

THE WASHTENAW VOICE

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The student publication of Washtenaw Community College
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Always Listening

Counseling Department changes course

More specialization in counselors needed to better serve students

By MARIA RIGOU
Editor

Washtenaw Community College's Counseling Department is undergoing some major changes that will possibly affect the student body, starting this month.

In a statement to the Board of Trustees on the Nov. 26 meeting, Jennifer Baker, president of the faculty union, recognized that there is a need for more support staff in counseling.

"The faculty have been raising the need for more counselors for some time now," Baker said. "Yesterday we were informed that we will be hiring one replacement counselor. Instead of additional counselors, the administration's current plan is to replace two previous counseling positions with full-time advisers at the lowest level possible by the terms of our contract."

In April of this year, WCC President Dr. Rose Bellanca promised that she would hire three new staff members to replace the division counselors that the college has lost through retirements. In July, the faculty union was told that instead of hiring new counselors, the current full-time licensed counselors would be moved to the divisions, leaving no licensed counselors in the Counseling Center, according



Jennifer Baker

COUNSELING
CONTINUED A5

Farewell to a man of many hats — and a feather in one

By NATALIE WRIGHT
Managing Editor

Washtenaw Community College bid adieu to one of its most versatile administrators last week. Faculty and staff gathered in the Morris Lawrence building Thursday afternoon to say goodbye to Ross Gordon, director of Career Services, and to reminisce on his successes and stand-out personality.

Those who worked closely with Gordon were quick to comment on his enthusiasm for his job.

"His energy level is outstanding," WCC President Rose Bellanca said. "And he has just done so much for the school and the students."

Gordon began his tenure at the college in 2009 when he was hired as a curriculum specialist, a temporary assignment. In the almost five



Ross Gordon

GORDON
CONTINUED A5



A polar vortex brought more than a foot of snow and the coldest air in decades to the region last week. KELLY BRACHA | WASHTENAW VOICE

Deep freeze

Arctic weather benumbs school-bound students in their tracks

By NATALIE WRIGHT
Managing Editor

Winter break is a time to kick back, relax and escape the worries of stressful student life. But this year, a polar vortex that hit last week brought not only piles of snow and bitterly cold air, but also anxiety and frustration to students as they prepare to return to classes.

Killing hours while stuck in airports around the country, digging

cars out of more than a foot of snow, calling tow trucks and ravaging grocery stores on Saturday to stock up for the week were probably the last things on students' to-do lists for their final days off.

Those who needed to get to school to meet with an adviser, register for classes or buy their books found it nearly impossible with hazardous driving conditions and sub-zero temperatures that prevented salted roads from thawing.

Students who were out of town visiting family and friends for the holidays ran into obstacles when they tried to return home during, and in the aftermath, of the storm. Road conditions were dangerous, buses and trains stopped short of their destinations, or didn't run at all. And across the country 13,801 flights were cancelled and 66,400 delayed between Sunday and Wednesday, according to Flightaware.com, a website that tracks flight status and statistics.

At Detroit Metro Airport, 355 flights that were expected to arrive in the four-day stretch never departed, and 516 were delayed. On Wednesday, hundreds of unclaimed lost bags were lined up in the baggage claim area, and relieved travelers could be heard swapping war stories from their battles with the airlines.

Chicago and St. Louis, connecting

FREEZE
CONTINUED A3

Cold shoulder

WCC remained open despite the frigid cold



Strolling through the snow-covered campus in sub-zero temperatures last week. KELLY BRACHA | WASHTENAW VOICE

By MARIA RIGOU
Editor

While many other schools and public agencies were closed, Washtenaw Community College's main campus remained open on Tuesday, Jan. 7, and Wednesday, Jan. 8, despite the weather alert warnings of record low temperatures caused by a polar vortex.

Ann Arbor Public Schools system and Eastern Michigan University closed Tuesday due to inclement weather, as well as the WCC Livingston extension site. The Brighton and Dexter extension sites had been closed Monday through Wednesday; they belong to the public school system, which closed because of the weather for three days in a row.

WCC's President Dr. Rose B. Bellanca and her leadership team decided that campus was to remain open last Tuesday. The winter semester in-service for all faculty and staff was held on the main campus.

According to Jason Morgan, director of government and media relations, the college does not have a specific policy on cold-weather closure, and it is analyzed on a

case-by-case scenario. The policy differs from the public school system, where there might be students waiting for the bus in the extreme temperatures, explained Morgan.

"WCC closed on Monday (Jan. 6) because the roads were horrible," Morgan said. "The city, county and court systems were also closed Monday."

Despite the college remaining open, employees were asked to analyze their options.

"Employees should stay home if they do not feel safe driving to school," Morgan said. "(We have employees that) live out in the country and stayed home, maybe because they were snowed-in or maybe because the roads were not safe."

Morgan recognized that the Washtenaw County Road Commission did a great job in plowing the roads just outside WCC.

Regardless, students and faculty needed the extra day to finish registration processes. Tuition payment deadline was moved from Jan. 6 to Jan. 7 due to the college's Monday closure.

"It's good to me... I needed it open

NONCLOSURE
CONTINUED A3



What remains of Happy's Pizza. A fire engulfed the Main Street pizza joint last Tuesday at about 2 a.m. KELLY BRACHA | WASHTENAW VOICE

Fire meets ice

Firefighters struggled to quell blazes in cold

By ALAINA O'CONNOR
Staff Writer

Thick black smoke pierced the frigid air as Happy's Pizza, the once-bustling late-night eatery frequented by students, locals and game-day out-of-towners, was consumed by flames and burned to the ground.

Arctic temperatures, chilling winds and icy conditions the night of Jan. 7 hampered efforts when the Ann Arbor Fire Department arrived on the 600 block of South Main St. just before 2 a.m., armed with trucks, hoses and nozzles. Everything froze during the battle that ended owner Mike Saffo's family pizza business.

"I could see the smoke from my bedroom window," said University of Michigan student Sarah Dries, 21, who rents an efficiency on East Jefferson, just a block away from where Happy's Pizza once stood. "It sucks that it's gone."

Portable heaters were brought to the scene in an attempt to de-ice the frozen equipment and U-M donated one of its buses to convert into a makeshift warming center for the emergency workers.

After several hours, crews attempted to pull firefighters and emergency works out of the building when it became clear that the restaurant was lost. The only thing left to do was to prevent the fire from spreading to other business.

"We managed to put out the blaze later in the day," said Acting Battalion Chief Derek Wiseley, who fought at the scene.

According to Wiseley, city crews were out putting down sand and salt hoping to remove the ice formed by the massive amount of water that sprayed the roads, sidewalks and surrounding structures.

FIRE
CONTINUED A3

Misfit students form community in the SC.

B3

Why you will fall in love with "Her"

B5



Skip classes? It's costing you more than you think.

B2



WHAT DO YOU SEE?

Walsh grads see great old brands up to new tricks.

We love our pets. In 2012, Americans spent \$53 billion on pet food, supplies, over-the-counter medicine, vet care, and designer products like Paul Mitchell dog shampoo, Omaha Steaks pet treats, and Harley Davidson collars. What pets are most popular? Freshwater fish, then cats and dogs and birds, oh my.

Walsh grads see business in everything, and impact great companies everywhere. See more at livebreathebusiness.org/DogTreat.

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complete YOUR
COLLEGE experience!
with Student Development and Activities

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

Ticket: U of M Hockey Games!
Penn State and Ohio State
Only \$10
February 21st and 28th
6:30p.m.
Yost Ice Arena
Purchase tickets at the Cashier's Office

Ticket: Skate at Yost!
Bring your friends and family! Ticket includes: Pizza or hotdogs/pop Optional skate rental \$1
Only \$5
March 8th
Yost Ice Arena
Purchase tickets at the Cashier's Office

Make it take it: Cookies
Wednesday, January 15
Noon – 1p.m.
SC Community Room
We'll provide the cookies, you provide the creativity!

Winter Welcome Day
Wednesday, January 22, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Food! Fun! Freebies!
SC 1st floor & 2nd floors
Learn about clubs and WCC departments while picking up freebies!

Career Services Series
Improve your odds and get the job!
January 27, 28, 29
SC 1st floor & 2nd floors
Learn how to improve your resume, interviewing skills, and job search!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Darwin: Beetles, Books and Blasphemy

Join Biology Professor **David Wooten** for an insightful and unique seminar on the legacy of Charles Darwin.

February 12, 2014
Morris Lawrence Building
6:30p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Talent Show Auditions

If you can dance, sing or wow a crowd with a talent, we need you!

Thursday, February 13, 5-9 p.m.

Towsley Auditorium, Morris Lawrence Building

Sign-up here:
<http://tinyurl.com/WCC-TalentMarch2014>

Upcoming Sports Opportunities!

Women's Basketball Tryouts:

January 6, 8, 13 & 15 from 9:30-11:00 p.m. at the WCC Health and Fitness Center.

Co-ed Ice Hockey Tryouts:

Wednesday, January 8 and 15 from 9-10 p.m. at Buhr Park.

Men's Basketball Tryouts:

Monday, January 13 and Wednesday, January 15 from 9:30-11:00 p.m. at the WCC Health and Fitness Center.

Men's and Women's Volleyball Tryouts:

Tuesday, January 14 and Thursday, January 16 and Tuesday, January 21 from 9:30-11:00 p.m. at the WCC Health and Fitness Center.

Wrestling First Practices:

Tuesday, January 28th and Thursday, January 30th from 7-9pm in ML110 (Police Academy Training Room).

Intramural Dodge Ball:

Registration dates are January 6-16. Game dates: Every Sunday from January 19 through February 16 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the WCC Health and Fitness Center.

Intramural Tennis:

Registration dates are January 6-23. Game dates: Every Monday from January 27-February 17 from 9-10 p.m. at the Chippewa Tennis Center in Ypsilanti.

For all information and registrations stop by SC116, call us at 734-973-3720 or email elemm@wccnet.edu

Keep in Touch! Instagram: WCCSDA, Facebook: Washtenaw CC and <http://tinyw.cc/sda>



Frozen pipes forced Whole Foods Market on Eisenhower Parkway to close early on last Tuesday. ALAINA O'CONNOR | WASHTENAW VOICE

Under Pressure

Local business deals with frozen fallout

By ALAINA O'CONNOR
Staff Writer

Hungry workers on their lunch break, adventurous foodies and families eager to restock their pantries after a massive snowstorm that pummeled the region were ushered out of Whole Foods Market's Cranbrook location last Tuesday when the store was suddenly flooded with water.

"One of the sprinkler pipes froze and the head popped off," said Whole Foods employee Brian Worstein. "It triggered the fire-suppression system and flooded the floor."

The pipe in question was located in the utility closet behind the customer service desk near the entrance. The water spread past the checkout counters and collected near the front of the store.

Whole Foods shoppers were directed through the produce section near the entrance to avoid the gushing water that quickly spread.

"The past few days have been crazy, so I'm not surprised this is happening," said Whole Foods shopper Sunita Bhansali, of Saline.

"This sort of thing doesn't happen every day," said Ann Arbor resident Mary Parkins, who kept things light-hearted during the confusion. "I hope they get it fixed."

Employees managed to shut off the water to avoid further accumulation, but at approximately 3 p.m., the store closed to deal with the flood and fallout.

"We finally fixed the sprinkler. We all worked the night to clean up the entire area," said Worstein. "The damaged merchandise was discarded and replaced with new merchandise."

The grocery chain reopened at 8 a.m. the next day with no permanent damage done to the store.

Whole Foods market isn't the only business that has dealt with flooding due to freezing pipes.

One mile away at Briarwood Mall, a pipe burst at Van Maur early Wednesday morning, forcing the department store to close temporarily. The flood started in the cosmetics department and spread to the women's shoe department.

The store reopened at just before 6 p.m. Store officials had not yet estimated damages.

WCC Foundation offers 30k in grants to faculty and staff

The deadline for applications to Washtenaw Community College Foundation's \$30,000 internal grant program is Jan. 15. The money will be awarded to faculty or staff to support programs or initiatives that directly benefit students.

Applications will be reviewed by the Foundation's Award Committee.

Those approved will receive the grant money on July 1.

The application is available on the Foundation's homepage under the "Foundation Grants" link.

