

Student seeks to ban sale of bottled water on campus

BY TAYLOR ROBINSON
Editor

After watching the documentary “Tapped” at least seven times, Washtenaw Community College student Austin Jackson knew something needed to be done about the dangers of bottled water. Where did he start his campaign to ban the sale of bottled water? Right here on WCC’s campus.

“‘Tapped’ is a great movie to introduce students to this issue,” Jackson said. “But, after the seventh time seeing it, I was basically like ‘I have to do something so I can stop seeing this damn movie all the time. Otherwise, if I don’t

actively start enacting change, I’m just going to have to keep watching this movie over and over again. They say take action, so I thought I would take some action.”

In October 2015, Jackson began informing students on campus about the issue, along with discussing possible solutions with instructors in the biology and environmental science fields.

He’s raising awareness about not only the waste bottled water contributes to, but also the effects on the environment and human health.

The chemical bisphenol, or BPA, is used to coat the inside of the plastic of the

bottle. BPA has been criticized for being potentially harmful when ingested. Jackson says the chemical has been known to affect the brain’s hippocampus, which is associated with long-term memory in particular, and spatial navigation.

Bradley Metz, a WCC biology instructor who shows support for Jackson’s initiative, agrees with the negative effects caused by BPA.

“Depending on what (bottled water) company it is, the plastics they use leeches things like BPA back into the water,” Metz said. “Then you are getting things in your water that you really don’t want and you are buying bottled water thinking it is so great.”

The Water Project says that

the “bottles used to package water take over 1,000 years to biodegrade, and if incinerated, they produce toxic fumes. It is estimated that over 80 percent of all single-use water bottles used in the U.S. simply become litter.”

Metz adds that since there is not a 10 cent return on bottled water, that adds to the waste in the environment, and while some do get recycled, a lot of people might just pitch them instead.

Jackson and Metz agree that banning the sale of bottled water on campus can be easily achieved. Students have other options including using the drinking fountains, some of which have filters and also bottle fillers to make it more convenient.

“It’s one of those things that once you do it for a certain amount of time, it becomes second nature,” Metz said.

Since Jackson started spreading the word on campus, he’s gained support from student organizations such as the Environmental Science Club and the Political Science Club.

Joe Chapman, vice president of the PSC, has been helping a lot Jackson said.

“Joe Chapman has been an incredible help. He was a canvasser for Clean Water Action... and he was the one who contacted me first about banning bottled water, got me involved with the Political Science Club, and basically those people branched out and brought a bunch of people to help support,” Jackson said.

Recently, Jackson reached out to even more students by setting up a table in the Student Center and educating people about the topic. After two days, he received more than 80 student signatures for his petition. Between those signatures and the support he’s gained through social media, more than 100 people have responded to his cause.

“One of the more remarkable things that happened was the people who were more or less informed about the issue, after I talked to them, they ended up signing. It wasn’t just completely all support from people who already had a predisposition toward my initiative,” Jackson said.

While reaching out to students has been successful, he’s faced issues with getting support from the administration.

After trying to get in contact with President Rose Bellanca numerous times, he says he has received little communication in return.

“Because I’m a student, I think I deserve a little time of day with my president, especially on an environmental issue,” Jackson said. “They’ve already done so much, like the solar power recycler, having a huge recycling program, and what they’ve done with compost, what’s one more thing? I think we would actually pull in some grants just by being a completely environmental school.”

Jackson continues to work toward completing his initiative by the time he graduates at the end of the semester. He’s looking for a successor to take on this task when he heads to Eastern Michigan University to pursue a bachelor’s in hydrology. Students at EMU are also trying to tackle the same issue. What started out as a one-man campaign has gained traction among WCC’s campus community.

“Not a day goes by that I don’t try to promote it,” Jackson said.

For more information visit www.banbottledwater.net

Facebook page “Ban Bottled Water”



GRAY BANCROFT | WASHTENAW VOICE

Panel provides insight into the lives of successful working woman

BY MADI TORTORA
Staff Writer

Because March was Women’s History Month, it was important for Washtenaw Community College to touch on the successes and triumphs of powerful women. Now, in April, it’s important that these issues are still talked about, even without a dedicated month.

On Wednesday, March 23, the Diversity and Inclusion Taskforce, along with the help of Women of Washtenaw, brought a panel of women to WCC to discuss their journeys.

The panel consisted of a WCC nursing graduate and current RN, a pediatric hematologist-oncologist, an entrepreneur/franchise owner, a best-selling author and financial coach, and an Olympian and pharmacist. With the sharing of their success stories came the reaction from the audience, consisting of both men and women, many of them

showing their appreciation for these women.

Many stories were similar, discussing faltering in their journeys – sometimes to do with people holding them back, whether because of their race, their gender, or their privilege.

“Whether I was African American, white, anything, I would always look for the best in others. Underneath, we’re all the same people,” said Gail Perry-Mason, a best-selling author and financial coach. “Sometimes, it was hurtful, because people would look down on me. They would come in to a luncheon meeting or something like that, and they would look at me and think ‘Oh, she must be the secretary,’ and I wasn’t.”

This is not uncommon for women in modern society. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics in 2013, 57.2 percent of women were in the labor force, down 0.5 percentage point from 2012. Women may feel less likely to work for

multiple reasons, some including lesser pay than men, lower expectations to become higher level positions, and definite work stereotypes.

Many women on the panel shared their stories about speed bumps along their rise to success. Several women were young mothers, some even having their children while attending school, but didn’t let it affect them. They included their stories of adoption, of grief, and of relationships.

Without the support from many people, they mentioned, they wouldn’t be where they are today. Perry-Mason even discussed creating a board of ‘personnel directors,’ people one can look to for inspiration and support. They may not even know if they are on your board, she joked, but they are important all the same.

The support provided to women in times of turmoil may be one of the most important things. At WCC, there is a group of women called

Women of Washtenaw. This group, WCC’s own chapter of Michigan American Council on Education, also known as ACE, empowers women to network with other women and learn from one another, all the while sharing constant support. Many women in WOW have been able to share and highlight their skills on WCC’s campus, and work on other initiatives, including helping to raise funds for the community, on Strategic Priority Committees and Diversity and Inclusion Taskforce. It’s growth since the Women of Color Collaborative Luncheon held last November at Grand Valley State University is substantial, and shows the hunger women have to help each other succeed.

“After that event, we got so much great feedback and participation from women here on campus we just decided to start our own chapter,” said Andrea Hemphill, the operations coordinator at WCC and also an



Gail Perry-Mason consoles Bayyinah Jackson, 43, the assistant director of financial aid operations. GRAY BANCROFT | WASHTENAW VOICE

institutional representative of WOW. “(WCC) President Bellanca and Kim Hurns had been members with MI ACE, and had been involved with the women of color group for some time before that. They definitely helped bring that to Washtenaw.”

WOW is focused on professional development opportunities, and runs lunch and learn sessions where a guest speaker is brought in, Hemphill mentioned. It’s a lot about networking and support.

Although this group started

only about a year and a half ago, WOW has had many opportunities to host events and have many ideas, including a possible yoga luncheon to focus on staying calm and collected. This was thought of after having a guest speaker come in to discuss balance, said Shana Barker, scholarship and alumni coordinator at WCC and institutional representative of WOW.

“I hope that we continue to grow and continue to receive the support, and just to get every woman involved,” Barker said.

Political Science Club hosts climate change summit

BY IVAN FLORES
Staff Writer

There is an unending argument between skeptics and believers with regards to climate change. Washtenaw’s Political Science Club invited climate change activists from various organizations to present their case at Towsley Auditorium on March 24.

Mariah Urueta is an activist for the local Food And Water Watch chapter.

“Climate destabilization is not how the weather feels outside,” she explained.

Climate and weather are not the same thing. Weather is volatile, but climate remains constant over long periods of time.

Emily Woodcock was among the other speakers present. She is the office manager for Clean Water Action’s Ann Arbor branch.

“Climate change affects



Those who attended the WCC Climate Summit were able to talk to the panelists. EVANS KOUKIOS | WASHTENAW VOICE

us directly,” Woodcock said. “(In Michigan) it especially affects the cherry crop and has other impacts on agriculture.”

According to Joe Somers, a retired Environmental Protection Agency employee with a Ph.D in chemical engineering, the main factor

behind climate change is carbon dioxide. Carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas. Greenhouse gases make up a small part of the atmosphere, but they are critical to the global climate.

When the sun’s energy hits the Earth, some of it is reflected into space, and the Earth absorbs some of

it. That energy is radiated back out towards space, but greenhouse gases trap some of the heat in the lower atmosphere. The greater the concentration of greenhouse gases, the greater the effect on global temperature.

