

THE WASHTENAW VOICE

A NATIONAL PACEMAKER AWARD NEWSPAPER

CORROSIVE COMMUNICATION



Deven Dusseau, 21, a nursing student from Clinton and Jessica Chappell, 18, a photographic technologies student from Ypsilanti. PHOTO ILLUSTRATION, GRAY BANCROFT AND BEN ELLSWORTH | WASHTENAW VOICE

With the inception of social media, the methods by which people find love are now constantly evolving. Services like Match.com and eHarmony allow users to customize their soulmate search by checking boxes and answering questionnaires. With a swipe left or right, apps like Tinder put local eye-candy at users’ fingertips.

But with all the conveniences that these services offer, what has gotten lost along the way? Communication is vital to healthy relationships. For many, the definition of conversation has gone from sitting down for coffee to abbreviated text lingo. Smiling at the stranger on the train has been traded for a menu of emojis. Private moments have

become public Facebook posts. Instagram has become the new family photo album.

How do relationships, romantic and otherwise, suffer due to this rising trend of over- and under-sharing? What lasting effects are we risking by staying plugged in and tuned out?

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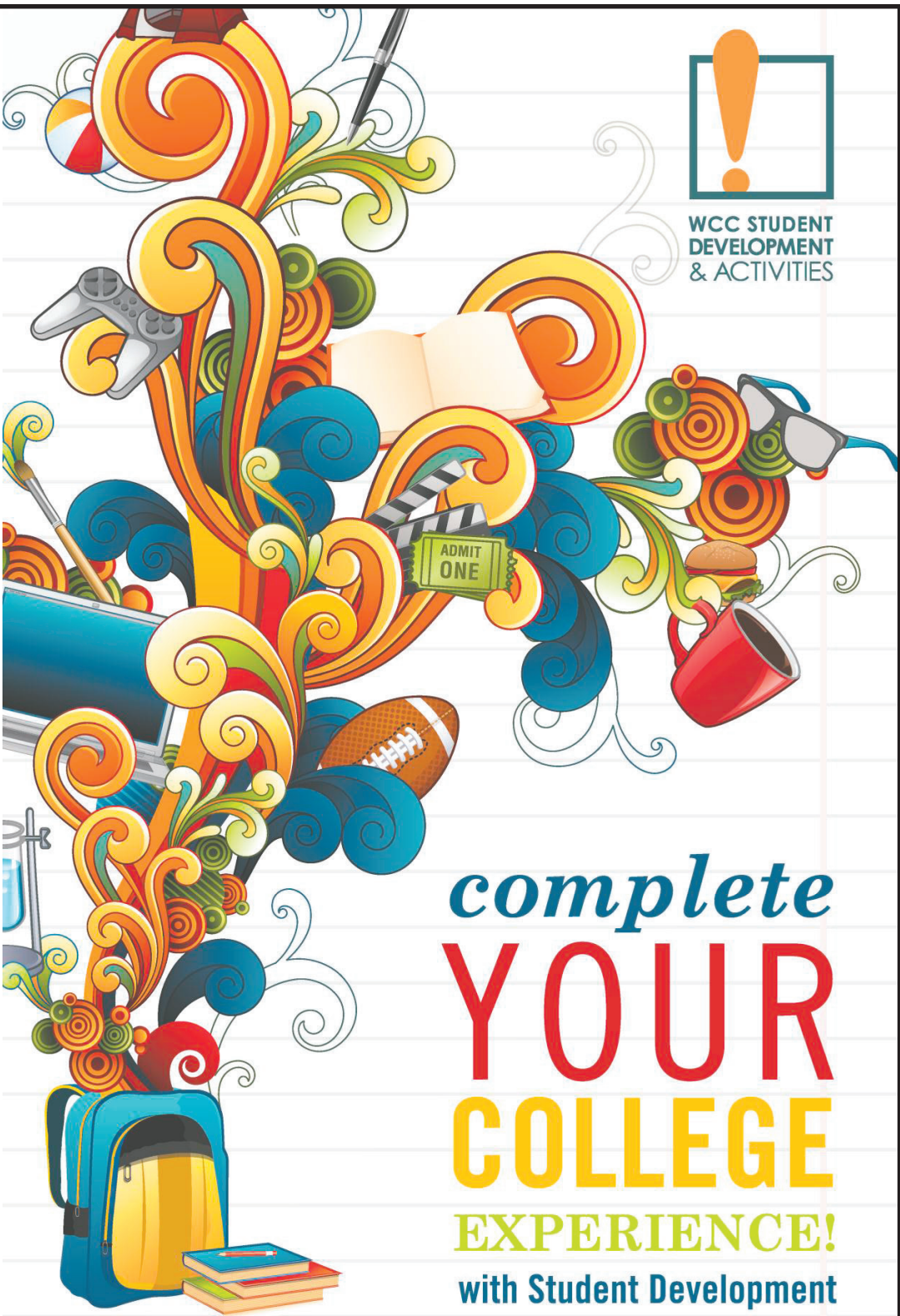
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DEVELOPMENT
& ACTIVITIES



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Rachel Barsch rbarsch@wccnet.edu

Cool Careers

Explore and learn
about careers in writing.
Snacks and beverages
will be provided.
Where: LA 355
(The Writing Center)
When: March 26, 2015
Time: 3:30 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Free College Day

Volunteers wanted! Dinner, lunch and a WCC
polo shirt will be provided to those who volunteer.
Sign up today!
tinyurl.com/WCCFreeCollegeDayMarch2015
Where: ML building
When: March 28, 2015
Time: 8:30 A.M.-6:00 P.M.

Blood Drive

Donate blood, you could save
up to 3 lives! Schedule a visit
at: www.redcrossblood.org,
code: WCC13 or just stop in!
Where: ML 101
When: March 31, 2015
Time: 10:00 A.M. - 3:45 P.M.

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

Alexandria Judkins ajudkins@wccnet.edu

International Student
Association

Meet people from all over the
world, learn a new language,
travel, & plan your own event
while gaining leadership
skills! I.S.A. is for everybody.
Where: GM 316
When: Every other Thursday
Time: 2:30 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.

MSA Bake Sale

Do you have a sweet tooth?
Support MSA (Muslim Student
Association) and satisfy that
craving at their Bake Sale!
Where: 1st Floor SC building
When: March 18, 2015
Time: 11 A.M. – 3 P.M.
**Cash or check only. Please
make checks payable to
WCC.

Voter Registration

What is the importance
of voting? The Political
Science Club is here to
answer that question
and why you're helping
to shape the place in
which you live.
Where: 1st Floor SC
When: March 23 – 26
Time: 10 A.M. - 3 P.M.

SPORTS

Matthew Lucas mflucas@wccnet.edu

3v3 Basketball:

Want to shoot some hoops on the
court? Our 3v3 Basketball starts on
Monday, April 13 at the basketball
courts next to the baseball field. We
will start at 5 P.M. and play until 7 P.M.
Other game dates: April 20 and 27.

Ultimate Frisbee:

Frisbee will begin on Friday, April 10,
4 P.M. - 6 P.M. on the soccer field.
Other game date available is April 17.
Please sign up by April 3.

Flag Football:

Ready to play some football?
Our flag football starts up on
March 18! We will be on the
soccer field from 4 P.M. - 6 P.M.
Other game dates are: March 25;
April 1, 8, and 15. Stop in the
sports office and sign up today!

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floor of the SC
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Washtenaw Community College

Entrepreneurship Center celebrates grand opening



Kim Hurns, interim dean of Business and Computer Technologies, speaks to attendees at the Entrepreneurship Center grand opening on March 10.
SOFIA LYNCH | WASHTENAW VOICE

BY SOFIA LYNCH
Features Editor

Four years ago, Kelly McCrate was a culinary student at Washtenaw Community College in Kim Hurns' marketing class with a dream of opening a food truck.

Before Hurns, interim dean of business and computer technologies, developed the idea of the WCC's Entrepreneurship Center through the college's strategic plan, her business management students like McCrate felt they had nowhere to go after their classes at the college.

"When we first started working on the strategic plan, I said 'Students need to have an entrepreneurship center,' and the president said, and she did not blink, 'Just do it,'" Hurns said.

"We did not have the resources in one collective place for students. So what we landed on was that they needed the resources, and they needed the co-working space."

On March 10, the evening of the grand opening, the Entrepreneurship Center was alive with a buzz of chatter and excitement being shared by the many attendees.

"We thought eight people were kinda maybe going to come today," Hurns admitted – contradicted by the high turnout of community members and WCC staff and faculty.

In her opening remarks, Hurns explained how McCrate's story represented the driving purpose of the center.

"This center exists because we did not have the resources he should have had to help him along the way to start that business," Hurns said.

Today, McCrate owns and operates his own food truck, The Chow Haul, and supplied the food for the grand opening of the Entrepreneurship Center.

"The best thing I did this week was to give him a check," Hurns said.

Michelle Mueller, vice president of economic, community and college development, gave WCC President Rose Bellanca's remarks in her absence.

"This entrepreneurship center absolutely could not have happened without Kim," Mueller said.

"Because of your vision and your commitment to this project, we're here today."

Since the Entrepreneurship Center's open house in Nov. 2014, the center has been as busy as the event was itself. The open house had roughly 120 attendees, above and beyond the staff's original expectation, according to Gapske, and has since had 107 intakes at the center.

Despite the heavy traffic the center has been hosting, the staff has noticed that locating the center has been a cause of confusion for many interested entrepreneurs.

The Entrepreneurship Center is located in the WCC Plant Operations building, which is only labeled "Facilities Management" on its exterior – something Hurns said she would like to see rectified. However, the Entrepreneurship Center was recently added to the directory signs throughout campus to make locating it easier.