For more information or assistance with the application contact Krissa Rumsey at 734-973-3492 or at krumsey@wccnet.edu.

NONCLOSURE FROM A1

today," said Ray Breckenridge, 21, an electrical engineering major from Ypsilanti. Breckenridge was waiting in line to see a counselor.

Because classes were not in session yet, the employees were most affected by the school's non-closure. Some employees supported the decision to remain open.

"I think it's great for students trying to register for classes," said Testing Center Assistant Wayne

Brown, Jr. "This is helping out a lot of people... It's cold out, though. There were still a lot of people who weren't able to make it out today."

Morgan said that the decision to remain open was based on common sense, but it was a tough decision and it might have been a different one if classes had started.

University of Michigan's campus remained open on Jan. 6 and on subsequent days despite the dangerous road conditions and the chilly weather. U-M hasn't closed its campus due to inclement weather in at least 30 years.

Winter survival kit

With winter in full swing, here are some things you should keep in your car that can help you avoid a snowy dilemma.



Kitty litter is good for traction if you get stuck.



A snow shovel can dig you out of trouble.



Nighttime troubles are worse without a flashlight.



Blankets will keep you warm if you need to wait for help.



A polar vortex affected temperatures in all 50 states last week, causing many travelers to be left stranded due to the extreme winter weather conditions. An estimated 871 flights scheduled to arrive at Detroit Metro Airport were canceled or delayed. Temporarily orphaned luggage flooded the baggage claim area of DTW. KELLY BRACHA | WASHTENAW VOICE

FREEZE FROM A1

points for many traveling to Detroit from around the country, were two of the worst-hit by the storm. Chicago topped the country with 2,340 departing flights cancelled between its two airports.

Arlo Shultis, a 21-year-old music student at the University of Michigan, was supposed to return Tuesday morning from St. Louis, where he was staying with family. But when he got to the airport, he realized his flight had been cancelled.

"It was just really, really, really cold

in St. Louis," he said, "I think that was why it got cancelled, just because of the cold, not necessarily the snow."

It was easy enough to rebook a new flight, he said, and Southwest airlines rescheduled him for free, but he couldn't return until Wednesday night, meaning he missed his first day of classes.

Luckily, he said, he wasn't alone. "So many people were stranded, the school sent out an email to everyone saying that professors should excuse students if they missed classes this week," he said. "So that was a relief."

With temperatures dropping down to 15 degrees below zero on Tuesday and 30 to 40 degrees below with wind-chill, car problems were rampant.

Caitlin Collins, a 19-year-old Washtenaw Community College physical therapy student from Saline found it impossible to get to school to register for classes and buy her books after her car's vacuum pump blew because of Tuesday's sub-zero temperatures.

She got out of work at the Walmart in Saline around 5 p.m. and headed home on Michigan Avenue when her brakes failed. She brought the car to a safe stop,

but was stuck in the middle of the busy road in the middle of rush hour.

Thankfully, she said, some good Samaritans pulled up next to her to block her from oncoming traffic and give her a warm place to sit until the police showed up.

"I finally got here and was able to register and get my books," she said on Thursday, "because my grandma let me borrow her car."

While some students may be dreading Monday's return to busy schedules and homework, at least they can look forward to the 40-degree, partly sunny forecast.

FIRE FROM A1

For some residents, like Michael Whichary, 42, Happy's Pizza was a guidepost.

"Well, I ride my bike in the summer," said Whichary, who lives just a few blocks from Happy's Pizza. "You see those neon signs, you know you're almost home. Don't have that anymore."

It was unclear exactly how the fire

started, but it is suspected to have originated in the kitchen area.

"They believe it was the hood system in the kitchen, but we don't know for sure," said Wiseley, adding that the blaze remains under investigation.

Just when the fire crews regained control of one devastating fire, another ignited. The AAFD got a call in the early morning on Jan. 8 that a fire

had broken out at city-owned Green Baxter Court co-operative housing complex on Green Road.

It took firefighters more than four hours to put out the fire, which is also being investigated.

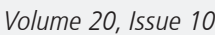
"That blaze displaced six residents," said Wiseley. "There's extensive damage to at least three of the units in the six-unit attached building."

So, how has the extreme weather the region has faced affected emergency responders ability to do their job?

"No matter what kind of weather it may be, the conditions play into it," said Wisely. "Extreme cold and freezing rain. We're always affected by weather especially when you're talking about weather like this. It certainly slows us down."

New year, new laws, renewed commitment

Our best is yet to come.



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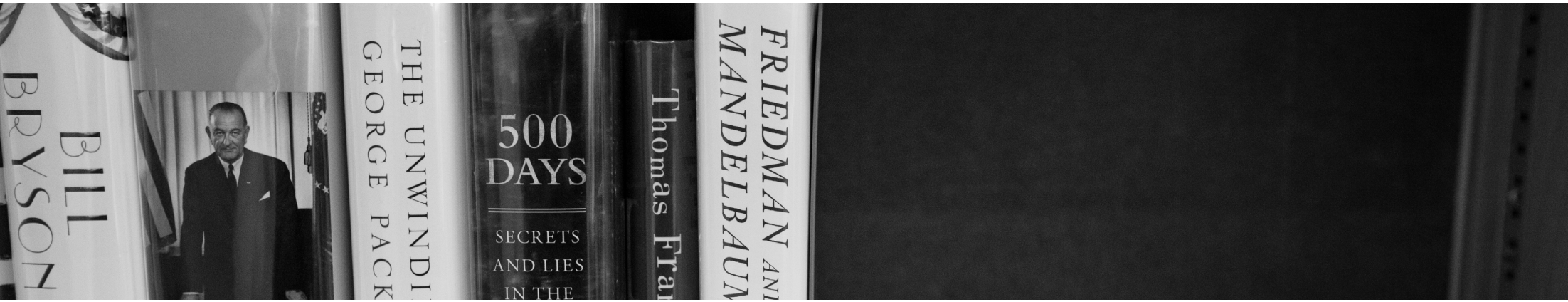
The killing fields

New Year's resolutions are stupid

New semester brings new passion

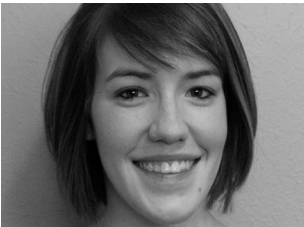
CORRECTIONS

Also in “2013 in review” on page B4, the Pittsfield Township road proposal that WCC trustees opted out of saved \$3 million over 20 years.



KELLY BRACHA | WASHTENAW VOICE

Where are the fiction books?



EMILY ROSE

Something about going to the library to pick out a good book is intriguing to me. When I'm walking up and down the rows of shelves, I get excited about all the places and possibilities that a book can take me to. "Stop by the browsing section and browse the collection of titles that have high current and general interest."

I saw this on Washtenaw

Community College's Bailey Library website, and thought to myself, "We have fiction books on campus?" I was excited to check it out, and after a few minutes of searching, I finally asked a librarian where the browsing section was, because I couldn't find it. She pointed to a section. I could see why I missed it; there were only two shelves. Maureen Perault, the librarian in charge of selecting browsing books, chooses them from best seller lists. "The browsing collection has approximately 250 books, which are selected based on reviews in the New York Times, The Washington Post, and Vanity Fair," Perault said. The monthly quota for the browsing selection is 20 books, give or take

a little depending on the price of the book, according to Perault. Many of the books selected have waitlists up to six months at local public libraries. But why is the section so small? Perault says that every few months, old titles are sent back to make room for the new ones. The college is given a free book for every five that are returned. Why are the old books being sent back? Just because a book is "old," does not mean it is bad. Because of this policy, the section does not grow, it only gets smaller. If you look on the online catalog at the library, you can see what titles are available to borrow. On the first page, there are 15 books, and only four of

them are available. The other books say "no copies found." Then why is it being listed? All this does is bring frustration to those looking for a certain book. At the University of Michigan, the library has 10 million books, and a few thousand are in the browsing collection, according to Amanda Peters, a librarian from U-M. I understand that the U-M library system is a lot bigger than Washtenaw's, but our library takes up an entire floor of the Gunder Myran Building, and there are only two small shelves for a browsing collection? Marissa Coleman, 22, a journalism major from WCC, loves to read and has noticed the lack of books in the library.

"It's really sad to see, not everyone goes to the library for research, and it's really discouraging to those who want to read," Coleman said. As a reader, this is really disappointing. It is so small for a college library. The college has more than 11,000 students, and only 250 fiction books to borrow? The rest of the library is dedicated to research and non-fiction books, but some are so old and are not relevant, especially with access to the Internet. It's time that Bailey Library lives up to its words on its own website and shows us that they care about those students who enjoy browsing and picking up a good book- for the pure enjoyment of reading.

Student Ambassadors pass the baton

By DAVID FITCH
Staff Writer

With the beginning of the winter semester, New Student Orientation Manager Christina Buzas is bidding farewell to some student ambassadors and will soon begin the search for a new group to take up the torch. Student Ambassadors serve the roll of welcoming new students to Washtenaw and helping them with everything from finding classes to getting involved on campus. The three current ambassadors, Alyssa Simmons, Christmas Fielding and Gabby Browning will be transferring from Washtenaw

You may have seen them dressed in classy WCC polo shirts and standing around the second floor of the Student Center or leading groups of bright-eyed new students around the campus grounds. And paid positions will be opening up soon for any interested students. Browning, a 19 year-old history major from Saline, enjoys her role as an ambassador. "I think it's really fun to meet (students) who are coming in and being a friendly face that they can associate with the college," she said, adding, "I highly advise being an ambassador if you enjoy working with people." For another ambassador, Simmons,

19, the job gave her the push to break out of her shy shell. The biology major from Bellville said besides getting to meet new people, working with the other ambassadors is a perk of the job. "We have a really tight-knit group," she said. Buzas said that she will soon begin the search for new ambassadors to fill the shoes of those who will be leaving in May. Since the first student ambassadors began in May of 2012, she has received lots of positive feedback from students. The program also gives ambassadors the chance to "build a unique skill set," she said. "It's a great opportunity for student ambassadors to gain skills."

ON BECOMING A STUDENT AMBASSADOR

The job: Ambassadors welcome new students, give tours, talk to groups about WCC, sit on student panels, and otherwise represent the college to new students and members of the community.

The requirements: Students must have 12 credits completed by May 2014 and have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.5. They must also be able to commit to one year of service.

Pay: Student Ambassadors receive \$9.36 per hour.

To apply: Students must fill out the application, which includes a short essay, and they must supply a resume.

The deadline: Upcoming positions will begin in May 2014. The job listing is typically posted in February.

For more information contact 734-973-3701 or cbuzas@wccnet.edu. Job postings will be made available at <https://jobs.wccnet.edu/>.



With a week before classes begin, students line up to get last-minute counseling.
KELLY BRACHA | WASHTENAW VOICE

COUNSELING FROM A1

to Baker. Dr. Patricia Taylor, dean of Support Services and Student Advocacy, said this change will serve students well. "Moving full-time counselors to the divisions will make them more specialized (in a particular area)," Taylor said. "And adding more people will give more service to students." The Counseling Center is estimating that it will see 39,000 contacts this academic year. Contacts are defined as the visits that students make to the Counseling Department, with no distinct separation between counseling and advising appointments. This is not the same as unique visitors, because there is duplicating in cases where a student returns to the center. Anne Greashaber, part-time adviser, said that the Counseling Department has been overwhelmed for a while now. "We are doing more with less," Greashaber said. "We have expanded hours, but there is no more budget... We need more help in counseling." The changes to the department have not been made clear, and some staff members are expressing confusion. Full-time counselors will be assigned to specific divisions, such as the Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences department, and advisers and part-time staff members will stay within the department to tend

to general advising and counseling services. However, it is not clear as of right now how the advisers will serve students, and if there will be a future need for additional hires. With the new format, students who are enrolled in programs within those divisions will be assigned to the full-time licensed counselor responsible for the division, but this is not exclusive. Taylor explained that students could still stay with their advisers or counselors, if they wish; they don't necessarily need to go to a divisional counselor. However, this might not be the change that the Counseling Department needs. Baker said that hiring only one full-time licensed adviser is a small step in the right direction, but something else has to be done. This change will be in effect after the winter semester starts, as the registration period is always a busy time, Taylor said. Additionally, Baker said at the board meeting that faculty and staff need to be focused on the strategic plan and stay true to the college's mission. "Our college strives to make a positive difference in people's lives through accessible and excellent educational programs and services," she said. "Providing quality counseling services is core to our mission." "We are a center that operates with a lot of people," Taylor said. "It's all about the students."