“CO2 levels have been rising,” Somers said. “They’re now a little over 400 parts per million. In the pre-industrial age, they were about 300 PPM. That’s roughly about a 25 percent increase, which is significant.”

While natural events like forest fires and volcanic eruptions account for some of the CO2, and other greenhouse gas, emissions, human activity accounts for most of them.

“The (average) ambient temperature has increased by about 1 degree Celsius, which is almost 2 degrees Fahrenheit, in the past century. What is

“Climate destabilization is not how the weather feels outside.”

significance of that? Polar ice caps melt and sea levels rise. It’s causes climate perturbation, where climate systems become more unstable and (susceptible) to adverse events like storms.”

Energy production is a source of CO2.

“Fossil fuels do not include their true cost,” said Jeanie Rodgers, from Citizen’s Climate lobby.

Fossil fuels are relatively cheap, but that is not always the case.

“Michigan actually has one of the highest costs for energy because of coal,” Woodcock added.

Rodgers went on, “60 percent of the carbon footprint comes from the household products we buy, between manufacturing and transportation.”

According to Somers, that footprint is huge. The United States is responsible for roughly 30 percent of the CO2 produced by the entire world.

The main message from the conference was to be responsible human beings, by being educated and making good choices to protect the environment.

Henry Griffin, another activist present, said, “We are not inheriting from our ancestors, but borrowing from our children.”





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Community college exhibits community resources event

BY JENEE GREGOR
Staff Writer

Resources that are available to the community were represented on March 29 by more than two dozen local organizations at Washtenaw Community College’s resource fair. The event was split up into two sessions – the first held on the second floor of the Student Center and the second held in the Morris Lawrence building



Monique Selimos representing the Corner Health Center that delivers healthcare for adolescents and young adults, 12-25 years of age. EVANS KOUKIOS | WASHTENAW VOICE

lobby. The available information ran the gamut including: housing and shelter information, food assistance, clothing and basic supplies, health care, insurance and immunization information, and more. Home of New Vision, one of the organizations in attendance, is a non-profit that takes recovery to the next level by offering resources and being proactive in the community. Stacy Sternberg, a board member of the Washtenaw Recovery Advocacy Project, and Chris O’Droski, the vice president and peer recovery support services specialist, manned the booth giving out information about their

upcoming events and sharing information. “More people die from accidental overdose in the U.S. than car accidents, gun violence and HIV combined,” Sternberg said. They have also been working with the Sheriff’s Department in utilizing a device that can stop someone from overdosing and that has saved 16 lives in the last year, said O’Droski. They hold events around the area

raising awareness, and supporting those in recovery, including a walk for awareness on May 21 starting in Liberty Plaza. The Washtenaw County Sheriff’s Department came and shared information about the programs and assistance offered to the local community. They have programs to help “interrupt” the violence and ask for community advocates in this mission. They also have a Citizen’s Police Academy, which teaches residents what to do in case of an emergency, and ways to curb violence in local neighborhoods at no cost. They are increasing their community outreach and hope to get more people involved with the process, said Julia

Hordge, certified peer support specialist. Michigan Ability Partners came to talk about the services that they provide to the homeless and veterans of the area. They provide everything from job search assistance, to financial assistance, as well as housing services. “We just help people to get back on track,” said Monique Beck, the Homeless Veteran Reintegration Program job developer with MAP. United Way of Washtenaw County shared information about their network and how they offer the largest listing of volunteer opportunities in the area. The skills and talents needed are vastly ranging and they are great for building all types of work experience, said Amanda Reel, a community impact and volunteer center manager.

Unified, a HIV health and beyond organization, educates and provides testing and treatment of HIV. They offer free testing for HIV and Hepatitis C, and even have a mobile testing center that spends a few hours a week at different locations giving broader access to their services. Greg Pratt, a medical case manager and health insurance navigator, says people in his field are here to help people understand the high risk activity and to have access to testing. They’ll work with the individuals in understanding what the virus is and what can be done about it, Pratt said. There were more organizations present and available to the community. The resource fair happens multiple times a year and is open to all Washtenaw County residents and WCC students.



A panel of professional writers came to speak at the Creative Careers in Writing event. From left: Steven Benninghoff, Jason Marker, Adrienne Haywood, Jelani McGadney, and Matt Durr. ANDREI POP | WASHTENAW VOICE

WCC connects the passion for writing with ‘the real marketplace’

BY JENELLE FRANKLIN
Staff Writer

The sixth annual “Cool Careers in Writing” panel discussion was held in Washtenaw Community College’s Writing Center Thursday, March 24. Five panelists from five different writing careers spoke about their daily job assignments, their education and the paths that eventually led each of them to where they are now. The event was hosted by three WCC faculty members: Hava Levitt-Phillips, Lisa Veasey, and Dave Waskins.

The few dozen attendees heard how students who graduate from WCC like Matt Durr, an MLive’s business reporter, can take their degrees into the workforce and find success. Durr, who completed his journalism major at WCC, said his favorite part of his job is that, “You wake up and there’s something new waiting for you each day.” Durr said his experience being a multi-platform writer, able to write for print or digital news in combination with knowledge of Indesign software, can help get a foot in the door when entering the workforce. The journalist’s career requires being able to write an article anywhere, as

well as being flexible and able to get the work done as soon as the news hits. “I’ve sat on the sidewalk in Depot Town and typed up a story right there after an event,” Durr said. Always keep a portfolio of clips of published work, Durr urges, because you need them to show to prospective employers. His collection starts with his articles from WCC’s own student newspaper, The Washtenaw Voice. Although Durr focused on journalism, other panelists like Adrienne Haywood sought multiple areas of study and then settled in technical writing. Haywood, senior technical writer for Thomson-Reuters in Dexter, has had a winding path that started with anthropology – the study of human culture – as her area of study. “It has been especially helpful for me as a technical writer,” Haywood said. She finished her double major at Eastern Michigan University in anthropology and English and has enjoyed the writing career she chose. “I am an introvert at heart and my job extroverts me with the people I communicate with everyday. It has been good for me all the way around,” Haywood said. “Along the way,

you should network, network, network.” Her diverse skill set has taught her the importance of enjoying the ride to success as much as the success itself. Attenwdees like Olivia Johnson, WCC journalism major from Brighton, had an opportunity to network with panelist Haywood after hearing her story and how she got to the place she loves being. “She has a similar background to mine, so it was inspiring to hear how she has gotten this far in life. She spoke about anthropology and that was one of the first things I ever wanted to do,” Johnson said. Johnson mentioned transferring to EMU for her bachelor’s degree. While Haywood received her English education from EMU, and Johnson looks to do the same, fellow panelist Steven Benninghoff imparts it. Benninghoff, who is an associate professor at EMU, didn’t get into his writing career until attending Purdue university for his PhD. “Winding paths are the best thing. As a human being, you embody multiple fields and the connections across

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IN BRIEF

RELAY FOR LIFE

A bake sale benefiting the American Cancer Society takes place on the first floor of the Student Center, Thursday, April 14, from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Stop by the bake sale to support Team Wolfpack and to learn about the Relay for Life event. You may also join the team – with no commitment to donate – and help raise money towards the cause on campus connect.

EARTH DAY

To celebrate Earth Day this year, various organizations will be on-hand to talk about sustainability and caring for the earth on Thursday, April 7 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. on the first floor of the Student Center. A live raptor presentation will take place from 12 – 1 p.m. inside the Student Center on the first floor. Also, volunteers are needed for the event, and those interested can sign up on campus connect.

GREENFIELD VILLAGE/HENRY FORD MUSEUM TRIP

Tickets for a trip to Greenfield Village and the Henry Ford Museum on April 29 are available at the Cashier’s Office on the second floor of the Student Center. The \$15 ticket includes admission to both Greenfield Village and Henry Ford Museum, college-van transportation and lunch at Mongolian BBQ.

SPRING SWING CAFE

On Tuesday, April 26, WCC hosts its annual Spring Swing Cafe in the Towsley Auditorium. This evening of dance and music includes WCC Combo performances at 6 p.m., and dance performances from WCC, Dance4Unity, and community performers at 7 p.m. This event is free and open to the public.