"People still don't find us, but we've got dedicated parking," Kristin Gapske, the center's manager added.

The Entrepreneurship Center is open to people at any step of the entrepreneurial process and offers help specialized to each person's

individual needs.

"That's what we do. That's sort of our niche," Gapske said. "There's a lot of business support organizations out there, but what we do is try to meet people where they're at."

Currently staffed by Gapske and two work-study students, the center has generated enough workflow to warrant another staff member – a center coordinator. However, it has been so busy, Hurns said, that Gapske hasn't even had the time to hire someone into the new position yet.

"Kristin has been an excellent mentor to me," said former WCC student and Entrepreneurship Center volunteer 30-year-old Ericka Vonyea. "She gave me all the resources that I need as far as the different workshops and classes to take. It's just been a really rewarding experience."

Aside from the personalized help offered by Gapske, the center offers appointment-based business counseling with Small Business Development Center representatives, business workshops and a collaborative co-working space where entrepreneurs can learn from each other.

5 THINGS YOU MISSED

AT THE MARCH 4 BOARD OF TRUSTEES RETREAT

BY NATALIE WRIGHT
Editor

I. BOARD CONSIDERS TUITION HIKE

Chief Financial Officer Bill Johnson presented three tuition increase scenarios to the trustees. The first proposed a 1.5 percent increase for next fall and Fall 2017 for all classes. The second proposed a 0 percent increase for next fall and a 1.5 percent increase for Fall 2017 for all classes. The third option proposed a 1.5 percent increase for in-district students, 2 percent for out-of-district, 2.5 percent for out-of-state and 3 percent for international and distance learning – for both Fall 2016 and 2017.

The trustees are expected to continue discussion of tuition at the March 24 board meeting.

2. TWELVE NEW PROGRAMS PROPOSED FOR FALL

Interim Vice President of Instruction Bill Abernethy presented six new certificate programs, two new associate of applied science degree programs and four new articulation agreements with other colleges for the trustees' approval.

The certificate programs include: machine tool setup and operation, machine tool programming, applied data science, C# programming for modern computing, English as a second language and magnetic resonance imaging. The associate of applied science programs are: automotive test technician and powertrain development technician. The articulation agreements include three agreements with Madonna University in business administration and science in child development and an agreement with Wayne State University for multiple engineering degrees.

3. COLLEGE SUGGESTS \$2 MIL INVESTMENT

On Feb. 24, WCC received a \$4.4 million grant towards the college's proposed Skilled Trades Equipment Capital Project, which includes the proposed Advanced Transportation Center and the programs that will utilize it. The administration recommended that the trustees approve an additional \$2 million towards the project.

The trustees are expected to vote on allocating the funds at a future meeting.

4. TRUSTEES DISCUSS TELEVISED MEETINGS

The trustees engaged in a lively discussion about the possibility of televising board meetings for the public, an idea proposed by trustee Dave DeVarti at the board's Feb. 24 meeting. The options presented include the college's web services department filming the meetings and sending footage to Ann Arbor's Community Television Network or streaming the footage online – both of which would be close to free of cost – live broadcasting the meetings from campus – which would cost \$100,000 in equipment installation, or moving board meetings to another location, such as the Ann Arbor Public Library, which is already equipped to handle a live broadcast.

The first two options, which are free and allow the trustees to continue to meet on campus seemed the most popular, but the board decided to push further discussion back to the summer with a hope of beginning the filming next fall.

5. STRATEGIC PLAN INSPIRES EXCITEMENT, SKEPTICISM

Julie Morrison, executive director of institutional effectiveness, planning and accreditation, presented the trustees with an update on the college's strategic plan, which was put in place in 2012, and ends this year.

She explained the progress that has been made in the plan's eight strategic priorities – professional development, student success, agility and responsiveness, visibility and branding, workforce development, academic partnerships, funding and resources and community development – and the goals for the plan's final year.

"My skepticism has been smashed into a million pieces," board Chair Richard Landau said following the presentation.

But other trustees still had concerns.

"I remain skeptical on strategic plans," said Trustee Ruth Hatcher. "I don't know that any of that wouldn't have happened without the strategic plan, but I see that it all is wonderfully organized."

"I know that one of the complaints faculty made was lack of involvement in the strategic plan. My request, at some point, I think it would be useful to see the people who were on the committees. I'm seeing two different colleges in my role, and I want to bring them together."

See video online
at washtenawvoice.com



The WCC board of trustees will meet next on March 24 at 6 p.m. in ML 150.

IN BRIEF

SOCIAL AWARENESS SYMPOSIUM

WCC's Political Science Club, Black Student Union and Out-Space host a social awareness discussion called "Word Up" every Thursday at 5:30 p.m. in the Student Center. The event is free and open to all.

Guest speakers provide perspective on a variety of social and civil rights issues including marriage equality, income inequality, the prison system, healthcare and education.

For more information visit <http://www.facebook.com/wccpsc>.

CHEMISTRY SEMINAR

Former WCC student Joshua McManus will visit WCC's campus on Tuesday April 7 to speak to WCC students interested in the field of chemistry. McManus is graduating from U-M in May with a bachelor's degree in chemistry and has been accepted to several graduate schools including Princeton.

Chemistry faculty from WCC and U-M will also be in attendance and available to answer questions about the field. The event, which will be held in LA 327 from 3:30-5:30 p.m., is free and open to all. Refreshments will be provided.

RESUME DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

This hands-on workshop will help students develop a resume that projects a positive image to employers, learn which type of resume fits them best, what employers are looking for and how to avoid common mistakes.

The workshop will be held on March 23 from 1-2:30 p.m. in ML 128.

JOB SEARCH TECHNIQUES WORKSHOP

This session will provide information on the job search process and how students can find jobs that are right for them. This workshop is most beneficial for those students and alumni who have completed a certificate or degree and are ready to engage in a comprehensive job search.

The workshop will be held on March 24 from 2-3:30 p.m. in ML 128.

INTERVIEW SKILLS WORKSHOP

This workshop is designed to take the jitters out of the interview process. Students will learn how to prepare for an interview, research a company and successfully interview.

The workshop will be held on March 25 from noon-1:30 p.m. in ML 128.

FREE COLLEGE DAY

On March 28, WCC will welcome the public to campus to take free classes from WCC instructors. The classes will be held in the ML building from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Pre-registration is required. For a full class list, and to pre-register, visit <http://www.wccnet.edu/activities/free-college-day/>.

BLOOD DRIVE

By donating blood, a one person can save up to three lives. A blood drive will be held on WCC's campus in ML 101 on March 31, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. To make an appointment, visit <http://www.redcrossblood.org> and use the sponsor code WCC13. Walk-in appointments are also accepted.

– Natalie Wright

EDITORIAL

Are Washtenaw trustees under gag order?

In November 2004, the St. Clair County Community College board of trustees passed a new code of ethics, barring its own members from visiting campus and talking to students, faculty and staff without then-President Rose Bellanca's permission.

Since Bellanca was hired as Washtenaw Community College's president in 2011, many have expressed fear that history was doomed to repeat itself. These fears, it seems, are now being realized, and board Chair Richard Landau has taken the role as enforcer of silence.

For three years, the WCC trustees and Bellanca got along famously – until three new trustees joined the board this January and started asking too many questions.

Dave DeVarti, Christina Fleming and Ruth Hatcher were elected to the board after running on campaign promises of increased transparency and collaboration with the college's employees. The votes delivered a clear message: Taxpayers want change at WCC.

And yet, at every turn, Landau has been clear that he will not tolerate any disruptions to the status quo. Most recent and most concerning is Landau's interference in DeVarti's efforts to avoid a fall tuition increase for WCC students.

As DeVarti pushes, in a seemingly pure desire to serve the college's students and taxpayers, Landau has thwarted him at every opportunity, with outright mockery, dismissal and hopelessly dragging feet.

Landau's boardroom antics range from red-faced yelling to glib under-his-breath remarks.

During the board's February meeting, Landau's repetitious, "Let's talk about it at the retreat," and an eyebrow-raising, "Let's talk about it offline," responses to every concern raised by DeVarti betrayed what seemed to be the chair's primary motivation – to make it home on time.

Yet when the March retreat came, DeVarti's concerns, including a discussion of the college's living wage policy, hadn't made the agenda. Those concerns that were deemed worthy of the board's time, including DeVarti's plea on behalf of community members to televise board meetings, were met with dismissive postponement.

Landau called the idea

of broadcasting meetings on Ann Arbor's Community Television Network "silly" and questioned why DeVarti was pushing for the broadcast.

"Essentially, we are trying to sell a product no one has ever said they want," Landau said.

DeVarti asked how many letters from community members the other trustees needed to see.

"Don't antagonize people," Landau said, insisting that DeVarti already had the board's support. As a lawyer, Landau shared some wisdom from his time in court.

"There's a point where we say 'Sit down and shut up,' because the judge is ruling in your favor. I think this is probably one of those times where I'd say that."

The trustees decided to put off further discussion of filming the meetings until the summer, with the possibility of beginning next fall.

Despite Landau's suggestion, DeVarti appears unwilling to "Sit down and shut up."

Following WCC Chief Financial Officer Bill Johnson's presentation at the retreat about several scenarios for tuition increases, DeVarti emailed Johnson asking if they could meet in person so DeVarti could ask a few questions. His hope, he said, was to better prepare himself for the March 24 board meeting where the tuition conversation is expected to continue.

While Johnson's secretary responded, unquestioningly, with times that the two could meet, Landau stepped in to put a stop to it.

