrations in poetic verse about abortions pertaining to league Commissioner Gary Bettman and Pittsburgh Penguins star Sidney Crosby. Then the fighting began, and fan chants praising McCarty’s outburst filled the room like a pint glass with a thick head forming at the top of their lips. At last he smiled. At 11 p.m. in St. Clair Shores. I sit and watch the waitresses clean up stale beer, which I know for a fact smells better than stale urine, thankful this time that the memory included cheap beer and meeting McCarty – and not wheeling out another piss-soaked television to the end of my street on garbage day. Somewhere in America, a father is waking up to a wet television. This time, Darren McCarty is not to blame.



BEN SOLIS THE WASHTENAW VOICE
Daren McCarty addresses the crowd at PB's Sports Grille in St. Clair Shores last Wednesday.

U-M hoops off to solid start

By **MATT DURR**
Sports Editor

The University of Michigan men’s basketball team had plenty to be thankful for over the holiday break as the Wolverines won the NIT Season Tip-Off Championship held at Madison Square Garden in New York City. The Wolverines defeated Pittsburgh in the semifinal before knocking off Kansas State the day after Thanksgiving to secure the championship. “That was a key championship for us. It was our first chance at the start

of the season to show people that we’re for real about this season,” said freshman Mitch McGary. “We had a lot of expectations and people had a lot of doubts, but we’re showing that we’re a high-caliber team and we can compete with other high-caliber teams in the nation.” The Wolverines were 6-0 as of Nov. 30 and ranked as the No. 3 team in all of college basketball. It’s still early in the season, but the Wolverines have been impressive in their first few outings, in part because of tremendous depth in the roster. The team has been very vocal about its

team motto: “next man up.” “Everyone can really be relied on out there on the court. That has shown in practice and how we compete,” said senior Eso Akunne. “We’re all fighting really hard for spots, but we all stay united at the same time. Whenever someone has to come out of the game, the next man up is always ready -- that’s why we practice that way.” The Wolverines next big test comes on Dec. 15 when they return to New York to play in the Brooklyn Winter Hoops Festival. Michigan will play head coach John Beilein’s former team, West Virginia, during the festival.



MCT COURTESY PHOTO
University of Michigan’s Tim Hardaway Jr., left, and John Beilein talk during a game earlier this season against Cleveland State. The Wolverines were the No. 3 team in the AP top-25 poll heading into the weekend.

Big Ten expansion gives new meaning to ‘money for nothing’



MATT DURR

The Big Ten Conference portrays college athletics as being about honoring legends and building leaders both on and off the athletic field. But when the Big Ten announced recently that the University of Maryland and the Rutgers University would be joining the conference in 2014, it was clear what the conference and college athletics are really about: money. By adding Rutgers and Maryland, the Big Ten can now tap into the

powerful television markets of New York City and Washington D.C. The Big Ten sees these additions as a way to reach millions of viewers with the conference’s television network. That logic is failed, however, when looking at what really generates ratings for the television network. Just because you can potentially get into more living rooms by offering the network to large population, doesn’t mean they’ll tune it. Misogynistic though it may sound, the only two sports that generate money and television rating are of course football and men’s basketball. I’m sorry, but no sizeable audience in the country will be clamoring to watch Iowa take on Indiana in women’s water polo. Unfortunately, neither one of the incoming schools have much to offer in terms of improving the quality of play in basketball or football. Rutgers has played in seven bowl games in 140 years of football and hasn’t made the NCAA basketball

tournament since 1991. Maryland football at least won a conference title recently, having claimed the ACC championship in 2001 and was the NCAA national basketball champion in 2002. But that success has tapered off as the Terrapins have not enjoyed a Sweet 16 appearance since 2003. Not exactly a reputation that screams “must-see TV.” If the Big Ten wants to gets bigger ratings and reach more people, maybe an expansion that included Oklahoma or Oklahoma State would make more sense. When top-tier teams play, people from across the country will tune in, regardless of regional affiliation. Expansion has become an unfortunate part of the college game, but TV markets can only do so much. Instead of using expansion as a way to strengthen the foundation of the conference, the Big Ten followed the almighty dollar. And in the process ended any talk of being true “legends and leaders.”