SEEKING INSPIRING STUDENTS

Have you been inspired by what you see a fellow student do, or what you hear them

speaking about? This is your opportunity to submit the name and email of a fellow WCC student who inspires you. The Washtenaw Voice is reaching out in search of those who inspire their peers so they can be given the spotlight they deserve. Please include a short note about what makes them stand out to you, how you know each other, and the aforementioned contact information in an email to jnfranklin@wccnet.edu

MACKINAC ISLAND DAY TRIP

On Friday, May 27, Student Activities hosts a day trip to Mackinac Island from 6:30 a.m.-1 a.m. The \$50 ticket includes motor-coach transportation, ferry pass to/from the Island and a \$20 lunch voucher to Mama Mia’s Pizzeria in Mackinac City. Tickets are on sale at the Cashier’s Office, second floor of the Student Center.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP WORKSHOP

On Tuesday, April 5, from 9:30am to 11:00am, the entrepreneurship center hosts

the workshop, “Grow Your Business with Email and Social Media.” This workshop will cover how to have a greater understanding of marketing basics, what a campaign is, and tips for how to get messages opened and read, shared and socially visible. The Entrepreneurship Center is located in the Plant Operations building, room 120.

-Sofia Lynch

SECURITY NOTE

Mar 18-31

Information from incident reports provided to The Voice by Campus Safety and Security Director Jacques Desrosiers

On March 24, a student was sitting at a table in the Student Center with others, while in possession of her phone. 15-20 minutes after she left, she realized that her phone was missing and could not be located. The phone is described as a silver I-Phone 6.

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EDITORIAL

‘A real punch in the gut’ for Detroit

Just a few days after a Voice reporter wrote a column about the crumbling Detroit Public School system, news breaks that at least a dozen current and former principals of Detroit schools have been taking bribes, also known as kickbacks, nearing one million dollars. In a city already renowned for its corruption, these people still shocked the Detroit area with the new lows they reached through their crimes.

So while schools are crumbling and are in continuing need of financial support, the principals who should be guiding schools out of this unfortunate situation, are now just contributing to their demise. It should now be on the shoulders of those who have abused these positions of power to right their own wrongs and replace the money they’ve taken.

While a million dollars may not fix all the issues, it’s a good place to start. These corrupt school officials aren’t the only ones

to blame. Businessman Norman Shy, owner of Allstate Sales, was also involved in the extortion. He’d work with the various principals and had them fill out fake invoices for school supplies. Then, some of the orders were “never received.”

“The real victims in a case like this are students and families...the teachers and the educators who want to make a difference,” said U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan Barbara McQuade, NBC reported. “A case like this is a real punch in the gut.”

McQuade couldn’t have said it any better. While these officials reaped the benefits of their wrongdoings, they forgot to worry about the teachers educating Detroit’s youth in uninhabitable conditions, or students sharing learning resources that are lacking in the school system. No matter the amount of money or who else is to blame, these actions are criminal, and after more

than two years of investigation, it’s time to start holding people accountable.

At a time when Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder is probably up to his eyeballs in complaints not only about the Flint water crisis, but now the lack of DPS funding, he signed legislation last week that would give \$48.7 million to the schools to get them through the end of the school year. If this wouldn’t have happened, employees risked not being paid anymore after the beginning of April.

While this may be a short-term solution, if something isn’t done long-term, the issue has the potential to affect Michigan as a whole, including negatively affecting other school districts. In so many ways, the youth of a city are the future of a city, and no city needs growth now more than Detroit. If we aren’t giving each student a fighting chance at an education, what chance are we giving Detroit?

Between declining enrollment, deteriorating buildings, and ongoing scandal, the operating debt for DPS is approximately \$515 million. And although it might be dangerous to say this, Detroit can find ways to help fund a new Red Wings stadium (about \$284.5 million from public investment), yet not much has been done to aid the crippling school system? This is just one example of where decision making has gone wrong – where entertainment, greediness and bribery have somehow taken the driver’s seat over students receiving an education and teachers being able to do their jobs.

While it’s not too late to save DPS, the outlook is bleak unless something is done immediately, or at least by June 30 before the \$48.7 million runs out. If there is ever a time for the people of Detroit to come together to make a change, the time was yesterday. Let this be our wake up call.

COLUMN

Suicide: The gun problem no one is ready to deal with



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It is becoming increasingly difficult to find someone in this day and age whose life has not been impacted by suicide in some form, yet still, as a society, we continue to push the topic under the rug. One million people commit suicide throughout the world every year, according to the World Health Organization – that’s one suicide every 40 seconds.

Suicide is also the third highest killer of 15-24 year olds, following behind accidents and homicides, according to the National Bureau of Economic Research. Still, suicide remains stigmatized and thus undiscussed. Proof of this stigma is evidenced by the fact that 39 percent of people reported seeing suicide as “weak,” according to Debate.org.

In the issue of gun policies, a topic that has been consistently broadcasted for more reason than one, suicide seems to be once again brushed to the side as a minute part of the issue. Gun access is actually one of the key factors of so many young americans taking their lives. In fact, almost half of all suicides in the United States are committed by use of firearms, according to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

Many gun-right activists have made the point that suicide exists with or without guns. While it’s true that suicide will inevitably exist regardless of gun laws, easy gun access exacerbates an already troubling issue. According to the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, states with higher levels of household gun ownership had higher rates of firearm suicide and overall suicide, establishing the correlation between gun-access and the likelihood of suicide.

The U.S. has 88.8 guns for every 100 citizens, according to a 2007 report by the Switzerland-based Small Arms Survey, surmounting to about 35-50 percent of the world’s civilian owned guns. Non-coincidentally, the U.S. firearm homicide rate is 20 times

higher than the combined rates of 22 countries that are our peers in wealth and population, according the UCLA School of Public Health. Yet, of the average 92 people killed on a given day in America, 58 of those deaths were gun suicides, compared to the 30 some lost to homicide.

An undeniable correlation exists between the presence of guns, and the persistence of suicide. It is no coincidence that our country has so much of the world’s firearms and so much of the world’s gun violence as well. Suicides accounts for 60 percent of those Americans lost to gun violence, but since it is so veiled in deep stigma, the issue of suicide is continually put on the back burner.

Guns create a permanent ending to possibly temporary issues, in the matters of homicide and suicide. Many suicide ideations are spurred from momentary problems – sometimes issues that may blow over with a good night’s rest. However, if a suicidal person owns a gun, or lives with someone who does, now they have a way to a quick, permanent way to take their life – rather than run the risk of surviving with a less immediate method.

Nine out of 10 people who survive a suicide attempt will not go on to attempt it again, according to the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. However, guns take this second chance out of the equation.

When someone takes their life, there always seems to be a line that news outlets, and everyday people as well, must walk in attempt to not somehow promote future suicides, while also being respectful to those who have passed. Tip-toeing around the subject has however lead us nowhere.

Suicide rates amongst 15-24 year olds have tripled in the past half-century, and it’s our responsibility as a society to start turning the tides on this issue before more lives are unnecessarily lost. Continuing to bury the topic of suicide will only lead to more ignorance on this issue, and ignorance is the root of the problem. If we keep treating suicide like dirty laundry, instead of raising awareness, then people will continue to suffer in silence. And as is with most things, the first step to fixing something is coming together and recognizing the problem.

COLUMN

NY center brings attention to issue of trans-visibility



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It was announced in March that a multiservice center dedicated specifically to transgender people would be opened in the Bronx, New York in April. The center is going to help transgender people receive surgeries, hormone treatments, mental health counseling, and assistance with legal name changes, job searches, and other services.

The Bronx Trans Collective, as it will be called, will be the city’s first major multi-service center specifically dedicated to transgender people or people who are transitioning.

Recently, the challenges and concerns of transgendered people have been gaining national attention. Usually, transgender people are lumped in with the LGBT—lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender—community, but recently their advocates have reached out and drawn attention to the fact that transgender people’s needs tend to be different. They are dealing more with their gender identity, not specifically focusing on their sexual orientation like many people in the LGBT community.

“As we continue to progress in the fight for equal rights, it has become apparent that the ‘T’ in LGBT is being neglected as gay men and women

continue to take precedence,” said Tyler Curry, a freelance columnist, in his column for the Huffington Post. “By being part of the same-sex acronym, trans individuals are rarely recognized as a unique group that requires its own specific agenda to obtain equality. Instead, they are often considered an obscure and misunderstood subgroup of the gay community.”

Essentially, the problems of transgender people are lumped in with the problems of the gay community, when their experiences differ greatly.

According to the National LGBTQ Task Force, transgender people are twice as likely to be unemployed and four times more likely to live in poverty compared with the general population.

“And these disparities are much greater for transgender black and Latina women,” said Kylar W. Broadus, director of the group’s Transgender Civil Rights Project to CNN.

Transgender people deal with higher risk of abuse, both verbal and physical, and 41 percent of transgender people have already attempted suicide, according to a graphic created by Trans Student Educational Resources.