"If you have specific questions to direct to Bill, please forward them to me," Landau said in an email to DeVarti. Landau offered to ask Johnson to present answers to the board at its next meeting. In the past, Landau explained, it has not been typical for trustees to meet individually with the college's staff.

In bigger font, he continued, "As a strong proponent of the OMA (Open Meetings Act), I am sure you can appreciate the problems raised by such meetings."

DeVarti responded, explaining that he is a strong proponent of the OMA and in fact helped to achieve its passage into law.

"I am in full awareness that it in no way puts in place obstacles for a single elected policy maker to meet with staff to understand budgetary issues that are expected to come before the full body," DeVarti said in the email.

The OMA states that a quorum of a public body – four of seven trustees in WCC's case – cannot meet in a closed meeting, except in certain circumstances. It says nothing about elected officials meeting with staff of the institution they serve.

"In over 20 years of serving on public bodies, both elected

and appointed, I have never before had anyone raise an objection to my meeting with a staff person to look at and better understand an issue," DeVarti said, adding that despite "general operating procedure," he intends to spend time delving into understanding the operations of the college so that he can best serve the taxpayers and voters.

In another email, Landau continued to insist that DeVarti's meeting with the CFO would be a "run around" of the OMA – something the board was criticized for long before DeVarti's election.

Landau also suggested that trustees requesting meetings with the college's staff was "potentially coercive and intimidating," a point that the new and continuing trustees buttressed over in their November retreat.

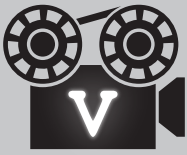
The ban on communication between trustees and college staff gained some legitimacy when it was defended by the retreat's speaker Association of Community College Trustees Vice President Narcissa Polonio as a national "best practice" ... until Bellanca referred to Polonio as a "good friend for a really long time."

Soon after the "gag order," as many called it, was put in place at St. Clair, 34-year board member Thomas Hamilton filed a lawsuit against the rest of the board. Backed by the ACLU, he insisted that the policy was put in place solely to stop his criticisms of Bellanca and the board's lack of oversight of her.

WCC's move toward a similar policy, if unofficial, is just one more eerie similarity between Bellanca's tenure at WCC and St. Clair. And now, DeVarti said in an email to , he is seeking counsel from two public interest lawyers on how to proceed in dealings with the board.

DeVarti is continuing to push for permission to meet with the college's CFO, taking the issue straight to Bellanca. In an email he wrote to the president, he asked to discuss Landau's interference in his efforts.

Trustee DeVarti, we're not sure Bellanca is the right person to solve the problem.



See video online at washtenawvoice.com

'Ain't no sunshine'



NATALIE WRIGHT
nkwright@wccnet.edu

What a terrible Sunshine Week.

Founded in 2002, Sunshine Week is celebrated each year in the interest of a simple philosophy: "Open government is good government."

Journalists, activists and supporters of government transparency use this week to commend the strides made for open government, criticize the backslides and lobby for more change.

In a country founded on the idea that government derives its powers from the consent of the governed, who can argue with increased transparency? The only hope for an effective democracy is an educated citizenship and an open government.

While sunshine laws, like the Freedom of Information Act and the Open Meetings Act, are not a part of the U.S. Constitution, they are just as central to the health of our democracy.

In the past, government officials have celebrated Sunshine Week alongside advocates,

but not this year. This year's Sunshine Week brought headlines so ironic, I checked to make sure it wasn't April Fools Day.

"A Police Gadget Tracks Phones? Shhh! It's a Secret," read the front page of the *New York Times* last Monday.

The article detailed, as much as possible, a new surveillance tool being purchased by local police departments across the country, to the tune of \$500,000 a piece.

The tool, which is being referred to as "Sting Ray" or "KingFish," comes with a non-disclosure agreement that prevents law enforcement officials from saying anything about the technology, because, according to the FBI, sharing the information with the public would allow criminals to protect themselves from it. This makes it difficult to know exactly which departments have purchased it and what they're using it for.

What we do know about the technology is terrifying. It consists of a small device that can fit inside a suitcase and works like a cellphone tower, intercepting cell signals. Its main use is to track the location of cellphones, but it can also scan every phone in the surrounding area and collect texts, calls, emails and other data.

Later in the week, the

sunshine dimmed further, as the White House announced it was eliminating a federal regulation that subjects its Office of Administration to FOIA, a law that gives citizens the right to examine government records. The Office of Administration is responsible for all White House record-keeping duties, including the archiving of emails.

Only two days after this announcement the Associated Press reported that the Obama administration had set a new record for censoring government files, or refusing access to them under FOIA last year.

A record 714,231 FOIA requests were made for information, and the government only responded to 647,142. For the other 215,584, the administration said it couldn't find the records, or refused to comply.

Where is the anger that flooded the American populous when Edward Snowden made his revelations about government secrecy and invasion of citizens' privacy? Have people just given up, or is it because these headlines came in a smaller font size, below the fold.

The people deserve better from their government. They deserve truth and integrity. They deserve a government that realizes its existence is to serve them, to answer to them.

The people deserve sunshine, but they must demand it.

An instant solution for racism



PAULETTE PARKER
pstanford@wccnet.edu

By now, I'm sure most people have heard about the University of Oklahoma chapter of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity and the racist chant heard round the world. Beyond the college dismantling the organization and expelling two of the students involved, the act has ignited conversations and debates about the use of the "N-word."

I've seen news stories that commend the school for their disciplinary action and condemn the participants. But I have noticed another disturbing trend in the wake of things something I liken to victim blaming.

Journalist Piers Morgan penned a column for "The Daily Mail" seemingly reprimanding black Americans for using the "N-word" themselves, and lectured about the need for them to stop using it if other races are expected to do so. In his words, it should be, "Eradicated, obliterated, tied to a literary post and whipped into such brutal submission that it never rears its vicious head again,"

– insert tasteless slavery metaphor here.

I don't care for the use of the word no matter who is using it. I do not now, nor have I ever, used it myself. And I don't know many people who say it in excess. It could be attributed to my upbringing; it was not a word that was thrown around when I was growing up. But this "excuse" struck me.

I applaud Piers Morgan for his instant fix for racism – insert sarcasm here. I think his "solution" is misguided and useless. And making the word go away won't make racism disappear. Black Americans using the word amongst themselves does not issue a permission slip to every other race to use it – like it or not.

Somewhere along the way, I think some have begun to feel that the "N-word" is just another word – it is not. Originating as a demeaning and disparaging slang description of slaves, even today it is used as a racial slur. Neutralizing the impact of the word, the –er on the end was replaced with an –a, and blacks began using it with each other as a sign of solidarity.

Present day, the derivative is used liberally in music and conversation. Too liberally in my opinion.

The question of whether or not it is a double standard that a race can use a word amongst themselves but get offended when others use it often arises,

and my answer is this: It is not. Even when there is no ill intent, accounting for the history and the origins of the word, I think it's a line that need not be crossed.

As I stated before, I don't use it, and I don't like hearing anyone using it. But I find it more offensive when I hear it spoken by a person of another race, and I know many who would agree. I understand how it can become ingrained in your vocabulary when you grow up around it and hear it in normal speech, because I see it every day.

But when it is a word that you decide to pick up and casually begin using, in any derivative of the word – I cannot say that I understand. There are so many other words in the English language available for use.

This is not something I have experienced often, but when I have, I must admit I've said nothing. It is something that I have preferred to let slide off my back rather than battle over.

But what was on that video was not a poor word choice, nor was it the regurgitation of rap lyrics. It was done with malicious intent. There is no excuse for reciting a song vehemently expressing that a race is unwelcome in an organization – one that ironically had black members.

Victims of racism are not to blame and ending racism is not as simple as Morgan would like to lead readers to believe.

CORRECTION

The Mar. 9, page A1 story "5 things you missed at the Feb. 24 board of trustees meeting," should have stated that WCC received a \$4.4 million skilled trades grant.

THE WASHTENAW VOICE

A NATIONAL PACEMAKER AWARD NEWSPAPER

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4800 E. Huron River Dr.
TI 106
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
(734) 677-5125