2009

Lions 1st round pick: Brandon Pettigrew, tight end, 20th overall
What could have been: Clay Matthews, linebacker, 26th overall

Lions 2nd round pick: Louis Delmas, safety 33rd overall
What could have been: James Laurinaitis, linebacker, 35th overall

What they missed out on: Arian Foster, running back, undrafted

This draft class is the biggest swing and miss for the Lions in recent memory. Pettigrew, while valuable on in the passing game, is a liability with fumbles and a poor blocker. Delmas has only played in 45 games in four years and has yet to play an entire season as a pro without injury. Matthews was the NFC defensive player of the year in 2010 and led a Green Bay Packers defense that won a Super Bowl that same year. Foster was the league's leading rusher in 2010.

2010

Lions 1st round pick: Jahvid Best, running back, 30th overall
What could have been: Rob Gronkowski, tight end, 38th overall

Lions 4th round pick: Jason Fox, offensive tackle, 128th overall
What could have been: Kam Chancellor, safety, 133rd overall

What they missed out on: Victor Cruz, wide receiver, undrafted

Many pundits thought it was a stretch when the Lions traded up for Best and they were right. Best's concussion problems have limited him to a mere 22 games in three seasons and some think his playing days are already over. Gronkowski had the best single season by a tight end in league history in 2011 and is only continuing to grow. Cruz has proven to be one of the league most dangerous receiving options and we all know how much the Lions love their receivers.

2011

What they missed out on: Chris Harris Jr., cornerback, undrafted

What's interesting about these missed opportunities is that the Lions biggest weakness over the last few years has been on the defensive side of the ball. However, had the team drafted properly, they could potentially have a defense full of all-pro players. Also of interest is how many 1st and 2nd round picks are no longer with the team or play no significant role on the team. Without removing current stars Matthew Stafford, Calvin Johnson and Ndamakong Suh these added players would have made the Lions a potential Super Bowl winner. But as has been the case with the Lions for years, "what if," is as close as they'll ever get to know that feeling.

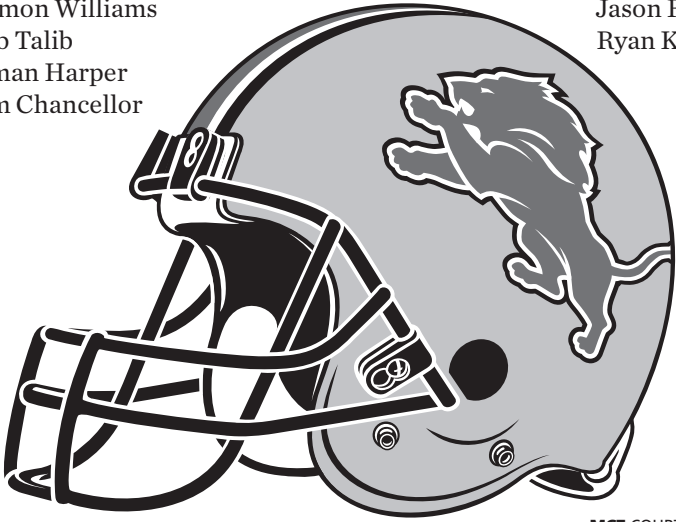
POTENTIAL LIONS STARTERS FOR OPENING DAY 2012

Defense

Cliff Avril
Ndaamakong Suh
Haloti Ngata
Clay Matthews
LaMarr Woodley
James Laurinaitis
Tremon Williams
Aqib Talib
Roman Harper
Kam Chancellor

Offense:

Matthew Stafford
Arian Foster
Calvin Johnson
Victor Cruz
DeSean Jackson
Rob Gronkowski
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Fixed reviews, gaming the system

What to do when you can't trust VG reviews

By Leland Dawson
Staff Writer

The video game industry is a multibillion dollar business fueled in large part by holiday sales. This winter, when giving gifts to loved ones and friends, consumers will have many games to choose from. But not every game is worth its substantial price tag, and many people turn to reviews to discover which one would make the best gift.

There are many places to find these reviews. The Internet has allowed anyone with an opinion and an Internet connection to become a so-called video game journalist. This has caused an explosion of game reviews. A Google search for reviews of the new "Call of Duty" game returns nearly 63 million hits.

To cope with all these different reviews, consumers have gone to Metacritic.com, a review-aggregate website for almost all types of media. For any particular game, the most notable reviews are summarized, and all are averaged out of a 100-point scale.

The problems with the journalism industry stem from how those scores are handled by video game publishers, developers, news websites and consumers. Some sources in the video game industry have said that the difference of one point on the Metacritic average can be the difference of more than \$500,000 in sales.

There are some game publishers that try to get around the Metacritic average altogether by placing a "media embargo" on reviews that aren't positive enough. This allows them to front load highly-favorable reviews when a game is just released and more

likely to sell. Then, three to four weeks later, the embargo is lifted and the other reviews are made public.