There have been many times where trans issues have been looked at as irrelevant or as a joke. “Saturday Night Live” star Pete Davidson’s comedy show at Michigan State University in March was an example of this, and many people reacted via Facebook to show their anger toward the school’s allowance of the offensive jokes.

I was in attendance of the show,

and was one of many excited people to see Davidson and his guest performers. The show began with an openly gay comic, essentially bashing himself because ‘he would rather be straight.’ He made several comments throughout the night about how being bisexual is a ‘cop-out,’ and continued to call trans people ‘trannies.’ Davidson came on stage, and began his stand-up, which was funny until he brought up his opinion of ‘trannies.’ He referenced the genitalia they were born with, saying that transgender women ‘aren’t women if they’re born as a man.’ Davidson repeatedly used the phrase ‘you’re a guy,’ Until he moved on to his next set of jokes.

Personal anecdotes aside, this entire show is the epitome of why trans people feel uncomfortable in society. According to a survey performed by the Williams Institute, it is estimated that 0.3 percent of the population, or 700,000 adults, identified that way. Bullying 700,000 people in America by telling them their gender that they were born with describes them is a one way ticket to a higher suicide and violence rate.

It’s time that trans-visibility is taken seriously. Trans characters in movies and television shows need to be played by actual trans people, not cis white people. This aforementioned multi-service center in the Bronx is one way of being able to show trans people that they do have support and places they can go for help. If more of these centers were created, and there was a higher visibility for trans people, at least in the United States, the world could be changed in a positive way.

THE WASHTENAW VOICE

A NATIONAL PACEMAKER AWARD NEWSPAPER

Our team and its role

The Washtenaw Voice is produced every other week by students of Washtenaw Community College. Editorial responsibility lies with the students. The views here are not endorsed or approved by the faculty, administration or Board of Trustees of WCC.

Your Voice

The Voice welcomes letters from readers. Letters should be a maximum of 400 words and include the author’s name. A phone number and email address are required so letters can be verified before publication. The Voice welcomes news tips and story ideas.

Corrections

The Voice is committed to correcting any errors that appear in the newspaper and on its website. To report an error of fact, phone 734-677-5405 or email thewashtenawvoice@gmail.com.

First copy’s free

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

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MOVIE REVIEW

"MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING 2"

GENRE: COMEDY
RATING: PG-13

Visit Washtenawvoice.com to read the full movie review.



BY EVANS KOUKIOS
Contributor

A sequel to “My Big Fat Greek Wedding” opened in movie theaters March 25. Like everything else about “My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2,” the release date was cleverly chosen. This date is the national holiday equivalent of the 4th of July, Greek Independence Day.

The original 2002 movie and the new release are based on the life experiences of the writer, Nia Vardalos, growing up in a Greek family. Vardalos, plays the role of Toula Portokalos, whose wedding to non-Greek Ian Miller, played by John Corbett, was the basis of the first movie.

Where to continue the story is also cleverly solved by Vardalos. In a genre billed as “romantic comedy,” the new wedding involves the oldest generation. Toula’s parents, Gus, played by Michael Constantine, and his wife Maria Portokalos, played by Lainie Kazan, had to be married again because Gus discovered that their marriage certificate from 50 years earlier had not been signed by the priest in Greece. So a generation of senior citizens goes about having the “big, fat, Greek wedding,” making for a poignant and humorous plot. This is actually one of three subplots, that includes the problem-solving antics of “contemporary,” lovable and wise Aunt Voula, Maria’s sister, played by Andrea Martin.

Toula and her husband Ian, who were married in the first movie, are the middle generation. They now have a 17-year-old daughter, Paris Miller, played by Elena Kampouris, who is a senior in high school. Being

parents and worrying about their daughter’s upbringing has complications, not least of which is a waning midlife sexlife. In trying to rekindle their romance, not everything goes smoothly. The middle generation also has to take care of parents, making this a thoughtful rendition of issues discussed in a lifespan psychology course.

The entire extended family lives next door to each other in their Greek enclave of neighborhood houses. Plus, the older generation believes it’s time for Paris to get married to a Greek boy. Throughout the movie, the cast of the extended family just happens to show up at all the “right” or “wrong” times. This contrivance adds a host of other mini stories that are intertwined with the main subplots.

Finally, I think the screenplay is worthy of a printed, published version. Despite some mixed reviews, this Greek reviewer believes Vardalos carefully crafted a sweet, charming and cleverly funny story. It has a poignant, psychological underpinning and is well portrayed in film by director, Kirk Jones. I predict, like the first, this film will be viewed multiple times by moviegoers, and the seeds for the next sequel are in this film as well.



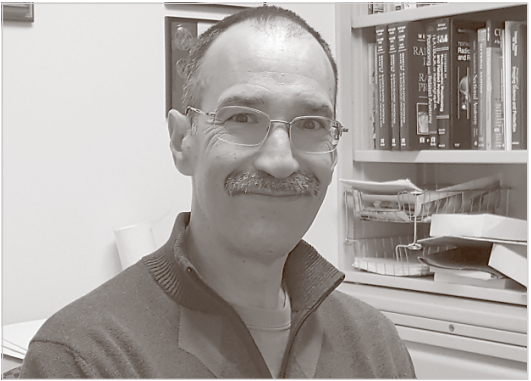
COURTESY | UNIVERSAL STUDIOS

FEATURED TEACHER



BY MICHAEL MISHLER
Contributor

INSTRUCTOR: Jim Skufis
AGE: 57
CLASS: Clinical coordinator for radiography and computed tomography program



Q: What made you want to teach at Washtenaw Community College?
A: *Well, I was a student here. I did my training in radiography here at Washtenaw. I had an excellent experience, and my instructors at the time noticed I had a gift for teaching. They asked me to continue on with my education, get a bachelor’s degree, and stay in touch with them because they thought they might have a position open for me. Lo and behold, 10 years ago, my department chair, Connie Foster, called me and said, “Would you like to teach?” I started teaching part-time and within six months, a position opened for the clinical coordinator and I couldn’t think of a better thing to do.*

Q: What is your dream travel destination?
A: *I’m heading there in May: I’m going to Peru. I’m the instructor that takes students to teach them forensic imaging. We go to Peru to X-ray and study mummies.*

Q: How do you most like to spend your free time?
A: *With my grandchildren and my wife.*

Q: What is the most satisfying part of your job?
A: *Right now, seeing students excel and catch that spark that they understand what’s going on, and from that point on really doing well in their studies. By the end, finding good job opportunities. We’ve had a number of students that have come from our program go from X-ray to CT and then to MRI, and from there, they’ve become department managers and even directors of entire radiology departments.*

Q: What is your favorite food and why?
A: *My wife’s tortellini soup. It’s the best comfort food on a cold day.*

Q: What advice would you give your younger self?
A: *To have more confidence in myself and stick with things. When you’re young and you don’t have the experience of success, you too easily give up. That affects a lot of people, including myself. It wasn’t until I decided that I’m not going to cry and whine about things and I was just gonna stick with it that I began to accomplish things.*