thewashtenawvoice@gmail.com

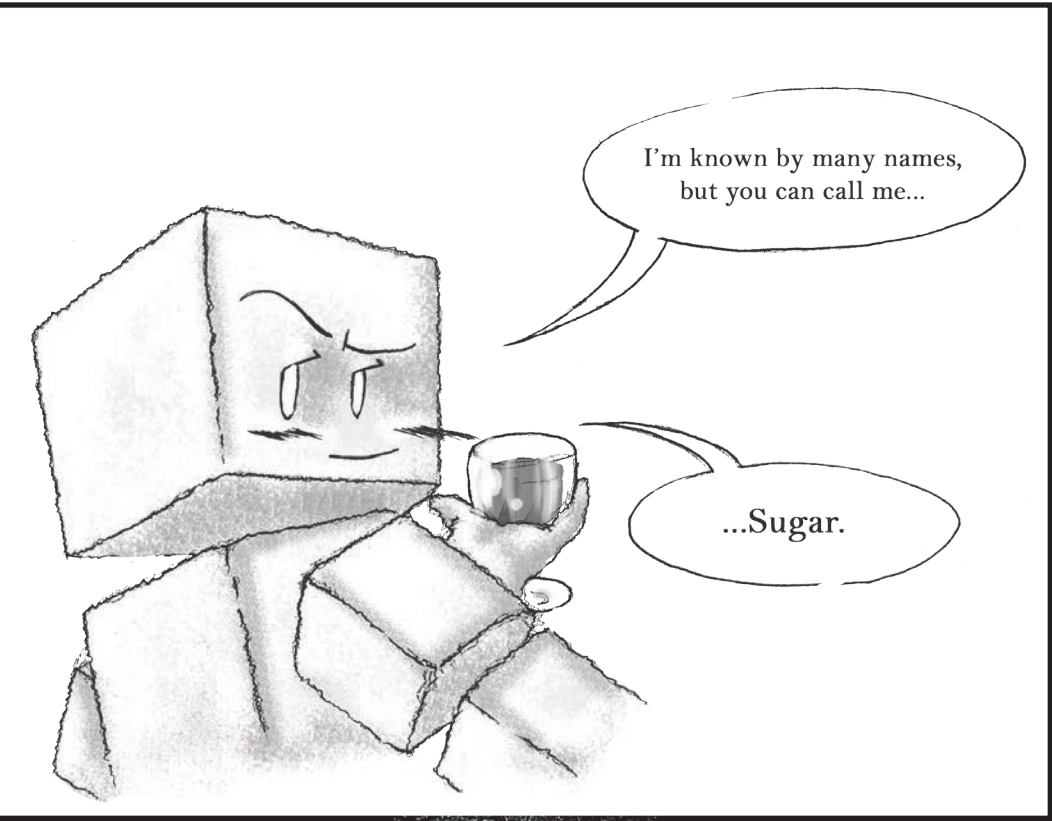
washtenawvoice.com

@washtenawvoice

TheWashtenawVoice

@washtenawvoice

EDITOR	Natalie Wright	nkwright@wccnet.edu
MANAGING EDITOR	EJ Stout	estout@wccnet.edu
NEWS EDITOR	Paulette Parker	pstanford@wccnet.edu
FEATURES EDITOR	Sofia Lynch	snlynch@wccnet.edu
ONLINE EDITOR	Colleen Mulder-Seward	cmulderseward@wccnet.edu
STAFF WRITERS	M. M. Donaldson	mmorrisdonaldson@wccnet.edu
	Erin Fedeson	efedeson@wccnet.edu
	Taylor Robinson	taelrobinson@wccnet.edu
GRAPHIC DESIGNERS	Ben Ellsworth	bjellsworth@wccnet.edu
	Erik Morris	delocuro@gmail.com
CARTOONIST	Sanaa Naeem	sanaaem@wccnet.edu
COPY EDITOR	Nina Di Mauro	
CONTRIBUTORS	Gray Bancroft	
	Harrison Fischer	
	Myisha Kinberg	
	Taylor Mabelitini	
ADVERTISING MANAGER	Becky Alliston	ealliston@wccnet.edu



SANAA NAEEM | WASHTENAW VOICE

HEALTHY VOICE

Words you should know for sweet talk



M.M. DONALDSON
mmorrisdonaldson@wccnet.edu

Food manufacturers know leaving certain details in fine print keeps us in the sweet spot of ignorance for maximum bliss. Taking the time to understand the ingredients on the Nutritional Facts label can be frustrating, but it's important to know what we are eating in this world of food allergies and ingredient intolerances. If their sweet talk on the back of the package was easily translated, we might think twice about tossing the wrapper and indulging our taste buds.

Despite the jumble of ingredients crammed into that tight space, we can become familiar with a few key names and realize there are multiple names for sugar.

TV hosts and chiropractors posing as nutritionists (I have nothing against chiropractors, but I'm sure you wouldn't want me to adjust your back) have allowed misinformation, such as "fruit is high in sugar," to

saturate the TV, Internet and grocery store checkout lane magazines.

Where the sugar in fruit is considered naturally occurring, sweet confections such as cookies, cupcakes and candy bars contain mainly added sugars.

A quick comparison using the Food-A-Pedia database for the Super Tracker app to log food and exercise, lists a medium apple having 14 grams of naturally occurring sugar, but also included in the package is vitamins, minerals and fiber.

A 1.6 oz plain milk chocolate bar contains 23 grams of sugar, with 18 grams as added sugar. Milk has naturally occurring sugar, contributing 5 grams to the total amount.

Sweets are known to contain high sugar content, but less known offenders are commercial salad dressings, canned spaghetti sauces, yogurt and bread. That's where knowing the various names of sugar comes in handy.

When consumers educated themselves on added sugars decades ago, high fructose corn syrup became infamous. But consumers are still craving sweet, so the industry has found other sources to sweeten it up.

While the Food and Drug Administration only recognizes certain names as a sugar substance, this does not prohibit food manufacturers from listing a sweetener by a different name. There are several sites that list a multitude of names for sugar and sweeteners with some having lists that exceed more than 300 different monikers.

Become familiar with the other names for sugar as food manufacturers are able to list the total amount of sugar with different names. Using names that we may be unfamiliar with may allow the total amount of sugar slip through the radar but show up well enough on our hips and bathroom scale.

Sugar itself isn't bad, but it's the amount that we consume.

M. M. Donaldson is a staff writer with The Voice and a journalism student at WCC. She has a bachelor of science in family and community services from Michigan State University and has several years' experience with nutrition issues affecting infants through older adults.



Shop till you drop – your Internet connection, that is



SOFIA LYNCH
slynch@wccnet.edu



TAYLOR MABELITINI
tmabelitini@wccnet.edu



SOFIA LYNCH | WASHTENAW VOICE

In this day and age, there are very few things that you can't do online. As scary as this sounds – and as much as it feels like our society is fulfilling the prophecies of science fiction writers ahead of their time – the convenience is undeniable, and there is no turning back now.

One of the biggest conveniences that technology has blessed us with is online shopping. Although the common, stereotype-driven notion that shopping enthralls women and agonizes men has stayed true through the test of time, online shopping is now undermining that long-standing cliché.

According to a new report by Business Insider Intelligence, when it comes to e-commerce, men drive nearly as much spending online as women.

So what is it about online shopping that turns men into trend-changing super-shoppers? The Voice canvassed Washtenaw Community College students to see if they

could shed some light.

"It's just easier," Hunter Muirhead, a 19-year-old liberal arts major from South Lyon said, "I don't have to drive out or waste gas. And you can usually get discounts."

When asked of his preference between in-store and online shopping, WCC liberal arts major, 19-year-old Joe Chapman from Westland said, "I do it more in person, but I should do it online. I don't like leaving."

Luckily for the new wave of eager male shoppers, the fashion market was just as eager to evolve to meet this demographic's rising needs.

Not only can you shop for your outfits online nowadays, but you can also apply online to get personalized outfits sent to your door. Subscription fashion services, like Bombfell, exemplify all the reasons that men like to avoid shopping malls by providing a one-stop answer to all their fashion woes.

Sam Marouf, 17, Ann Arbor, WTMC
Jacket – Online, I don't remember where.
Rest of outfit – H&M

Do you have a fashion philosophy?
I think casual, but now I'm trying to move into more ... business casual, I guess, sophisticated.

Do you have any trends or style tips you follow?
I randomly look through commercials and magazines, and I see some pretty good-looking guys, and I'm like, 'I want to look like him.'

When you shop do you go in with things in mind?
When I look at a guy, like I said before, I go in, and I try to find something that looks like what he was wearing.

How would you describe your style?
Other than sexy? Casual, modern and ... sexy! I don't know; I'd have to include that.

Joe Jauw, 23, Ypsilanti, math and science
Boots – Tractor Supply and Company
Jacket – Matchstick

Do you have a fashion philosophy?
You know ... I wear the same pants every day, saw these boots – they're not the most fashionable boots, but they're warm. So I feel like comfort as well as looking good is important. And if you can find it cheap, and it looks good, buy it.

Do you have a favorite store?
Amazon.com. I go on online-shopping binges these days. It's easier, and it's cheaper. This jacket, 50 bucks, Amazon.com from Matchstick.

Do you have any trends or style tips you follow?
Reddit thread on men's fashion.

Do you have anybody you look up to?
F----- Jared Leto.

Voice Box

What technology do you think is going to shape the next generation?

INTERVIEWS AND PHOTOS BY MYISHA KINBERG, STAFF WRITER



"I think that there's going to be a lot more conflict everywhere and war is probably going to be ten times more worse than it is now. Technology is going to continue to advance in many ways so the equipment they use in the military is probably going to be much more powerful in the next generation."

Nariman Jackson, 16, Ann Arbor, liberal arts



"Technology of all sorts is going to continue to expand, but, politically, I think the next generation is going to be much more open minded and accepting. This generation is already on the right path, and if this trend continues, social and political change is what will set the next generation apart from the others."

Amber Klus, 17, Whitmore Lake, liberal arts



"It's hard to predict what the next big thing is going to be for generations to come, but a lot is going on in the field of science right now, and much of that research is going to continue. As a result, I think that science as a whole is going to shape the next generation."

Courtney Caroen, 19, Stockbridge, liberal arts



"The next generation is going to be a paperless society. I have a friend who's an artist, and she does all of her art on her iPad with a stylus. With the growth of electric cars, by the next generation, I think it's possible that gas won't be fueling cars anymore. Being incredibly eco-friendly could definitely shape the next generation."

Terri Layton, 51, South Lyon, child development



"I think solar energy is going to play a big role in the next generation, and it'll be a much more eco-friendly society. Technology is also going to continue to advance, and I think it might get to a point where the next generation has robots living among them."

Reem Khatib, 16, Ann Arbor, natural science



"I think '4D' is going to be the next big thing. When you go to the movies, it'll be virtual, and people will be able to smell and maybe even taste things that are happening in the movie. I also think there's a chance that the next generation will have low-flying cars."