Club Sports Tryouts

- Women's basketball**
When: Jan. 8, Jan. 13 and Jan. 15, 9:30-11 p.m.
Where: Health and Fitness Center
- Men's basketball**
When: Jan. 13 and Jan. 15, 9:30-11 p.m.
Where: Health and Fitness Center
- Women's volleyball**
When: Jan. 14, Jan. 16 and Jan. 21, 9:30-11 p.m.
Where: Health and Fitness Center

- Ice hockey**
When: Jan. 8 and Jan. 15, 9-10 p.m.
Where: Buhr Park in Ann Arbor (Students must bring their own hockey equipment)
- Men's volleyball**
When: Jan. 14, Jan 16 and Jan. 21, 9:30-11 p.m.
Where: Health and Fitness Center

GORDON FROM A1

years since, he has migrated around the school working in project management, event planning, as an assistant to the vocational dean and as tool-crib supervisor in the Vocational Technologies division. He became the interim dean of vocational technologies in July 2010 where he stayed for two years. Then, in July 2012, he accepted the interim director of Career Services position, in which he led the department's transition from Student Services to the Workforce Development. Overall, Gordon said, he has served in four official positions and had six offices. Michelle Machiele, Career Services student adviser, said that Gordon's wide range of experiences at the school has benefitted the career services team. "He really knows this school inside and out," she said. "This means he's really able to convey to employers how and why to connect with our students." Jason Morgan, director of government and media relations said that Gordon is always a "go-to" when he is looking for campus tour guides. "He is just so enthusiastic and energetic and he knows everyone



WCC President Rose Bellanca and former administrator Ross Gordon meet the college mascot during Gordon's farewell party. KELLY BRACHA | WASHTENAW VOICE

and everything," Morgan said. The source of his enthusiasm? Student success. This was the one thing everyone at the party had to say about Gordon: "He is passionate about seeing students succeed." This passion is the reason students now have Career Connection, a website that does exactly what its name implies, and has streamlined the way Career Services operates and relates to students. "Career Connection is a real feather in the cap for Ross, for him to have helped build that during his tenure. It's something that will benefit the school for years and years to come." So why is Gordon leaving WCC? He was offered a position at Bank Supplies, as director of customer

relations, which, he said, he turned down at first, but eventually was convinced to accept. However, just because he's leaving the school, it doesn't mean he's leaving his passion for the success of its students. "I'm not leaving the area, so I will still be around and will be involved with the school in whatever ways I can as a community member," he said, adding that he hopes to support WCC through the Foundation and Career Services. In fact, he said, his new company has posted a position on Career Connection, and plans to attend the retail and supply chain career expo. So the man of many hats is making his final move away from WCC, and, Bellanca said, WCC is sad to see him go.



WCSD Community Engagement Director Derrick Jackson, Sgt. Beth Gieske and Campus Saftey Director Jacques Desrosiers presented information on how to respond in the event of a live shooter on campus.

JON PRICE | WASHTENAW VOICE

Police offer guidance on active-shooter threat

By JON PRICE
Staff Writer

Washtenaw Community College officials for years have taken the issue of random campus violence seriously, but the 2012 schoolhouse shooting in Connecticut raised the stakes, officials say.

“After Sandy Hook, law enforcement started receiving a lot of calls,” said Derrick Jackson, director of the Washtenaw Sheriff’s Department Community Engagement. Jackson addressed college faculty and staff in two sessions of last Wednesday’s winter semester in-service. He was accompanied by Sgt. Beth Gieske.

The topic: How to respond in the

event of a live shooter on campus. The goal: To provide college employees with critical information on how to conduct themselves in the event of a school shooting.

The presentation provided staff with the most up-to-date information on how to deal with violent individuals posing a serious threat on campus.

In the wake of recent school shootings, the sheriff’s department began fielding a number of inquiries from parents and school administrators, wondering how they should respond in such a worst-case scenario.

“Now we have trained almost every public school staff person in Washtenaw County,” said Jackson, who is also an instructor at Eastern Michigan University, adding that such random violence can come in many forms.

“It can be a one-on-one thing, it

doesn’t have to be a well-thought-out Columbine situation,” he said.

Gieske presented an educational slide show, showing a number of options to deal with the hypothetical scenario in the safest manner possible. The steps adhered to the helpful acronym, ALICE, an acronym for alert, lockdown, inform, counter and/or evacuate.

Alert: “Call 9-1-1 first, use whatever technology is available and contact the authorities. Keep them on the line, even if you can’t speak to them,” said Gieske.

Lockdown: “This will give you a time barrier,” said Jackson, stressing the importance of buying precious minutes in a live-shooter situation. “Eighty-six percent of shooters are stopped when the police arrive.” But there is of course a lapse of time before the police will arrive on scene, when potential victims are most at risk.

“It may take the police 9-15 minutes to arrive, with two to three people possibly being killed per minute,” Jackson said. “You do the math.”

Inform: Gieske reiterated the importance of keeping law enforcement up-to-date with the most current information available. Campus Safety Director Jacques Desrosiers completed a project earlier this year, installing landlines in every classroom, ensuring that bad cell service won’t impede contact with the authorities in the event of an emergency.

Counter: “If there are no other options,” Gieske said, “not necessarily attack, but utilize noise, movement, distance and distractions,” to disorient a shooter in close proximity. However, she urged staff to avoid a confrontation with a gunman.

Evacuate: last but certainly not least, whenever possible, get the hell out of

there, the police said.

Gieske, Jackson and Desrosiers fielded questions from members of the audience, mostly clearing up hypothetical “what-if” situations, and reminded those in attendance to be “mindful not fearful.” They encouraged dialogue about these situations with students.

English instructor Carl Seaver agreed that while it may seem uncomfortable for some, it is an important conversation to have with his class.

“You’re not unnecessarily alarming them, because things like this happen,” Seaver said.

This was the fourth year presentations were given on an active-shooter situation to WCC staff, but Jackson reminds audience members that new techniques often emerge as our society becomes, unfortunately, more familiar with school shootings.



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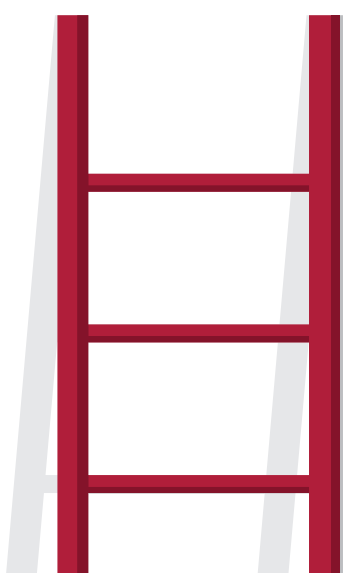
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Cost of convenience generally low at WCC



The food in WCC's vending machines is a bad value in contrast to campus restaurants. KELLY BRACHA | WASHTENAW VOICE



By ERIC GARANT
Staff Writer

We’ve all experienced the cost of convenience – at airports, hotels, movie theaters, wherever. Businesses know they can get away with charging more when it’s inconvenient or impossible for consumers to leave and get goods elsewhere.

Food services at Washtenaw Community College generally avoid this. The markup on some items is closer to that of a gas station than an

airport, and the food options available on campus are reasonably healthy compared to those available at restaurants in the area.

For example, a quarter-pound burger from The Spot costs \$4.99 and has 516 calories. By comparison, a Quarter Pounder with Cheese from McDonald’s costs \$3.69 and has 520 calories. But, the McDonald’s burger has 4.1 more grams of fat, and also comes with nearly half of your daily recommended intake of sodium. The Spot also offers a veggie patty with 391 calories and 8 grams of fat.

A five-piece order of chicken

tenders from Arby’s costs \$4.99 and has 590 calories, 42 grams of carbohydrates and 28 grams of fat. A similar order from The Spot costs \$4.29, has 500 calories, 29 grams of carbs, and 33 grams of fat.

The coffee shop offers several cold sandwiches and salads at rates that are comparable to restaurants and grocery stores in the area (\$4.99 for a turkey wrap or baguette, \$5.49 for an Italian sub, \$4.49 for 15.2 ounce garden salad, \$5.49 for a chicken Caesar salad, to name a few). And its coffee prices are not much more than McDonald’s and less than Starbucks.

Nutrition information was not available for food at Garrett’s Restaurant. With most entrees ranging from \$6.95-\$8.50, its prices are at or below those of most sit-down restaurants.

An exception to the rule of good value is campus vending machines, where all food items are dramatically more expensive pro rata than options available in grocery stores. But this is a trait of vending machines everywhere, not just at WCC.

Another is the Cottage Inn cheese bread available at The Spot. A full order of regular cheese bread from the

restaurant costs \$4.99. For \$2.99 at The Spot, you get a small fraction of this. In The Spot’s favor, though, the markup on pizza slices is a pretty measly 50 cents.

If that number seems high, consider the trade-offs involved in driving the one-and-a-half miles to Cottage Inn to get the better deal: giving up a parking spot, gas (albeit not much), and time.

For most Americans, and particularly college students, time is by far the most precious resource. With that in mind, paying a slight cost of convenience may be a reasonable trade-off.



HEALTHY VOICE

Time for healthy food – and it’s not that scary or expensive



M. M. DONALDSON

Many people believe that they do not have time for healthy food.

Two Washtenaw Community College students catching lunch between classes during final exams week both felt this way.

“It’s easier to buy fast food,” said Faizan Haque, 22, a pre-engineering student. Worrying about being on time to his next exam, he quickly consumed an order of cheesy breadsticks with marinara sauce and a slice of green pepper and onion pizza from The Spot. Rationalizing his thoughts on healthy food in-between bites, he concluded, “It’s worth it to eat healthier.”

For the Michigan Good Food Charter, healthy food “provides nourishment and enables people to thrive.” Granted, a main portion of their message is to promote Michiganders



There are many creative ways to serve the seasonal bounty of vegetables for the family to enjoy. COURTESY PHOTO | MCT CAMPUS

having access to good food produced in Michigan, thereby positively impacting the overall health of all residents.

Regardless of one’s locale, food corporations encourage the masses to believe they are getting nourishing products. And the food corporations have been extremely generous with offering the added bonus of obesity with clever packaging and marketing.

Students’ short-term goals may be to nourish their hunger with the choice of restaurant food or processed food. Either choice has seemingly deflected the bad-rap junk food usually receives. Junk food has been the poster-child for bad nutrition, by providing lots of calories but little to nothing in the ways of vitamins and essential minerals.

However, processed foods are high in saturated fats, added sugars and sodium. The Centers for Disease Control

lists the long-term consequences of too much of these three additives causing nutrition-related diseases, far from allowing people to thrive.

For students living on a tight budget and having a schedule full of work and school, food tends to be an expense that is first to be cut, or made more efficient. They may inadvertently consider healthy food a luxury for those with time and money.

“It takes more work to make it healthier,” said Miranda Traverzo, 19, a general education student. She admitted that her diet could be better if she could “stay away completely from fast food.”

Eating healthier takes time to plan menus and make shopping lists. The tasks of shopping, preparing food and cleaning up afterward has to be coordinated with work and school schedules, not to mention, studying and sleeping.

Lunch for Traverzo was fast food, but she confessed to making a conscious choice to eat the healthier option of a Subway club sandwich over pizza, chips or pop. Healthy food to her means natural food, fruits and vegetables, non-processed foods, noting her opinion that fast food has excessive sodium and fat.

Both Traverzo and Haque selected fast food at the college commissary, but their respective dinners the night before where home-cooked.

Haque listed eating a baked chicken leg quarter with a cup of white rice. He added that he has been avoiding snacks and sports and energy drinks due to the high amounts of sugar.

Traverzo detailed eating a baked chicken breast, a cup-and-a-half of green beans and one half cup of mashed potatoes.

The term healthy food means

so many different things to people. Organic, raw, fresh, unprocessed, “Eat this miracle food and lose weight!” (insert Dr. Oz voice-over for full effect) are a few buzz words that further confuse the issue. These definitions, partial or not completely accurate, are unfair to make synonymous with healthy food. Sorting out these definitions for Traverzo or Haque is another time commitment.