Reviewing has also become an important advertising factor for game publishers. In 2007, Gamespot.com Editorial Director Jeff Gerstmann was allegedly fired after he gave a bad review to a game. This happens often, but this game was being heavily advertised on the website at the time. Gerstmann claimed that he was fired because of Eidos Interactive, the publisher of the offending game, pressuring the website.

The fallout was widespread, as many other websites commented on and linked to an interview in which Gerstmann was highly critical of his former employer. Gamespot itself remained silent on the reason for termination, causing more whispers and rumors to propagate.

An important aspect of this fiasco is that the game received a score of 6 out of 10, which the website basically considers slightly below average. The impact was clear for reviewers who were on Gerstmann's side: give big name, big money games a glowing review or you could lose your job.

Creating more potential for false reviews is that some publishing companies offer developers a bonus based on the Metacritic score their game receives. In March of this year, the highly successful game "Fallout: New Vegas" was one point below the requirement for the developer to receive a large payout. That was around the same time it announced the firing of almost 30 employees.

Later, in July, Irrational Games, the creator of the massively popular game "BioShock," announced in a job posting that prospective employees must have worked on a game that



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY CHARLES MANLEY THE WASHTENAW VOICE

received at least an 85 on Metacritic to be considered for employment. The likelihood of other companies following this practice is uncertain, but not unlikely.

There are also developers like Luke Smith, who now works for Bungie, the first developer in the "Halo" series. He used to be a reviewer himself, and proves it is now possible for someone to help a friend and former coworker keep his job, get a better one, or receive a large payout by inflating the score of a game.

They need not be friends for feelings of sympathy to manifest. In his latest game review for BlisteredThumbs.net, Bennet White spent the first minutes explaining how much of a fan he was of the people he interviewed for that game. He understood that people shouldn't take his review as being

impartial because of how close he became to the game's developer. Not all reviewers are this open.

Metacritic recently dropped all the reviews from an unnamed periodical because, "of what I considered to be corrupt practices," said Metacritic Co-Founder Marc Doyle. "There's corruption (in the reviews) – people can be bought, absolutely."

This raises an issue because both Gamespot and Metacritic are owned by the same company. It would be highly unlikely for Gamespot reviews to be dropped from game-review averages for being "bought."

Though there is not much evidence of a widespread conspiracy to inflate game review scores, the system that is in place now not only would allow such corruption to exist, but it would also greatly reward it. All the while

leaving the consumer with no way of knowing what was happening.

Consumers now need to be more aware than ever that a website can't be trusted to be impartial just because it has been before. Thankfully it is easy, through services like Gamefly.com and RedBox, to rent games before purchase. Consumers also have the option to download free demos of games through many different online services such as "Steam" or "XBox Live."

It might not be as fun to receive a game you have already played as a gift this season, but the alternative of receiving a highly praised – yet painfully average game – is much worse. Compounding the issue, most retailers won't offer returns for opened games and used-game buyers and sellers take a hefty cut off the top.



GUITARWORLD.COM COURTESY PHOTO

Soundgarden no longer king of the jungle

By Matt Durr
Staff Writer

It's been 16 years since Seattle grunge outfit Soundgarden put out an album. But after a decade and a half after its members parted ways, the influential rock band's new offering "King Animal," still sounds just way one would expect a Soundgarden album to sound.

But that doesn't mean it's a good thing.

From the album's first track "Been Away Too Long," lead singer Chris Cornell's unmistakable voice makes it feel like vintage Soundgarden. Clearly his voice is not as powerful as it was during the band's initial run, but nonetheless Cornell still has some of the best pipes in rock.

However, Cornell does nothing with

his vocals to differentiate one song from another. The same can be said for the music for the majority of the album. Listen to the first seven tracks or so in a row and it's sort of difficult to tell them apart.

Midway through the album we finally get some variety and it's a welcomed change of pace. "Attrition" has a sort of dirty rock club feel that breaks up the monotony of the album's previous tracks. Written by bassist Ben Shepard, this may be the best song on the album.

"Black Saturday" follows that up with a slower, almost ballad-type opening, until Cornell and company revert back to the same antics that bogged down the first half of the album. The rest of the album is more of the same.

At one time Soundgarden was one

of the world's premier rock-and-roll bands because of loud, powerful music. "King Animal" is void of that. While it's expected that the aging rockers wouldn't be able to recapture the essence of the angry young men that made them so popular, this album feels like they didn't even try.

