

The Mount Observer

"A voice for the students of Mount Wachusett Community College"

www.mountobserver.com

DECEMBER 7, 2016

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 4

12 PAGES

Veterans and Allies "Spicing It Up" This Fall *Student Group conducts a food drive with a twist*

By Rebekah Chiasson

The Veterans and Allies student group at MWCC is collecting something different from the average canned foods of food drives past. This Holiday season they are collecting condiments for Montachusett Veterans Outreach Center's (MVOC) food pantry on Central St in Gardner.

Bob Mayer, Director of Veterans Services at MWCC explained, "Apparently, there are good consistent sources of food [collected] but there are no spices, sauces, ketchup, mustard and other items to flavor the food. Hence, this 'Spice of Life' condiment drive."

According to Mayer, he and several Mount Wachusett students went to MVOC to participate in a service learning project several weeks ago where they were "shown the impressive

food pantry." There they learned each month about 140 boxes of food are given by MVOC to veterans in need in the surrounding areas.

Mayer said while at the service learning project, "We asked 'What do you need?' the surprising answer was condiments, spices and other things to make the food taste good." The Veterans and Allies student group has already been able to donate a box of sauces and spices right before Thanksgiving holiday.

Mayer adds that the project has been "well received" at MWCC and will continue through the end of the fall semester. The Veterans and Allies group has also participated in the SGA food drive as well as assisting in the "Comics on a Mission" comedy fundraiser this fall.



Bill Edson, Executive Director of MVOC (left) receiving a box of condiments from Bob Mayer, Director of Veterans Services at MWCC (right).

Photo courtesy of Jasson

Our Voice with the MWCC Trustees

By Kelly Cacciolfi

Jasson Alvarado Gomez said, "I want to help all human beings and make a difference in education."

Originally from Honduras and moving to the United States at age 15, Gomez understands what it's like to want an education and having to work hard to get it and said, "We are the ones that have to make a difference in the world." To have his voice heard and make a difference, he decided to apply for the Student Trustee and the Board of Education in the same month.

Once elected as Student Trustee and selected to be a member on the Board of Education, Gomez found out how much work and dedication he would be putting into these positions. As Student Trustee, he meets with the Board of Trustees monthly or bi-monthly depending on business to discuss.

Gomez speaks for the students and wants them to come to him with all concerns. He said, "I want to have people know me for me and not just as my title." One example he gave was the

water being removed from the cafeteria.

He and many others missed the convenience of having it located there and would have to go way out of the way to get water. Gomez said, "I brought the issue to the right people and it was brought back, bring your water bottles to fill up in the cafe again."

His next mission is snow days; Gomez feels the safety of the community is at risk by having to drive to school when the weather is bad. He will be tack-

ling this issue and would like to hear from students about how MWCC could do better with their policy.

Gomez said, "Education is not the way to succeed but is the key to success." He added, "We need to teach our children to be respectful, nice, do for others, and to not be selfish." It starts with education and how children are raised at home.

Gomez, 20, is a sophomore majoring in video and film. He will graduate in May 2017 and is going to apply to Emerson to

earn his Bachelor degree in Video. His dream is to make a movie, help people, and change the planet. Gomez said, "No excuses, we are so lucky to be in this country. Get out and help other human beings."

Education is not the way to succeed but is the key to success.

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Aubuchon Hardware Teamsters Reach Agreement

By Jamie Parker

On November 7th, upon arrival to work 60 warehouse workers and truck drivers of Aubuchon Hardware found themselves locked out of their jobs. They were even met by security who told them that they were not allowed on the property.

This situation all started with difficult negotiations between

the Teamsters and Aubuchon back in October. Aubuchon wanted to end the employees' pensions, raise their healthcare costs, as well as included language in the contract that would allow Aubuchon to outsource the distribution centers work. But the employees were represented by Teamsters Local 170, who

strongly opposes the contract.

"We told Aubuchon that we cannot let this company outsource these jobs and destroy the lives of 60 families in Massachusetts," said Shannon George, Secretary-Treasurer of Teamsters Local 170. "They want to outsource their distribution business to Orgill, Inc. It is the

height of hypocrisy for a company that calls itself locally-operated and community-oriented to send good New England jobs to a low-wage sub-contractor in West Virginia."

Luckily, on November 19th both parties came to an agreement where the Teamsters were protected for now. "The work-

ers are happy that they are going back to work," George said Friday night. "There was some give-and-take, and we were able to reach an agreement."

