



Zachary Marr was born February 13, 1994

## Remembering Zachary Marr

By: John Mossey

Back in February, MWCC student Zachary Marr went missing while out in Boston with family in celebration of his recent 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday. Video surveillance throughout Boston suggested his body had fallen into the Charles River. After a month of searching, Marr's body was finally found on March 15<sup>th</sup> in the river near the Museum of Science. Marr was finally coming home.

Zachary Marr was a man to admire. Not only was he a full time student at Mount Wachusett Community College, but he was also a full-time employee at Quiet Logistics, a distribution facility located in Fort Devens.

Marr was diligent and proved he had strong leadership skills. During the last few months of his employment at Quiet Logistics, he had been working as a

Lead in one of the more difficult departments to manage at Quiet. But Zach did well. He never faltered, and always pushed forward in his work and inspired those who worked under him to do the same.

It was at Quiet Logistics where I first became acquainted with Marr. I remember a conversation where he had told me about his work and school schedule. Marr worked the second shift at Quiet, and would sometimes not get home until 2 AM only to have to get up the same morning for an 8 AM class. I was bewildered. "How can you manage that?" I had asked him.

Marr shrugged his shoulders and smiled. "You gotta' do what you gotta' do, you know?"

From there, we would see each other often. If it wasn't at

Quiet Logistics working overtime on each other's shifts, it was at MWCC crossing paths while going to our next class. What I'll cherish the most is the brief conversations in passing, and the genuine smile he had always had. What Zachary may not have realized is how much of a difference such a small thing like that can be in someone's day, and it always made a difference in mine.

Zachary Marr will be missed by family, friends, coworkers and fellow students alike. The inspiration and motivation he inspired in many of us will always live on, and through this his memory will forever be alive. Thank you for everything Zach, and rest in peace.

## What Employers Look For

By Rebekah Chiasson

"Are you continuing your education after graduating from the Mount?" is a very common question asked to students attending MWCC. If you are a student 'on the fence' when considering continuing to get your Bachelors, you might want to listen to some advice from Olivia French, a former hiring manager of a multi-billion dollar corporation.

Olivia French, a graduate from Keene State College with a Bachelor's in Business Management and Computer Science, is a former marketing manager for a major food distributor, C&S Wholesale. She was in charge of a national program with included divisions from New England all the way to Hawaii and was responsible for such tasks including managing a team of 10, managing 250 independent retail stores, creating ad menus, which results in the flyers you see at the grocery store, and she was responsible for data and PNL-profits and losses budget- for an \$11.2 billion business.

French was able to hire 4 of her 10 person team. After sitting through countless interviews she had to decide who would best fit her team.

"Melding with the team was more important than skill-set... obviously to a point," she explained. "Because the team was so broadly based with weekly deadlines, we needed to work well together. If one domino fell, the rest of the dominoes fell." French explained how important it was for her potential hires to have this skill set that is said to be diminishing with the newer generations: "making sure the team functioned as a unit was of utmost importance."

However, before one could even be considered for the team, she looked at the potential hire's backgrounds. Some key points included, "have you done this work before?" "Do you have experience in the same line of work?" "Are you a student with a bachelors?" French told me that to even be considered for work at C&S Wholesale, potential hires had to have at least a Bachelor's degree. "Unfortunately in this day and age, to have a job, especially one to move up, each company is different, but mine was definitely a proponent on having at least a Bachelor's."

French says to those debating on whether to continue on to a

four-year college, "definitely get at least a Bachelor's." For those who feel finances are a big proponent in hindering education, French suggests joining a company that will offer to pay.

"There are definitely businesses that support education for hard workers and are willing to pay for some if not all of your continuing education," French said, so this could be a perfect avenue for someone who cannot afford the rising cost of a college education. Finding companies who support this is just a Google search away.

French also advised, if you're in a cooperation and get your bachelors while working, "CHANGE JOBS!" From her own experience she claims that "your current company will not pay you as much of the difference in salaries than if you were to switch to another company." She also adds, "Hiring agents now are looking for more work experience as well, so switching companies after moving up the ranks will get you better pay for roughly the same work."

French explained that she had always planned to get a four-year degree and was never interested

in stopping with an associates. "My uncle was a big proponent to that. He only has an associates, and although he is an expert on the equipment he uses, he claims he cannot get interviews because of lack of education," French says, "Even having been in his job for 25+ years and he still feels that way." This is not uncommon for those who stop education at an associates. It is difficult to get interviews, promotions, raises, or even switch companies if there are others doing the same job but have more experience, or in this case, education.

French claims that college gives students the "foundation to have intelligent conversations with your peers and bosses." She advises, "Find a school to help push you, or check your major to see if it is something that drives you." She is currently looking to switch career paths from management because, "It doesn't make me 'get up and go,'" she said. She advises, "Make sure you are not doing it for the money. Do some self reflection and see if the classes you are taking and everything is what you want to do in a career."

French admits that she didn't hold this same importance about education when she was in college. She did not enjoy school and did not feel she was being "pushed to learn" but admits that it might have been because she had "nothing to relate it to."

"Being a management student, it was all concepts until I had a place to put the concepts in to practice it was all just theories," she said. After some reflection she added, "However, I didn't see that the stuff I was learning would directly apply to the real world," and she never regrets going to school, saying it is "definitely a worthwhile spend."

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# Geocaching

By Jillian Manty

It all started with a push of a button. A simple download of an app.

My first “cache” was on a rainy spring night last year. My boyfriend, Luke, and I had just gotten out of work and decided to check out this new app I had downloaded. We opened it up and realized there was a cache hidden right down the road from us, so we took off and arrived at the Hannaford parking lot in Orange.

Upon arrival, my GPS said we were within 30 feet of the cache. We slid down the muddy embankment and found the cache in the base of the tree. Feeling a rush of excitement, we took the cache back to my car to open our find. There was a log book that we signed and neat knick-knacks inside. This was the beginning to our Geocache addiction.

What is Geocaching exactly?

It is basically like a real-life scavenger hunt that you participate via smart phone. The app gives you coordinates to where each cache is for you to

find. There are so many hidden nationwide – you have probably passed them without even knowing it! In fact, there is even one hidden right by the MWCC Gardner campus, so that would be a good place to start.

Geocaching has taken me to some really cool places – campgrounds, hot dog joints, waterfalls, and beaches are just a few. Luke and I recently took a mini vacation to Maine for the weekend and we found sixteen caches on that trip alone. Some of the caches were hidden under park benches, behind town signs, and in secret spots at the local shops.

There is always a log to sign your name with each cache, and sometimes there are different prizes you can take, as long as you leave one in return for the next person. Mostly, the prizes are just cheap, little knick-knacks. Some that I’ve seen have been erasers, miniature toys, stickers, and pins. Usually when I decide to take a prize, I leave behind a rubber duck. I bought a big bag of them just for this purpose. Geocaching really is

more about the thrill of finding the cache more so than the prize you go home with.

I recently took my dad out to find a few and we found my favorite prize yet. The cache was hidden in between a few big rocks in an Altoids tin at a rest area in Ware, MA. Inside, there was a log to sign as well as a copper heart that said “Love” on it. In return, we left a pair of new NASCAR ear plugs with a case, intended for going to the race and blocking out the loud noise of the cars racing by. This was my favorite find because it meant a lot to find it with my dad, and it’s a memory I will have with me forever and I am sure it will be something he remembers, too. He had a lot of fun geocaching and we actually have a day planned that’s dedicated solely to that this week!

If you are looking for something that is both cheap and fun to do, geocaching is definitely something to check out. Before you know it, that click of a button could turn into an addiction, too!



photo courtesy of Jillian Manty



photo courtesy of Jillian Manty

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# Managing Mental Health

## Colleges Taking Precautions When it Comes to the Use of Hoverboards on Campus

By Allison Cormier

Mental health and managing it while attending college is often not as widely discussed prior to being enrolled as much as financial issues, financial aid, and making time for school in general. However, managing one's mental health is often the biggest obstacle students face while attending school.

With more parents going back to school, and more students having to work one job if not more to be able to afford school, mental health needs a broader spotlight. Melissa Manzi, the Mental Health Counselor at MWCC, aims to provide students the tools and information to better handle full work loads, as well as prior and emerging mental health issues pertaining to school and every day life.

Manzi explained that her number one piece of advice to anyone going to school, full load or not, is time management. When a student's time is managed well, and they are able to get everything done on time, with possible time to spare for relaxation, stress is decreased dramatically.

However, often times people will discover their own ways to handle stress that they use in their every day life. The problems arise when they stop using their coping mechanisms when they need it the most. Manzi used exercise as an example, explaining that people may exercise every day to relax their bodies and deal with stress, but when a time of extreme stress arises they stop working out to deal with the circumstances, when the one thing that could actually help them the most would be to continue exercising.

Some mental health issues may be present before a student

even begins school; however, under the stress and obligations of college, they become more evident and harder to handle. Manzi said the most common problem students talk to her about is anxiety: test anxiety, social anxiety, and presentation anxiety. She then explained, "Anxiety is fear if you cater to fear, it will consume you, and your mind will never know any different than to let fear win."

Challenging anxiety is the only way to overcome it. It is like any other skill people must practice every day to not give into their fears. A common form of anxiety associated with college is test taking anxiety, causing students to forget the information as soon as the test is placed in front of them, said Manzi.

A good way to deal with this anxiety is to take practice tests in an environment a regular test would be taken, this way your mind can see that a test in a high stress environment, where it will actually be graded, is the same as a test in a low stress environment, and there is nothing to be feared as long as you know the information.

No matter the cause of the mental health issues, most students don't know what services are actually provided by the Mount. Melissa Manzi has an open door policy for any student, and professors are also a resource to express concerns to, if problems arise in a student's life that may conflict with his or her class. Manzi is in office number 140, and her e-mail address is [m\\_manzi@mwcc.mass.edu](mailto:m_manzi@mwcc.mass.edu); she is available any time for questions.



By Andrew Hoenig

Gardner, Mass. - Students may recall that at the beginning of the semester, Mount Wachusett Community College sent out an e-mail containing this important information:

**POLICY RELATED TO USE OR POSSESSION OF HOVERBOARDS AND SIMILAR MODES OF TRANSPORTATION ON CAMPS**

"To ensure the safety of the campus community, Mount Wachusett Community College will prohibit the use and possession of hoverboards which are currently linked to fires in 12 states as well as a significant number of reported serious personal injuries. The campus-wide ban, which includes all buildings and parking lots, is *effective immediately*."

This e-mail to the students was sent out by the Dean of Students, Jason Zelesky.

MWCC was not the only college to put the campus-wide ban on hoverboards this past January as USA Today reported that more than 30 colleges across the entire U.S. installed the ban amid safety concerns over the use of the hoverboard.

Among these more than 30 colleges were the likes of Bos-



ton College, Brandeis University, University of Connecticut, Emerson College, Georgia State University, and University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Apparently, the largest factor contributing these colleges' decisions was that "recently a number of retailers pulled hoverboards from their shelves amid reports of fires and explosions caused by poor quality lithium-ion batteries in the devices that are prone to malfunction and overheating", as Zelesky stated in his e-mail to students at the Mount. In some instances these fires did cause emergency room visits for associated burn injuries.

Similar devices were urged to be left at home such as self-balancing scooters, battery-operated scooters, and hands-free segways. If a student is found with a hoverboard or any other of the above items, then campus police reserves the right to confiscate these items if they are found on campus.

Hoverboards are a growing craze in America. Not only have they now be seen on college campuses but also on the streets and sidewalks of cities and towns, at the beach such as on the boardwalk of Jersey Shore or Hampton Beach, at airlines and

businesses, and even in parking lots at the grocery store.

Never the less, most all of these places mentioned have put bans on using hoverboards and the safety concerns have had a considerable drop in sales for the time being.

"We appreciate your cooperation and thank you for helping make MWCC a safer place to learn and work", said Zelesky.

Only time will tell if these technological rad rides will be given an upgrade and then widely accepted or continuously rejected on college campuses and in other areas of work and leisure. The designers are working even now on new designs that will fix the bugs that the older models had, one such model recently(possibly) being developed by Samsung. But until further notice it would be wise to stay off your hoverboard until the ban has been lifted. The future of the hoverboard has yet to be decided.

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## Catching Up with John Little

By Jason Greenough

MRT Students! You're going to want to read this! We caught up awhile back with John Little, the super chilled-out Audio Professor and Department chair that has been showing you cool microphones and sound stuff for the past 11 years. We talked about a bunch of cool stuff, so take a look and find out what John had to say about his musical and audio genesis, and his time at the Mount!