After Soundgarden's 16-year absence, some may be happy to hear new music from the band. But if you're expecting anything like "Superunknown," save your money for the inevitable tour and pray the group can recapture its sound in a live setting.

Grade: C-
Genre: Rock
Label: Seven Four Entertainment
Length: 52:01



GUITARWORLD.COM COURTESY PHOTO

Crystal Castles leads the future of dance

By Adrian Hedden
Editor

No label can stop Crystal Castles. No stigma of ultra-hip teensters shrugging off musical talent for fashion or prejudicial charges of "Goth" or "techno" can weaken The Castles' ground-breaking stranglehold on dance music across the world.

Easily cast as pioneers of the "dubstep" explosion of the past half-decade, the band's blending of modernistic synth tones and slower, hip-hop tinged drumbeats proposes an eclectic and progressive route for synth-pop to take in reclaiming the dance floor, returning to prominence after more than 20 years of domination from groups exclusively vested in rap and hip-hop.

Crystal Castles has taken the electronica built in the 1990s, dredged it through the hip-hop saturation of American pop music, and emerged a new, innovative sound with a little help from the '80s Gothic-inspired new wave.

Robert Smith, of new wave pioneers The Cure, can even be heard on a remix of The Cure song, "Not in Love," found on The Castles' second album.

But after the Toronto-based synth duo's first two albums established their minimalistic,

retroactive brand of electronica and found the group over-augmenting its simplicity with darker noise experiments, the indie-rockers have returned with their most appealing and danceable effort yet.

The third of Crystal Castles' initial trio of self-titled releases delves into the darkness of dance, bringing influence from the trance and new wave sub-genres and returning to their sound the catchiness and groove that was lost by the second record's abrasive sound collages.

The genre-bending and no-wave appeals of the band's strangled early releases are present, but strengthened with thicker, heavier rhythms on III. Live drums, a rarity in dance music these days, add an even stronger, organic rhythm along with the electric textures.

The commitment to its new influences has found the band addressing a stronger commercial appeal, but in turn sacrifices much of the originality present on earlier recordings.

However, some fans who valued the group's continued punk aesthetic and rock-laced song structures may be disappointed by this departure into pure dance and trance.

Grade: A-
Genre: Dance
Label: Polydor
Runtime: 39:33

Honest Abe

Spielberg’s ‘Lincoln’ uplifts an America wounded by politics

BY ADRIAN HEDDEN
Editor

In the shadows of this year’s controversial presidential election, the relevance and morality of America’s 16th president and the federal takeover his term marked throughout the 1860s is now more poignant than ever.

Released just days after President Barack Obama was elected to a second term, amid contentious debates of the powers of central government, director, Steven Spielberg’s “Lincoln” takes on the complicated and idealistic lawyer from Chicago as he led one of America’s first federal interventions on citizen life.

Spielberg sought out to explain Honest Abe’s philosophy and reasoning behind ending slavery in America with the passage of the 13th Amendment, questioning when America’s vow to respect individuality may be compromised by simple morality.

The director of “Jaws” and “Indiana Jones” succeeded in a weaving complex and unbiased character study with the power to represent

another blockbusting, iconic notch in his directorial career.

Following President Lincoln and the Republican Party’s efforts to pass the 13th Amendment into the U.S. Constitution, abolishing slavery for good, the film displays the passionate politicians and often tenuous debates on the role of federal regulation.

But “Lincoln” was carried by its acting. Spielberg’s signature penchant for filming epic and grandiose historical dramas has become subtle in this latest offering. The veteran director allowed his high-powered cast to stoke the fires of the movie’s political arena, heightening character intimacy with viewers.

The anger and outrage surrounding slavery’s abolishment and its compromise of Southern livelihood was conveyed as a perspective many Americans have yet to consider.

Largely based around intense, philosophical dialogue, the witty and belligerent tirades of Tommy Lee Jones as Rep. Thaddeus Stevens and the verbose, yet soft-spoken delivery of Daniel Day-Lewis as the president lent vivid, passionate animation to what were essentially stale arguments between stuffy politicians.

Many scenes taking place in rustic, sweaty courtrooms result in shockingly explosive debates which

often led to shoving matches between opposing parties. The spite and aggression present in the politics of the past are expressed in terrifying emotion.

Hatred felt between the parties of old seemed to dwarf the mudslinging and venomous claims made in this year’s election. These were politicians shaping our nation, and they knew it. Their visions competed to set the first precedents and establish how America would be run for countless future generations. It was all or nothing.