Micaiah Mack, 17, Ypsilanti, business and marketing



"Man, I need to go watch 'Back to the Future' to answer that question. I think low flying cars or hovers could be created and used by the police or other similar officials. Also other intriguing technologies like Apple's computer glasses could definitely become as popular as smart phones are now and help shape the next generation."

Hannah Hutton, 17, Ann Arbor, health care foundations



"Holograms are going to shape the next generation. Microsoft is already working on creating 'HoloLens' and the trend is definitely going to continue. Likewise, other companies are probably going to develop different, similar versions. Google glasses are also going to expand, and, by the next generation, most people will have computers stored in their prescription glasses."

Graham Rigby, 18, Ypsilanti, health care foundations



"This generation takes a lot for granted, and when a lot of high schoolers enter the job force and college, it's a culture shock. Not everyone's story is the same, but for many people, everything is just handed to them, and I think that is a major problem that is going to carry on into the next generation. The lack of gratitude of the future society is what will set them apart from other generations."

Nathaniel Burmeister, 22, Ypsilanti, nursing

DAVE DEVARTI



Sam DeVarti, 24, left, followed in his father Dave's political footsteps by running for city council in 2013. Dave has taken classes at Washtenaw Community College throughout his storied career, and he continues to do so while serving in his new position on the college's board of trustees. EJ STOUT | WASHTENAW VOICE

THE THIRD
IN A SERIES
OF TRUSTEE
PROFILES

BY PAULETTE PARKER
News Editor

Dave DeVarti came of age in a time of what he calls “social ferment.” The Vietnam War era, civil rights and an emerging women’s movement influenced him early on. DeVarti, who joined the Washtenaw Community College board of trustees in January, graduated from Pioneer High School in Ann Arbor in 1970. On March 15, 1970, he received his first taste of political activism.

“His really early activism came while he was still a teenager,” said Pam Kisch, director of the Fair Housing Center and a longtime friend to DeVarti.

“I got involved with the first Earth Day teach-in,” DeVarti said. “In fact, I still think it was the most educational part of my high school experience, helping to plan what happened at the high school level for the teach-in.”

That activism has continued throughout DeVarti’s life. In 2013, he became embroiled

in a federal lawsuit against the Michigan Secretary of State over a request for a custom license plate reading “WAR SUX.”

“I walked into the Secretary of State office, paid my money, and the woman who took my money and wrote it down looked, and it wasn’t already taken,” DeVarti said. A couple of weeks later he received a letter in the mail informing him that his request was denied on the grounds that it could be considered offensive.

“I said, ‘Who’s *for* war? Come on,’” he said. DeVarti was added to an existing case being handled by the ACLU for another driver fighting to obtain a rejected custom plate. After a long standoff, DeVarti was granted the plate.

“There’s a part of me that’s always been a peace activist,” DeVarti said. “And with all these wars going on, I thought it would be important to put a statement on the license plate. ‘PEACE’ was taken, so I went with ‘WAR SUX.’”

After high school, DeVarti went on to the University of Michigan to the School of Natural Resources. He recalls his first-semester tuition totaling \$330 for a full course load. Comparing the cost of college then to the cost now is part of what encouraged him to run for the WCC board of trustees.

“I think it’s really important to the community and to our democracy to have an educated populous,” DeVarti said. “It’s my deep concern about the increasing economic inaccessibility to post-secondary education for people in our country.”

Beyond his role as a WCC trustee, DeVarti has served on the Ann Arbor city council, the Planning Commission, spent 18 years on the Downtown Development Authority and currently chairs the membership committee for the Ann Arbor Film Festival.

DeVarti’s two children, Sam, 24, and Julia, 20, have followed in his political footsteps.

“My son ran for city council as an Independent, which

I advised him he would be much better off running as a Democrat, but he didn’t take that advice – he wanted to do it his own way,” DeVarti said. Although Sam did not win, DeVarti commends his effort.

“I was proud of him. He did very well at the forums and really thought through issues,” DeVarti said. “And for a young person, I was really proud of him.” DeVarti’s daughter, Julia, now attends Wesleyan University in Connecticut, but while studying at John Hopkins University in Baltimore, she wrote a column for the student newspaper about feminism called “The F Word.”

“One of my favorite columns was “The Feminist Reading List,” and number one on the list was ‘Pride and Prejudice,’” DeVarti said. Around the spring of 1978, DeVarti was involved in establishing the “Michigan Football Roster,” an eight-page tabloid that was used to raise awareness for Coalition for Better Housing tenant-rights ballot questions. “Michigan

Football Roster” evolved into the “Michigan Football Guide.”

By the late 1980s, DeVarti, along with three individuals from the “Michigan Football Roster,” had established a guide that included music, cinema, stage performances and book readings in Ann Arbor. This became “Current Magazine.”

“I remember meetings where we had 20 different possible names for the magazine,” DeVarti said. “‘Current’ wasn’t number one on everybody’s list, but it was in the top three on everybody’s list.” “Current Magazine” was sold to Adams Street Publishing in Toledo in 2007.

DeVarti retained the rights to the “Michigan Football Guide” and occasionally considers reviving it.

“There are probably fans still to this day at the Michigan Football Stadium that miss the ‘Michigan Football Guide,’” DeVarti said.

DeVarti finds enjoyment in everything he does. He is in the Arts and Drawing clubs at WCC

and takes a painting class.

“I have been a student (at WCC) taking one or two classes at a time for several years,” he said. “I’ve seen some real reduction in commitment to the arts and humanities during the time I’ve been there. That’s caused me some concern.”

He is also in the process of rehabbing a low-income residential building.

In his sparse free time, DeVarti enjoys cooking and hosting friends.

“I like having dinner parties and putting a nice multi-course meal out for 10 to 12 people and picking the wines to go with each course,” DeVarti said.

“One of the reasons we all love David is because David is an incredible cook,” Kisch said, adding that he is a barbeque expert.

“There’s all these different aspects to my life, and I don’t feel like any part of it is onerous,” DeVarti said. “I’m lucky that I can find enjoyment in the simplest of things and in the most complicated.”

New director brings more than three decades of auto industry experience

BY PAULETTE PARKER
News Editor

With experience in the aerospace industry in California and 36 years at Ford Motor Company in powertrain engineering, Alan Lecz is ready to take on his next task as the director of the upcoming Advanced Transportation Center at Washtenaw Community College. Lecz will serve as the point person for the center, helping to build WCC’s relationships with companies in the automotive industry.

“We want to have a strong, continuing relationship with business and industry,” Lecz said. “The faculty have got great relationships already with Ford, GM and other local companies. So I’m just going to enhance that and maybe expand it.” Lecz is also bringing his own existing relationships on board.

“I have relationships with the Society of Automotive Engineers. I’m on their academic panels and so forth,” he said. “So I’ll bring that relationship, because that’s important for the Transportation Center to get exposure and recognition in other parts of the industry, professional societies and so forth.”

With the field of advanced transportation systems emerging, Lecz’s experience in its roots is invaluable.

“We went to, years ago, from carburation and conventional ignition systems into electronic-controlled computerized engine controls, and I was part of

that first wave at Ford Motor Company,” Lecz said. “So that’s really where my background was.”

A graduate of the University of Michigan in aerospace engineering, Lecz worked in the aerospace industry for three years before going to Ford.

“I was working in California on Douglass DC-8s, 9s and 10s, working on their auto-flight controls,” Lecz said. “I would say it’s 30 years in advance of what ground vehicle things are working on today, because obviously these things control the airplane through the air and right to landing.”

This will not be Lecz’s first stint at WCC. After retiring from Ford in 2007, Lecz came to WCC as regional director of a community-based job training grant, a position he held for three years.

“I really enjoyed it,” Lecz said. “I found it difficult to depart.” Most recently, Lecz spent time in workforce and talent development, working with the other nine community colleges in Southeast Michigan under the Workforce Intelligence Network.

The Advanced Transportation Center will focus on three key pillars: intelligent vehicle systems, advanced manufacturing, and advanced servicing and diagnostics.

“There’s such an interconnection between intelligent vehicles, auto body servicing and repair, and advanced manufacturing,” Lecz said. “All of them will contribute to the



Alan Lecz prepares for his new role as director of the upcoming Advanced Transportation Center, hoping to solidify Washtenaw Community College as a ‘key player’ in the developing industry. EJ STOUT | WASHTENAW VOICE

workforce demand that’s out there by businesses and industries. So we see this as a really bold move by Washtenaw to really be a key player in helping industry move forward.”

Between retiring “baby boomers” and technology that is constantly evolving, training technicians with the abilities and knowledge to work with this technology will be vital.

“Today, to go into a dealership, I think it’s very difficult for

them to find the technicians to diagnose these really elaborate connected systems,” Lecz said. “So there’s going to be a need for more skills for those body areas and the service areas of these dealerships. And this is just exploding.”

In his final years at Ford, Lecz spent time visiting high schools recruiting new engineers. He recognizes that there is a task ahead in getting students interested in these fields.

“I was bringing engine components and talking to them about how we design and develop those things,” he said. “There’s so much technology that’s moving so fast, and the pipeline is not filling fast enough.”