Jason Greenough's Goodbye

Dear Observers,

Goodbyes are never easy. I've moved away from enough friends and family, and watched more than enough Television series finales to know this. The final episode of Steve Carell's tenure as Michael Scott on *The Office* still kills me to this day. This goodbye is no exception.

Back in the late Spring of 2015, I sat down with John Mossey, then the newly appointed editor of the Mount Observer, to discuss how we were going to re-center the student newspaper come September. Over the next few months, all of the meetings, all of the e-mail exchanges, phone calls and text messages led to a brand new edition of the Observer, and a refreshed vision for the future.

When I first sat down with John, who I had met in my Shakespeare and Star Wars class,

I didn't really know what I was getting myself into. I mean, I had written for an independent street paper in Boston for a few months prior to our chat in the cafeteria, but this was a whole different ball game. At one publication, I had written a number of stories that gave a voice to the impoverished and homeless community in Boston, but with the Observer, over the last year and a half, I have felt something much deeper in my role.

I, along with a crack team of some of the brightest and most impassioned people I have ever met, have helped give a voice to people we see almost every single day, some of which have also come onboard our ship to share their skills and viewpoints. Starting off as Arts and Entertainment Editor, and

moving forward to being the Web and Social Media editor, I have had a relatively good amount of responsibility to handle in my time with the Observer, and I have loved every second of it. Sure sleep is good, but working with the Observer has given me some of the best experience I could ever ask for.

And for that, I thank *you*, reader. Without you, we wouldn't have a paper. We wouldn't have the words to fill up eight, or 10, or even sometimes 12 pages. We wouldn't have feedback, and we wouldn't have support. But enough with this "I" nonsense. This is a time for "we", and a time for thanks.

First and foremost, I want to thank Susan Goldstein for being a pillar of wisdom, encouragement and for the occasional kick in the butt. Without her, the idea

of the Mount Observer would still be just that -- an idea. I can't honestly even begin to thank her enough for her guidance over this last year and a half.

Stevie LaBelle and John Mossey, the editors-in-chief I have had the immense pleasure of working with, and whose daring ambitions for the paper have kept it relevant in the halls of MWCC, thank you for your patience and willingness to work with my scattered brain, and occasional last-minute submissions. Also, thank you for being so transparent and understanding.

To the number of editors, writers and photographers including Jamie Parker, Courtney Wentz, John Blombach, Patrick Miller, Joe Gallant, and Cassandra Marino, and so many of the up-and-coming Journalism 1 students.

Stick with it, guys. You won't regret it, I promise!

I look forward to seeing the future success of the Mount Observer, and, before I go, if I could just share some slight encouragement, by way of Walt Disney...

"Around here, however, we don't look backwards for very long. We keep moving forward, opening up new doors and doing new things, because we're curious...and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths."

Stay Curious,

Jason D. Greenough

THE MOUNT OBSERVER
VOLUME 11, ISSUE 4,
December 7, 2016

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The Observer reserves the right to edit and condense all submissions. *The MWCC Observer* is a member of the College Media Advisers, Inc.

Printer:

Athol Daily News

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As this semester draws to a close, we say goodbye to two members of our main editorial crew, Mr. Jason Greenough and Ms. Rebekah Chiasson, the editors of *The Mount Observer's* web site and social media presence. They have also both made incredible contributions to the paper in the form of wonderfully written reviews, articles, and editorials, not to mention a photo spread or two. While their voices here will be missed, we wish them much success in all of their future endeavours here at the Mount, and beyond.

Goodbye, and Good Luck,
The Mount Observer Staff



Gamers raise money for kids in need

By Joshua Needham

During a 25-hour video game marathon on the weekend of November 5th, team YeahDude Gamers (lead by yours truly) raised \$730 to support Boston Children's Hospital. The game day event is held every year by the Extra Life charity organization through extra-life.org. Gamers from around the country dedicate themselves to playing video games to help raise money for Children's Miracle Network hospitals.

Many people in the Gardner and surrounding areas are familiar with the annual Relay for Life, a multi-day walk to raise money for cancer research, and Extra Life runs in a similar manner. Instead of walking to show their support, people from all over play video games for a full day. Some people will live-stream their gameplay to services such as Twitch.tv – a partner of the Extra Life charity and the top-dog when it comes to video game streaming services – while others will just play in the comfort of their own home and spread the word through social media.