**Q:** What got you started in the Audio Production field?

**A:** "[I was a drummer] in high school. Someone said to me, 'hey, you're getting pretty good, so if you're serious about this, you should go to this thing they do at UNH in the summer for high school kids,' and it was a two-week intensive college course for music, tailored for high school kids. It was there that I discovered Pro Audio. They taught a course in it, and as soon as I saw it, I said 'this is for me,' and never looked back."

**Q:** What are your favorite, and least favorite, parts of working in Audio?

**A:** "My most favorite part, I'd have to say, is the happy customers at the end of the process. It's a great feeling to have done whatever it is that you do for someone and have them come back and tell you how much they like it. In regards to my work in TV, I didn't really like the hours. I also didn't like how some Producers were only concerned with getting a story and making it as sensational as possible for the highest ratings, at the expense of the crew, when we would have no lunch or sleep, and it was usually for stories that I personally felt were nobody's business. In the studio, I don't like unproductive sessions. When someone comes in, and they can't do their parts, and they're unprepared, I just feel that it's a waste of my time, and theirs."

**Q:** Have you had one of those defining "This is Awesome!" moments?

**A:** "When I was working in TV, while I got to travel, having seen 27 states within 9 months, it was really wasn't travelling, it was working. There were a couple of chances to goof off and have fun, and we'd had a ball in Las Vegas because we had a few days out there, and there was nothing to do but play. There was also a time we got to hang around Disney World during a job. That was pretty fun as well."

**Q:** What networks and channels have you worked for?

**A:** I worked for a Crew-for-Hire company in Waltham, and

they would send us out anywhere east of the Mississippi. That was our 'territory,' and at the time, Fox was a big client of theirs. So I did a few tabloid trash shows like A Current Affair, Inside Edition, and their spin-offs. They had us do Good Morning America, Entertainment Tonight, and they did a few medicals that were cool, where we would actually go in and film a surgery. When I started freelancing, I did a little bit of work for Channel 4, The Disney Channel, the Discovery Channel, NPR, there are just so many of them."

**Q:** What's some advice you have for aspiring Audio students?

**A:** One attitude I had out in the television world that kept me sane, but a lot of people couldn't tolerate, was that when things would go wrong, it wouldn't shake me. Did you do something to make something go wrong? Then learn from it, and don't let it happen again. But when stuff happens out of your control, like batteries die at the worst possible time, or you run out of tape at the worst possible time, not all of your gear made on the flight to the location. It's not your fault! It's only television! Nobody dies when something goes wrong, so relax. Don't take it so seriously, it's only television.

**Q:** What led to teaching Audio Production?

**A:** I never thought I would teach this. But I went to school here years ago, and I kept in touch with a few guys from the department, and they knew what I was doing, the types of shows I was doing, and one of them actually called me one day to ask me to teach here. I thought to myself, 'why would I want to do that?', and they gave me a number of good reasons why I would want to. I gave it a try, I liked it, and now, 11 years later, here I am.

**Q:** Do you miss working in the field full-time?

**A:** I still work at my studio, but I don't miss the television stuff because it was such a grind. I had my fun in it, I saw a lot, I learned a lot, but there is just a lot of personalities that I don't get along with. They take it too seriously, and they think they're gonna save the world though television, and I don't think that's what it's for. But, I would miss the studio tremendously if I couldn't do that anymore.



photo courtesy of Heather Conn

By Andrew Hoenig

Gardner, Mass. – Professor of Sciences Heather Conn is looking to make learning science fun for students at Mount Wachusett Community College by bringing a young and energetic teaching style.

Conn, 43, has been a professor at the Mount for almost 11 years teaching a wide variety of sciences on campus including Anatomy I and II, Physiology I and II, Environmental Chemistry, Life Sciences for Allied Health, Geology, and Paleontology.

"I like being a jack of all trades," said Conn.

Conn did not go for her PhD because she had so many interests in the world of science and felt as if it would not be a good use of her talents to limit herself to one aspect of it. "I like it all... It helps you as a scientist to know all the different fields."

Conn, who was an under grad at Hobart and William Smith College in New York after four years, attended Fitchburg State where she graduated and shortly

## Profiling: Heather Conn Making Science Fun

after taught high school students from 1996 to 2004. In 2005 she became a professor at MWCC.

"I used to play teacher as a kid. I love teaching," said Conn. "I like to try and have students appreciate their body through anatomy or the world they live in in paleontology; the students seeing connections between the subjects."

Conn's favorite part of the job is that every year she gets to meet new people who teach her as often as she hopes she teaches them.

"I get to keep learning from my students, and meet amazing people with their own stories," said Conn.

Conn hopes to instill in her students a desire to explore and learn more about the world we live in.

"Modern day stuff with science is important to understand," Conn pointed out.

Conn says that no two days are ever the same when it comes to teaching. "Everyone has so many cool stories. It is great."

Conn's favorite part of her Pa-

leontology class is the class field trip to the New England Aquarium. "When we go and I hear the oh's and uh's, that's cool; I love it." Conn continued saying "It's great to see the students look at it from a different point of view, a more scientific approach."

Conn has become such a popular teacher on campus that her classes now get filled rapidly when they open to students. Her fun and energetic teaching style can even be reflected in her favorite past times which include sailing and traveling all around the world with her family. This summer for instance they will be enjoying a trip to Costa Rica. Other hobbies Conn enjoys are skiing, hiking, gardening, and music.

Conn hopes that she can teach and meet as many students as she possibly can. So, whether you are majoring in a specific field of science or just need a science and lab for your degree, you may want try and catch a course with Professor Heather Conn.

## Leaving it All Behind, Part I: Growing up a Jehovah's Witness

By Jamie Parker

They come to every neighborhood now and then, knocking on your door, and then asking if you have accepted the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Now we all have different reactions to this question. Some of us are polite and honest, some are rude, and others lie to get the process over with. But what we never really consider is, what it is like to be on the other side of that situation. Well over this spring break I interviewed my cousin, Anessa – an ex-Jehovah's Witness – about what it was like to be part of a religion that not only is so involved with how their message gets across, but also how different it was to be raised in that type of environment. However during our interview, I found out much more than that. I found out what it was like to be raised in a very isolated, strict, and overall suffocating environment, and what it is like to leave something like that.

Jehovah's Witnesses – or "JW's" as many of them call themselves – believe a lot of the same Pagan beliefs that most of the main world religions do. One main difference of JW's is that they do not celebrate any traditional holidays. Birthdays are not celebrated, because in The Bible's stories the person whose birthday it is typically dies, or something tragic happens in general on that day. Or that is at least what the JW's believe. For other holidays such as Easter and Christmas there is a different reason. Jehovah's Witnesses believe that Jesus's birthday was not in fact on the day of Christmas, and that he was also not resurrected on Easter Sunday. They also believe in the idea that certain holidays have been way too commercialized and no longer hold the religious value that they were originally intended for.

In Anessa's case, she was not born into this religion like many

children are. Her mother, Jennifer, was raised a JW but left when she was a young adult to marry my father's cousin. After they married, they had Anessa, and everything was going smoothly. That is until Jennifer's mother passed away when Anessa was very young. That is when Jennifer decided to go back to the Jehovah's Witnesses and she wanted to bring her family with her. Unfortunately it did not work out this way, and Anessa's parents got divorced not too long after that. The problem with this was divorce is heavily frowned upon in the church, so Anessa and her mother were walking on eggshells when they first arrived back. Also since Anessa's father was not a Witness, any interaction with him was also frowned upon, and even discouraged. Some other parents in her King-

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# “The Leach-athon: Taking Government Money Through Laziness”

By Patrick J. Miller

I am a college student. You can usually spot me in the library working on some paper while listening to music. You may also catch me in my regular history class, front row. I maintained a passing GPA and have a vested interest in History/Political Science. And finally, I want to become a history professor in my future. But there may be one thing that might inhibit me from fulfilling this dream: I have used government benefits to live my life.

Now before any of you out me for being a leach, I want to explain my stance. I was born poor. I've been relatively poor for what amounts to my entire life. My mother was shut out of work for years due to the **sinful** act of having to raise two kids who were born with a genetic defect known as cystic fibrosis. We needed those benefits to keep a roof over our heads, to put clothes on our backs, and put food on the table. If we didn't have those benefits, then let's just say that I wouldn't be here writing to you about these benefits.

Of course, based on the title of this article, it will be about those who leach precious government money, and why it should be considered a crime.

The government benefits system, at least when it was started as just Social Security in 1935.08.14, was commissioned with the intent as a **temporary** safety net for any working-class citizen who would need some financial help while out of a job. Which means that if you are just

using the system as it was originally intended, then good for you. You are not the problem. The problem, however, resides with leachers.

A leacher could be best described as someone who drains vital materials from an otherwise sturdy structure. In this case, these leachers suck away government benefits of various kinds that is provided by the current financial structure.

They usually do this by breaking or circumventing the rules on how you are supposed to spend your EBT benefits. And then there are those who outright abuse the system for their own gains, no purchase may be necessary. These leachers are particularly bad, because they end up ruining the overall system for everyone else, especially those who legitimately need these systems the most.

One good example of government benefits abuse is the classic story of a New Hampshire woman who was fired for refusing to accept an EBT card purchase for cigarettes. The former clerk, Jackie Whiton, had since seen widespread support, which led to her filing a petition to abolish said cards. That's a little extreme, since that would mean punishing everyone for one person's stupid purchase, but it isn't in New Hampshire.

To elaborate, EBT cards are usually issued with a pre-set and renewable amount of taxpayer dollars with the intent of said money only being used for “goods” that would overall benefit both you and anyone else you

would be providing for. Food is an obvious example of beneficial to the family, to the point where specific cards may be issued for just that. Other kinds of goods that would be classified as essential might include bathroom needs, cleaning utensils, and clothes. Cigarettes, however, are not really beneficial to anyone, except maybe the tobacco companies themselves. New Hampshire, however, does not impose a restriction on tobacco products, which was certainly the result of her suspension. However, of the 27 states that issue certain restrictions on EBT purchases as listed on NCSL's website, just 11 states impose tobacco restrictions. The situation is just small potatoes compared to what I'm going to get into next.

Out of the 27 states that impose EBT restrictions, Massachusetts holds some of the strictest limitations of certain purchases, which range from tobacco & alcohol products to gambling ventures. However, even with them in place, an even worse crime could occur within these borders: EBT fraud. The Food and Nutrition Service considers EBT, or SNAP fraud in this case, involves trading benefits for cash, lying on their applications for whatever reason, and, specifically for retailers, trying to get back on the program after they've been disqualified for past abuse, all of which are against the law. One might think that MA's strict SNAP program would make crime close to impossible, but believe or not, it still happens.

On 2015.09.28, justice.gov reported on Vida Ofori Causey, the owner and operator of J&W Aseda Plaza, a convenience store on Worcester's Main street, and how she managed to defraud the USDA of \$3.638 million dollars. She managed to accumulate that much by purchasing the benefits from recipients at a discounted value for four years, from April 2010 to October 2014. This says a lot about the current system in Massachusetts when a crook could commit fraudulence for four years under one of the strictest EBT programs in the country.

But the worst part about EBT fraud is that many states are having problems containing the fraudulence. The United States Government Accountability Office (GAO), for example, has reviewed 11 states, and found that even with applying every single trick up their sleeve, they have found that SNAP fraud control is “mixed.”

Some of the states found difficulty enforcing anti-fraud laws regarding to SNAP, usually because staffing was either level or dwindling, in comparison to a sharp increase in recipients in 2009. For example, in 2013, both Massachusetts and New Jersey reported having 498,580 and 432,270 recipients, respectively, while MA has just 37 enforcers, and NJ had nearly 300.

Additionally, between 2009 and 2013, Florida reported a massive increase in recipients, to the point where the number of SNAP households per investigator jumped from 7,705 to 19,635. Florida also reported that they

lost 27 investigators, from 130 to just 103. The staffing problems that have been witnessed in these three states have been attributed to attrition, turnover, and/or lack of funding.

Even worse, in Texas and one North Carolina county, they won't pursue fraudulent claims due to a vast lack of resources needed to prosecute. Even if the offender(s) go to court, Tennessee and Florida prosecutors note that juries in those states will not prosecute them, as they would be sympathetic to those who are ignorant of the strict thresholds or are knowingly breaking the law in order to support their families.