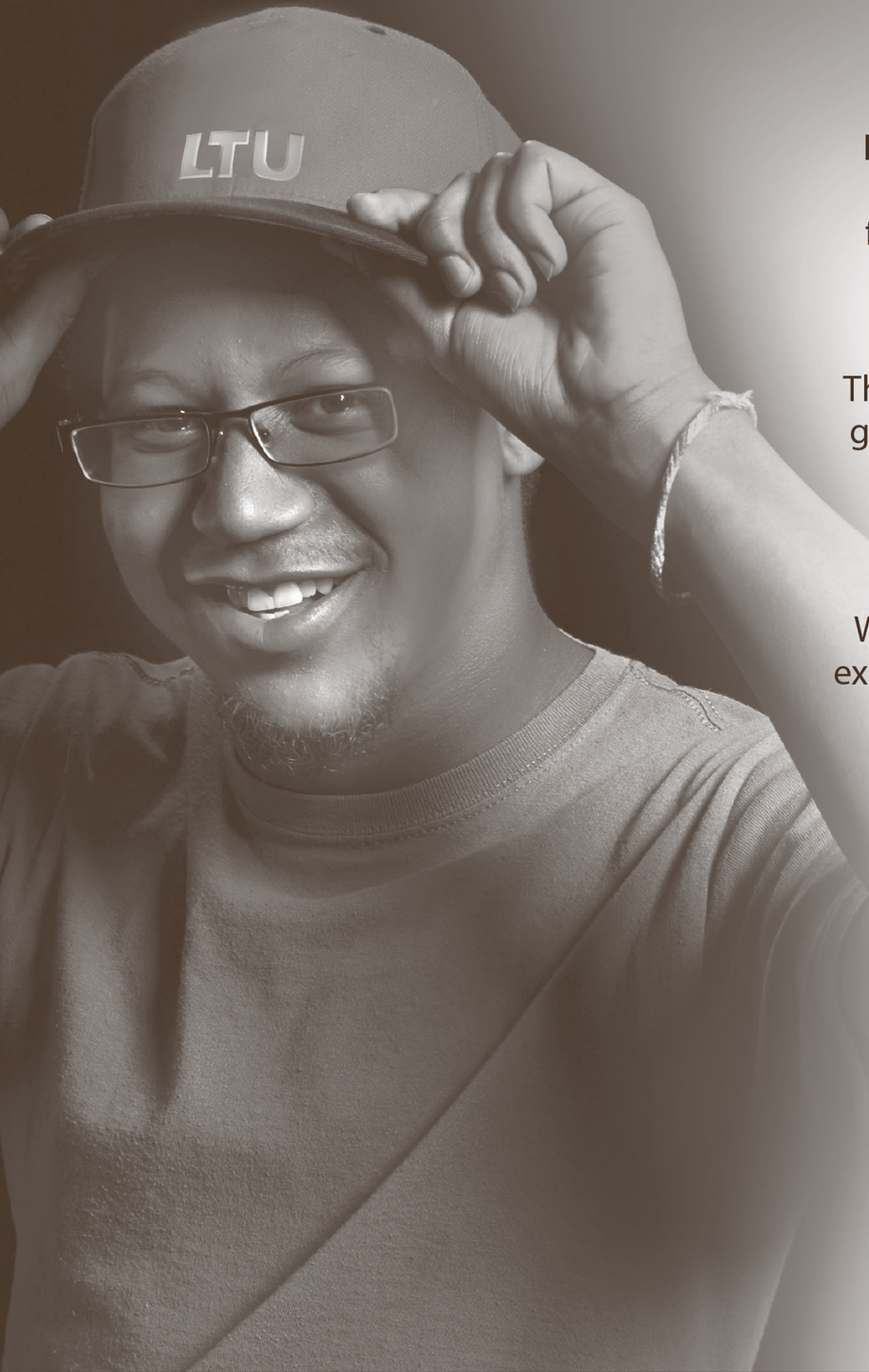
Q: What, in your opinion, is the biggest key to a student’s success at WCC?
A: *Here at Washtenaw, I’d have to say it’s the instructors. At least in my division here, the health sciences division, the instructors are so in tune with what the students need to succeed. How they need to learn the information, how they need to incorporate it into their thinking. They’re so attuned to that, how could the students not succeed?*

Q: What is your favorite kind of music to listen to?
A: *I like folk music. Like Patty Griffin, Joan Shelley, The Staves, stuff like that.*

Q: If you could meet any famous figure, living or dead, who and why?
A: *I might think I’d like to visit Wilhelm Rankin, the guy who discovered X-ray. He’s an interesting guy, but of course my German would have to be a lot better.*

Q: What have you heard in the news lately that is most concerning to you?
A: *Well, the current political climate has people really wound up. I’m not naming names or pointing fingers, but I think we’re gonna do much better as a country by including people rather than excluding people.*

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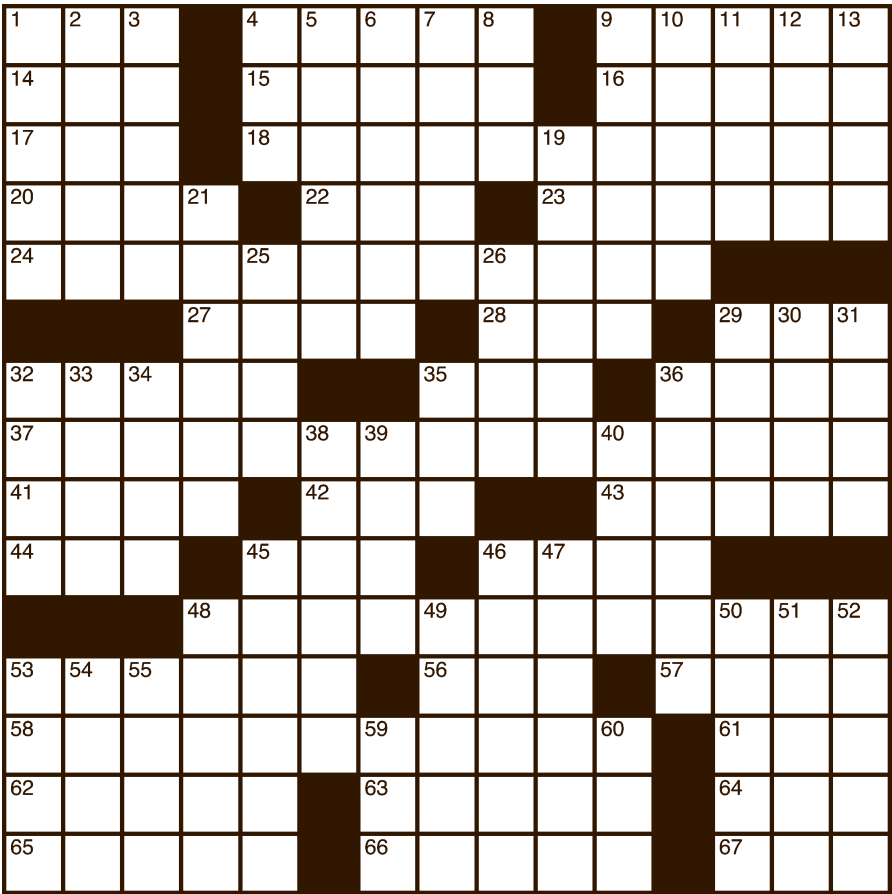
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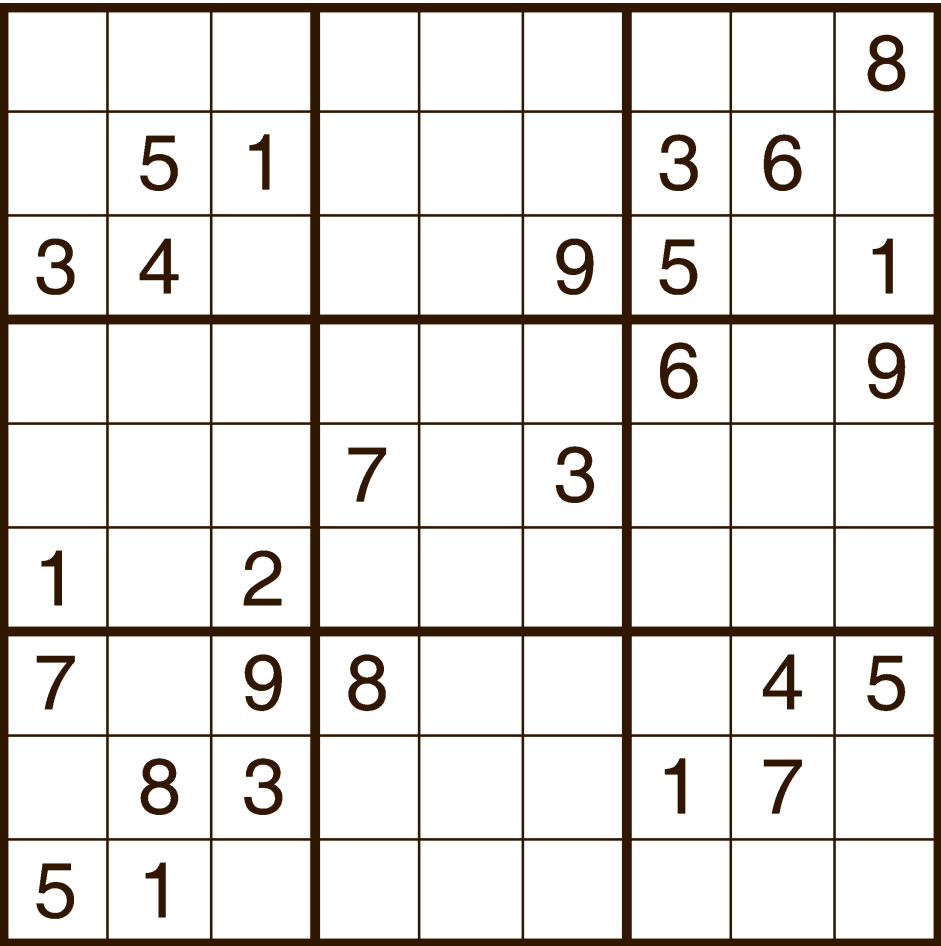
- 1 Website pop-ups, e.g.
- 4 Brush with liquid while roasting
- 9 Jeweled headwear
- 14 Morse code bit
- 15 Electric razor brand
- 16 Like some short-term committees
- 17 Make a boo-boo
- 18 Hotel lobby supervisor
- 20 Bathtub insert
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- 24 Working the room, as at a banquet
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- 29 Gumshoes: Abbr.
- 32 Madrid museum
- 35 Little kid
- 36 Went to the bottom
- 37 Time of reckoning
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- 42 Yea's opposite
- 43 Short, but probably not sweet
- 44 Sneaky
- 45 Warm lining
- 46 Feline king