With the \$4 million skilled-trades grant WCC received from the state of Michigan, state-of-the-art equipment will be moved into WCC gradually, with some equipment

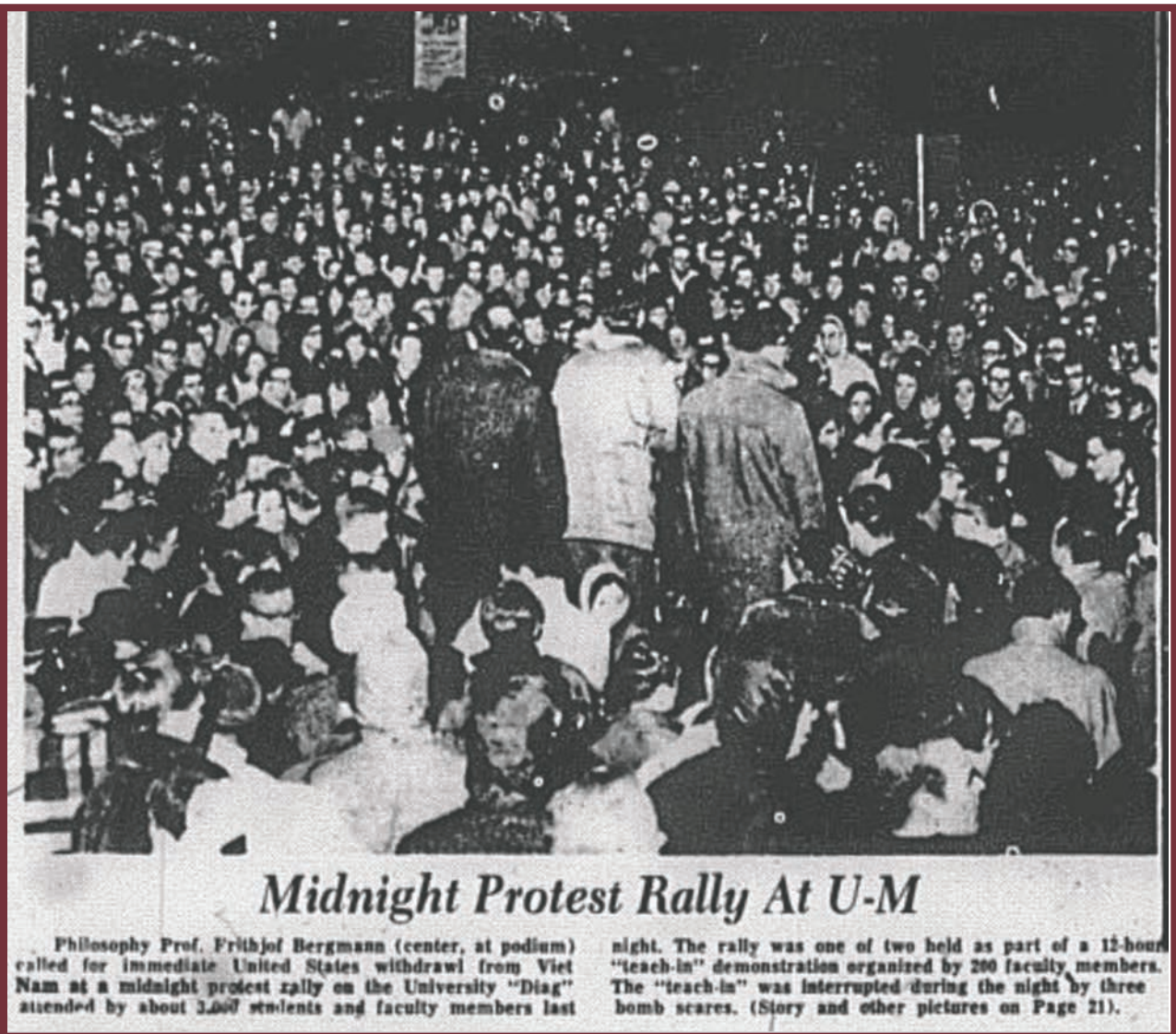
being available for the classes beginning this coming fall. It will take approximately a year to receive and install all the new equipment, Lecz said.

“It’s an exciting time, and there’s so much product development that’s going on,” Lecz said. “If we can feed our technicians into that process, and feed other technicians to go on and get into an engineering program, we’re really serving our own economy by doing that.”

50th anniversary anti-war teach-in

BY NATALIE WRIGHT
Editor

It's been 50 years since activists gathered for a teach-in against the Vietnam War in 1965. A week of events celebrating the teach-in, and reflecting on how the world has changed since then, begins on March 24, hosted by community members, activists and the University of Michigan's Social Work Allies for Immigrant Rights student organization. The events are free and open to the public.



Original caption: Philosophy Prof. Frithjof Bergmann (center, at podium) called for immediate United States withdrawal from Viet Nam at a midnight protest rally on the University "Diag" attended by about 3,000 students and faculty members last night. The rally was one of two held as part of a 12-hour "teach-in" demonstration organized by 200 faculty members. The "teach-in" was interrupted during the night by three bomb scares. Students for a Democratic Society Papers. WWW.LSA.UMICH.EDU | COURTESY PHOTO

OPENING SESSION

Featuring 1965 teach-in organizers, the opening session will reflect on the Vietnam War and the culture and politics of that time, as well as what has changed since then.

WHEN: Tuesday, March 24, 7-10 p.m.
WHERE: Angell Hall, Auditorium B

LESSONS AND ORGANIZING

This session will address the ideas of war and peace and how perspectives on protests were viewed in the 1960s and today.

WHEN: Wednesday, March 25, 3-5:30 p.m.
WHERE: School of Social Work Commons

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE WORLD TODAY?

Focusing on modern issues, this session will address nuclear weapons, trade deals, Ukraine and more.

WHEN: Wednesday, March 25, 7-10 p.m.
WHERE: International Institute meeting room

HOT TOPICS

This session will address the Israeli/Palestinian conflict and other wars in the Middle East.

WHEN: Thursday, March 26, 3-5:30 p.m.
WHERE: School of Social Work, lower level, room B780

WINNING THE PEACE: WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

WHEN: Thursday, March 26, 7-10 p.m.
WHERE: Dana Building, School of Natural Resources, room 1040





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ANN ARBOR FILM FESTIVAL RETURNS TO ITS EDUCATIONAL ROOTS

BY NATALIE WRIGHT
Editor

As the Ann Arbor Film Festival celebrates its 53rd year this week, it will also celebrate the life and work of its founder, George Manupelli, who died last September at the age of 82. Today, the festival is one of the largest and most acclaimed venues for experimental film. Manupelli, who was an art professor at the University of Michigan, renowned by his students for his energy in the classroom, was passionate about the festival's ability to teach, said Leslie Raymond, the AAFF's executive director. "I think he saw the festival as kind of an extension of educational practice," Raymond said. "The screening committees were set up to all watch the films together and discuss them so that some type of educational process would go on. "It's not just about is the film

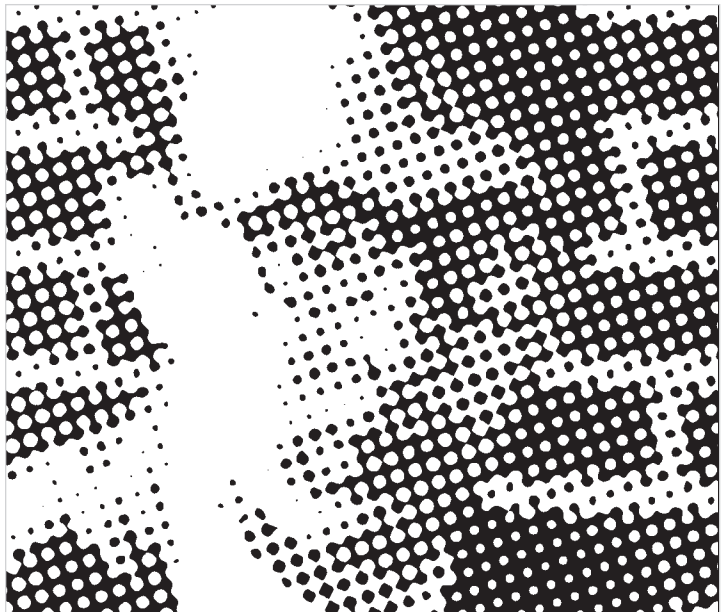
good or bad," Raymond said. "It incites ideas that deserve to be aired and discussed, and when people do that together, you learn a lot, and it creates this kind of social glue." This screening process continued for all the years that the festival showed movies shot on 16 millimeter film and was a source of great pride, Raymond said. "Once things were opened up to digital over the last decade, we went from 300 entries to 3,000," she said, so now most individual screeners watch the films alone. But the AAFF is trying to return to its educational roots. Dave DeVarti, a Washtenaw Community College trustee, works as a volunteer on the festival's membership committee. For several years, the committee has been trying to rebuild its membership which eroded years ago, DeVarti said. "What we're trying to do, instead of having the festival

and then disappearing until the next festival, we're trying to do events throughout the year," DeVarti said. These events have included showings of films from previous years' festivals, educational events teaching the uninitiated about the language of experimental film and membership parties. This year, some screeners even returned to the Manupelli model, sitting together to screen the films and engaging in discussion, Raymond. A tribute for Manupelli is planned for Sunday. It will include a 45-minute silent film by the founder with live musical accompaniment, as well as a series of talks from people who knew him - students, co-workers and friends. Several of Manupelli's films will also be displayed throughout the festival, and an exhibition of his paintings will hang in the Michigan Theater.



Ann Arbor Film Festival founder George Manupelli will be honored during the festival's 53rd year. GEORGE MANUPELLI | COURTESY PHOTO

Below are some festival highlights. For the full schedule, visit washtenawvoice.com.