It's results and stories like these that really make me feel ashamed for depending on government benefits to actually have a chance at life. It's gotten to the point where I'm starting to even doubt my own research on this subject, and if the results that I found were really “objective.”

In the end, I want to make my closing statements. No, I do not want food stamps, or EBT benefits, or any other government benefit to be outright shut off. However, I want the system to be tweaked somewhat. I don't know exactly what, but I hope that the overall government benefits systems would still be in effect while being able to track down on those few cases where EBT/SNAP/whatever fraud was committed, no matter how many opposing politicians and mainstream news shows would tell you otherwise.

## Leaving it All Behind, Part I

>>> continued from page 4

dom Hall even went as far as to not let their child socialize with Anessa because of the divorce. I found out that until she was about seven, Anessa was told that her father wanted nothing to do for her and already had a new family. Little did she know that he had actually been trying his hardest to see her, but was being brushed off by her mother, and church.

When Anessa was a young child, she loved going to the Kingdom Hall. They went to Kingdom Hall twice a week, as well as what she referred to as “family study night,” multiple times a week. For family study night there were videos oriented towards children that taught the religion, and advertised what

was expected of them in the church with “Model Kids.” Like most children that are involved in any religion, Anessa enjoyed the social aspect of going to church as well as being involved with it, “The friends I made were the reason I was excited to go.” At one point, her father found out about the intention the church had to homeschool Anessa and decided to sue for full custody. Jehovah's Witnesses almost always homeschool their children. For them, college is not important and is highly discouraged. They mostly want their children to go on and spread the message of God to others. He lost the case, and therefore she began getting taught by her mother every day until her high

school graduation. On the bright side, by the time she began homeschooling, her father had finally been able to get in contact with her and would take her out with his new girlfriend, and her daughter for a few hours at a time, then go back to her mothers. That was essentially her only contact with people outside of the church. While Anessa has sworn off homeschooling for her own children, she does not think it was an all bad thing.

In fact, there were many things about being a JW that she truly enjoyed. The main one she loved was the sense of community was very strong and tight-knit. “I felt as though I had a family away from my own, because I wasn't close with any of my dad's side

of the family. I mean that's where I met Connor, and he may as well be my brother.” Through the church she met some friends that she still holds dear today. She also became close with some children who would soon become her step-siblings, and even though today they are still involved in the church, she loves them more than anything in this whole world.

But as her teen years progressed, she started doubting her religion and its philosophies. It all started when she got a job at a restaurant when she was seventeen. If you have ever worked in a restaurant you would know that going from an extremely sheltered environment, to *that*, must have been a huge eye-

opener. And it sure was. “I started making friends, and it was the first time I was every exposed to anything outside of my family... and then I met a guy. I had to sneak around my mom to talk to him. It was harmless; we would eat lunch together on our break, and talk.” But one day her mom found her phone and all of her conversations she had had with that boy. That was when everything really started to go downhill.

To Be Continued...


 NYC 16

tablet-online-banner

## Do or Do Not, There is no Try: Take-aways from my time at the CMA Spring Conference

By Jason Greenough

From March 13-15, I attended the College Media Association's Spring Convention in New York City. Along with Observer Editor John Mossey, we represented the Mount Observer in what many of people consider "the greatest city in the world," and it was honestly a lot of fun to be a part of. I knew from the first day, when one of the speakers gave me a free pizza, that it was going to be a fulfilling experience.

I learned a lot while I was there, from the lessons taught at various workshops offered by the conference, from the culture of the city itself, and from Google Maps (Note to self: the "Strawberry Fields" you punched in at W. 85<sup>th</sup> St., thinking it was the John Lennon "Strawberry Fields Forever" memorial are only that. No Lennon. Just Strawberries.)

But what I took to heart more than anything during those three days in the Big Apple is the advice offered to me by ABC's *Nightline* co-anchor, Byron Pitts, the conference's Keynote speaker.

"What is it with this word 'try', Jason?" he asked me, after telling him that I wanted to *try* and pursue a career in activist Journalism. "Why do you keep using the word 'try'? Using the word 'try' only sets up barriers for yourself, and it only limits you," he told me. I didn't understand the magnitude of those words, and quite honestly, I'm still sort of trying to process the fact that

this man, who has been all over the world with a national News station, and beat incredible odds growing up in Baltimore to be where he is today, took the time to tell me that I am setting limits for myself by only "trying".

He was tired, leaning against a chair in the Hotel ballroom once the stress on his feet from spending more than three hours standing and talking to hundreds of other fellow aspiring journalists started to affect him a little bit. But that didn't stop him from giving me advice that has since changed the way I view my life. He took the time out of his busy schedule (He legitimately rescheduled a dentist appointment in front of me in order to make more time to talk to students) to let *me* know that I can do anything I set my mind to. I know, it's not the first time I heard someone say that to me. But it's the first time I've really *listened* to it. It was humbling for sure, for a 20-year old College student who is self-aware enough to see how he actually thinks he knows what he's up against in life.

Have you ever been in a situation where the words "I'll show you someday" just don't feel true? Like, someone at some point told you that you wouldn't amount to anything, or that you weren't any good at acting, or that you just don't have what it takes to make the starting lineup of the JV Baseball team? Well, Pitts said something earlier that

day during his keynote address, before our heart-to-heart, that might find you well, like it did me, as you read this. I really hope it does, actually.

Pitts said, "When the skeptics have pissed me off, all I say to myself is 'soon'".

"Soon". That hit me like a ton of bricks. I'll make it past my obstacles one day, and I know you will too. Soon, you will show everyone and everything out there that you aren't fooling around. That you're *going* to be a Teacher, that you're *going* to travel the world, that you're *going* to change someone's life with a song. And while this might sound like a joke, I am dead serious when I quote wise Jedi Master, Yoda: "Do, or do not. There is no try."

Be well, reader, and carry on today with the burning passion of a young kid from Baltimore, Maryland who never succumbed to the harsh criticism that strived to keep him from capturing his dream. "Soon."

## An Entitled Generation

By John Blombach

Are you a member of an entitlement generation, I know I sure am? We are living in one of the most self-absorbed times in American history. We are a gift to society, and the world owes us everything. Entitled to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, yes, but are we taking the entitlements to an all new unsustainable level?

Free education, free healthcare, free prescriptions, free money, free legal aid, free insurance, free benefits to American \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in the blank). Also, unemployment compensation in New Hampshire, vacation pay in Massachusetts, free rent, free oil, free cell phones, and let's not forget a living wage, just to name a few. Entitlement spending is now the highest it has ever been, and it is not just a liberal or conservative issue. Both political parties share the blame in equal fashion.

According to a recent article in US News, contrary to popular belief, government give away programs have risen an average of eight percent more under Republican than Democratic presidencies. However, under current President Obama's continued lavish spending, entitlements have become an integral part of the great "American Dream." Feeding at the public trough is seen as a "fundamental civil right of all Americans, thanks to both parties." Our looming entitlement crisis is a serious problem, and most Americans are in denial about it, and politicians are afraid to admit it or attempt to fix it for fear of losing political favor.

Fiddling with tax rates will not fix it. There's not enough money in all of America to pay for this feeding frenzy. Unabated, the programs that we all rely on will become insolvent and have to be curtailed altogether. At this point, entitlements and interest

on the nineteen trillion dollars national debt take up two-thirds of all the revenue from taxes, leaving just one-third of all the revenue to pay for education, defense and replacing crumbling infrastructure such as federal buildings, roadways and the cost of government.

Ignoring the deficit problem will not make it go away. We all enjoy our freebies, courtesy of the Red, White, and Blue, but like all good things they must be paid for either now or later. The day of reckoning is near, and it is becoming clearer and clearer that the piper will need to be paid. What is the solution?

While I am no government economist, and I may not know much, but I can add two and two. I know right from wrong and good from evil. The simple solution is more jobs, grow the economy, raise the taxes, and cut unnecessary entitlements. There are many who need government assistance and should get all that is available. However, there are far too many who may be taking more than their fair share, thereby cheating those truly needy.

The entitlements can all be saved if we act now and demand our politicians do their job and fix what's broken. Tough decisions and sacrifices made now will save our future. The right decisions are never the easy ones and are most often very unpopular. It will take guts to do what is right. What can we do? Are we powerless? Not at all! Register to vote and hit the polls in November and make your voice heard, regardless of your particular political persuasion, your vote counts. You have the power.



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Wednesday, April 27 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 11 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 25 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.


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# The Chemical Imbalance Explanation: Healing or Hurting?

By Shaina Wallace

Chemical Imbalance, it's a popular and accepted casual explanation for anxiety and depression. It's believed that this explanation frees sufferers of self-blame, and counteracts the stigma of mental illness still found in our culture today. The public has accepted this hypothesis with welcome, and many feel it to be true. In 2007, psychologist Christopher M. France and colleagues of Cleveland State University surveyed 262 undergraduates and found that 85 percent of the participants found it likely that chemical imbalance causes depression (*Scientific American Mind* March 2014). Though this surveyed served to prove the acceptability of this explanation among the public, it did nothing to answer the most pertinent questions following a chemical imbalance diagnosis: Does it really remove self-blame? Does it facilitate

long-term treatment and healing? What effect does it have on sufferers? Researchers at Brown University and Wollongong University in Australia have brought to light a most curious and worrisome notion: telling sufferers they have a chemical imbalance actually perpetuates maladaptive thoughts and beliefs. 73 sufferers of depression were randomized and split into two groups. One group was told their depression was caused by a chemical imbalance, while the second group was told their depression was *not* caused by a chemical imbalance. The diagnosis was given without a real medical test. Instead, experimenters mocked assessments, even swabbing the cheek of each participant and showing the chemical imbalance group a chart of their low serotonin levels, a neurotransmitter believed to be directly related to the disorder. Post-manipulation

packages were given to assess their depression, their perceived depression, negative mood regulation, and whether or not the groups favored medication or psychotherapy as the best path of treatment given their diagnosis. Joshua Kemp and colleagues found that the chemical imbalance causal explanation, within the chemical imbalance group, promoted pessimism about treatment and healing-suggesting a submission to their condition, an inability to effectively regulate negative moods, and promoted a belief that medication is best suited for treating depression, and in lieu of psychotherapy. The group without the chemical imbalance diagnosis showed advocacy for psychotherapy and positive trends on their assessment packages. (May 2014). The results suggest a host of negative side-effects. Not only does this explanation not remove

self-blame but it accentuates and amplifies all the symptoms that caused a sufferer of depression to seek treatment in the first place. And it doesn't stop there. Now, they have it in mind that costly medication is the only answer. It presents years, possibly a life, spent on antidepressants known to cause worsened depression, insomnia, sexual dysfunction, fetal abnormalities, apathy, cravings for alcohol, and hostility (Dr. David Healy *SSRIstories.com*). This explanation seems to negate all the maladaptive thoughts, beliefs, and worry that so often come with depression because the cause is believed to be solely a chemical one. And worse, it negates the very tool best suited in treating these ailments: psychotherapy. It never gives the sufferer a chance to explore their options, options that include the unique Expressive Therapies- psychotherapy

treatment via art, reading/writing, Socratic psychodrama, and music- all proven to reduce anxiety and depression, and used in the introductory days of psychology. Perhaps the human element, a reminder that all people are creative forces in their lives is the best treatment, but how can we know when so many are influenced by this uncritically accepted chemical imbalance explanation? With one in eight Americans, including children, on some kind of psychotropic and the pharmacotherapy business booming at 24.2 billion dollars- increasing fifty fold since the introduction of Prozac in the eighties (John Horgan, *Chronicle of Higher Education* Sept. 2011), it begs the question is the chemical imbalance explanation healing, hurting, or creating customers?



Video games

## The Gaming Industry: an Editorial

By Mark Ramos

When you purchase a product you would expect that product to be a completed one right? So why is it that, that level of expectation applies to every product on the market except for video games? From releasing unfinished games to locking content behind pay walls, the gaming industry has turned its back on those who made it the biggest entertainment medium in the world.

Street Fighter V is the most recent culprit of the beloved industries new business model of undercooked, microwave gaming. Its longtime publisher Capcom promised consumers the next level of fighting games, but delivered and substandard game due minimal content and dysfunctional online connectivity.

When you compare the content of SFV to essentially any other fighting game on the mar-

ket it feels like you payed a \$60 full retail price for a game that has about \$20 worth of content. If you were to look at a game like Mortal Kombat X with its robust roster (over 20 characters), multiple games modes including a massive narrative of a story mode, multi-tiered combat ladders and a classic arcade mode just to name a few, you're left feeling like you got ripped off.