“Food becomes intimidating (at the store),” Haque said. “I just want to eat.”

M. M. Donaldson is a staff writer with The Voice and a journalism student at WCC. She has a bachelor’s degree in Family and Community Services from Michigan State University, and has several years experience with nutrition issues affecting infants through older adults. She can be reached at mmorrisdonaldson@wwcnet.edu

The Road goes ever on and on...

In the footsteps of Bilbo's journey through New Zealand, a student encounters herself

BY EMILY STOUT
Voice Correspondant

I've followed countless times as Bilbo runs impulsively from his door at Bag End – past the pigs, through the vegetable garden, and over the weathered fence, gaining momentum as he races along the footpaths of Hobbiton. His eager anticipation is palpable, as the first steps of his journey unfold. When asked where he is off to in such a hurry, Bilbo shouts the essential mantra for every soul propelled by wanderlust: "I'm going on an adventure!"

Without a doubt, this adventure is real. I can tell you I've stood at the gate of Bag End and gazed upon the rolling hills of Hobbiton. I've lain in the grass where Bilbo's 111th birthday party was held. And when I couldn't take any more photos of the iconic landscape from my childhood musings, I was presented with a complimentary beer at the Green Dragon Inn.

Arriving in Middle Earth marked the realization of a goal I had set for myself many moons ago. The goal was simple: Travel to New Zealand within the next five years. I arrived with three months to spare in the fifth year – and no shortage of spirit.

"There is nothing like looking, if you want to find something... but it is not always quite the something you were after."

Unlike my own journey, Bilbo's was indeed quite unexpected. I am sure many of us can identify with the reluctance Bilbo felt before leaving the comforts of his own home in search of adventure.

But without challenging opportunities, how are we expected to test our resolve? Bilbo did not find the Ring in a pretty field with flowers, and we also must embrace uncomfortable, sometimes dark, situations if we hope to

uncover treasures of great worth.

With Hobbiton checked off my must-do list, I joined an adventure bus that gave riders the chance to experience New Zealand as a dynamic and cohesive tour. I had embarked on this trip alone, and was concerned that the personalities in the group might interfere with my wanderings and wonderings.

What surprised me was how quickly this mixed bag of international travelers was able to foster a meaningful atmosphere – group dinners, family photos, cakes and cards celebrating the birthdays of recent-strangers.

"There are no safe paths in this part of the world. Remember you are over the Edge of the Wild now, and in for all sorts of fun wherever you go."



The Party Tree of Bilbo's infamous 111th birthday party, with view of the Green Dragon Inn. Matamata, NZ. EMILY STOUT | WASHTENAW VOICE

It didn't take long for me to get attached to my new companions. They pushed me to explore adventures that even my typically open mind had written off. On the eve of one particular daytrip, my roommate took it upon herself to convince me I should join.

Her efforts resulted in one of the best highlights from my trip: driving through a lush rainforest to go hiking on a frozen glacier. "It's just ice," I had told myself, but the vast, constantly moving landscape presented a staggering purity that I'll never forget. To be such a minute visitor in a wild arena capable of such natural force was awesome in the truest form.

Above-ground hiking was not our only wild encounter. Donning wet-suits and rubber boots, we spent an afternoon crawling and squeezing our way through the glowworm caves of "Planet Earth" fame. I'm not sure what I expected, but I found myself encased in a few tight spaces desperately fighting off claustrophobic paranoia.

You can do it. Don't be a wimp. If he can fit through, so can you. None of the typical mantras brought any relief; my only motivation was the understanding that forward motion was the only thing keeping me alive.

When I look back, I realize that my moments of confinement account for less than 10 percent of the afternoon, which helps me to recall the canopy of luminescence and the bellows of group laughter more clearly.

I also consider the fact that Bilbo, while equipped with the Ring, did not

have any glowworms or friends to help him find his way out. (I'd like to note that there are multiple ways to experience the infamous glowworms that do not require any amount of hiking or squealing. Please do not be dissuaded.)

It was encounters like these that allowed me to trust more fully – both in my own capabilities and in my communion

with others. But as much as I had come to appreciate the benefits of my close-knit group, I resolved to cut ties with what was familiar and easy and comfortable, and once again venture out on my own.

"If more of us valued food and cheer and song above hoarded gold, it would be a merrier world."

I spent a few weeks dating myself. Romantic dinners were enjoyed poring over a new book, while generous glasses of wine continued to pour nearby. Lazy days were spent entirely

in bed.

Photo walks through the numerous gardens were followed by late-night strolls along the harbor. Intimate moments were shared with complete strangers, as I remained open to the intelligence and stimulation within.

Make it a point to find and enjoy local delights – there are plenty of adventures hidden within daily endeavors if you are just willing to dig a little.

Maybe you'll jump in a car with five strangers to see a live rugby match, but I can guarantee you won't come home strangers. Maybe you'll book a

in leaving the comforts of Bag End, I encourage everyone to rebuke the complacency that comes with material possessions, and take the first steps of your own adventure.

You may find that a lack of tangible distractions allows a clearer sense of identity and confidence to shine through, whether you share it with companions or treasure it internally. An adventure can be in the next neighborhood or the next country, just as long as it removes you from your comfort zone.

Through the soaring highs and the



Down from the door where it began... Bag End and the gate. Matamata, NZ. EMILY STOUT | WASHTENAW VOICE

flight to see that seven-piece funky-soul-reggae band and discover a native ghost along the way.

Perhaps you can splurge and attend a red carpet premiere of the latest Hobbit film. But what do I know? I'm just some girl who stuffed her life in a backpack and boarded a plane.

Just as Bilbo took a leap of faith

heavy lows, I have found more fulfillment and satisfaction in three months of wandering than in years spent on my own couch. Because when it comes down to it, each of us is "just a little fellow, in a wide world after all."

See more photos of New Zealand at www.washtenawvoice.com



An inviting Hobbit hole in Hobbiton. Matamata, NZ. EMILY STOUT | WASHTENAW VOICE

Volunteers help students help themselves

WCC prepares mediators to intercept ‘school-to-prison pipeline’

By JON PRICE
Staff Writer

Two seventh-grade Washtenaw County students were involved in an altercation in March. Though the fight lasted only about 30 seconds, the consequence was an explosion that kept the boys away from their peers and out of their classrooms for the remainder of the school year.

“When they came back the next year, they were having trouble readjusting and reconnecting with their peers after such a long absence,” said Belinda Dulin. She is the executive director of the Dispute Resolution Center that works with the schools to keep youths in the classroom while giving students the tools they need to resolve future issues in a thoughtful and civil manner.

“We gave them an opportunity to think about what they had done, what they were thinking at the time of the fight, and got a chance to hear how their peers and teachers felt while they were absent from school,” Dulin said.

Ultimately, the boys were able to work out their problems in the presence of DRC mediators and got a precious second chance at school and a friendship with one another.

The Michigan State Police Criminal Justice Information Center statistics show there were 601 juveniles arrested in 2012, more than 400 of whom were 14 years old or younger.

Zero-tolerance policies in schools often leave administration with little-to-no option when determining how to handle school-house scuffles, but programs like the DRC attempt to neutralize the situation before it becomes violent.

Students who were expelled for minor infractions of school rules because of harsh “no tolerance” policies

proved far more likely to end up in the criminal justice system. This trend is known as the “school-to-prison pipeline.”

“The school-to-prison pipeline refers to the policies and practices that push our nation’s schoolchildren, especially our most at-risk children, out of the classrooms and into the juvenile and criminal justice systems,” according to the American Civil Liberties Union.

In Washtenaw County, a group of mediators who receive their 40-hour training at Washtenaw Community College is determined to challenge the vicious cycle in their communities.

The Dispute Resolution Center specializes in mediation work, conducting volunteer-outreach programs in the communities and schools of Washtenaw and Livingston counties.

The main office is located in the Washtenaw County Service Center located just south of the WCC campus, on Hogback Road. It is the last stop before the juvenile detention center and the courthouse.

The center gives students the tools to settle disputes before they become violent.

“I train adults to be mediators and I train the students to be peer

mediators,” Dulin said. “This training has been approved by our State Court Administrative Office, which is an administrative arm of our state Supreme Court.”

“Our center can handle any type of dispute, where there isn’t a criminal adjudication process going on,” Dulin said.

The center has volunteers who me-

of this program is getting kids to problem-solve early on in a conflict. We are reducing the days of suspension. We are giving them tools to be better conflict managers. We are exposing them to more effective ways of problem-solving. And we are certainly creating a more safe environment for students to get their education in.”

The program in Ypsilanti Community High School is in its second year. Volunteers, who are trained mediators, work in the “Restorative Center,” an office in the school whose sole purpose is helping students resolve problems among themselves, or with administration.

“Part of the change that you see right now is when we have conflicts the kids are beginning to talk through what is wrong,” Principal Justin Jennings said. “They talk about it as opposed to fighting.”

Jennings is determined to keep his students in the school system, and he believes the key to keeping students engaged is by building relationships and teaching civic pride.

“The more we suspend a kid, that’s the less time that they’re in the classroom,” said Jennings. “That’s going to cut out on learning, and we really can’t afford to not have those students in their seats learning.”



Mediators for Ypsilanti Community High School meet to discuss students’ issues.
KELLY BRACHA | WASHTENAW VOICE

mediate in many different settings, offering a cost-effective, alternative to small-claims court. Arguably the most important work done by the DRC is in the community’s high schools.

“We have set up conflict resolution services for the students to engage in,” Dulin said. “The underlying premise

The district has one school resource officer who is a police officer who works with students. But Jennings thinks a more useful tool in deterring violence is giving students an opportunity to build strong relationships with each other and the community through restorative practices and a partnership with the DRC.

“At the beginning of the day, for me, the most important thing is to make sure the students and staff are all safe and secure,” Jennings said. “The culture that we live in now is just violence.”

By helping students work out their problems before they become physical altercations, the DRC in its partnership with school aims to decrease the amount of suspensions, offering a brighter future for at-risk youths who might otherwise end up introduced to the juvenile-court system.

The mediators at YCHS are all volunteers. Most have full-time jobs. The reasons they volunteer may differ, but they all seem to have one common goal.

“Our goal is creating an environment that they feel safe in, safe enough to be able to talk and share what’s going on internally,” said Joseph Alexander, a volunteer mediator who does work at the outreach program at the school.

“One of the main reasons I’m here, is to break the school-to-prison pipeline,” Alexander said. “These children are being misunderstood, not given an opportunity to say the things they need to say, so they act them out...this gives them an opportunity to come down, get it out and say what they need to say. And we can provide them with the tools they need to take back to the classroom.”

There is little doubt school violence has changed the way administrators deal with conflict amongst students. The mediators work not only to make sure that the hallways and classrooms are a safe environment, but to keep students from ending up in trouble with the law because of a lunch-room scuffle.

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SC alcove a ‘Magic’ spot for many

By DAVID FITCH
Staff Writer

A group sits at a table, eyes glued to handheld gaming devices, at times shouting out in victory or groaning in defeat. Across from them a table full of young men are engaged in a game of Magic: The Gathering, a trading card game. One player draws a card from a stack on his right. Other students simply sit together in conversation. All seem to be enjoying the company.

At the south end of the Student Center, many students find their niche.

Nick Slane, a member of the “crowd,” said that the area gives space to those who had previously perhaps been on the fringes of social standings. Slane, a 21-year-old biology major from Ann Arbor, hangs out there with many others who share some of the same interests.

“Within the group, no one’s on the edge,” Slane said.

Although the area often is home to people of various crowds, according to several students in the area, the group is primarily composed of Gamer’s Club members and those associated with the Gamer’s Club.

“The most predominant group that I have seen over here would have to be nerds. Any given time you can come over here and see half a dozen of these (Gameboy DS’s) or more laying around,” Slane said.

Matt “Bear” Vancena, 39, previously the president of the Gamer’s Club, said that the group has always been at home in the area. Previously, Vancena said, the group took up a significant amount of space in the “Study Pub,” at times spilling out into the larger Student Center.

“When they rebuilt this, we just kind of took over,” he said.

But this “takeover” was a friendly, open one, according to Slane, adding that the area is open to anybody as long as they are friendly.