The funds raised through Extra Life get distributed from the teams or individuals that raised them directly to the Children's Miracle Network Hospital of



Photos of the gaming areas during the charity live stream. Top left: Corey Krosop (right), Nick (left), and Jeff Maddison (bottom) participate in Shock Collar Fights. Top right: Joe Blay (background), and Sarah Green (right) start off the day with some casual gameplay. Bottom left: playing some Super Smash Bros. Bottom right: the gaming and live stream setup in the studio space.

their choosing. The Extra Life website states that the funds are gifted to the hospitals as 'unrestricted funds,' meaning that the hospitals will decide how and where to spend the money to make the biggest impact in the lives of the kids they treat.

Throughout the year, Team YeahDude was posting on social

media to help gain awareness of the coming event, but hadn't pulled in any donations prior to one week before Game Day. At 8am, the event started off with a total of \$75 having been donated to the cause and got to work setting up live-streaming services across platforms, preparing to broadcast events simultaneously

on Twitch.tv and YouTube. After several hours of initial trouble-shooting the charity event was under way.

With a total of six televisions, and more than twelve game consoles to work with the team of gamers (eight officially with guests in and out throughout the day) set to work spreading the word and entertaining online audiences. For many of their broadcasts, the YeahDude team used an overlay, much like a picture frame for video, which showed viewers the Extra Life name along with how much they had raised so far and where to donate.

YeahDude did several special broadcasts to help bring in an audience during the event. For one hour, a live talk show was hosted, to talk with people about the best and worst of video game to film adaptations. Another of their gimmickier ideas had the players fighting games against each other while wearing remote-controlled dog shock collars, being shocked whenever one of them took damage.

With other crew members helping by broadcasting gameplay to their own, personal Twitch.tv accounts to reach a bigger audience, as well as actively spreading the word on social media to family and friends, the event was able to raise over

\$700 to help sick kids and while having a great time doing it.

"'Child-sized coffin' is probably the saddest combination of words..." said Joe Blay, a member of YeahDude and host of the DreadPirateJables channel on Twitch.tv. Even though all involved were having a good time, the team knew the weight of the matter and was very serious about making sure that people knew the driving cause behind the day.

Even though Extra Life Game Day has come and gone for this year, the YeahDude team is still able to take donations until the end of the calendar year and will likely be hosting more events in the coming months, looking to try something similar to raise funds for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF). Even the team doesn't know what the future will hold for their productions, but the one thing that can be agreed on is the love doing charity work, and that next year will be even better.

For more information about Extra Life, visit extra-life.org. To help support Team YeahDude Gamers, check out their team page at bit.ly/YDGEExtraLife, or to see their antics from Game Day check out youtube.com/yeahdudegamers.

A Book of Poetry, Coming Soon from Professor David Wyman

By Courtney Wentz

David Wyman, a Mount Wachusetts Community College Professor, is coming out with a book of poetry. Wyman whom teaches English at MWCC, has been a professor here for approximately 17 or 18 years.

The title of the book is *Proletariat Sunrise*. Wyman explained the choice of title, "Proletariat is a Marxist term. I discovered I'm a Marxist and that I really don't like capital-

ism." He discovered this about himself while writing his book. According to the professor, the goal of Marxism is to make us more human.

Proletariat Sunrise, Wyman said is "Intended to allude to the idea of a revolution but more as a fantasy. The idea that we are commodified, that everything we are and everything we do, our dreams, are driven by this idea of commodification. It gets

internalized. So there was a unifying idea, but I didn't plan it that way."

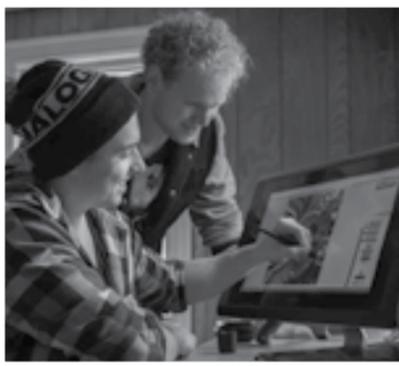
He discovered poetry, "or poetry discovered me," when he read "The Lovesong of J Alfred Prufrock" by T.S. Eliot in his American Literature II class, which he took at MWCC. He mentioned being "quietly blown away in the back row." His first time writing poetry was in his creative writing class. He re-

members his professor saying, "The experience of learning to write poetry was like a flower opening. It needs to be nourished and protected."

The cover of the book is a photo, taken by Wyman's daughter, of the sunrise hitting the paper mill his father used to work at.