Capcom's response to the overwhelmingly negative reaction lack of content was basically a halfhearted apology, a promise of free DLC that is rolled out over the next 6 months, and there lies the heart of the problem: Downloadable Content. What was once used to extend a well-supported games lifespan is now the gold standard excuse to sell you an unfinished product and then charge you more money to play content you may

already have.

Let's start with selling you an unfinished game. It has become all too common for game developers to push out games to the retailers that aren't quit finished or are even buggy. Developers get away with this by using what is called a day one patch. A day one patch is downloaded automatically when you first start a game up. Even a great game like the aforementioned Mortal Kombat X is guilty of this. MKX had a massive 1.8GB patch on its launch day to fix bugs, online stability and balancing issues.

This brings me to the most egregious issue: Pay walls. Pay walls are used to make you pay more money to access parts of the game. No company has been caught more red handed then SFV's developer Capcom.

In 2012 with the release of the highly anticipated Street Fighter X Tekken, it was revealed that

the 12 DLC characters, that would cost \$20 to unlock, were already on the game disk in their entirety. The only thing keeping you the consumer from using them was a single line of coding that allowed access to them.

This is the modern business model. Game devolvement is no longer about creating an enjoyable and groundbreaking product that fans will love. It's all about making a good enough product that can chopped up and sold as micro transactions in as many pieces as possible.

You used to be able to buy a games season pass and get all its DLC for \$20. Now the average season pass cost \$30-\$50 and some games like Batman: Arkham Knight will cost you almost \$200.00 to play all its content. With these practices and gaming's easy accessibility it's no wonder the gaming industry is a 91.5-billion-dollar industry.



### Work for us!

The Observer is currently looking for reporters, poets, photographers, artists, graphic designers and critics. All interested should speak with the Editor in room 239 or email [mountobserver@mwcc.mass.edu](mailto:mountobserver@mwcc.mass.edu).

**Question of the Month***Written/Photos By Holly Tata***“Do you do your homework as soon as it is assigned, or do you procrastinate?”****Alec Goodale**

Exercise Science Major

“I procrastinate. I try to get the assignment done one to two days before it’s due, but I sometimes do it the night before.”

**Jordan Heath**

Dual Enrollment Student

“I usually do my homework the night before. I procrastinate by watching Netflix.”

**Chris Piscopo**

Media Arts Technology Major

“Depending on the class, I sometimes do it right away, sometimes the morning of.”

**Shelby Ayres**

Legal Studies Major

“I try to do my homework as soon as I get it. Just get it done.”

**Katherine Sandoval**

Exercise Science Major

“I do everything but homework first.”

**Steve Brendell**

Media Arts Technology Major

“If it’s for a class I care about, I’ll do the assignment immediately. If it’s a reading assignment, I’ll do it the morning it’s due. It also depends on if I like the professor.”

**Marina Leone**

Radiology Technology Major

“I do my homework last minute. The day before or the morning it’s due is when I do my homework. One time I almost slept through a midterm because I had procrastinated on a paper the night before...”

**Jerry Caya**

Human Services Major

“Because I’m a single father, it really depends on my schedule for when I can do homework. I often have to wait until I have time. Sometimes I don’t start homework until after 9 o’clock.”

**Boston Red Sox: A 2016 Season Preview***By Andrew Hoenig*

Boston, Mass. – Spring is upon us! And that means it is time for America’s favorite past time to start up again.

Spring training is over and

done and now it is time to start another Major League Baseball season. At Fenway Park in Boston, Massachusetts, the Red Sox get set for what should be a memorable 2016 season.

This year is the last season for

fan favorite David Ortiz, or Big Papi, in the MLB. Big Papi has decided to call it a career after the 2016 campaign, sparking this farewell tour of sorts for the season. No doubt however the season plays out, the last regular

season game in Fenway will be sold out just to see Big Papi play ball one more time.

Ortiz’s time with the team is memorable because of his personal career accomplishments as well as his part played in help-

ing the team win three World Series titles in 2004, 2007, and 2013. Fans will look on and try to enjoy every last moment of

*continued on page 9 >>>*

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# NFL Free Agency: Patriots Progress and Winners/Losers at the Start of the New League Year



By Andrew Hoenig

New England, U.S. – The start of the new National Football League year was officially Wednesday, March 9 at 4 P.M.

Teams wasted no time changing their rosters as this is also the time of year in the league when teams can sign free agents. NFL free agents are players that are eligible to sign with any team/franchise because they are currently not under contract with any team.

This year the free agent frenzy once again hit hard! Teams that missed out on the playoffs in 2015 took advantage of the opportunity to sign a number of highly coveted players. Some teams that did make the playoffs last year only got better on paper.

However, some teams got potentially worse. In addition to teams gaining talent in free agency, teams can also lose it. And that was no exception once again in the start of the new league year.

First, we'll start with a look at the home town favorites, our New England Patriots. The Pats were quiet the first week of free agency, re-signing most of the teams own free agents. Full back James Develin, offensive lineman Cameron Fleming and LaAdrian Waddle, linebacker Rufus Johnson, cornerback Justin Coleman, and safeties Brandon King and Nate Ebner.

After a flurry of moves by teams around the league, free agency finally settled and once the Pats had taken care of most of their own players, they too took to improving their team more through free agency.

Before the new league year even began, the Patriots released

wide receiver Brandon LaFell and tight end Scott Chandler. These moves had Pats fans in the usual uproar for the team to improve the offensive arsenal of weapons that they have for quarterback Tom Brady to throw to.

The Patriots signed restricted free agent wide receiver Chris Hogan from the Buffalo Bills to an offer sheet that Buffalo couldn't match do to being strapped under the team's current salary cap (an agreement or rule that places a limit on the amount of money that a team can spend on player salaries). They also signed defensive tackle Frank Kearse from the Washington Redskins and linebacker/specialist Ramon Humber from the New Orleans Saints.

The Pats then surprised the league with a trade of star defensive end Chandler Jones to the Arizona Cardinals for offensive lineman Jonathan Cooper and a second-round pick in this year's NFL Draft. The need for the Patriots to improve their offensive line after losing to the Denver Broncos in the AFC Championship back in January proved to be more important to the team then keeping Jones, who was going in to the last year of his rookie contract with the Patriots. Jones figured to be an expensive investment if the team had wanted to re-sign him next year, but after an incident using synthesized marijuana and the list of other important names to be re-signed by the Pats that include linebackers Donta Hightower and Jamie Collins and cornerback Malcolm Butler, the Pats decided that Jones wouldn't be worth the huge investment com-

pared to those other vital defensive pieces.

To lessen the blow of Jones being traded, the Patriots signed defensive end Chris Long formerly of the St. Louis Rams (now the Los Angeles Rams). The Patriots also signed running back Donald Brown. Running back is another position that experts and fans alike have viewed as a position with a need for upgrade on the team. The Pats probably aren't done adding there.

Then, the Patriots swung perhaps their biggest trade of the offseason so far, even more so than the Jones trade, by landing tight end Martellus Bennett from the Chicago Bears. Bennett could be the tight end the team has been looking for since Aaron Hernandez's arrest to pair along with star tight end Rob Gronkowski. The two along with wide receivers Julian Edelman, Danny Amendola, and the aforementioned Hogan as well as running back Dion Lewis could give quarterback Tom Brady the most lethal offense he's had since 2012, Aaron Hernandez's last year on the team before being arrested for murder.

The Patriots also signed linebacker Shea McClellin, also formerly of the Chicago Bears, who could be the team's next Akeem Ayers. Ayers was a late season trade acquisition in 2014, who helped the Patriots win Super Bowl XLIX that year against the Seattle Seahawks. McClellin figures to lessen the blow to the team's linebacker depth after long-time veteran and team captain Jerod Mayo retired after suffering his third straight season-ending injury.

After all these moves made by the Patriots, head coach Bill Belichick had a classic line when asked about his team's signings and trades, "Just doing what's best for the team. We'll see how it goes." Patience is a virtue in New England when it comes to finding out what kind of player talent the team really gets from their free agent signees. But patience has at least paid off so far for the Pats this offseason as the team looks to improve and try for another run at the Super Bowl in 2016.

As far as the rest of the league, here are a few notes of important free agent signings and player trades by teams that could change the outlook of their season and the chances of making the playoffs.

The Houston Texans released long-time running back Arian Foster but ended up making perhaps the biggest and flashiest splash in free agency by signing quarterback Brock Osweiler, formerly Peyton Manning's backup on the Super Bowl champion Denver Broncos, and star running back Lamar Miller from the Miami Dolphins.

The Jacksonville Jaguars signed former Broncos defensive tackle Malik Jackson and also former Jets running back Chris Ivory. The two are solid smash-mouth players that bring toughness to a team with an offense that could soar and a growing young defense.

The Tennessee Titans traded with the Philadelphia Eagles for running back DeMarco Murray. The team also signed former Dolphins receiver Rishard Matthews. These two give the young

second year QB Marcus Mariota the chance to grow in an up-and-coming offense.

The Denver Broncos, the current reigning champs of the league, lost quarterback Peyton Manning to retirement and the afore mentioned Osweiler. This has left a hole at QB on the team. They did trade for QB Mark Sanchez from the Eagles but expectations are that there will be more movement there.

The Broncos lost two more defensive players, linebacker Danny Trevathan to the Bears and safety David Bruton to the Redskins, that also hurts their chance at repeating as champs next year. The team also released TE Owen Daniels and OL Louis Vasquez.

The New York Giants also made a few splashes in free agency, signing defensive end Olivier Vernon to a huge contract as well as cornerback Janoris Jenkins. They re-signed DE Jason Pierre-Paul as well.

The Oakland Raiders also came up big in free agency adding guard Kelechi Osemele from the Baltimore Ravens, DE Bruce Irvin from the Seahawks, and CB Sean Smith from the Kansas City Chiefs.

For more news and free agent signings check out NFL Network and Sportscenter or go to their websites NFL.com and espn.com.



## Boston Red Sox

continued from page 8

what will be the close to a Hall of Fame career for Ortiz.

But can the Red Sox bring him to the finish line this year? Boston went out and paid pitcher David Price a king's ransom to come in and lead the charge in their pitching rotation. The 7-year, \$217 million deal was enough to convince fans that Boston had made a step in the right direction since letting go of pitcher Jon Lester a year ago.

Price figures to be the leader in a rotation that includes pitchers Clay Buchholz, Rick Porcello, Joe Kelly, and Steven Wright. Pitcher Eduardo Rodriguez figures to start the season on the DL but he was an up-and-comer last season who should eventually contribute in the 2016 run.

If Price can deliver for the

Sox, the rest of the rotation may follow suit. The Red Sox biggest problem last year was their pitching. Too often the rotation let down what was a strong offensive team. But the Price signing figures to push the team in the right direction by helping the other pitchers around him to try and play better as well. It only takes one star to help make a team better, at least that's what the Sox and general manager John Farrell seem to think after Price was the only big name free agent brought in this offseason.

The batting order which figures to include Ortiz at his usual DH (designated hitter) position will include stalwart second baseman Dustin Pedroia, right fielder Mookie Betts, short stop Xander Bogaerts, left hander Rusney Castillo, center fielder Jackie Bradley Jr., catcher Blake Swihart, third baseman Pablo

Sandoval, and first baseman Hanley Ramirez.

Ramirez's switch from left field to first base has been challenging for him but he's put in the work this offseason and in spring training. Pablo Sandoval figures to need a bounce back year after showing up to spring training overweight this year. Boston fans have pointed this out at every twist and turn so far but the hope is there for him to have a better second season than his first last year with the team in which he only tallied 10 home runs.

Sandoval relished the "challenge" of coming to Boston last year. This year Sandoval is embracing an old Tom Brady-ism if you will, saying that "every year I have to come out and prove myself."

Sandoval and Ramirez could figure to be make or break play-

ers for this 2016 Red Sox squad and for now fans may be willing to give them both the benefit of the doubt. But results will be expected very quickly out of both of them.

The Red Sox bullpen will most likely include pitchers Craig Kimbrel, Koji Uehara whose magical 2013 season has kept his spot on the team after what were two rather disappointing seasons in 2014 and 2015, Carson Smith, Junichi Tazawa, Tommy Layne, and Robbie Ross Jr.

This list of closers actually may be the Red Sox best group since the 2013 season especially because of Kimbrel and a healthy Uehara. They will be counted on to put teams to bed down the stretch all season.