The area next to the Community Room in the Student Center is ‘home’ to a large crowd many days. Primarily populated with ‘gamers,’ many students share games of Magic: The Gathering, or on portable gaming devices such as the Gameboy DS. DAVID FITCH | WASHTENAW VOICE

Culinary arts student Rodney Mallory, 20, agreed, saying that the area was open to whomever.

“It doesn’t interrupt anybody,” he said. “It’s just what they do.”

But the Gamer’s Club isn’t the only group represented among the ranks of the crowd. Members of “Out-Space,” an LGBTQA club, and members of the

“Furry” community often socialize in the area.

“Furries,” as they call themselves, are those interested in anthropomorphic cartoon animals. Members enjoy imagining their own human-like animal character.

“It’s how you see yourself,” said Wesley Turner, 20, the president of

the newly formed club.

According to Turner, there is a certain stigma associated with being a “fur.”

“There are people who judge us as horrible people,” he said.

The area, according to Slane, offers a place of acceptance to those who have been previously denied social

significance or dignity.

“Usually, a lot of the people who end up doing a lot of that (gaming) in high school were very shy, ostracized. Nerds, geeks, all that. So we all feel really comfortable around each other,” he said. “It’s not the same type of social pressure that you might have if you tried hanging out with somebody else.”

Independent study gives WCC student filmmakers a unique movie project

By DAVID FITCH
Staff Writer

A handful of Washtenaw Community College students are blazing their own path to go beyond what the school offers in its video program.

The group, with the help of video instructor Matt Zacharias, has created its own one-semester independent study course, for which they will receive credit for producing a short film of at least 25 minutes.

The group includes students Kevin Jackson, 58, of Ann Arbor, Travis Reynolds, 24, of Ypsilanti, Jeremy Liesen, 28, of Ypsilanti, Shane Law, 27, of Hartland, Scott Campbell, 24, of Bellville and Justin Erion, 24, of Plymouth.

And this will not be the first time that many of the group members have worked together. Several collaborated on previous projects including films for the Ypsi 24 Hour Film Shootout and the Detroit 48 Hour Film Horror Project. Their entry in the latter won awards including Best Horror Movie and Best Original Music Score in December.

“Because of the deep talent, Matt Zacharias offered us the opportunity,” said Jackson, who spoke highly of his

teammates’ abilities and work ethics. “These guys, they’re good,” he said. “A true artist is always creating, and these guys are true artists.”

Reynolds, 24, of Ypsilanti originally came up with the idea with the goal of creating a longer film than he had previously been involved in creating. He said that he looks forward to working with the others in the group, remembering his experience with them in the Detroit 48 Hour Film Horror Project.

“One of the few times where I was in a group where we all clicked on a creative level,” he said.

And the group has already begun work on its film.

Law said that the piece will potentially focus on a photographer who wakes up after a rapture-like event that claimed one-third of humanity. He also said that the piece would most likely be “minimalistic,” adding, “it’s not going to be a happy-go-lucky movie.”

The group hopes to submit the piece to film festivals, Jackson said.

Originally, the group considered making a longer film, but after consideration, decided on the 25-minute piece. But Jackson said that this is simply a starting point and that the film could grow to be longer.



(Left to right) Shane Law, Travis Reynolds, Scott Campbell, Kevin Jackson, Justin Erion and (not pictured) Jeremy Liesen collaborated with video instructor Matt Zacharias to create an independent study video course. KELLY BRACHA | WASHTENAW VOICE

Local songwriter brings craft to Washtenaw



Melissa Welsh shares her song in the final performance of a songwriting course taught by local musician Spencer Michaud. DAVID FITCH | WASHTENAW VOICE

By DAVID FITCH
Staff Writer

Students sang about everything from losing their keys to wanting to get away from Michigan in the year-end performance for a songwriting course at Washtenaw Community College last semester.

The performance, which took place in the Student Center Community Room, while not a comfortable task for some performers, showcased students’ prowess as artists.

Local singer-songwriter Spencer Michaud has been teaching a songwriting course at WCC for the past several years and has been bringing students the opportunity to express themselves and to hone their skills.

Michaud, who plans to soon release his own EP, gives students practical information related to being a musician from his own experiences.

“There’s kind of a different flavor (each semester) based on my creative endeavors,” said Michaud.

And for some, the class is an oasis where they can develop their dreams and hear from others on the same paths.

“Sometimes our class can be a bit

like group therapy, too, because we are talking out issues that may have prevented us from expressing ourselves fully,” Michaud said. “(People) like being able to see that they are not alone in that process.”

Thomas Harris, a 20-year-old music production student from Ypsilanti, had been producing music for years when he took Michaud’s course, but he still found the class helpful.

“It allowed me to connect my thoughts with my emotions,” said Harris. “It’s a way to vent. You can just take the class to learn how to write your feelings down on paper.”

Lindsey Klebba, 19, of Hartland, who already writes music and performs extensively, said that the course was helpful. And she spoke highly of Michaud.

“He’s very knowledgeable and a lot of fun,” she said.

And Michaud has a different message for his students than they may hear outside the classroom.

“That’s another cool part of the class is people get to talk about, well, maybe a parent wasn’t as supportive of this and said that they couldn’t do it, or maybe they said that they had to quote-unquote ‘get a real job’ or something like that,” said Michaud.

“I try to be balanced, I say that being a musician is hard work. It’s not an easy job... if they put their mind to it, and they keep at it and keep working at their craft, that there are ways to make a living being a musician and doing creative things,” he said. “That’s not something that everyone is telling them all the time.”

And besides helping students hone their skills individually, the class gives the chance to make connections and to work with others. Often instrumentalists and songwriters from the class teamed up for a project.

“We kind of turn into a creative family by the end of the year,” said Michaud.

While he cannot take credit for his students’ successes, Michaud acknowledged that it is exciting to see where students go from his class. Former students include Jetty Rae, Dan Henig, and Joshua Simmons.

Rae has been a featured artist in multiple festivals and events including being picked by Sarah McLachlan and Terry McBride as a local artist to perform at Lilith Fair in 2010. She has released several albums. Henig is an Ann Arbor-based singer/songwriter who achieved Internet fame when his cover of “Get Low” by Lil Jon and The East Side Boyz went viral.

‘Mr. Banks’ not so supercalifragilisticexpialidocious

Disney film nails the feeling, lacks in story

By EMILY ROSE
Voice Correspondent

“Saving Mr. Banks” is the story behind the beloved 1964 Disney classic, “Mary Poppins,” when Walt Disney (Tom Hanks) is determined to garner the rights from author P.L. Travers (Emma Thompson).

The year was 1961, just six years after Disneyland opened in Los Angeles. Her book royalties are becoming scarce, which forces Travers to meet with Disney once again to try and create a movie deal. Disney had promised his daughters he would turn the novel into a movie, but dealing with Travers is not that easy. She will not comply unless they fulfill her every wish.

Thompson plays the snobby Australian writer to the T. The movie shows several flashbacks to Travers’ childhood, as she grows up with an irresponsible father (Colin Farrell). He drinks himself to death, causing the mother (Ruth Wilson) to consider suicide. The children needed a nanny to take care of them, and the story of Mary Poppins was born.

The producers could not have picked a better actor to play Walt Disney. The widely beloved Hanks nails the acting and looks the part of the legend that is Walt Disney.

The best part about the movie is the soundtrack. The Sherman Brothers (B.J. Novak, Jason Schwartzman) were the musicians for the original Mary Poppins soundtrack. In “Saving Mr. Banks,” the brothers do a great job of updating the music, but still keep with the classic ‘60s tone.

The costume design for all the characters is spot on, as was the set design. The filmmakers did a great job of making you feel as if it was the mid-1960s again.

The movie has a good storyline, but it is very anti-climactic. I was waiting for that moment where you were on the edge of your seat, but it never came. This is a movie that I won’t be dying to see once it is released on DVD.

Grade: B
Genre: Drama
Runtime: 120 minutes
Rating: PG-13



COURTESY PHOTO | LATIMES.COM



Swaroop Bhojani and his wife Sumi create foods using whole grains, raw fruits and vegetables and lots of spices. Bhojani tries to go back to basic foods that taste great and will give the body what it needs. ‘The best part of this food is the way you feel afterwards,’ he says. DAVID FITCH | WASHTENAW VOICE

Hut-K Chaats at a glance

Prices: Expect to pay \$7 to \$10 for a typical lunch or dinner meal, which includes a beverage.

If you go: For a snack-like meal, try the *Dahi Sev Puri*, or for a more substantial meal, order the Samosa Wrap-Roll. If feeling adventurous, try Katie’s Surprise.

For more information: www.hut-k.com or call 734-786-8312.

Philosophy of food presentation

Who: Swaroop Bhojani

What: “Understanding the Fuel We Feed Ourselves”

When: Jan. 30, 6-8:30 p.m.

Where: Ypsilanti District Library-Michigan at 229 West Michigan Ave.

The human experience captured by ‘Her’

By NATALIE WRIGHT
Managing Editor

In poetry of color, light, music and language, writer/director Spike Jonze simultaneously portrays the infinite possibilities and the infinite limitations of the human mind.

In “Her,” his first solo-writing venture, Jonze has created a story that is equal parts heartfelt love story, haunting science fiction and philosophical exploration.

The film, set in some unspecified place and time in the future, follows Theodore Twombly (Joaquin Phoenix) who falls in love with his new operating system, or “OS,” Samantha (Scarlett Johansson). This “OS” is the first with artificial intelligence, meaning her personality and knowledge expand with every moment and experience.

Like Samantha, the audience will find themselves discovering new emotions that build on each other exponentially and are nearly impossible to put into words.

Viewers will easily lose themselves in this alluring love story and the personality it takes on. Everything from the cheesy jokes exchanged between

Theodore and Samantha to the soul-pouring, life-sharing conversations, make this couple the definition of what we all seek in our relationships. Theodore shows Samantha the world, and she shows him how to be caught up in amazement by it.

But suddenly, while viewers are lost in rapture of the perfection of this couple’s love, an eerie, uncomfortable feeling will wash over them as they remember that this is a story about a broken-hearted, broken-down man falling in love with his computer.

Beyond the love story, this film is a depiction of the ongoing the merger between our dependence on each other and our dependence on technology, and the increasing detachment among the human race. But rather than condemn, it shows not only the sadness, but also the beauty and the inevitability of this evolution.

Primary colors and retro costume design help to keep this incredibly lofty movie grounded. But the performances, more than anything, make it relatable.

Phoenix may be the only person who could portray the loveable, pitiable, and somewhat creepy Theodore so perfectly. His frantic giddiness

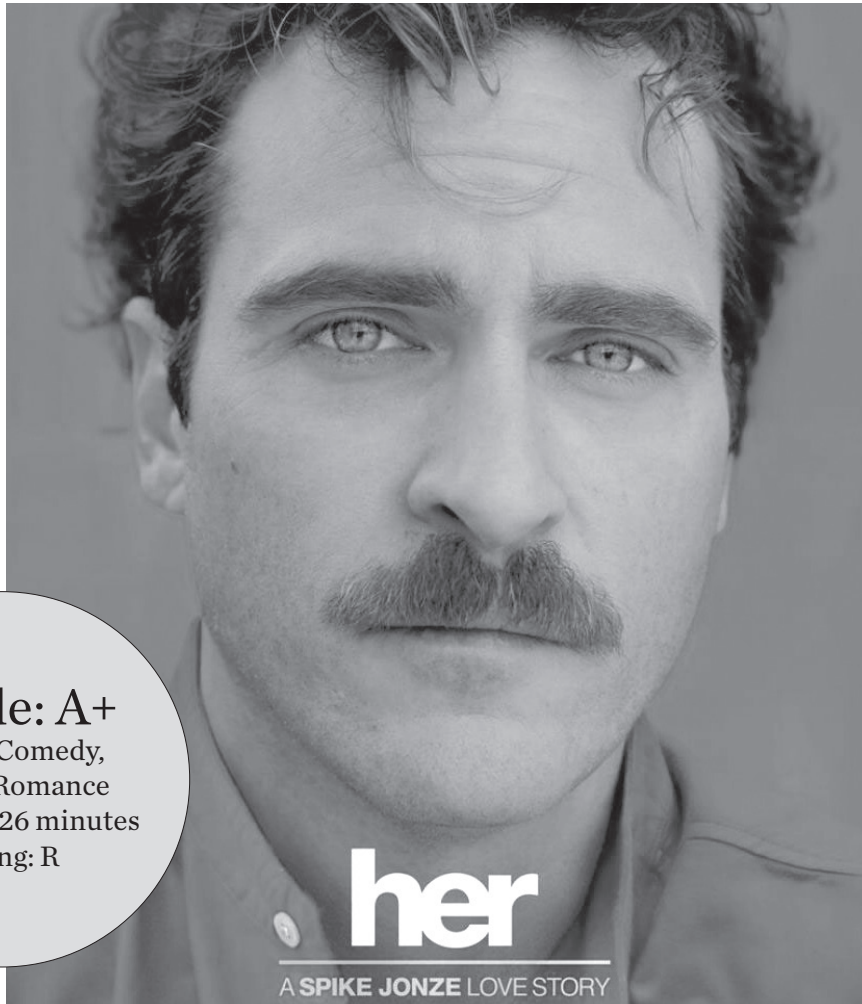
during the high points and his stoic depression during the lows prevent this film from ever feeling dull, despite 90 percent of the movie consisting of Theodore alone, communicating with Samantha via earpiece.