- 48 Congressional majority, e.g.
- 53 Nielsen of "The Naked Gun" films
- 56 Canon SLR camera
- 57 Indian wrap
- 58 When one might have a mint ... or where the first words of 18-, 24-, 37- and 48-Across can be found
- 61 Santa visitor's seat
- 62 Fable's lesson
- 63 Rear, to an admiral
- 64 Mao __-tung
- 65 Unlike poetry
- 66 Blended ice cream drinks
- 67 Buddhist sect

DOWN

- 1 Quite competent
- 2 "Our Gang" girl
- 3 Decorative foundation plant
- 4 Consumer protection gp.
- 5 "Respect" singer Franklin
- 6 Upstream swimmer
- 7 Dutch bulb
- 8 Britannica, e.g.: Abbr.
- 9 Wrapping, as an ankle
- 10 Rover's collar attachment
- 11 Melville's obsessive whaler
- 12 Stir up

- 13 Clearasil target
- 19 Fly
- 21 Flies like a seagull
- 25 Sufficient, in poetry
- 26 Cattle poker
- 29 Low poker hand
- 30 Quaint lodges
- 31 Hebrides isle
- 32 Many emailed image files
- 33 Train wheel guide
- 34 Suit filer: Abbr.
- 35 " ... hallowed be __ name"
- 36 Dictation takers
- 38 Accustomed (to)
- 39 Small fruit pie
- 40 Four-way __
- 45 Without prejudice
- 46 Big name in little trains
- 47 What an editor's caret indicates
- 48 Sincere entreaties
- 49 Busybody
- 50 Dance in triple meter
- 51 Wipe out
- 52 Mature, as fruit
- 53 Desk light
- 54 Get an __ effort
- 55 Houston player, informally
- 59 School-of-thought suffix
- 60 Hosp. staffers



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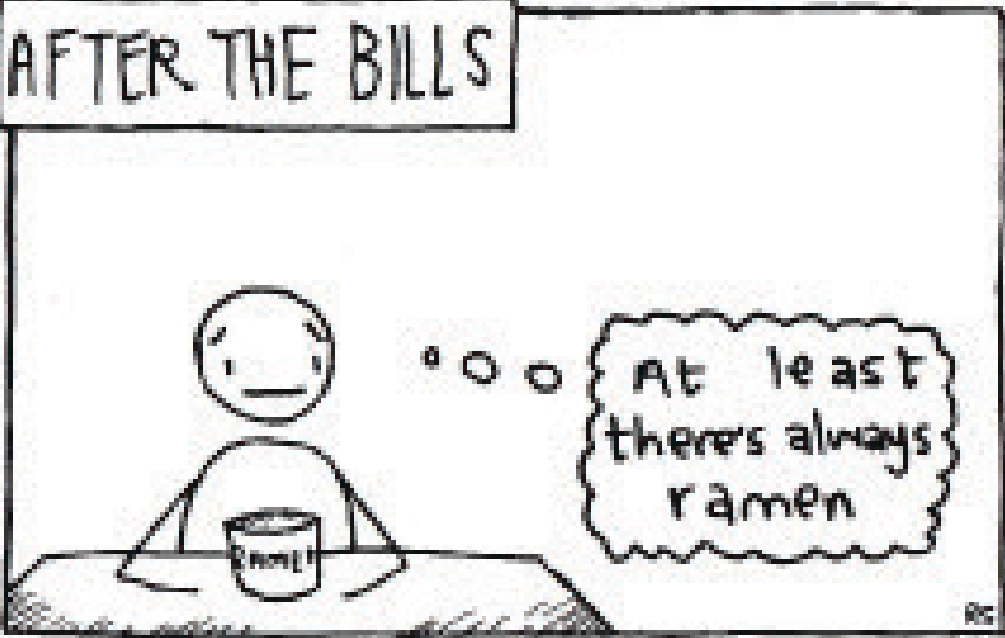
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Send ads to wcc.voice.advertising@gmail.com or ealliston@wccnet.edu
Note: Deadline for the April 18, 2016 issue is Tuesday, April 12 at 5 p.m.

SERVICES

VOLUNTEER TUTORS: Washtenaw Literacy needs volunteers to tutor adults in basic reading, writing, math and English as a Second Language. 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 <http://www.cornerhealth.org>.

HELP WANTED

WAIT STAFF: Michigan Catering is looking for student wait staff who are able to interact with guests, work as a team and manage time efficiently – all with a positive attitude. Shifts can be anytime between the hours of 5 a.m. and 3 a.m., depending on your availability. The starting pay is \$3.40 per hour plus tips. Tips are automatically paid by the event sponsor and average \$6-\$7 per hour, making the typical rate about \$9.40-\$10.40 per hour. Apply online

at <http://www.jobs.studentlife.umich.edu>, send an email to: workforus@umich.edu, or at 734-615-6759.

DINING STAFF: Michigan Dining is looking for students who enjoy working with people and want to be a part of a team. Flexible schedule, promotional opportunities and a fun social environment. Starting wage: \$9 per hour with a free meal with a three-hour shift. Also, free AATA bus transportation is available. To apply, visit <http://www.jobs.studentlife.umich.edu>, send an email to: workforus@umich.edu, or call 734-615-6759.

GET SOME BURRITOS is looking to hire cashiers and cooks who are enthusiastic and passionate about delivering high customer satisfaction. The cashier's responsibility is to process sales quickly and be efficient. The cook will be responsible for maintaining the highest level of food quality. The cashiers and cooks must follow all health and safety regulations as well as communicate and work well with co-workers and management team. Come fill out an application at: 707 Packard Street Ann Arbor,

STUDENTS AND WCC EMPLOYEES

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NOW HIRING IN WASHTENAW COUNTY: Sorters, Hi Lo, Machine Operators + more Masterson Staffing (734-677-2600) 3005 Boardwalk, Suite 101, Ann Arbor, MI 48108 www.mastersonstaffing.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 <http://www.wccnet.edu/careerconnection/>

TEACHING ASSISTANT: Part-time and substitute work available at an Ann Arbor child care center: immediately, summer 2016 and fall 2016. Duties include caring for children between 6 weeks and 5 years of

age, under supervision of full-time teachers. Ideal for practicum training.

DELI ASSISTANT: Making strom-bolis and pizzas according to established recipes. Maintaining general cleanliness of the work area. Interaction with customers. Occasional deliveries. Basic Kitchen prep work, i.e. dicing of vegetables. Must be able to multitask. Assist with nightly clean down.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Our Raymond James Financial Services office is looking for a full time administrative/sales assistant. We offer employees; competitive wages, employer sponsored retirement plan and numerous opportunities for long-term career growth. Our office is located in the C lobby of Dominos Farms in Ann Arbor. We are seeking someone with a proactive, forward-thinking approach and a client service and marketing mindset. This job has the potential to platform into a lucrative career in the financial planning business.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INTERNSHIP: Train with wireless network engineers and quickly come up to speed on services relating to wireless networking: Trouble shoot basic interrupted wireless (and related) services onsite at customer locations. Install new wireless (and related) equipment. Stage equipment. Assist management team with: Inventory control, Data entry.

LIFEGAURD: Under the supervision of a higher classified employee,

this position involves providing preventative lifeguarding at a public beach-front or outdoor water park. Monitors water related activity and provides preventative lifeguarding services. Enforces water safety rules and park rules, performs janitorial maintenance in the aquatic facility, its equipment, and surrounding grounds. Performs other duties as assigned. Reports to Assistant Water Park Manager or higher authority.