The bench figures to include Brock Holt and Travis Shaw who can both play multiple on field positions, everything except

pitching. Joining them would be centerfielder Chris Young and catcher Ryan Hanigan.

The Red Sox 2016 squad looks stacked enough to make a post-season run in Big Papi's farewell tour but a trip to the World Series?? The pitching rotation may be improved with the addition of David Price but it's a lot to gamble so big on one guy. This season has the potential to be great but it also could be a major injury and career turn away from being a disappointment. It's tough to say for sure what this squad's outlook for 2016 will be. Overall the potential is there though for this to be a good team. So there maybe hope that Red Sox fans can see Big Papi play in the post-season for one final time.

Dear Editor,

Drug Replacement Therapy is an unrealistic aspect of treatment for addicts seeking recovery. One very important aspect is considering how dosage is acquired for each individual. The means in which dosage is considered is based on a few simple questions. Answers to questions such as: number of years addicted, type and amount of opioids used, frequency of use, method of use, and health state, are considered factors for clinicians to determine proper dosage. A primary concern with these questions is that they all point to the honesty of the client.

Dear Editor,

In debates about the cost of college we repeatedly hear terms like "free college" and "affordable college". Unfortunately, many advocates as well as opponents of free college proposals are not aware that the term "free college" can stand for a variety of proposals that differ greatly and many politicians use the vagueness of terms like this one to their advantage.

When taking a closer look, most free college proposals only suggest free tuition and do not address fees or other expenses that lead to student debt. How-

This is a very concerning issue because being on drugs for drugs means the client can still overdose. Even if the medication is given legally they can be triggered by not enough or too much of the drug prescribed. To base treatment on factors that are results of an addict's word, while using or in the detox process, is very irresponsible and therefore makes dosing an extremely difficult task.

According to an article published in 2014 in *The American Journal on Addictions* (Ferri, et al), when discussing results of relapse related to treatment of buprenorphine, states that in

ever, tuition is only a fragment of the cost that most college students are confronted with. Therefore, free tuition wouldn't have as much of an impact as many people hope. At Mount Wachusett Community College, for example, students pay \$ 25 tuition and \$ 177 college fees per credit hour. The tuition makes up less than 15 percent of the college cost, not even considering additional fees like registration or technology access fees.

Data from the "Trends in College Pricing 2015" report shows that tuition and fees combined make up for only 20 percent of the overall expenses of a student

the period of 5 months 50% of patients had relapsed at least once with 23% never returning to treatment. This statistic was based on a daily maintenance dose of 20mg.

Another statistic from the same source states: "And third, that buprenorphine may not be the best agent for treatment of patients with severe opioid dependence who may require further mu-receptor stimulation beyond the ceiling effect of buprenorphine to alleviate cravings. This is contrary to what has been observed with methadone maintenance, namely that higher doses tend to be more effective

who attends a public two-year institution and pays for off-campus housing (*The College Board, 2015*). The cost for room and board, books, etc. far outweigh the cost of tuition and fees and considering that the tuition is by far the smaller cost factor when it comes to tuition and fees, it raises the question if free tuition would truly make a difference.

Advocates of free college education often talk about countries like Germany or Sweden, in which college is tuition as well as tuition fee free. However, that does not mean that students attending colleges in these countries graduate without debt.

in achieving retention and abstinence," when referring to the three most likely factors in relapse. Once again proving that more factors need to be considered before administering a dose.

With all this, I encourage you to educate yourself and others on the legislature relating to addiction and possible options for recovery that do not include more drugs. Proper funding of more halfway houses and treatment facilities that do not condone drug replacements would be ideal and allow much more effective results. Get involved in the communities around you and help bring awareness to the support

According to an article by Matt Phillips 85 percent of students in Sweden graduate with debt while in the United States only 50 percent of students graduate with debt (*Quartz, May 2013*).

In addition to the argument that tuition is not what forces many students to take out loans, many opponents of free tuition are concerned that it might lead to lower quality in education. Catharine Hill, president and professor of economics at Vassar College, warns that free tuition could lead to fewer resources for students or even result in lowering financial aid, which would hurt students who receive finan-

needed for programs that help people already and have been proven to work, but just don't have the resources needed to extend their reach. Please do not shy away from the border-line malpractice concern of this drug replacement façade and instead, push towards a generation of healthy recovery through information centers, halfway houses, and twelve-step fellowships, etc.

Sincerely,  
Kyle Cole

cial aid at the moment and only benefit students who can already afford college (*New York Times, November 2015*).

Overall, free tuition would cause a financial deficit that more than likely will have to be picked up by the taxpayer or could lead to a decrease in education quality while not taking the major financial burden of the student. There are many alternatives that could help to reduce student debt without passing the burden on to the taxpayer, like encouraging more students to attend community colleges or better payment plans for students loans.

Sincerely,  
Jana Murphy

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Dear Editor,

The argument on the safety of genetically modified organisms (GMO) is intensifying as the correlation between Celiac disease (and other maladies such as Autism and thyroid issues) and glyphosate, the key ingredient in a pesticide used to make Roundup (a brand name pesticide) is under more scrutiny. GMO agricultural giants (such as Dow ConAgra), along with the companies that make the pesticides (Monsanto, for an example) to keep the production of GMO yields high, have created a system that needs to have some form of regulation. Accurate and truthful national GMO labeling is currently the best way

to for both opponents and proponents of GMOs to compromise on the issue.

There is much debate over the safety of glyphosate, and while Monsanto states on their website that is completely safe to humans, studies suggest otherwise. MIT Senior Research Scientist Stephanie Seneff and co-author Anthony Samsel state in their paper, *Glyphosate: Pathways to Modern Diseases II: Celiac sprue and gluten intolerance*, that there is a correlation between glyphosate and Celiac disease and use data from the USDA and the CDC to show it.

Seneff also states on her website, that while there has indeed been studies where iso-

lated glyphosate seems to be somewhat safe to human, when glyphosate is combined with an oxalate the toxicity is 1,000 times more dangerous. This is an alarming number and if continuing current studies prove the same results, GMOs should, at the very least, be labeled.

Hospital discharge diagnosis (any) of celiac disease ICD-9 579 and glyphosate applications to wheat ( $R=0.9759, p \leq 1.862e-06$ ). Sources: USDA:NASS; CDC. (Figure courtesy of Nancy Swanson)

Vermont, one of the smallest states in the United States, scored a major victory in implementing July 1, 2016 labeling laws when the U.S. Senate voted March 16,

2016. That Senate vote rejected a bill 49-48, which would have blocked states from having their own GMO labeling laws. This vote will have a direct impact on Connecticut and Maine, as those states have passed GMO labeling laws but are waiting on their neighboring states to put their own laws into effect.

Companies like Nestle, Campbell's, and General Mills have already begun the process of labeling their products nationwide-as has already been done in 64 other countries-in a preemptive attempt to avoid penalties that will be imposed if the laws are not followed. General Mills and other companies are holding

out that the opponents to the laws will find a way change the decision (Nestle and Campbell's support the mandatory informed disclosure of GMOs.)

The question that needs to be asked: If GMOs are completely non-toxic and safe for humans to eat, why are companies like Monsanto and Dow ConAgra spending millions to block GMO labeling? I, in addition to the majority of the American consumers that participated in a December 2015 Associated Press poll, feel that if there is nothing to hide, label the GMO products and let we the people decide what we want to put in our bodies.

Sincerely,  
Lisa Barry

Dear Editor,

Police body cameras are not a smart idea anymore; they are now a smart tool being used across police departments not only all over the country, but all over the world as well. Police body cameras do not have to drain the budgets of police departments. The money to implement police body cameras can come from places like the city, the state, and possibly the federal government.

According to an article by *Time.com* (Dec.2014), President Obama proposed a bill of \$263

million to fund police body cameras. The bill would help fund 50,000 police body cameras. The plan is to match the state's funding by half. If the bill is approved, police body camera's cost will not be completely on one organization. The cost can be shared thus making it more bearable on budgets to implement the body cameras.

According to an article in the *Grand Rapids Business Journal* (March, 2015), the police department is expected to pay \$1.4 million for the cost of police body cameras program for 5 years. The first 2 years will cost about

\$674,124 and \$247,140 annually after those 2 first years. This will cover two hundred cameras, docking stations, two hundred licenses, training, a fixed cost for data storage and more. The fixed cost of data storage will be really helpful because one of the main costs of police body cameras are data storage. Those cameras will be on for lengthy periods of time, and the storage prices could be really high. However, with a fixed cost the amount of data does not matter and it can help police departments that are on a strict budget.

Many people are worried

about the cost of police body cameras. One of the main reasons people might reject the idea of having police body cameras is because they cost too much. According to an article in the magazine *Junior Scholastic* (Sept. 2015), Jeff Roorda states that equipping a hundred of the country's biggest police departments will cost over \$1 billion. He is the business manager of the St. Louis Police Officers Association in Missouri. However, a price cannot be the reason to stop such a smart and safe tool from protecting the citizens and the officers. In an article by *Se-*

*curity Magazine* (Feb.2016), they discussed the findings of the *Cato/YouGov* national survey. They found that fifty-five percent of the people who took the survey would pay higher taxes to implement local police with body-worn cameras.

Police body cameras have become a necessary safety tool not only to protect our citizens, but our officers as well. People should not be against police body cameras based on their cost. There are many ways to pay for police body cameras. The cost does not have to drive police departments to bankruptcy. City,



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## Letters &gt;&gt;&gt; continued from page 11

state, and hopefully federal aid is available. We as citizens can also help by supporting police body cameras initiatives. Are we going to continue sitting around watching in the news all the lives that are lost daily in police and

citizens encounters, or are we going to take a step in the right direction and start supporting police body cameras?

Sincerely,  
Michelle Francisco

Send us your letters:  
mountobserver@mwcc.mass.edu

## Deadpool Review

By Nicole Benoit

*Deadpool* is definitely Ryan Reynolds' best acting yet. This role is very different from anything he has played before. He typically plays a character in a romantic comedy, but this film brings out his true comedic side. This is a must see film whether you like comic books or not!

This film was written by Rhett Reese, Paul Wernick, and directed by Tim Miller, starring Ryan Reynolds as the superhero and Ed Skrein as the villain. Of course, there is also Vanessa, Deadpool's love interest, played by Morena Baccarin. Based on its R rating, vulgar language, and racy comments, it definitely isn't a movie for a family night out.

Reynolds' character, Wade Wilson, was a former Special Forces operative that later in life was diagnosed with cancer. On the verge of dying, a man comes to him saying he can heal his disease. Figuring he has nothing to

lose, he goes with the mysterious man. After undergoing an experiment, he has the ability to heal very quickly, which led to him becoming Deadpool.

This movie dives right into the action and violence. It doesn't stop there either. The action continues throughout the movie and about 90% of it is also humor. It is also one of the few to get an R rating. Films like *X-Men*, *Avengers*, *Spiderman*, and *Batman*, all have PG-13 ratings. These heroes don't use crude language or swears and try their best to help others. Deadpool doesn't think of himself as a hero. He does things more for himself than for others. This character is so unique and unlike any other superhero that it is bound to draw in more viewers than any other superhero film.

Not only is the plot great, but so are the costumes and special effects. One character, called

Colossus, is a seven foot giant made of metal. Every character brought out in this movie played a part in making it complete.

Making about \$55 million, *Deadpool* has come in first for the box office for its opening weekend. It is expected to make a total of \$235.4 million, so if you love comedy, action, violence, and don't mind raunchy, sexual, and vulgar language, then this is the movie for you! It is a must see for 2016.

**“Making about \$55 million, *Deadpool* has come in first for the box office for its opening weekend.”**



Deadpool

## Review of Pee-Wee's Big Holiday

By Jason Greenough

If you know me, you may know of my love for Pee-Wee Herman.

I grew up watching *Pee-Wee's Playhouse*, *Pee-Wee's Big Adventure*, and *Big Top Pee-Wee* with my Brother, and the Pee-Wee Christmas special we owned on VHS is close to its demise thanks to our incessant desire to watch it again and again. It's safe to say that Paul Reubens' brainchild that originated as a character in his, how you would say nowadays, "NSFW" stand-up comedy routine, was a big part of the cultural exposure of my childhood. All of this paved the way for an excitement comparable to a small kid on Christmas morning, for the release of *Pee-Wee's Big Holiday*, the newest installment of the Pee-Wee Empire, and one of the newest Netflix originals.