It’s remarkable how with only her voice, Johansson brings Samantha to life. The earnestness in the tone of her voice and the way she delivers her lines makes Samantha feel more human-like than so many human movie characters.

At one point she questions whether her emotions can be considered “real” or if they are just the result of programming. It will bring you to tears. What thought could be more human? This question has been central throughout centuries of philosophers’ musings.

Every piece and every moment of this film ties together in one of the most complex, yet accessible films of recent years. This layered story will be watched and re-watched and analyzed and re-analyzed for years to come. It is a classic of our time.

Grade: A+
Genre: Comedy,
Drama, Romance
Runtime: 126 minutes
Rating: R



COURTESY PHOTO | HERTHEMOVIE.COM

Indian street food makes inroads in Ann Arbor

By DAVID FITCH
Staff Writer

Swaroop Bhojani is passionate about comfort food, but not the kind you are thinking of. He is passionate about healthy, raw comfort food—chaats, to be exact, and a wide variety of other creations.

Bhojani is the owner of Hut-K Chaats.

Chaats, he explained, refers to Indian street food. The word describes food “so good you want to lick the last bit off the plate,” according to Bhojani.

Hut-K Chaats has locations on

the corner of Platt and Packard in Ypsilanti, and near Main Street in Mark’s Carts in Ann Arbor, and soon near South Campus in Ann Arbor.

The researcher-turned-foodie, who holds a doctorate degree, is passionate about giving people the food that their bodies want and that they will love – the same food that changed his life six years ago.

That’s when Bhojani was diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes, like millions of other Americans. He was taking medication to control the condition, but was not content with that solution. He began researching nutrition and

started to try to get off of his diabetes medication.

“I put together a diet for myself,” Bhojani said.

The diet sought, among other things, to replace processed sugars, oils and processed foods with healthier options. He began eating more whole grains, using fruits and vegetables to sweeten food, and using healthy herbs to season food.

It worked. Bhojani was able to get off his diabetes medication. He and his wife, Sumi, started the business in an effort to share their newfound health and nutrition with others.

Bhojani looks at the body’s systems as machines, and like machines they must be cared for, he said.

“How do you take care of these machines? There is no other way than food,” he said.

In 2012, Bhojani left his position as a radiation oncology researcher at the University of Michigan. He says that he doesn’t miss his old job; he has found his passion.

And don’t worry, Hut-K Chaats doesn’t skimp on flavor. Staying true to its Indian roots, the restaurant dishes up flavorful, colorful, delicious dishes for a reasonable price.

Their menu features chaats, comfort foods like soups and salads, “wrap rolls,” an assortment of beverage concoctions, ice cream and a collection of “back 2 roots” foods, featuring pizzas and other various creations.

The produce is fresh, the atmosphere is clean and inviting, and the food is delicious, or “nutrilicious,” as Bhojani likes to say.

So, whether you are a hardcore carnivore or a health-food guru, Hut-K Chaats will offer something new and different from nearly any other dining option in the area.

‘FTL’ – entertaining space adventure, and a bargain

By MIKE ANTHONY
Voice Correspondent

If other space adventure games like “Mass Effect” or the latest “Star Trek” game left you yearning for more space travel, then Subset Games’ “FTL”: Faster Than Light” just might be the game for you. And at one-sixth the cost of a normal game there is no excuse not to try it.

FTL is a space-strategy rogue-like game in which you command a ship with the goal of delivering vital data to the Galactic Federation in hopes of defeating an army of rebellious human supremacists.

To do this you will take command of a single ship with the ability to travel faster than light. You and your crew will travel from sector to sector completing missions, assembling crew, bartering for weapons and droids, and upgrading your ship while you prepare to lead the Galactic Federation in one final showdown with the rebel forces.

FTL is influenced by table-top board games meaning you will spend the whole game looking down at a cross section of your ship and the tiny sprites of your crew as you command them much like the bridge scenes in “Star Trek.”

Part of the beauty of FTL is that even though you aren’t directly in the action like most action games, its masterful use of sprites and sounds will have you feeling true dread when pirates board your ship, or when a rogue solar flare starts a fire in your engine room and you can no longer run away

from the slavers bearing down on you.

Moments like this really set FTL apart from other games. The way that FTL pulls you into the moment always amazes, and it’s able to do this better than most triple-A games. Also, while on the subject of sights and sounds, it’s important to note that FTL has one of the best game soundtracks – period. Beautiful yet subtle, the soundtrack of FTL sets the mood perfectly without being intrusive or distracting.

As fun as FTL is, it can be extremely unforgiving, and it will take potentially dozens of attempts just to make it to the final area for the first time. FTL randomly generates each game, and all deaths are permanent, meaning you will be restarting a lot.

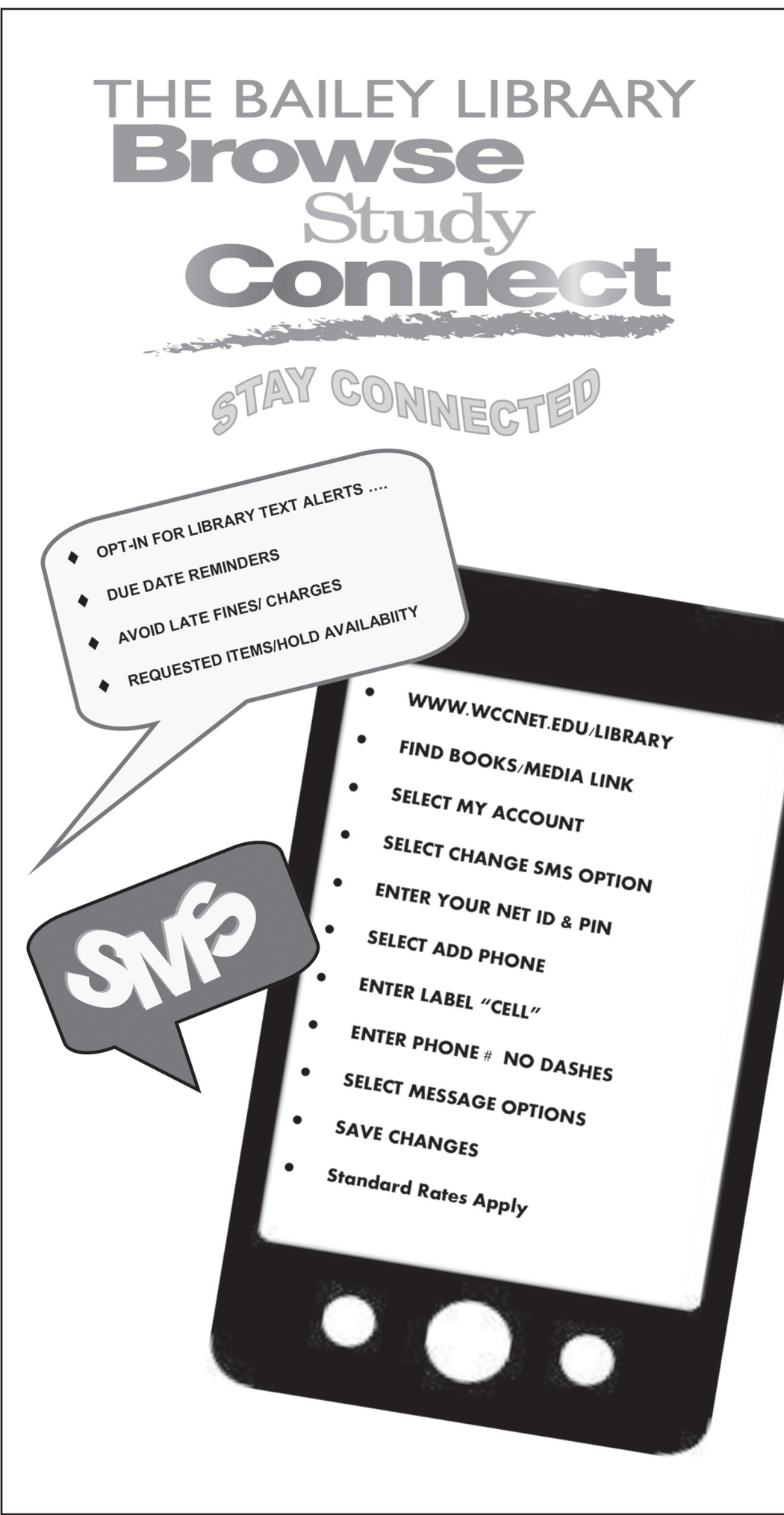
Luckily, FTL can be beaten in under an hour, and death isn’t usually frustrating since it normally feels like it was your fault. All this adds up to create a game that realizes space travel and the feel of commanding your own spaceship better than most other games.

At just \$10, FTL is a game that is affordable and an absolute must-play for gamers of all kinds. And with mods and a free expansion coming that will add new ships, weapons, enemies, upgrades and a plethora of other things FTL could easily keep you entertained for dozens of hours.

FTL is available through Steam, GOG.com, Amazon, or directly from the developer at FTLgame.com and is available for Windows, Mac OS X, Linux, and with an iOS port expected early this year.



COURTESY PHOTO | GAMEREVIEW.COM



Scorsese in top form in dark, edgy ‘Wolf of Wall Street’



COURTESY PHOTO | THEWOLFOFWALLSTREET.COM

Grade: A
Genre: Comedy,
Crime, Biography
Runtime: 179 minutes
Rating: R

By ERIC GARANT
Staff Writer

“The Wolf of Wall Street” sees legendary director Martin Scorsese approach familiar ground in a new way. The film tells the true story of Jordan Belfort (Leonardo DiCaprio), a stockbroker who amassed great wealth in the 1990s by taking advantage of clients and ignoring the law.

Scorsese is probably the world’s foremost director of movies about organized crime. A film about a group of men working outside the law to fill their pockets is right in his wheelhouse. But his past work down this line – “Mean Streets,” “Goodfellas,” and “The Departed,” to name just three – were all serious dramas. “Wolf” is a strange and decadent dark comedy.

Belfort is a family man when the story begins, but is soon taken in by

the temptations of the Wall Street lifestyle, which involves a lot of sex and even more drugs. Matthew McConaughey, in an unforgettable cameo, plays Belfort’s first boss. He takes the young broker out for a lunch that would scare off a man with any sort of moral compass.

After losing his first job as a stockbroker when the market crashes, Belfort takes up work selling penny stocks, which are lousy investments

but allow him to earn a 50 percent commission. He sleazily pushes the near-worthless stocks onto unsuspecting clients, building up enough wealth to open his own firm, Stratton Oakmont.

There, he surrounds himself with cronies and teaches them how they, too, can defraud people out of their life savings. His lieutenant is Donnie Azoff (Jonah Hill), a shambling man whose devotion to Belfort may have

to do with more than just business.

The day-to-day life at the brokerage is portrayed as an endless and exceptionally well-funded frat party. One of the film’s opening shots is of Belfort playing darts in the office with a dwarf. As in using the dwarf as a dart.