MEDICAL SCRIBE: Ann Arbor, Michigan. A Medical Scribe is essentially a personal assistant to the physician; performing documentation in the EHR, gathering information for the patient's visit, and partnering with the physician to deliver the pinnacle of efficient patient care. For someone interested in medicine, whether it is a personal interest, or part of a career goal to become a physician or physician assistant, the chance to become a Medical Scribe is unlike any other opportunity available. It offers exciting one-on-one collaboration with a physician, and is unprecedented in its level of exposure to real medicine in practice

EXECUTIVE CHEF: We are looking for an Executive Chef to support our Corporate Dining business for a great client in Ann Arbor, MI. We offer them a healthy breakfast, lunch, and catering service Monday-Friday. The Executive Chef is

responsible for managing the culinary team on a day to day basis for production of food and overall food quality, service, and food safety. This includes constant communication with the staff, training of staff on kitchen procedures, laying out the production week to week and scheduling appropriately. Working offsite events, scheduling, training, writing plans for office events, and visiting events to insure quality.

BAKER: People's Food Co-op seeks an Assistant Baker to work the overnight shift and prepare cookies, quick breads cakes & pies and some savory dishes. Evening availability a must.

STORE MANAGER (WET SEAL): Briarwood Mall. Store Managers are responsible for maximizing sales, providing an exceptional shopping experience for the customer and managing the store's visual and operational standards. The Store Manager is responsible for training and developing high performance teams. Creates an outstanding sales and customer service environment. Strives for sales excellence and results. Sets and evaluates weekly, monthly and seasonal goals for staff. Works with customers and models excellent customer service skills and floor supervision skills. Assesses store morale, monitor and praise positive associate performance and resolves and documents performance issues promptly.

Education hoping to curb the steady rise of STI cases

BY JENEE GREGOR
Staff Writer

Chlamydia rates are at a 10-year high for the reported case numbers in Washtenaw County from 2015. Gonorrhea is also at a five-year high for newly diagnosed cases last year, showing a need for more education and outreach in the area to hopefully bring the numbers back down.

Free testing, information and care options were available through the Washtenaw Public Health Department at Washtenaw Community College in early March in the Student Center. Possibly 150 – 200 people came to their booth to talk about the services offered. This opportunity was led by Heather Wolf, the Washtenaw Public Health prevention specialist, social worker, partner notification manager and sexual health resource at the Washtenaw County clinic.

Gonorrhea and chlamydia are bacterial infections that can be cured with a week of abstinence, antibiotics and education. Although, they can

cause more serious problems down the line if not properly dealt with.

The higher-risk age group that has been diagnosed has been concentrated in people under the age of 30 in Washtenaw County. Gonorrhea and chlamydia are a problem because they are asymptomatic in many cases, and someone only knows they have it if and when they test positive. If they aren't being tested, they can be spreading the illness without knowing, Wolf said.

“There is nothing that says you have to get tested a certain amount every year, or years; everyone’s risk looks different,” Wolf said. “Testing doesn’t directly lower your risk, but it will let you know if you have something and we can do something about it.”

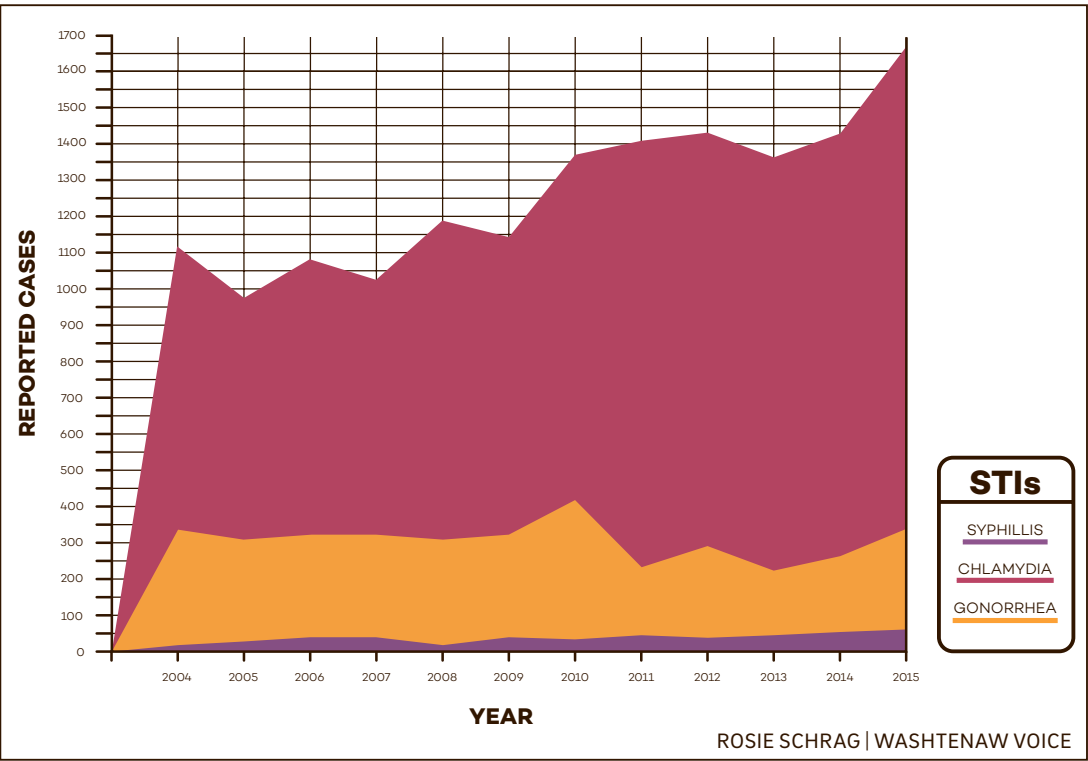
Gauging the risk is an important part of the conversation, understanding high risk behavior for contraction of an STI, and understanding how that behavior can be changed to change your risk level is all part of the process, said Wolf.

“Education impacts behavior, so if someone is better educated hopefully they will make better choices with (sexual) behavior,” said Rene Stark, an instructor in the nursing aide training program at WCC.

Helping people understand their risk to make more empowered decisions about their sexuality is a concern and goal within this organization, and many of the other clinics. They offer the non-judgmental information and resources to their respective community to alleviate the problems of STIs, as well as helping the people to get insured, if they are not, to help pay for the health care and testing.

There are quite a few options for education and testing in the Washtenaw area that can be utilized, at a low-cost or some for free, outside of the Washtenaw Public Health Department clinic.

“Education is power,” said Cherelle Barksdale, the case manager for chlamydia and gonorrhea at Corner Health. Corner Health is a clinic that provides education and



ROSIE SCHRAG | WASHTENAW VOICE
SOURCE: EWASHTENAW.ORG

outreach, as well as testing and counseling, for people aged 12-26.

The numbers at Corner Health are the same as the numbers with Washtenaw Public Health records and the numbers seem to be decreasing with their records and they are seeing an improvement, said Barksdale.

There are many options in Washtenaw County to get tested, request information, and even get insurance. Individuals having insurance

allows medical accessibility, care and treatment.

Organizations like the the non-profit Washtenaw Health Plan, have a goal of taking the number of those uninsured down to zero, and making sure that people have access to all types of health and sexual care. In three years from 2013 – 2016, the uninsured in Washtenaw County has gone from 13 percent down to 6 percent, said Krista Nordberg, the director of enrollment at WHP. They

work with Coverage Counts to inform residents about the opportunity for coverage and have the proper information to attain the medical care they need.

Washtenaw County has numerous options when it comes to taking care of sexual health. Washtenaw Public Health Center, Planned Parenthood and Corner Health have programs and resources available to make testing, and getting insured more accessible.



Matt Durr is a business reporter for the Ann Arbor News and former student of WCC. ANDREI POP | WASHTENAW VOICE

WRITING, From A3

them,” Benninghoff said. “Formal education gives you the terms necessary to talk at the strategic level about these things (you’ve learned).”

Benninghoff is an advocate for the articulation agreement, which allows credits to be matched from WCC to EMU in many departments.

Returning panelist Jelani McGadney, works as a writer for politicians writing speeches, letters, press releases, bills, and amendments.

“You are never writing for

yourself in politics. It’s not only knowing the topic and whatever form you have to write that topic in, but also you have to know your boss, their politics and their voice,” McGadney said.

The legislature works Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday each week, but that doesn’t leave McGadney with long weekends, as he said he spends his days not at work planning for the work week.

A comprehensive knowledge of writing has proved necessary to get panelist Jason Marker

through a widespread writing career and exactly where he wants to be – at home.

Marker, a freelance game designer and writer from Detroit, says he uses a combination of creative and technical writing in his career. His other skills are managing the home during non-writing hours.

Marker spends most days working from home, an opportunity he has gotten after years of “hard work and hustling,” he said.

Marker writes ad copy for spaceship companies, books

for games like “The Thin Blue Line,” and is an automotive blog writer alongside his editor.

Advice from Marker: “Always work hard, and never work for free.”