The opening scene of *Big Holiday* brought back so many feelings of nostalgia and youth, adopting the same quirky childish antics that graced the beginning of *Big Adventure* back in 1985, and for a moment, it

seemed as if the Pee-Wee magic had been re-captured. It was, but it didn't feel the same. I guess that's a good thing, showing Producer Judd Apatow's ability to take an already shiny pearl, and make it even shinier.

The blueprint is almost identical to *Adventure*, where the naive goofball with the trademark red bowtie gets into trouble, and is lead on a crazy journey to escape it. But, it's still genius in its own right.

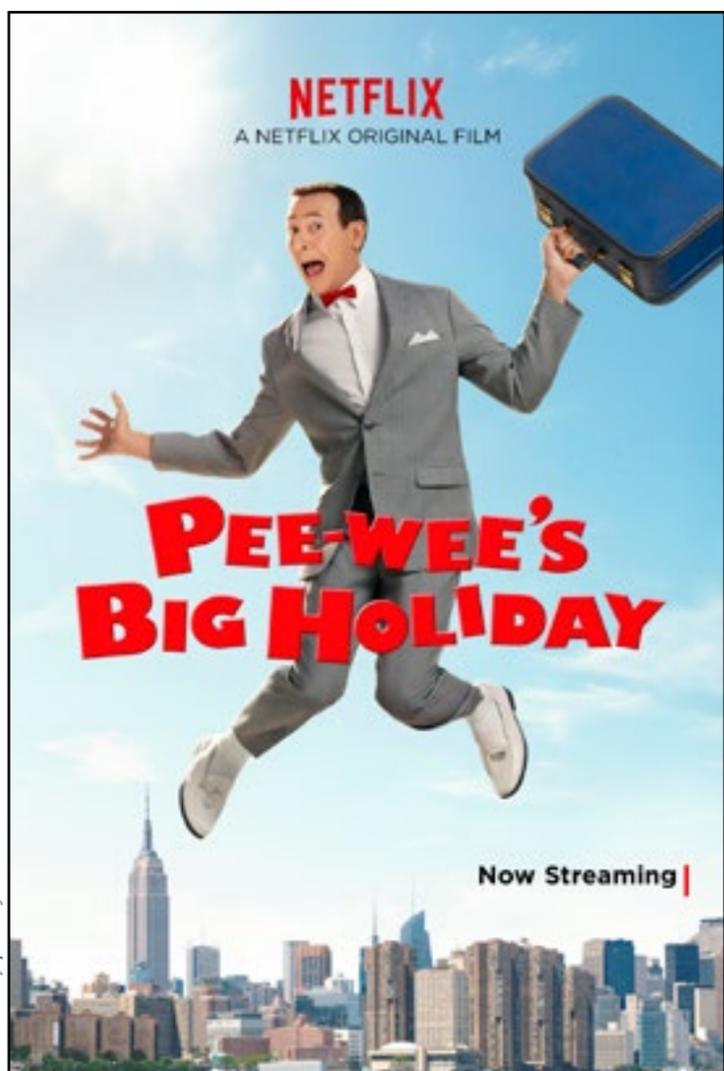
With a wonderful supporting cast, including Joe Manganiello, Jessica Pohly, and Richard Riehle, Reubens masterfully recreates the magic that gave so many millennials a really weird sense of humor. If you have Netflix, I fully suggest you check this out if you want to feel that familiar feeling of belly laughter and quirky mischief. All the while, at the same time, I must say the one downside I felt brought it down a rung the whole length of the film was the speed in which the story unfolded. I honestly feel it a bit too slow to fully hold my attention, even with it being like

looking into a time machine of my own past.

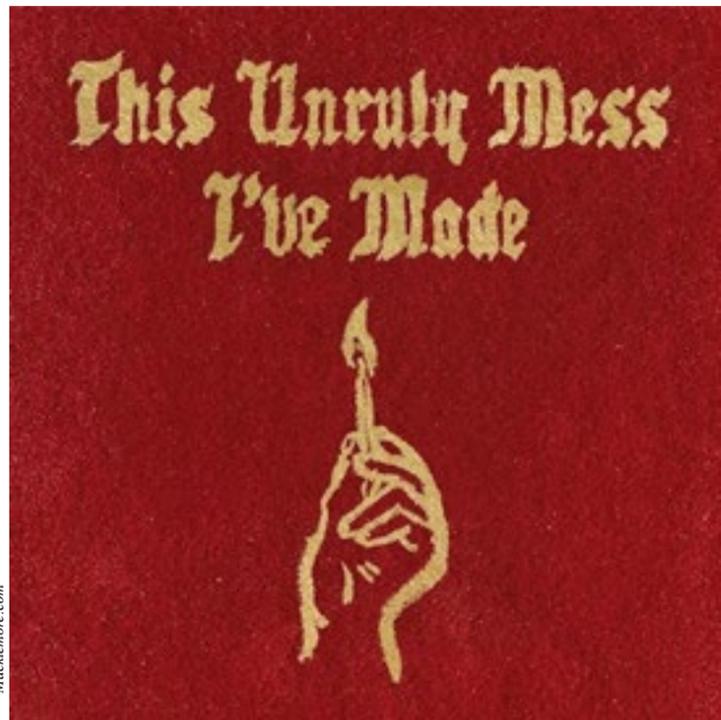
But, the beauty of this is, you can check it out for yourself and form your own opinion on it.

So, do the "Tequila" dance over to your computer, smartphone, Smart TV, or whatever futuristic spaceman device you use to play movies and TV shows nowadays, and check out *Pee-Wee's Big Holiday*. I can honestly say with confidence that even if you aren't a big fan of Pee-Wee Herman to begin with, this will leave you laughing and wanting more Pee-Wee.

**“If you have Netflix, I fully suggest you check this out if you want to feel that familiar feeling of belly laughter and quirky mischief.”**



Pee-Wee's Big Holiday



## Macklemore's *This Unruly Mess I've Made* Review

By Jason Greenough

They've done it again. My God, the Seattle Hip-Hop superstar duo known as Macklemore and Ryan Lewis have done it again.

With the February release of sophomore effort *This Unruly Mess I've Made*, Macklemore has broken down more barriers in not just Hip-Hop as a genre of music, but one of social and political awareness, as well. From the opening horns of *Light Tunnels*, the Seattle native begins to share a chronicle of success following his debut smash-hit album, *The Heist*. In the four years since that release, there have been many dips and turns in the road for Macklemore, and he says that to you, upfront and unfiltered. Unprecedented fame and notoriety, the ups and downs of that fame, a relapse in sobriety, learning he was going to be a Father, and being cited and approached for political and social advice are all covered and discussed in this new record, and quite artistically I might add.

Now, to be honest, I was a little skeptical before listening. All I could think was "how in the world is he going to top 'Heist'?" I loved *The Heist*. Every song on that album, I can say with confidence, hold their own great value, and it will go down as one of the greatest Hip-Hop records of all-time. He won a Grammy for it, it's been certified platinum, and it topped out at number 3 on the Billboard *Top Rap Album* charts of 2012. He did this all on his own, too, without the help of a label. So, how could he possibly find a way to top *Heist*? Well, he may have found a way.

From the opening verse of the first song, he goes straight for the jugular of some of the most "untouchable" institutions in America. He calls out the fake nature of the Academy in *Light Tunnels*, the Pharmaceutical industry in

*Kevin*, and with arguably his most thought-provoking track, *White Privilege II*, he tackles the controversy surrounding the Black Lives Matter movement, and the criticism he (and the movement itself) have heard for their roles in the political and social landscape. He's continued to use his platform to bring awareness to real-world issues, and the way he does it is something quite masterful. That's not to say he didn't have fun with this album, though.

The album's first single *Downtown* pays homage to his native Seattle, and the many cultural standouts that give the city character. You may reference the video for this, as he brings more hometown flavor to the song in the Music Video, and with references to Mopeds and Ken Griffey Jr., the Seattle Mariners' perpetual Baseball hero, Ben Haggerty (Yes, he does have a real name, and no, it isn't Macklemore) brings the city into a new light. Ed Sheeran appears on *Growing Up*, a song written for the newest member of the Shark Face Gang, Sloane, Macklemore's baby Daughter, and puts his own well-known brand of heart and soul into the tune. With other songs on the album handling goofier topics, such as *Let's Eat*, *Brad Pitt's Cousin*, or *Dance Off*, which features Idris Elba, Macklemore fully rounds out a passionate and well-crafted record, with a balance of powerful and playful, timeliness and timelessness, and an overall desire that signifies many things, but possibly none more important than the reminder that Macklemore isn't going anywhere, anytime soon. And that will make a lot of people happy.

## Hamilton: A Musical Review

### Hamilton Is Not Throwing Away its Shot

By Courtney Wentz

*Hamilton*, a musical written by Lin-Manuel Miranda and produced by Jeffrey Seller, is the most popular, unique, and important show currently on Broadway.

*Hamilton* is about the life of founding father, Alexander Hamilton, told in the point of view of the man who shot him, Aaron Burr, with the exception of one song.

Victoria Chadbourne, raised in Phillipston, is now an Arts and Entertainment Management major at Dean College in Franklin, MA, where she has stage managed three shows, was an assistant for four, and has been in ten shows. Chadbourne has been passionate about musicals all her life and had some comments to make about the impact *Hamilton* has on the audience. Chadbourne said, "The music is diverse enough that everyone could find a song they like, the story is incredible, and you might just learn something without having to read a 600 page book."

*Hamilton* is important because it makes those who see or listen to the musical more aware of one of our founding fathers, who is just as important as figures like

Washington or Jefferson, which students hear the most about. One was the first president and the other wrote one of the most important documents in our history, but what about Alexander Hamilton? He founded the U.S. Coast Guard, *The New York Post*, our financial system, and did a lot of things for our country and the people. The musical says, "America forgot him" and "every other founding father story gets told." Alexander Hamilton should be taught in more depth, and *Hamilton* provides that in the most unique way through hip-hop songs that are catchy, tear-jerking, and satisfying to the ears.

This musical not only opens people's eyes to history, but this is "an American musical," like the cover art and playbill shows. The musical itself shows it with a cast that represents every race that we have in the United States. Chadbourne said, "*Hamilton* is also presented as a color-blind cast which is unusual for a 'historical' play, and I find that the difference in people makes the show more reflective of the diverse American culture we are so proud of today."

At the beginning of *Hamilton*, they call Alexander Hamilton, "a bastard, orphan." Alexander Hamilton pushed and worked, worked and pushed for his ideas to be accepted by the other founding fathers who disagreed greatly with these ideas of his. As it is sung in the show's open-

ing song "Alexander Hamilton", he "didn't back down" and he "overcame" these obstacles that were thrown in his way. Chadbourne said, "This musical inspires me to follow my passions and to work through whatever challenges life throws at me no matter what happens."

*Hamilton* makes you laugh, gasp in surprise, you can feel the emotion from the characters just from listening to the songs, and it will definitely make you cry, but you will not regret listening to or seeing the two hour and forty minute musical. It makes you think about and question things you thought a musical wouldn't make you think of. Chadbourne commented, "Questions I draw from this musical are often why have political beliefs and opinions changed so much since Hamilton's time? Also, why is dueling people illegal now? I feel that is good way to solve problems." Obviously, she is joking about that last one, but she does have a point. It would be entertaining if the death part wasn't involved. Maybe people could use foam swords?

*Hamilton* can be purchased on iTunes or seen at The Richard Rodgers Theatre in New York City, but tickets sell out in advance and are very expensive. The best way to experience *Hamilton* is to buy it on iTunes, sit back, and let the songs wash over you.

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, each row, column and box must contain the numbers 1 to 9. There is only one possible solution.

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

## “Rock, rock, roll Plymouth rock, roll over..”

By Patrick J. Miller

Song: Do You Like Worms/

Artist: The Beach Boys/

Writers: Brian Wilson and Van Dyke Parks/

Album: The Smile Sessions/

Release: 31 October, 2011

I promise you that not every Beach Boys review that I'll do first will originate from the now-“finished” SMiLE project, but this song has been stuck at the back of my head for some time, that I had to give it a closer look.

Do You Like Worms, better known since its reinvention in 2004 as “Roll Plymouth Rock,” is another song that was considered for the SMiLE album. It was meant to be a lyrical journey across the United States of America, from coast to coast by

means of Manifest Destiny and westward expansion, but in its original 1966-1967 state, it feels more like a journey half-recorded.

The song begins with an instrumental piece, accompanied by some humming at a very low register, barely heard. This is the first piece of evidence that the song is unfinished, because the “finalized” 2004 rerecording contained lyrics at its beginning, starting with “Waving from the ocean liner...” The instrumental piece, however, is fine all by itself.