Belfort does prodigious amounts of Quaaludes and cocaine throughout, and gives passionate/insane speeches to his workers that are somewhere between Alec Baldwin’s memorable speech in “Glengarry Glen Ross” and the ravings of a drunk high school football coach.

Typical of a Scorsese film, “Wolf” is fast-paced and visually creative. DiCaprio frequently breaks up scenes by stepping away from the action and addressing the audience directly. Scorsese, who is always loath to let his camera to stop moving, gives us the voyeuristic feel of penetrating into the heart of something.

“Wolf” has an expansive 179-minute runtime, but it just never lets up enough for it to feel nearly that long. Belfort is an extremely challenging role, and DiCaprio is fearless in going to whatever lengths necessary to keep the comedy and tension high. And Hill does an admirable job keeping up in a role that demands depths of him that we’ve never seen.

Scorsese’s “After Hours” (1985) remains one of the strangest of all American comedies, a pitch-black film that left the viewer wrung out as the stress of its events became almost unbearable. “Wolf” is his first crack at humor since, and it’s similarly hard to pin down. The laughs are near-constant, but always feel hollow. What happens on screen is hilarious, but it’s hilarious because it’s so wildly perverse.

What is Scorsese up to here? Is the comedy designed to involve and thus implicate the audience? To imply that we’re all guilty for our nation’s state of fiscal ruin? That our collective passivity and naïveté allowed men like Belfort to run us into the ground?

Few comedies beg such questions. “The Wolf of Wall Street” proves yet again that in the realm of American films, there is Scorsese – and the rest.

Skipping class?

Absence makes the wallet grow lighter

By ERIC GARANT
Staff Writer

One lesson many college students have learned over the years: freedom isn’t always a good thing.

There are plenty of differences between college and high school, but the biggest might be that in college, you don’t have to go to class if you don’t want to. There are no truant officers, and there usually aren’t hectoring parents. If you want to skip class, no one is going to stop you.

The only force compelling you to attend the classes you enroll is yourself and your desire to learn.

Oh, and there’s a financial incentive.

At the current rate of \$91 per credit hour for in-district students, plus a \$7 per credit technology enrollment fee, a standard three-credit class costs \$294. Assuming that the class meets 30 times (twice weekly), each absence represents just shy

of \$10 down the tubes. If the class meets only once a week, double that. For a \$392 four-credit class, each absence costs you just more than \$13 if the class meets twice a week and about \$26.12 if it meets once a week. Many classes also have a contact hour fee that bumps their price an additional \$150. Three-credit classes that include this fee cost \$14.80 per meeting for twice-weekly classes and \$29.60 for once-weekly. For four-credits, it’s over \$18 for twice-weekly and over \$36 for once-weekly.

Again, no one’s forcing you to attend class in college. But when you miss classes, you’re costing yourself more than just points and information.

The Voice asked several students and instructors how many classes they thought were acceptable to skip per semester. Some took a rather hard line.

Nicole Cloud, 19, a social work major from Milan said, “One. Because personally, if you’re not there, why

would you pay for the class?”

“I don’t like to see them skip at all,” communications instructor Tim Fahlstrom said. “Zero.”

Some were a bit more liberal.

“I don’t like any more than two,” sociology instructor Diane Rosenthal said. “When you get more than that, you miss a lot of the interaction. Even if they memorize the book, they lose the impact.”

“Not more than a few,” Hope Wade, 16, a psychology major from Superior, said. “It probably depends on the circumstances, though.”

Some were much more liberal.

““I don’t know, I’d say four. Because things come up,” Brian Stoll, 43, a liberal arts transfer from Ann Arbor said. “You’re doing other things in your life. School isn’t everything.”

“It depends on the situation. I’d say five. It seems like a reasonable number,” Charlotte Rogers, 22, a nursing major from Ann Arbor said.



Empty seats in the classroom cost students a lot of money. KELLY BRACHA | WASHTENAW VOICE

Sudoku

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PUZZLES.CA

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MCT CAMPUS

ACROSS

- Business attire
- Somewhat
- Punches hard
- Tolstoy, Æs, Æ Karenina, Æ
- Jazz singer Horne
- Packing rope
- Hot spot connection
- What gears do
- Addition to a school, say
- Noncash executive compensation
- Siamese or Abyssinian
- Solo in, Æ Star Wars, Æ
- Seminary deg.
- Dog tags, for instance
- Close boxing match outcome
- Part of a foot
- Norway, Æs capital
- Low soccer score
- Aquatic plant
- Work wk. end for many
- Æ, Æ Lama Ding Dong, Æ: doo-wop hit
- Enter
- Hurricane rescue op
- Omnivorous Looney Tunes devil, familiarly
- Folgers competitor
- Greek letter between phi and psi
- Airline approx.
- Tee or blouse
- Sandwich meat
- Randomly determined NBA draft choice
- Æ, Æ Me, too, Æ
- Use a piggy bank
- Overflow with, as charm
- Prelude, for short
- Hawaiian strings
- Thief, Æs haul
- Explosive experiment
- Felt tips and ballpoints
- Dumbo, Æs wings

DOWN

- Log cutters
- Condo division
- Æ Inside, Æ facts, briefly
- Meditative exercise regimen
- Teardrop-shaped nutlike snacks
- Answering machine cue
- Part of MIT: Abbr.
- South Seas getaway
- Substitute (for)
- Æ To thine Æ self be true, Æ
- Ohio city
- Work on dough
- Titillating cellphone messages
- Green Hornet, Æs sidekick
- Extremely
- Male deer
- Game on horseback
- Valid
- Christmas toymaker
- Gadget used on an apple
- Æ the fields we go, Æ
- PC alternative
- Relax in a hammock
- California, Æs Santa Æ
- ICU drips
- Poet whose work inspired, Æ Cats, Æ
- Director
- Preminger
- Woman on stage
- Bok Æ: Chinese cabbage
- Consumes avidly
- Take a stand against
- Series of links
- Lacks
- Word before five or ten
- Æ -steven
- State known for its caucuses
- Business bigwig
- Gunpowder holders
- Æ, Æ Doubtfire, Æ

Answers

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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

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

Local business owners: Looking for help? Post your free help wanted ads in *The Voice*. Send ads to thewashtenawvoice@gmail.com.

Note: Deadline for the Jan. 27 issue is Tuesday, Jan. 21 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

HELP WANTED
“Rock stars wanted!” Jimmy John’s in Ann Arbor is now hiring the best sandwich-makers and delivery drivers. Must have a killer work ethic, rock-star personality and be ready to learn! To apply stop by 3365 Washtenaw Ave or e-mail your resume to washtenaw@jimmyjohns.com.

Below is a sample of recent employment want ads which have been posted with WCC Career Services. Students are invited to read these ads and to contact Career Services to find out how to apply for the openings. Career Services is located in ML 104. For more information, phone (734) 677-5155, email careers@wccnet.edu, or visit www.wccnet.edu/careerconnection/.

Motorcycle/Motorsport Technician. Dick Scott’s Classic Motorcycles is seeking an experienced and certified technician. Responsible for performing vehicle repairs as assigned in accordance with dealer and factory standards. Must have certification!

CNA. Interim Healthcare is hiring CNA staff, 35-40 hours, immediate hire to experience the fulfillment of caring for the

elderly in a home setting. Looking to hire candidates who are willing to work a variety of hours, including weekends, holidays and overnight shifts. Most shifts available are from 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., seven days a week. Job requirements: Completion of CNA courses; assist seniors with all activities of daily living, such as personal hygiene, bathing, toileting, nutrition intake, medication reminders, enriching companionship and light housekeeping. Successful candidates must submit to pre-employment drug screening and a criminal background check. Must have or have the ability to obtain negative TB test, and reliable transportation.

Assistant Infant/Toddler Teacher. Jellybean Daycare & Preschool is looking for an assistant infant/toddler teacher. The position is part time (about 20 hours/week). Rate of pay depends on education and experience. Must be willing to take trainings

and have (or obtain) first-aid and CPR certification. Looking for someone who has a CDA or is working toward a child-care degree and has experience in a daycare center.

Cooks and servers. Olga’s Kitchen is looking for cooks and servers. Up to 40 hours a week; hiring immediately.

Caregiver, Home Health. Shared Care Services, a private-duty home health care solution of Evangelical Homes of Michigan, is seeking to welcome new part time/contingent caregivers to our expanding team, servicing the Washtenaw County and surrounding areas. Responsibilities include: providing personal care and assistance with daily living activities for our clients; assisting clients with meal preparation and feeding; reminding clients to take medication in a timely manner; transporting and accompanying clients to and from appointments (if applicable); communicating clients’ status and progress; providing compassionate care and services through love and patience

Accounting Assistant. To accurately complete the payable functions to meet the requirements of the company and its customers. Responsibilities include: receive, process (deposit) and enter branch customer payments; payable invoice coding

and entry; coordinate with corporate accounting on bi-weekly payable check runs, including distribution of checks to vendors; file invoices; reconcile sub-ledger to general ledger; perform accounts payable accruals; prepare working papers as requested by corporate accounting; maintain vendor database; field vendor phone calls.

IT Support Specialist. Perform day-to-day UNIX/Linux, and Wintel configuration, consultation, and desktop support. This position works closely with internal and external customers regarding hardware and software related issues. CAD workstation and PC desktop support is a key component of this job. Additional responsibilities will include participating on teams both as a leader and a member, and working closely with the business managers within the organization throughout all phases of IT project implementation, and incident resolution. Using the incident-management system to handle and resolve Service Desk tickets.

Automotive Entry Level Technician. Suburban Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram of Novi is hiring full- and part -time entry-level technicians, oil change technicians and porters.

Borges firing first hint that Hoke is under fire, too



By ERIC GARANT

In a move that shows he understands the pressure he's under, Michigan football coach Brady Hoke fired offensive coordinator Al Borges last week and replaced him with someone with a national championship ring.

Though the Wolverines averaged 32.2 points per game, the team struggled all year to run the ball, and quarterback Devin Gardner was turnover-prone. Borges is known for quarterback development, but failed to help Gardner reach his potential.

Doug Nussmeier will take over as offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach in 2014.

"The passion he has for the game of football and for the young men that he leads is what coaching is all about," Hoke said.

Nussmeier spent the last two seasons at Alabama in the same role. He will be tasked with doing for Gardner, and eventually Shane Morris, what he

did for Crimson Tide quarterback A.J. McCarron.

Calling the program "Quarterback U", Nussmeier expressed great enthusiasm for becoming a Wolverine.

"When you say 'Michigan', it's synonymous with football," Nussmeier said.

Borges came to Michigan with Hoke in 2011 and took over an offense led by Denard Robinson. With Robinson's speed providing a constant threat to the defense, Michigan averaged 5.2 yards per carry in 2011 and 4.8 in 2012. Without Robinson this season, that number fell to 3.3 yards per carry.

Michigan's offensive line let it down this year, failing to consistently

provide lanes for its runners, but Borges never adjusted to it. Until the last game of the regular season, when he designed a gameplan full of screen plays and misdirection that confused Ohio State and let the Wolverines keep up with a superior opponent, Borges never showed the creative flair that his situation required of him.

Though the line was in shambles, the offense Borges led had plenty of weapons: a multi-talented quarterback, a trio of capable running backs, and two elite receivers in Jeremy Gallon and Devin Funchess. No matter how poorly the guys in the trenches fared, there were ways to make this offense hum, and Borges just didn't

find them often enough.

Nussmeier will be expected to turn things around quickly, and there's cause for optimism. Under his tutelage, McCarron completed more than 67 percent of his passes, averaged more than nine yards per attempt, and threw 58 touchdowns against only seven interceptions. Those are gaudy numbers in any context, but are particular impressive in the SEC.

Gardner may never see the field the way McCarron does, but he's a far more gifted athlete. Nussmeier's job will to be a design an offense that maximizes his unique strengths.

And as recent events indicate, failure is not an option.

BIG 10 BASKETBALL PREVIEW

Spartans lead strong field heading into conference play

By ERIC GARANT
Sports Writer

The Big 10 is a basketball conference, and it has been for a while. The days of Bo Schembechler and Woody Hayes and a legendary football rivalry are past; these are the days of Tom Izzo, Bo Ryan, and Thad Matta.

The conference has been represented in four of the last five Final Fours, and entered the Big 10 season with three teams in the top five of both the AP and Coaches' polls.