The poster for the 53rd Ann Arbor Film Festival portrays a young Manupelli. ANN ARBOR FILM FESTIVAL | COURTESY PHOTO

FILM FESTIVAL TICKETS

SCREENINGS

General Admission – \$10
Students and seniors – \$7
AAFF members – \$7
Midnight movie – \$8

FESTIVAL PASSES

(Includes opening night and all events)

General Admission – \$100
Students and seniors – \$85
AAFF members – \$85

OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION

General Admission – \$40
Students and seniors – \$30
AAFF and Michigan Theater members – \$30
Fundraiser and Dinner Screening – \$150

WEEKEND PASSES

(Includes Friday)

General Admission – \$60
Students and seniors – \$50

AAFF MEMBERSHIP

Membership costs range from \$50 to \$300 for individuals and \$80 to \$500 for couples. Three different levels of membership come with different privileges, including tickets or all-access passes to the festival, invitations to year-round events, invitations to private parties and lounges during the festival and festival DVD collections.

For more information, visit <http://www.aaffilmfest.org/membership>.

WOJCIECH BAKOWSKI RETROSPECTIVE

The Ann Arbor Film Festival will present the first North American film retrospective of Polish animated filmmaker Wojciech Bakowski, widely regarded as one of the most important figures in Polish modern contemporary art.

WHAT: Bakowski's program will include animated films from his "Spoken Film" series, "Making New Worlds Instead of Forgetting About It" – a lo-fi collage video – and his most recent piece "Sound of My Soul."

WHEN: Friday, March 27, 7 p.m.

WHERE: Michigan Theater Screening Room

TACITA DEAN RETROSPECTIVE

British visual artist Tacita Dean, who works in a variety of mediums including drawing, photography and sound, but is best known for her work in 16 millimeter film, will be present at the festival for two programs presenting eight of her works, drawn from more than 40 films she's created since 1992.

PROGRAM ONE

WHAT: The program is composed of three films: "The Green Ray" – a three-minute film of a Madagascar sunset, "Kodak" – a 44-minute film shot in the last European Kodak factory to produce 16 millimeter film stock and "JG" – Dean's most recent film, 26 minutes long, which was inspired by the artist's correspondence with British author J.G. Ballard.

WHEN: Wednesday, March 26, 9:15 p.m.

WHERE: Michigan Theater Screening Room

"PROCESS AND THE NON-DELIBERATE ACT"

WHAT: Dean will present this lecture as a part of the Penny W. Stamps Distinguished Speaker Series

WHEN: Thursday, March 27, 5 p.m.

WHERE: Michigan Theater Screening Room

PROGRAM TWO

WHAT: Dean will present five films: "Disappearance at Sea," "Bubble House" and "Teignmouth Electron" – a series of films inspired by stories of personal encounters with the sea, "Merce Cunningham performs STILLNESS" – a four-minute film of an 88-year-old legendary dancer and choreographer who was confined to a wheelchair and "Edwin Parker" – a portrait of artist Cy Twombly going about his daily activities.

WHEN: Thursday March 27, 9:15 p.m.

WHERE: Michigan Theater Screening Room



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FLIPSIDE

Vol. 21, No. 11 — March 23, 2015

Clockwise from top: 'Zuniceratops' by Eivind Bovor, 'Mei Long' by Eivind Bovor, 'Dawn of a New Day' by Mark Hallet, 'Albertosaurus and Lambeosaurus' by Raul Martin, 'Suchomimus and Sarcosuchus' by Raul Martin. ERIN FEDESON | WASHTENAW VOICE



IF WALLS COULD TEACH

BY ERIN FEDESON
Staff Writer

The 18 pictures that line the first-floor halls of Washtenaw's Crane Liberal Arts and Science building are worth far more than a thousand words. They tell a story of life and death, going back millions of years.

These pictures, connected by curving branches, depict long-lost creatures from the Paleozoic Era.

Beyond the apparent artwork, there are three bands barely visible beneath the current paint. These three lines run along the hallway and end

short of the physics wall display in the opposite hall.

They were the original timeline created during former WCC President Larry Whitworth's time.

During his presidency, Whitworth hired Judith Homell as his executive assistant, said Pete Leshkevich, director of Student Development and Activities, who used to work as Homell's technical assistant.

Homell wanted the walls to teach, so students could learn while they wait to get into their classes, Leshkevich explained.

At the time, David Thomas

was a full-time faculty member for the Geology Department.

One of his students, Christy Janisch, was selected by Homell to paint the original linear timeline, with plant-eating dinosaurs and ginkgo trees toward the end of the hallway.

"I liked the connection as we have ginkgo trees and dinosaur tracks outside," Thomas said.

Around 2010, David Wooten, a biology instructor, decided it was time to update the timeline.

The painting maintenance department painted over the original timeline, so Lana Campbell, a WCC student

had a clean slate to paint the branches, which took about a week, she said.

The purpose of the branches and the pictures' staggered appearance, was to show how evolution worked, Wooten explained. Some creatures branch off and become extinct, others continued on in the evolutionary process.

To give the timeline a more professional appearance, Wooten worked with Leshkevich and Homell to collect various works of art by paleo artists.

Paleo artists use art and science to represent what the

extinct creatures might have looked like, as there was no evidence what dinosaurs looked like, Leshkevich explained.

Leshkevich had to contact the artists to obtain the rights to print. The cost of the paintings ranged from \$100 to several hundred dollars.

The artists ranged from those just beginning their career to those well established in their career, Leshkevich said.

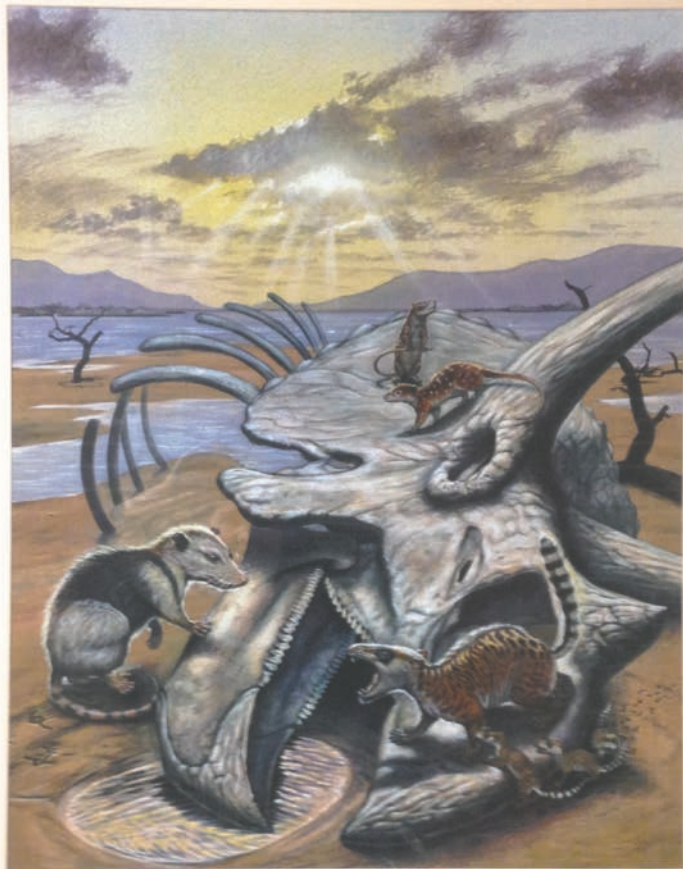
The timeline begins at the Cambrian Explosion, which occurred around 550 million years ago, according to the information plaque next to Karen Carr's "Cambrian Sea

Mural."

It concludes with three art pieces by Charles R. Knight, the information plaque entitling the collection as "Oligocene Mammals."

The Oligocene Period was towards the end of the Paleozoic Era, which occurred from 33.9 to 23 million years ago, according to the University of California's Museum of Paleontology.

While the artwork narrates a story from several million years ago, the wall stands as a testament to how art can tell more than one story.



MEET THE CLUB

WCC students gets their game on



Alex Neal, 18, left, and Jake Thomas, 22, far right, both from Ypsilanti, play 'Cardfight!! Vanguard' during a recent Gamers Club meeting. ERIN FEDESON | WASHTENAW VOICE

BY ERIN FEDESON
STAFF WRITER

Laughter and conversation bounces back and forth in the air above the cards shuffling, dice rolling and video game music.

Fun yet controlled chaos describes the atmosphere at the Gamers Club.

This social club meets every Wednesday from 6-9 p.m. in TI 116.

It offers video games, card games, role-playing games and board games each meeting.

At the March 11 meeting, a group of students clustered around a Monopoly board in a corner.

Meanwhile, Alex Neal, 18, and Jake Thomas, 22, played Cardfight!! Vanguard at a different table.

"It is similar to but faster than Yu-Gi-Oh," Neal explained. He joined the club last semester after his friends introduced him to it.

Thomas, who's studying culinary arts, has been in the club for two years. He explained he switched from playing Yu-Gi-Oh to Cardfight!! Vanguard because it looked interesting to him.

"I play other games like Cards Against Humanity and Monopoly," Neal said. He added, if he understood the game offered by the club, he would play it.

Not all of the games were for groups as one student hunched over his hand-held game next to Neal and Thomas.

The club also offers a DnD, a.k.a. Dungeons and Dragons, or Pathfinder game every semester,

club president Jacob Cantrell, of Ypsilanti, said. One of the most popular card games is Magic: The Gathering.

Achieving organization is a challenge, Cantrell said. The club's average attendance is between 27 to 36 members each meeting.

The original club started in either 1998 or 1999, Cantrell explained.

Matthew Vancena, a former WCC student and known as "Bear" by the club members, re-founded the club three years ago.

The Gamers Club will host a charity event for Saint Jude's Children Hospital, Cantrell said. This event will offer two different card game tournaments: Magic: The Gathering and Yu-Gi-Oh.