After that piece is done, another one starts, punctuated by a bass line and a “rock, rock, roll Plymouth rock, roll over” chorus repeated twice, one of the few lyrics that were recorded during the original sessions. It works as a chorus.

Afterwards is the tack piano piece, provided by Van Dyke Parks, probably the “Bicycle Rider” segment. You see, the original overarching story was supposed to be told from the perspective of the Bicycle Rider. But so far, it feels fragmented, so the overall narrative at this point feels disjointed.

Next is the vocalizing segment. Punctuating the already-established tack piano composition is the “Ooga booga...”-ish vocals drowning everything out.

Already a minute and eight seconds in and I'm still trying to grasp what the overall trip is so far.

The song at this point starts again with the instrumental piece from the beginning, with a much louder humming section. It soon became one of my favorite parts of the entire song.

After a brief reprise of piece No. 2, we go back to piece 3, and it is arranged differently. Instead of the “Ooga booga” chorus line, we have a call back to the previous song, “Heroes and Villains.”

In fact, the whole song could be called an extension of the “Heroes and Villains” theme. The lyric starts off as “Bicycle rider, see what you done...”, and continues to the end of this piece.

And for new content, we now enter a new piece with some garbled “Native Hawaiian-esque” vocals by Brian Wilson. Apparently, I don't think the message means anything, but this piece is my favorite part of “Worms,” as not only the vocals are so calming, so is the instrumental piece here.

The track finally ends with a second reprise of the tack-piano piece, and a vocal piece that

would help it segue into the next song.

Probably one of its biggest problems, if there were any, was the incompleteness the recorded lyrics represented. Even if the knowledge of not everything that's been recorded surviving, it still feels like a fragmented set of ideas rather than a full, coherent thought.

Overall, Do You Like Worms is a bit disappointing. I really wanted to like it, since I really enjoyed it by individual parts, but when jumbled together, it doesn't feel right. It is clear that from what's available, more recording would have been required to finish this track.

It's available on the Smile Sessions Boxset [either one of them will have this track] [Amazon.com/\$27.24 [2CD]]. Just don't expect much. [4/10]

## “An interesting mess.”

By Patrick J. Miller

Song: A Day in the Life [Anthology Version]/

Artist: The Beatles/

Writer: Lennon-McCartney/

Album: Anthology 2/

Release: 18 March, 1996/

Recorded: 19-20 January & 10 February, 1967/

Label: Apple

Anthology 2 is the second of three compilation albums dedicated to Beatles outtakes. They mainly hosted a large set of studio outtakes, home demos, and even live performances that were either bootlegged in large numbers before, or making their debut here.

Overall, I felt that the compilations helped tell the story of the band's rise to the top, and their descent towards their last few days. However, my main problem with this set is its gratuitous need to combine certain outtakes in order to form a “complete”

product, especially when this uses otherwise unavailable outtakes.

A Day in the Life, an already great song that would really benefit from a progressive look at outtake-wise (one outtake at a time), it is instead represented by a smörgåsbord of Takes, numbered 1, 2, 6 & an orchestra outtake, all compiled to form a “complete” version. However, I can't really complain too much, because both Take 2 and the orchestra piece is available, consumer-wise, for the first time.

The song begins with Take 1, where the band was testing their instruments to see if they're in-tune, with John Lennon giving instructions as to where his microphone should be placed. This part ends with John's count-in to start the song: “Sugarplum fairy, sugarplum fairy.”

For reference, a few fragments of Take 1 had previously appeared on a TV Special called “The Making of Sgt. Pepper.”

Then Take 2 begins. The ab-

solute positive thing about this is that almost everything seems to be intact: the lyrics seem finalized and the composition is somewhat established; it feels like a more stripped-down version of the official version. Only problem is that there doesn't seem to be a middle-eight present for this take.

However, Take 2's ultimate strength is the lead-up to the 24-bar bridge. The orchestra was filled in much later, so to compensate, the lead-up was instead a sole piano piece going through almost every note and chord, accompanied by assistant Mal Evans.

The counting went from 5 to 24, with more echo applied to each succeeding number, especially after 13. This gives this version a similar air of thrill that the finalized song would also have.

Next, we move on to Take 6. Here, it is only represented by the middle-eight, from the moment the alarm clock rang all the

way to the segue back to Take 2 for the last lyric.

Take 6 is actually really close to the finalized version, except for the fact that here, Paul McCartney would have to do another vocal take, as it's represented here as a guide-vocal. It's actually pretty interesting, except for the brief instrumental interlude back to Take 2.

For reference, Take 6, in its entirety as a rough mono-mix, was already a semi-commonly bootlegged version of this song prior to its inclusion here.

Take 2's final lyric is more or less the same as the final version, sans overdubs. And then, we move onto the final part of this Frankenstein mix: the orchestra piece. Recorded on 10 February, 1967, this is the uncut piece that would be used for further overdubbing later on, and I'm actually pretty happy that the raw source is preserved here.

Thing is, I feel like a lot of holes were actually made when this mix was created. While I ad-

mire the producers' intent in telling a complete story here, I feel that at least two tracks should have been devoted towards the evolution of one of the most celebrated songs ever made, just like what they did with “Eight Days a Week” from Anthology 1, and “Strawberry Fields Forever” and, less deservedly, “Being for the Benefit of Mr. Kite” from this volume. It's not like we ran out of disc space to warrant this mix in the first place.

Overall, I feel conflicted. On the one hand, I really dislike this massively altered version for messing with what could potentially be called history. But at the same time, both Takes 2 and the raw orchestra take make their debut here.

It is part of Anthology 2, a compilation that I heartily recommend without hesitation, which means that even with its problems, I would still recommend this track.

Anthology 2 is available on Amazon.com for \$19.99 [2CD]. [5/10]

## “Probably the most beautiful thing I've ever listened to.”

By Patrick J. Miller

Title: Our Sweet Love/

Artist: The Beach Boys/

Writers: Brian Wilson, Carl Wilson & Al Jardine/

Album: Sunflower/

Release: 31 August, 1970

The Beach Boys are a group of five, maybe six young and cute Californians composed of brothers Brian, Carl & Dennis Wilson, their cousin Mike Love, childhood friend Al Jardine, and later on, Bruce Johnson. Together, these six lads would compose

many high-hitting compositions that would end up as hit singles [California Girls, Good Vibrations]. They would be best known for their brilliant harmonies and their work leading up to their monumental “Pet Sounds” album.

However, I feel that their legacy shouldn't end there. They pretty much continued to make good content post-1967, with their “reinvention” as a feel-good harmonic group while maintaining a high degree in professionalism. Their “Sunflower” album highlights this perfectly.

One of the tracks that I'll look at for now is “Our Sweet Love.” It is an original composition written by Brian & Carl Wilson, as well as Al Jardine, all regular members at this point.

The composition distinctively feels like Brian wrote it himself. To me, he tends to push for some “out-of-the-norm” experimentation when it comes to composition and structure, as well as pushing the boys, including himself, to evoke their best vocal-wise. Here, the lead vocals are provided by Carl Wilson, whose melodic voice complements this

album perfectly.

Adding to the song is a string arrangement, which was headed by Michel Colombier. For reference, Colombier is a composer who worked on a multitude of films between 1962 and 2003. He also wrote some ballet and chamber music, but this song, as well as two more on this album, “Tears in the Morning” and “Deirdre,” seems to be one of his only diversions away from all three. Also present in the arrangement is Igor Horeshevsky. The overall string arrangement manages to elevate the “feel-

good” atmosphere without overdoing it.

The lyrics are deceptively simple and to the point. They relate to the desire to express one's love for another, with verses relating to summer and winter for example. The chorus, in its simplicity, relates to wanting “Our Sweet Love” to last forever, fitting in perfectly with the rest of the composition. The lyrics are overall simple, but that was probably intentional.

Overall, Our Sweet Love exists as a reminder that The Beach Boys were still relevant for the

## Shorthand 02: Coming Attractions Edition

“Do You Like Worms”

B. Wilson-Parks – The Smile Sessions – 2011.10.31 [iTunes]/2011.11.01 [Worldwide]

Brian Wilson and Van Dyke Parks’ original mostly-instrumental, when presented in this collection, seems to still be in its unfinished condition. While the individual pieces by themselves sound good, they do not really benefit each other as a comprehensive composition, especially owing to the fact that few of the couplets that Parks wrote for this song were known to have been recorded. It would later be completed as “Roll Plymouth Rock” for Wilson’s SMiLE 2004 album, but even that version has its own share of problems. [4/10]

“Movin’ Out [Anthony’s Song]”

Joel – The Stranger & Single [17/US] – 1977.09.29 [Album]/1977.11.01 [Single]

This is definitely a great composition. This piano-driven tune does a good job at recounting some stories of some working-class members overworking themselves just to “make it big.” [9/10]

“Taxman”

Harrison – Revolver – 1966.08.05 [Both Versions]

This song is the end result of a maturing George Harrison, who decided to write about something that was near and dear to his heart: over-taxation. The overall composition is engaging and the lyrics dig deep into the conscience of a particularly nasty tax collector. [8/10]

“Slip On Through”

D. Wilson – Sunflower & Single [Never charted] – 1970.06.29

I couldn’t think of a much better song to be the opener to what could be called the Beach Boys’ “Sgt. Pepper.” The instrumentation is fantastic, the atmosphere it creates is appropriate, and Dennis Wilson delivers a fantastic performance throughout. [10/10]

## Shorthand 03: The Beatles & Beach Boys Edition

“Eight Days a Week”

Lennon-McCartney – Beatles for Sale – 1964.12.04

It’s definitely a good song, even if the band isn’t too fond of it. It’s the ‘dark-horse’ of The Beatles’ fourth UK album, with its brighter composition in comparison to the rest of the original compositions’ darker overtones, as well as the possible double-meanings that are present. All of that makes this one a favorite of mine. [8/10]

“A Day in the Life (Anthology Edit)”

Lennon-McCartney – Anthology 2 – 1996.03.18

My inner purist would like to disregard this track completely, but I feel like the producers mean no malice when this ‘Frankenstein’ mix was created. They wanted to tell what they felt was ‘the best way’ to tell the story of one of the biggest bands in history. It could’ve benefited from the ‘multiple tracks to represent separate outtakes’ approach that was done to several tracks previously, but I’m content with what we have in the meantime. [5/10]

“California Girls”

Wilson-Love – Summer Days [and Summer Nights!]/Single [#3, US] – 1965.07.12

This song basically does what it intends to do: make a checklist of how each kind of girl is awesome in its own right, and not butcher it. This would be a major turning point for The Beach Boys, and especially for co-writer Brian Wilson. [8/10]

“Summer of Love”

Love-Melcher – Summer in Paradise – 1992.08.03

I don’t know if this song represents the very concept of a personal hell, or a poor rendition of one. I don’t even know if it actually represents any sort of musical value, or anything else at all. Whatever the hell it is, “Summer of Love” represents the worst kind of creative sterility: one that sucks all of the soul and happiness out of a track and replaces it with artificial elements with the sole intention of maximizing profit. [na/10]