Big 10 teams might not get the type of national attention as Duke or Kentucky, but make no mistake: those teams want no part of Spartan green in March. While its football programs have gotten soft, Big 10 basketball has only gotten stronger.

Here's our conference preview, with all statistics as of Jan. 6:



Michigan State Spartans

Since Tom Izzo took over the program, the Spartans have done nothing but win. That won't change this year. Armed with a deep and athletic roster, 2014 could easily be the year Izzo claims his eighth Big 10 championship.

The starting backcourt of Keith Appling and Gary Harris is one of the nation's finest. Appling is a prototypical Izzo point guard: smart, tough, experienced and highly competitive. Harris is a good complement, a strong two-way player who can stretch the floor and take over some of the ball-handling duties.

The development of power forward Adreian Payne into a consistent outside shooter gives the team a strong third option offensively, while small forward and freak athlete Branden Dawson is something of an X-factor.

Izzo gets the most out his players, and he has made it to Final Fours with considerably less talent. There are no guarantees in sports, but the Spartans are certainly a team others will want to avoid during the Big Dance. Expect them to have a high seed and to advance deep.



Ohio State Buckeyes

Undefeated entering conference play, including a blowout win at Marquette, the Buckeyes look to be among the best teams in the country.

Ohio State ranked first in the nation in Ken Pomeroy's defensive efficiency ratings, allowing just 85.8 points per 100 possessions. Ohio State has length and athleticism across the board, and 6-foot-11-inch center Amir Williams provides shot-blocking at the basket.

The Buckeyes will need their extraordinary defense to carry a very ordinary offense that relies too heavily on wings LaQuinton Ross and Lenzelle Smith Jr. Ross and Smith are the only consistent shooters on the team, and Ohio State struggles to keep the floor spaced without both on the floor.

One way to account for a lack of spacing is to simply not play in the half-court, which the Buckeyes are often able to do. Through 14 games, Ohio

State opponents were averaging more than 15 turnovers per contest, and guards Aaron Craft and Shannon Scott had combined to average 4.7 steals per game.

Things will get tighter during conference play, but Ohio State's lockdown defense should let it hang with anybody and keep its hope for a one or two seed alive.



Wisconsin Badgers

Perennial stalwarts during coach Bo Ryan's 12 seasons in Madison, there's no reason to expect anything different from the Badgers this year. Ryan gets his team to play sound fundamental basketball.

Wisconsin moves the ball well offensively and doesn't beat itself defensively. The Badgers ranked 10th in the country in offensive efficiency and 11th in defensive efficiency, joining only Louisville as teams to rank in the top 11 in both categories.

Shooting is the Badgers' greatest weapon: all five of its top scorers are hitting 37 percent or more of their three-pointers, including a stunning 42.1 percent for seven-footer Frank Kaminsky.

The only question mark for Wisconsin will be if can keep up with the more athletic teams in the conference. Ryan's teams have struggled to score in the past against quicker, more active teams. If it can handle its business in the conference, though, Wisconsin has a good chance of claiming a one-seed in the tournament.



Iowa Hawkeyes

Coming off an NIT championship in 2013, Iowa seems poised to take a step forward in 2014.

The Hawkeyes are built around a pair of stars: senior guard Roy Devyn Marble and junior forward Aaron White. Around them, coach Fran McCaffery shuffles nine other players on what is probably the conference's deepest team.

So far, it has worked. Iowa was among the top 25 teams in the nation in both offensive and defensive efficiency, and had lost only to strong Villanova and Iowa State teams.

The Hawkeyes look like an easy bet for a tournament bid this year, where their massive rotation should prove an advantage if they can survive the early rounds.



Michigan Wolverines

Eight months after riding star perimeter players and freshman center Mitch McGary to the 2013 NCAA championship game, coach John Beilein will have to slog through a much more challenging 2014 campaign.

Starting guards Trey Burke and Tim Hardaway Jr. have moved on to the NBA, and McGary is likely out for

the year with a back injury.

The burden will be heaviest on swingman Nik Stauskas and forward Glenn Robinson III, both likely future NBA players. Each is more than capable of being the first option offensively on a good college team, and should prove more than able to keep the Wolverines competitive within the conference.

The team's bigger ambitions seem lost without McGary, whose defensive presence the Wolverines cannot replace. Backup big men Jon Horford and Jordan Morgan aren't ready for the roles they'd be required to fill to make this team a legitimate contender.

A tournament berth still seems like a sure bet, but it will be tough going without the man in the middle.



Illinois Fighting Illini

In its second year under coach Jon Groce, Illinois has a young team. It starts all upperclassmen, but brings mostly freshmen off the bench.

It will depend on leadership and big years from from junior guards Rayvonte Rice and Tracy Abrams, as well as senior guard Joseph Bertrand. The trio leads Illinois in scoring, and Rice and Bertrand also do an excellent job of helping out on the glass.

Center Nnanna Egwu has done a good job protecting the basket, blocking 2.3 shots per game while anchoring the nation's 21st ranked defense.

The Illini are the fringes of a tournament berth, and will need to hold their own in conference play to get an invite to the Dance.



Indiana Hoosiers

The Hoosiers have predictably struggled to score this season, ranking 108th in the country in offensive efficiency. With the loss of ultra-athletic guard Victor Oladipo and the crafty interior play of center Cody Zeller, both top-five picks of last year's NBA draft, Indiana is in a state of reinvention.

Coach Tom Crean has a lot of options with his rotation. The Hoosiers have gone 10-deep in most games and gotten reasonable production from everyone. Forward Jeremy Hollowell has struggled offensively, and some of his 23.4 minutes per game might be better going to someone else.

Its 25th-ranked defense should keep Indiana in most games, and its schedule is relatively friendly, but an NCAA tournament bid is still a dicey proposition at best for Crean's squad.



Minnesota Golden Gophers

Richard Pitino, son of Louisville coach and future Hall of Famer Rick Pitino, took over Minnesota's program following six years of moderate success under Tubby Smith. Smith left him a decent amount of talent, most notably the unrelated Austin Hollins and Andre Hollins.

Andre led the 25th-ranked offense,

scoring just under 16 points per game, while Austin is more of a glue guy, doing whatever the team needs from him on a particular night.

Richard Pitino had his team outscoring its opponents by nearly 10 points per game entering conference play. The Gophers won't maintain that pace during conference play, and are likely to struggle against many opponents' size and athleticism. If Pitino can get this team an NCAA tournament berth, he deserves consideration for Big 10 Coach of the Year.



Purdue Boilermakers

Purdue is a young team that plays like one. The Boilermakers are athletic, but don't pass or space the floor well enough to be successful offensively.

The Boilermakers attempt fewer three-pointers than any Big 10 team except Indiana, and convert just 33 percent of them. And their lead guards, Ronnie and Terone Johnson, are all shoot-first players who don't get the rest of the team involved enough.

That leaves Purdue with a middling offense to go with its 143rd-ranked defense. Center A.J. Hammons led the conference in blocked shots, but wasn't getting much help.

Unless it can fix things on that end soon, Purdue seems bound for the NIT.



Northwestern Wildcats

In its first year under coach Chris Collins, son of former Pistons coach Doug Collins, Northwestern ranks 268th in the country in offensive efficiency, comfortably the lowest ranking for any major conference team.

That spells doom in a conference full of stout defenses. The Wildcats went 4-14 in conference play in 2013, and it's hard to see them doing much better this year.

The good news for them is that two of their best players, guard Tre Demps and center Alex Olah, are only sophomores. It's unlikely Northwestern even gets an NIT invitation this season, but next year should be better.



Penn State Nittany Lions

Senior point guard Tim Frazier is the engine that makes Penn State go. Averaging nearly 17 points and seven assists per game, Frazier has been one of the best players of the early college basketball season.

Backcourt mate D.J. Newbill is also having a strong year, averaging 18 points per game and shooting 50 percent from the field and 42.6 percent from three. Few teams get such production from their starting guards.

Penn State's woes have come on defense, where the Nittany Lions allow 103.5 points per 100 possessions, ranking them 169th in the country. Sophomore forward Donovan Jack is the team's only credible basket protector, and Jack has frequently gotten into foul trouble.

A tournament bid seems like a pipe dream, but if Penn State can tighten up its defense even a little bit, its offense could carry it into the NIT.



Nebraska Cornhuskers

Nebraska isn't a basketball school, and it doesn't much pretend to be. The Cornhuskers haven't received an invite to the NCAA tournament since 1998, and that won't change now.

With an offense and defense that both rank outside the top 100 in the country, Nebraska is a team that just doesn't do much of anything well.

Swingmen Terran Petteway and Shavon Shields lead an anemic starting five as the only players on the club averaging double figures in points.

A young bench will have to carry a heavy burden for this team to hang with even the conference's lesser programs.

Second-year coach Tim Miles has stressed keeping turnovers down, but it's hard to see this team competing in the Big 10 no matter what it does. Advancing to any kind of postseason play seems like a long shot.



Minnesota Gophers' Andre Hollins (1) misses a key layup against Michigan Wolverines' Derrick Walton Jr. (10) late in the game at Williams Arena in Minneapolis last season. RICHARD TSONG-TAATARIU/MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE/MCT

DIA in peril, but it still offers enriching experience

By ERIC GARANT
Staff Writer

Few things in life let you transcend time and space. Southeast Michigan is home to one of them – but it might not be for long.

The Detroit Institute of Arts, founded in 1885 and housing more than 65,000 pieces of artwork, allows you to see pieces from cultures you’ve only read about, or seen reenacted on television. It makes alive and real times and people that are otherwise just some mental abstraction.

But with the City of Detroit in the midst of the largest municipal bankruptcy in the nation’s history, Emergency Manager Kevyn Orr has raised the possibility of liquidating some of the museum’s pieces.

“I think it’s one of the saddest things that has occurred in the City of Detroit and the art community at large,” Washtenaw Community College photography instructor Robert Gonet said about the possibility of liquidation.

It doesn’t take long at the DIA to understand his attitude.

You can go from looking at paintings from the Renaissance that you’ve heard about all your life to a hallway of bizarre and pointy African masks; from there to a room of ancient sacred texts on flaky parchment that is beautifully and vibrantly colored; from there to a gallery of abstract-expressionist paintings that make you feel something even if you don’t understand them.

You get to jump from era to era and country to country and communicate (albeit one-sidedly) with people who have been dead for longer than you can comprehend. It is a surreal experience.

Orr finds himself in the difficult situation of trying to determine exactly what that experience is worth, and how it compares to the city’s other, more tangible needs.

In early December, Orr said that the 459 most valuable pieces have a



The Last Supper 1786, oil on canvas by Benjamin West. ERIC GARANT | WASHTENAW VOICE

fair-market value of \$2 billion, according to the *Detroit Free Press*. That would represent one-ninth of what the city owes its creditors.

On Dec. 11, the museum posted a news release to its website publicly expressing its support for a deal organized by federal mediators that would spin the DIA off from city ownership and shield its artwork from sale. But the deal requires cooperation from several labor groups and foundations. It’s unclear if it will come together.

Robert Emerson, a longtime

member of the State House and Senate and the State Budget Director under then Gov. Jennifer Granholm, thinks the art is probably safe.

“My guess is that (selling artwork) is unlikely, mostly because the bankruptcy judge is using the federal judge as a mediator,” Emerson said. “I think there are arguments to be made that if Detroit is going to be a viable city, it has to maintain some of its assets, and the DIA is certainly one of them.”

He added, though, that he would probably sell the art if the decision was

his, saying that people who need their pension to maintain their livelihood should be the city’s primary concern.

“I would be devastated if we lost our collection,” WCC Production Center Manager Julia Gleich said.


“That really sucks. Oh, wow. This is the first I’ve heard of that,” Jalen Sparrow, a 20-year-old graphic design/advertising major from Whitmore Lake, said of the potential sales. “That’s really disappointing. I like that museum a lot.”

Detroit is an impossible bind. So

is Orr. On the one hand, it doesn’t make sense for a city that owes \$18 billion to hold onto its valuables. On the other hand, the DIA’s artwork is irreplaceable and offers generations to come something they cannot get in any other way.

If the mediated plan falls through, Orr is going to have to make a hard decision.

Meantime, if you want to see one of the country’s finest collections of artwork in its full glory, hurry. You might not have much longer.



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