“Every year new folks join our panel, and others return from year to year. We always want to feature writers in a variety of fields, to showcase how much opportunity there really is out there for folks who want to write,” Levitt-Phillips said about what to expect for next year’s seventh-annual panel.



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Washtenaw Community College



GREG POWELL | WASHTENAW VOICE

Exploring two sides of vaccinations

BY MADI TORTORA
Staff Writer

Flu season arrived quickly and has definitely overstayed its welcome.

Most people are familiar with the trek to the doctor’s office, the feel of the needle prick, a nice bandage, and the “Wow, that wasn’t so bad” feeling walking out the door. Vaccinations have become a prominent issue with parents, many believing that the potentially negative side effects of vaccinating their child will outweigh the positives.

“There is no such thing as a medication that we give that has no side effects,” said Sherry MacGregor, a pediatric nursing professor at Washtenaw Community College. “I’ve seen children who have had brain damage from vaccinations, so I understand parents concern about doing it.”

Although the national immunization rate has remained stable over the past decade, 76 percent of children ages 19 to 35 months were up-to-date on all of their shots in 2008. That’s still short of the government’s goal of 80 percent, Parents.com said.

Many parents actually opt out of getting their children vaccinated for both religious and philosophical reasons,

along with fear that their child may get mental health issues like autism, or may actually get more ill as a result. Parents are scared of the preservatives in vaccinations, along with the possibility of side effects. They believe that the illnesses are either too rare or not even that bad, and their child can end up building a better immunity to illness.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that between Jan. 1 and May 23 of 2014, there were 288 cases of measles reported in the United States. Then, in 2015, there was a large measles outbreak at Disneyland, putting a lot of eyes on the anti-vaccination movement. A lot of parents who didn’t believe in vaccinations were blamed, and many retaliated.

“It’s the worst shot,” Missy Foster, an anti-vaccination parent, told the New York Times of the measles vaccine. “Do you want to wake up one morning and the light is gone from her eyes with autism or something?” Foster had not vaccinated her 18-month-old child for fear that the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine caused autism. Her claim that vaccinations cause autism is not unheard of. A 2011 poll showed that 18 percent of Americans believe that vaccines can cause autism.

“There was a scientist that faked information about vaccinations linked with autism, and they found out later that vaccinations actually didn’t cause autism,” MacGregor said. “Right now, we don’t know what causes autism, but it’s not immunizations.”

Since the outbreak in Disneyland, Calif. last year, there have been 121 cases of the measles reported, according to TIME. Doctors are blaming the outbreak on a large number of parents who believe vaccines can cause autism or other health complications, and therefore choose not to vaccinate their children.

When it comes down to it, parents truly are just scared of harming their children. Making the decision that is best for a child is a scary one, especially when there are two sides showing completely different information.

“I truly believe that parents are scared to immunize their children because they honestly have no idea what immunization is,” said Katie Wesley, a nursing student at WCC. “On the other end of the spectrum, the parents who say ‘Yes’ to every immunization option that is presented to them based solely on knowing that it is the ‘right’ action to take makes them just as uneducated.”

LOCAL EVENTS

ARTS/CULTURE/MUSIC/COMMUNITY/WORKSHOPS/SHOWS
DANCE/DOWNTOWN/ENLIGHTENMENT/ANN ARBOR/RAVE
FILM/FOLK/PHOTOGRAPHY/EXHIBITS/POP/YPSILANTI

ART

WHAT: **New Growth, Fresh Ideas in Clay-**
Clayworks Studio showcases new takes on the clay process in new exhibition.
WHERE: Clayworks Studio
2763 Plymouth Rd., Ann Arbor
WHEN: April 3 – May 14
Reception: April 8, 5 – 8 p.m.
Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday:
10 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. | Sunday: 12 – 5 p.m.



Art Now Photography at the Ann Arbor Art Center.
COURTESY | MEGAN WINKEL

WHAT: **Art Now 2016: New Directions in Contemporary Photography** – Artists will come together in a judged art exhibition using their own style and talent to show the evolution of photography.
WHERE: 117 Liberty St., Ann Arbor
WHEN: April 1 – May 14
Monday - Friday 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Sunday 12 – 5 p.m.

WHAT: **Docent Exhibit** – Annually, the Riverside Art Center honors its volunteers by allowing the month of April to be about their art.
WHERE: Riverside Art Center
76 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti
WHEN: Friday, April 1 – 30 | Reception April 1, 5 – 7 p.m. | Thursday – Saturday, 3 – 8 p.m.
Sunday, 1:30 – 4 p.m.

ALL LOCAL EVENTS ARE FREE
UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED



COURTESY | STEPHANIE LEHR

MUSIC

WHAT: **Live Jazz Thursdays** – Resident jazz band comes weekly to provide eclectic jazz mix to the coffee and tap house experience.
WHERE: Cultivate Coffee and Tap House
307 N River St, Ypsilanti
WHEN: Thursdays, 7 – 10 p.m.

WHAT: **Sonic Freeway at Mash** – Free music for the evening with local artists.
WHERE: Mash
211 E. Washington St., Ann Arbor
WHEN: Saturday, April 9, 10 p.m. – 12 a.m.

WHAT: **Rock the District** – State Street District is hosting a free and family-friendly music festival.
WHERE: Stage Corner of E. Williams Street and Maynard Street, Ann Arbor
WHEN: Saturday, April 16 | 3 – 10 p.m.

The local events section of this paper is compiled by Jenée Gregor. If interested in seeing your events in this paper, please contact her at jgregor2@wccnet.edu.

WORKSHOPS

WHAT: **WCC Earth Day 2016** – Join WCC and other sponsoring partners celebrating Earth Day with the community and learning about how to be more Earth-friendly.
WHERE: WCC Student Center Building 1st floor, and North Plaza
WHEN: Thursday, April 7 | 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

WHAT: **Spice: The Variety of Life (including herbs)** – The head baker at the People’s Food Co-op comes to share the experience and education about spices and herbs to use in daily life.
WHERE: Ann Arbor District Library Downtown Library: Multi-Purpose Room
343 S. Fifth Ave., Ann Arbor
WHEN: Tuesday, April 5. | 7 – 8:30 p.m.

WHAT: **Sewing Skills Night + Open Lab** – An instructor will be present to teach a sewing skill but the lab is available for use during this time.
WHERE: Ann Arbor District Library: Secret Lab
343 S. Fifth Ave., Ann Arbor
WHEN: Thursday, April 14 | 7 – 8:30 p.m.

WHAT: **National Library Week Event: Award-Winning Author Mardi Jo Link** – Renowned author from Traverse City who comes to share snippets of her life and her writing experience.
WHERE: Ann Arbor District Library: Multi-Purpose Room 343 S. Fifth Ave., Ann Arbor
WHEN: Friday, April 15. | 7 – 8:30 p.m.
*This event will be recorded

WHAT: **Earth Day Festival** – Family-friendly earth celebration event to entertain and educate on the importance of taking care of the Earth.
WHERE: Leslie Science and Nature Center
1831 Traver Rd., Ann Arbor
WHEN: Sunday, April 17 | 12 – 4 p.m.
<http://www.lesliesnc.org/a2earthday>

YOGA

Yoga classes are FREE | DONATIONS ARE ENCOURAGED

WHAT: **Hello Noon Yoga** – Donation classes through the week with local instructors to make yoga available to everyone.
WHERE: 1145 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti
WHEN: Mondays 7 p.m.
Tuesdays 5:30 p.m.
Wednesdays 7 p.m.
Sundays 1 p.m.

WHAT: **Shangri La Sharing Yoga** – Free class by the Mota Thai Yoga Teacher Training graduates, to build their skill and share yoga with the community.
WHERE: Mota Thai Yoga
416 W. Huron St., Suite # 22 Ann Arbor
WHEN: Saturdays 12 p.m.

WHAT: **A2 Yoga Studio Free Community Classes** – Yoga teachers at A2 share classes for free, Oña Flow and Nia classes.
WHERE: 2030 Commerce Blvd., Ann Arbor
WHEN: Wednesdays 11:15 a.m. Oña Flow
Thursdays 6 p.m.
Fridays 10:45 a.m. Nia class
Fridays 4:30 p.m. Oña Flow



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THANK YOU WISD STUDENTS!



Every week, students in the Washtenaw Intermediate School District’s Young Adult Program help deliver copies of the Voice to locations across campus.

Their efforts delivering fresh copies of the Voice, and restocking the paper on news racks, helps us reach the campus community.

The Voice team appreciates this great contribution to campus life.

More about Washtenaw Intermediate School District:
www.washtenawisd.org