Spielberg’s choice to put out such a scathingly political, yet uplifting tale during this time of turmoil spoke fairly of the strength of federal government, in moderation. Viewers were given a deep and informed analysis in the need for federal intervention and its many negative side-effects on the American conscious.

It was clear by the end, that all politicians – regardless of affiliation – have one goal they battle for: freedom.

Grade: A
Rated: PG-13
Genre: Historical Drama
Runtime: 150 minutes

WALLPAPERSUP.NET COURTESY PHOTO



CALLOFDUTY.COM COURTESY PHOTO

Grade: B
Rated: Mature
Platforms: Xbox, PS3, PC, Wii U
Developer: Activision, Treyarch

Just make a zombie game already, Treyarch

BY NATHAN CLARK
Managing Editor

Avid “Call of Duty” fans around the world rejoiced when the latest installment of the series, “Call of Duty: Black Ops 2,” hit shelves last month while unsupervised 11-year-olds cleared their throats, preparing to unleash the most hateful and ignorant words ever imagined: too bad a lot of the game feels like recycled material.

The CoD series has always felt a little repetitive by many gamers, some comparing it to the “Madden” series where a game is released every year with only a few changes. But CoD isn’t

like that: a new game is released every couple of years with a short single player experience – and multiplayer madness.

The single-player campaign follows a mixed story arch of David Mason, son of the previous game’s main character Alex Mason, fighting to prevent a global terrorist attack organized by the grief-stricken drug lord Raul Menendez in the year 2025. It includes flashbacks of Mason’s father’s missions from notable events in military history, such as the CIA’s involvement in Afghanistan in the 1980s and the capture of Manuel Noriega in 1989.

Although the campaign is interesting at times with the way it ties together real events in the past with fictional events in the future, most of the campaign feels cheesy and unrealistic. But unlike the previous game, there are several events in the storyline that

will affect how the story progresses. Meaning the campaign is worth playing over again to see how the story changes and how the game ends.

Multiplayer feels the same as any other first-person-shooter, with the exception of better map layouts, where camping is almost impossible now, and the “party games,” in which gameplay modes are more playful and multiplayer ranks are meaningless.

Party games are modes such as “One in the Chamber,” in which everyone only has one bullet; “The Gun Game,” where players’ weapons change after every kill, with the first person to go through them all wins; and “Stick and Stones” where everyone is limited to using crossbows, knives and a tomahawk that will drop an enemy’s score down to zero when hit.

Players can still rank up in the party games, but not nearly as fast as they would in the normal play modes.

The biggest change made to this game is the fan-favorite “Zombies” mode. Players can play an old-fashioned game of surviving wave after wave of zombies with friends, or they can play in “grief” mode where there are two teams either working with or against each other, fighting the zombie horde.

Unfortunately, whether working with or against the other team, only one team can survive in the end.

“Black Ops 2” will be a successful game financially, regardless of the overall quality of its single-player campaign and multiplayer experience. But with the obvious dedication Treyarch put into the zombie mode for its game this time, it should stop beating around the bush and just release a solid zombie shooter and not be concerned with CoD anymore.

Let what’s left of Infinity Ward take care of that.



The famous marquee that welcomes fans to Wrigley Field has been outside the stadium since 1934.

‘Take me out to the ballgame’

WORDS AND PHOTOS BY
MATT DURR
Sports Editor

CHICAGO — Home to Major League Baseball’s Chicago Cubs since 1916, Wrigley Field is one of the most iconic stadiums in all of sports. With its cozy atmosphere and legendary ivy-covered walls, Wrigley is a must-see venue for fans and tourists. Also known as “The friendly confines,” Wrigley Field has hosted everything from the World Series to NFL football games to the NHL’s Winter Classic.

Unlike most stadiums built on

massive plots of land that are cities in themselves, Wrigley is built in the middle of a North Side neighborhood that has affectionately become known as “Wrigleyville.” On a cold October morning after the 2012 baseball season ended, employees took on the tremendous task of completely changing the sod on the playing field. While it seems like a lengthy process, remarkably the grounds crew is able to convert the field each year in a little over a day’s time. These photos provide an inside look at Wrigley Field.



It takes the workers a little more than a day to change the sod on the grounds of Wrigley Field.



A statue of 'Mr. Cub,' Ernie Banks, stands outside of Wrigley Field. Banks still attends games at the stadium during the season.



The view of center field from inside the press box at Wrigley Field. In the background, houses in the surrounding neighborhood have put seating on their rooftops.