## “Probably the most beautiful thing I’ve ever listened to.”

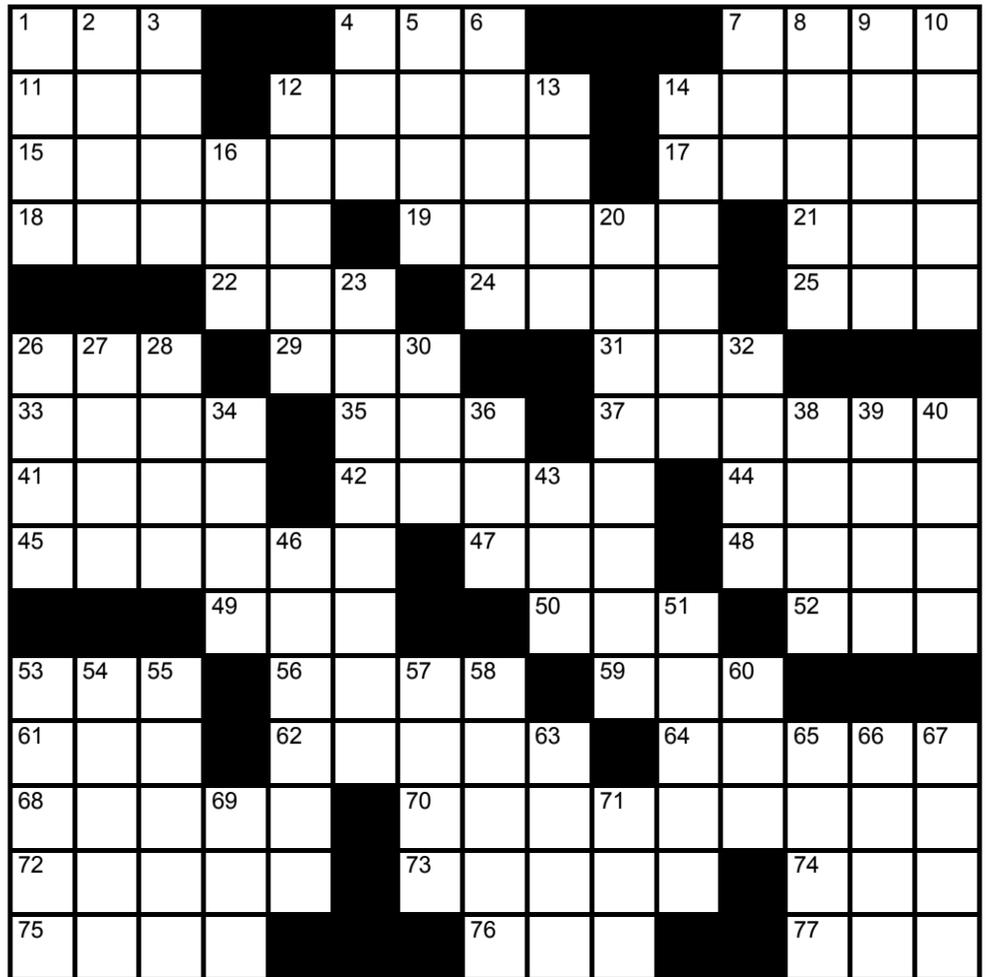
>>> continued from page 14

rest of the sixties even when their home-country reputation has sunk low. Its overall melodic composition and theme of everlasting love should be able to easily attract anyone who would

be looking for something that evokes blissful happiness without overdosing on it.

It is available on their Sunflower album, a hotbed for more songs like this one. The album it-

self has been remastered in 2012, and the remaster is available on Amazon.com for \$23.15, with used copies starting at \$6.60. [9/10]



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### Across

- 1 Chip additive
- 4 So. state (Abbr.)
- 7 Strike
- 11 One (Sp.)
- 12 Coral reef
- 14 Brim over
- 15 Free as a bird
- 17 Prohibited
- 18 Without restraint
- 19 Bowler
- 21 Football player
- 22 Small rug
- 24 Paper quantity
- 25 \_\_\_ Miserables
- 26 Implore
- 29 Cut grass
- 31 Cover
- 33 Scarce
- 35 Chitchat
- 37 Guide

- 41 Eager
- 42 Enlighten
- 44 Destiny
- 45 Abhor
- 47 Exclamation of disgust
- 48 Prong
- 49 High degree
- 50 Pet
- 52 Doleful
- 53 Cable channel (Abbr.)
- 56 Ohio team
- 59 Arena cheer
- 61 Period of time
- 62 Build
- 64 Rot-resistant wood
- 68 Scandinavian
- 70 Biz colleagues
- 72 Toe
- 73 Oil source
- 74 30-day mo.
- 75 Pigswill
- 76 Genetic material

- 77 Cooking measure (Abbr.)

### Down

- 1 Twofold
- 2 Division word
- 3 Field game
- 4 Consumed
- 5 Duke
- 6 Change
- 7 Holiday resort
- 8 Defamation
- 9 Solitary
- 10 Trudges along
- 12 At right angles
- 13 Harp
- 14 Obstruct
- 16 Belief
- 20 Hype
- 23 In concert
- 26 Nail
- 27 Roof overhang
- 28 Gumption
- 30 Tobacco measure
- 32 Loopy
- 34 Promised land
- 36 Napkin, of sorts
- 38 Pulpit
- 39 Bunsen burner
- 40 Swamp grass
- 43 Rage
- 46 Sidewalks divider
- 51 Brightness
- 53 Doubles over
- 54 Grill
- 55 Freight
- 57 Art \_\_\_
- 58 Chew out
- 60 Deer relative
- 63 Duplicate
- 65 Fender mishap
- 66 God of love
- 67 Invitation inits.
- 69 Small drink
- 71 Egg cells

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# Oh the OPPORTUNITIES

**Spring 2016 Leadership for Life program-** a series of eight short presentations on topics that will help you feel more comfortable and be successful at MWCC. From the first one in February to the last one in May, Leadership for Life will help you. Upcoming workshops are being held: April 6, 20 and May 4. Workshops are held from 12:30 to 1:30 pm in Room W11. **For more information:** Contact Sarah Savoie at ssavoie7@mwcc.mass.edu, 978-630-9855 or stop by room 141.

**Friday, April 1 - Friday, April 8 Empty Place at the Table** – South Cafeteria – A display that commemorates the lives lost in Massachusetts over the past year as a result of domestic violence. The display was created by Battered Women's Resources, Inc., and consists of a formal dining room table set up with 2 plates for each victim, one with a name and the other with a brief description of the murder. This event is in recognition of "Enough is Enough Week." Sponsored by the Student Life office.

**Mon., April 4 Student Government Association Meeting,** 12:30 pm, Room W11. Join us if you wish to find out more about getting involved.

**Tues., April 5 Student Photo IDs:** Room 149, from 11:30am to 1:30 pm. One of the following items is required to obtain an MWCC student photo ID: a state vehicle license, a passport, a military ID, or a state issued identification card (available at RMV). ID Fee: \$5

**Tues, April 5 Film: Young Frankenstein - 12:30 pm, North Café.**

A 1974 American comedy film directed by Mel Brooks and starring Gene Wilder as the title character, a descendant of the infamous Dr. Victor Frankenstein. The supporting cast includes Teri Garr, Cloris Leachman, Marty Feldman, Peter Boyle, Madeline Kahn, Kenneth Mars, Richard Haydn and Gene Hackman. The screenplay was written by Wilder and Brooks.

**Wed., April 6 Campus Activities Team for Students (CATS) Meeting** at 12:30 pm in W12. Come and join in on the fun of planning and running activities for MWCC students (i.e. Earth Day Event). For more information contact the student life office at studentlife@mwcc.mass.edu, 978-630-9133 or stop by room 151. Open to all MWCC students.

**Wed., April 6 & Thurs., April 7 Student Government Association Elections** Elections take place on-line on April 6 & 7. **Polling Time:** Voting on-line OPENS at 8am on Wed., April 6, & voting on-line CLOSES at 2pm on Thurs., April 7. **To vote:** log on to iconnect (<https://iconnect.mwcc.edu>)

**Wed., April 6 Group Fitness Class Day** MWCC students whether a member of the Fitness & Wellness Center or not are invited to take a class and bring a guest for free. Appropriate dress and footwear required. There are many options throughout the day. Yoga or Aqua Aerobics @ 8am, Core @ 9am, Fight @ 9:30am, Blast @ 4:30pm, Groove or Insanity @ 5:30pm, Power at 6:45pm. Contact Paula at p\_richard@mwcc.mass.edu for more info.

**Thurs, April 7 Film: Making a Killing: Guns, Greed and the NRA - 12:30 pm, North Café.**

Stories of how guns, and the billions made off of them, affect the lives of everyday Americans. It features personal stories from people across the country who have been affected by gun violence, including survivors and victim's families. The film exposes how the powerful gun companies and the NRA are resisting responsible legislation for the sake of profit - and thereby putting people in danger. The film looks into gun tragedies that include unintentional shootings, domestic violence, suicides, mass shootings and trafficking - and what we can do to put an end to this profit-driven crisis.

**Mon., April 11 Student Government Association Meeting,** 12:30 pm, Room W11. Come meet the newly-elected SGA members—open to all.

**Tues., April 12 Pick-up Basketball** 12:30-1:30pm. Fitness & Wellness Center. You need athletic shoes to participate. Contact Paula at p\_richard@mwcc.mass.edu for more info.

**Tues., April 12 Mystery Event at the Leominster Campus** 11:30am-1pm Stay tuned for details as the date draws near.

**Wed., April 13 Film: This Changes Everything - 12:30 pm, Room W11.**

This film presents seven powerful portraits of communities on the front lines, from Montana's Powder River Basin to the Alberta Tar Sands, from the coast of South India to Beijing and beyond. Interwoven with these stories of struggle is Klein's narration, connecting the carbon in the air with the economic system that put it there. Throughout the film, Klein

builds to her most controversial and exciting idea: that we can seize the potential crisis of climate change to transform our failed economic system into something radically better. Unlike a film that tries to scare the audience into action: it aims to empower. Provocative, compelling, and accessible to even the most climate-fatigued viewers, THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING will leave you refreshed and inspired.

**Thurs., April 14 Mystery Event at the Devens Campus** 1pm-3pm Stay tuned for details as the date draws near.

**Tues., April 19 Peter Boie, Magician for Non-Believers** 11:30 am- 12:30pm, Preshow, Main Hallway near the SGA booth, 12:30pm-1:30pm, South Café. Peter first became fascinated with magic at the age of eleven when he stumbled across a magic book at his local library. He now travels around the country performing his award winning magic that will defy your reality. Peter's show is about two things, astonishing magic, and having a good time; and he doesn't skimp on either. You might recognize him by his trademark orange sneakers, or from the group of people around him freaking out at his magic and having a good time. The title Magician for Non-Believers is about being honest with his audience. Magic isn't real... but Peter will make you believe it is for the length of his show.

**Tues., April 19 Whiffle Ball (outside)** 3:30pm. Fitness & Wellness Center. You need athletic shoes to participate. Contact Paula at p\_richard@mwcc.mass.edu for more info.

**Wed., April 20 Student Government Association Meeting,** 12:30 pm, Room 202. Join us if you wish to find out more about getting involved.

**Thurs., April 21 MWCC Earth Day Celebration** – Come Celebrate EARTH DAY – Featuring music (12:30 – 1:30 pm), plant a sunflower seedling to take home (free while supplies last), Green Society club raffle and items for sale, displays, vendors, giveaways and more. Most of the activities to take place 11:30 am – 1:30 pm in the south cafeteria. Sponsored by Student Life office, Green Society and CATS (Campus Activities Team for Students).

**Mon., April 25 Speaker Series: "Understanding the LGBTQA Community",** 12:30pm in the North Café, light refreshments will be provided. Contact Sharmese Gunn, information. Contact Sharmese Gunn, info at s\_gunn@mwcc.mass.edu for more information.

**Wed., April 27 Film: A Mile in His Shoes - 12:30 pm, Room W11.**

Based on the book The Legend of Mickey Tussler, this film follows the story of eighteen-year-old Mickey, who has autism. He lives hidden away on a farm with his mother and father, where he practices throwing apples at an amazing speed. As baseball coach Arthur "Murph" Murphy sets out to recruit new talent for his losing minor league baseball team, he stumbles upon Mickey. Although his parents are reluctant to allow him to join the team, Murph convinces them that life in the minor league will benefit their unique son. What he doesn't realize is just how much his new recruit will help the team's game and their spirit.

**Wed., April 27 Campus Activities Team for Students (CATS) Meeting** at 12:30 pm in W12. Come and join in on the fun of planning and running activities for MWCC students (i.e. Earth Day Event). For more information contact the Student Life office at studentlife@mwcc.mass.edu, 978-630-9133 or stop by room 151. Open to all MWCC students.

**Mon., May 2 It's Your Birthday Celebration,** beginning 12:30 pm, Lion's Den Student Center. Come celebrate the birthdays of students, faculty, and staff that have a birthday that falls in May, June or July. Enjoy a free piece of cake (while it lasts). Sponsored by the Student Life office.

**Tues., May 3 Don't Be a Zombie, Get Energized** Stop by the table near the SGA Booth and see the CATs Programming Group for free refreshments to energize you during the last few days of classes.

**Tues., May 3 Outdoor Yoga** (bring your mat or borrow one from the center) 4pm. Meet in Fitness & Wellness Center lobby. Contact Paula at p\_richard@mwcc.mass.edu for more info.

**Events are held on the Gardner Campus unless otherwise noted.** Check out the student life web page at [www.mwcc.edu/studentlife](http://www.mwcc.edu/studentlife) for information on MWCC clubs and organizations, student photo ID dates and much more. Also, check out the on-line MWCC calendar at <http://iconnect.mwcc.edu> for these and other college events.