Dangers of digital dating

Between online dating, digital breakups and the sharing of too much information, social media can be a pitfall in forming healthy relationships

BY PAULETTE PARKER
News Editor

Facebook statuses announce everything from new babies to new love. Thoughts have been confined to 140-character tweets. Even breakfast and dinner plates have gone public with Instagram.

Social media is a prevalent, dominant and almost vital presence in our society. New relationships are formed and existing relationships maintained using these outlets. However, “real-life” relationships begin to suffer when people become so plugged in that they tune out to the world around them.

“I see people all the time; they have their headphones on, or they’re always texting,” said Cassandra George-Sturges, a Washtenaw Community College psychology instructor. “How do you know that the guy right next to you on the elevator may not be the next person who you can actually see and spend time with. You don’t even know because you’re so tuned out from the real world.”

With specialized dating sites that connect farmers, Christians, cougars and older singles, creating a profile has become easier than approaching that stranger in the grocery store. And with apps like Tinder, your husband or wife may be only a right-swipe away.

But the convenience is not without risk.

“Now you meet a person, and they can tell you anything,” George-Sturges said. “They have pictures up of when they were younger or smaller. Now people have an opportunity to present a part of themselves that’s not even real.”

Users have a responsibility to themselves to make sure they have an opportunity to meet the person face-to-face, she said.

“I would think that after at least three months of communicating on social media, that at some point, you need to meet them,” George-Sturges said. “And if they can’t find a way to meet you, and you can’t find a way to meet them, in my opinion, those are red flags.”

Social media doesn’t only pose a unique set of challenges in beginning new relationships, but can complicate established relationships. Social media has made distributing and obtaining information instantaneous. When oversharing takes place, things can go awry.

“People post their personal business,” George-Sturges said. “When you take something that’s intimate and personal and private, and you put it in a social media setting and put people in your business, I feel like you take away some of the sacredness of that bond.” She suggests that if you’re

in a relationship, keep it to yourself.

“That is not the place for social media to me,” she said.

WCC pre-med student, Shelby H., 22, of Pinckney, said that, while her boyfriend has written inconspicuous tweets directed toward her, she refrains from sharing her relationship details online.

“I don’t like involving people in my drama,” Shelby said.

George-Sturges also warns that people need to be conscientious that intentions can be misinterpreted online, particularly when it comes to comments or messages.

“I think you should be aware of flirtatious behavior,” she said. “You have to remember that when you make a comment or make some type of post, that sometimes it can be interpreted in a way that can hurt the person you’re in a relationship with.” Sometimes the best rule to follow is just not to say anything at all.

“If there’s any doubt in your mind that in any way this can be taken as disrespect for your partner, don’t do it,” George-Sturges said. “Err on the side of not posting anything that looks flirtatious.”

WTMC student, Abrielle Fretz, 16, of Superior Township, feels that anything said online is open for interpretation.

“It can be hard to portray subtle things like sarcasm,” Fretz said. “If there’s anything

important that you need to say, definitely in person is the best way to go.” Ups and downs are a part of any healthy relationship, George-Sturges said. But involving others in those down moments can be detrimental.

“The minute you post something negative about your relationship, you have just taken something that you and your mate would have gotten over in a couple days, and now you may never survive it,” George-Sturges said. “Don’t post your emotions. Don’t post anything about your mate online – period.”

“People share things that they wouldn’t normally share because they have the safety of anonymity,” she said. “I can say how my husband is getting on my nerves and how my wife isn’t a good wife.”

So is social media to blame for breakups or does it just expedite the inevitable?

“My daughter said, ‘You put people in your business, and people will attempt to destroy it,’ and I agree with [her],” George-Sturges said.

“I feel like social media ruins relationships – period,” Shelby said. Breaking up has changed in the digital age, becoming simultaneously easier and more difficult.

“I just think that the lack of, or this superficial layer of communication makes it easier for people to break up with each other and not be

concerned about their feelings,” George-Sturges said. “You can get over a picture quicker than you can making love to a real person.” Moving on gracefully after a breakup can be exacerbated by social media presences.

“I think people look at their exes’ social media pages due to jealousy or the fact that they’re not over them, and they want to see what’s going on,” Shelby said.

“When my son and his girlfriend broke up after seven years, he would go on her Facebook every night to see what she was doing,” George-Sturges said. “I knew he was over her when he stopped.” She recommends cutting all social media ties, including mutual friends.

“The healthiest thing to do is delete all friends that you have in common because you’ve got to remember it’s social media; it’s not real life,” she said. “If you have a friend in common, go to the movies together. It doesn’t mean they’re not your friend anymore, but in this artificial world of communication, keep it clean, cut it off.” Moving on is beneficial for both parties involved.

“I do think that seeing this person on social media after a breakup prolongs the healing process because you miss the opportunity to go within,” George-Sturges said. “You eventually get over them, but I think you put yourself through a lot of turmoil comparing

yourself to the new person and getting angry again about something they said, which is really none of your business. That’s the thing, once you break up, they’re no longer your business.”

Sending messages and making posts with the intention of hurting one another should also be avoided.

“When people hurt, they hurt people,” George-Sturges said. “I think the No. 1 rule should be this: If I was not able to hide behind social media, would I go to this person’s face and say it straight away? And if you have any hesitation of saying that directly to their face, you know you shouldn’t be posting that.”

In the end, grieving is necessary to get past a previous relationship.

“Grieving releases the past,” George-Sturges said. “It releases everything that didn’t work from your life, and it gives you an opportunity to attract something new and more wonderful.” Balancing relationships and social media is fairly new territory. Just as with any new development, the rules must be learned.

“I think that we are evolving as human beings, and it’s, like, this is a new way of communicating,” George-Sturges said. “I think that in the process of this transition into this new phase of evolution as human beings, we have to be patient with each other.”

What the silent treatment is actually telling someone

BY PAULETTE PARKER
News Editor

If relationship problems are bricks, and the silent treatment is glue, some couples may be building walls of unresolved problems so thick that they won’t be able to tear them down.

That is the comparison made by Dr. Cassandra George-Sturges, a psychology instructor in the Behavioral Sciences department at Washtenaw Community College.

When partners shut one another out, they may underestimate the seriousness of the act they are committing.

“It’s a way of control,” said Candice Worthy, a mental health therapist at Worthy Counseling Services in Trenton. “Another word for it would be emotional abuse.”

This behavior is ingrained long before a person’s first romantic relationship.

“It’s a learned behavior,” George-Sturges said.

The feelings associated with being ostracized, resulting from the silent treatment, are the foundation of what makes the well-known and widely-used “timeout” so effective with children. The pain of feeling ostracized leads them to change their behavior so as to not feel that way again. Children may also observe their parents using the silent treatment against each other.

“My mother used the silent treatment a lot,” George-Sturges said. “As a child, to me, it was torturous.” She cites this as one of the reasons she’s so against it today.

The silent treatment, dubbed the “demand-withdrawal method” by researchers, is a passive-aggressive, manipulative behavior that puts the person using it in control of the situation. The

individual on the receiving end, however, is left in the dark.

“You don’t know what that person’s thinking; you don’t know if they’re going to leave, and you don’t know what their next move is,” George-Sturges said.

A disconnect in communication can spell disaster for a relationship. It can also manifest physically due to the effects that being ostracized has on the anterior cingulate cortex of the brain, which detects pain. Giving someone the silent treatment can cause that person physical pain.

“It can cause anxiety, low self-esteem, confusion, inability to communicate and miscommunication,” Worthy said. You also forget what needed to be resolved.

Math and science major, Brandy Bradley, 33, of Chelsea, is adamantly against the silent treatment and refuses to allow it in her marriage.

“That seems like a lot of work,” Bradley said. “I believe in getting it all out there. I will follow you around.”

But old habits die hard when it comes to giving up the silent treatment.

“How can you stop using something that causes people to call you consistently and make up with you?” George-Sturges said.

It’s important that couples seek help for this problem early on. Part of being in a relationship is the vulnerability of communication.

“To tell someone how you really feel makes you vulnerable and maybe insecure,” George-Sturges said. “But I’d rather be vulnerable and insecure than to just stop speaking to you.”

How can couples communicate more effectively?

It is important to address issues when they transpire, particularly small issues, such as

someone not washing the dishes. But it must be done productively.

“Instead of immediately attacking, find different ways to suggest ways to complete the task,” Worthy said.

It is also important to use the word “I,” instead of “you.” Using “you” is accusatory, and can cause a person to feel the need to defend themselves, potentially worsening the situation.

“It’s to take accountability and ownership for your own feelings,” George-Sturges said. “That’s a big and really brave thing to do.”

Partners giving each other a cooling-off period before confronting an issue may be one of the best options.

“If you tell this person, ‘Look, let’s not talk for a couple days. I need to clear my head,’ that’s not the silent treatment,” George-Sturges said.

Bradley’s husband believes in cooling off before talking on heated issues.

“If there’s something big, he’ll walk away,” Bradley said.

The silent treatment speaks volumes about a relationship. Whether it’s known as the silent treatment, the cold shoulder or stonewalling, this method of conflict un-resolution can have long-lasting, damaging effects on couples.

“A relationship is the secrets you share with somebody. That’s what makes a relationship special,” George-Sturges said. “When you stop communicating, then what else are you doing? There’s nothing else there if you aren’t sharing your thoughts, your ideas and your feelings.”

In other words, silence isn’t always golden.

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CLASSIFIEDS

Note: Deadline for the April 6 issue is Tuesday, March 31 at 5 p.m.

WEBMASTER: Wanted for

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

INTERN/ACCOUNT COORDINATOR
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CAN-CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT – PT DAYS. Provides resident care assistance under the supervision

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