The advice he had for young writers is, "To not give up, even if it seems pointless to continue, if you really want to write and

you enjoy it and it means something to you, don't give up. Write for yourself." He went on to say that technological advances make it easier to see your work in print. *Proletariat Sunrise* will be available on Amazon between mid-December and early January, for which Wyman seemed excited to be able to look himself up on Amazon.



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How mainstream media created the Silent Voter

By Rebekah Chiasson

Being a communication major and taking multiple journalism classes throughout the 2016 presidential election has been invigorating as well as infuriating. Watching the mainstream media I once aspired to be part of fail to expertly, fairly, and justly report the news on this election was heartbreaking. While learning how to avoid media bias in journalism class, myself and the nation watched national news leaders sway opinions and skew facts.

It culminated to news anchors from channels including CNN, MSNBC, and Fox being forced to admit, "We were wrong." The day after the election, these networks asked, "Who is the 'silent voter?'" Where did these Trump supporters come from because mainstream media was oblivious to their existence? The answer - Mainstream media created the silent voter.

So why did they become silent? Although the nation was afraid of Trump eliciting riots if Clinton beat him, before the election Trump supporters were afraid of what we are witnessing today: Verbal and physical attacks due to voting for Trump.

The media and the Clinton campaign repeatedly accused Trump of being a misogynistic, racist, xenophobe. Wheth-

er or not he is, and whether or not Clinton is a crook, this was not up to mainstream media to decide. The media's job is to answer the nation's questions, as well as report facts: fair and balanced.

How did the silence start? Mainstream media posted their political opinions early on this election. For example, April 9 the Boston Globe published a fake newspaper where it projected a dystopian United States during a Trump presidency. The front page headline read, "Deportations To Begin" in big bold letters with other stories including "US soldiers refuse orders to kill ISIS families" as well as "Markets sink as trade war looms." The front page included a small Editor's note at the bottom left to say that the stories were fabricated.

By major news corporations like the Boston Globe taking a firm anti-Trump stance, the

The media's job is to answer the nation's questions, as well as report facts: fair and balanced.

world of politics becomes like high school where the anti-Trump news corporations are the popular seniors and the Trump supporters are the unpopular freshman. The Trump supporters are not going to voice their opposing political views in fear of being ousted by their peers.

In addition, after these news sources took a stand it became increasingly difficult to find news reporting only the facts. Many co-workers and school mates confessed how hard it was to find Trump's policies versus Clinton's because the information was just not being reported.

However, the mainstream media loved reporting the 'cat and dog fights' on social media forums. Essentially, news stations promoted online bullying by showing tweet after tweet of negative comments between presidential candidates.

But the bullying did not stop between candidates, it reached their supporters as well like Arsa Nomani, a Muslim immigrant who told CNN that she was a "silent secret Donald Trump voter." Nomani told CNN, "unfortunately, what happens is that this liberal honor brigade shuts down all conversation, calls you bigot or racist or Islamophobe if you dare to speak your own concerns,"

The silence continues October 11 when several women came forth claiming Trump sexually assaulted them. The same day, WikiLeaks emails were released including derogatory comments by senior Clinton campaign officials about Latinos, Catholics and the NAACP as well as blatant examples of media collusion with her campaign.

According to Media Research Center (MRC), ABC, NBC, and CBS reported on Trump's allegations 15 times more than Clinton's WikiLeaks. This is an example of story selection media bias, or a pattern of news stories that coincides with one side, ignoring studies of the other group.

Another form of media bias is omission where you leave one side of a story out and ignore facts. There were several cases of mainstream media ignoring several stories especially close to the election including major Medias like CNN, MSNBC,

Let us come together and have the necessary discussions in order to break the silence.

and Fox initially ignoring Scott Foval's undercover video containing negative allegations towards the Clinton campaign on October 19, and NBC ignoring ObamaCare premiums rising to 22%, a negative story for Liberals that launched October 26.

It is up to us to let the media know that we will not accept their one sided behavior when it comes to something as important as the person who will represent this great nation. It creates an environment where people are afraid to speak up and have the necessary conversation to create peace and achieve what is best for our country. It is up to us to have the dialogue with those who have an opposing belief and try to find common ground.

As Chris Wallace said to Trump during the third presidential debate, "The pride of this country is the peaceful transition of power and no matter how hard fought a campaign is that at the end of the campaign that the loser concedes to the winner and the that the country comes together in part for the good of the country." Let us come together and have the necessary discussions in order to break the silence.

Post-Election

By Scott Mellecker

It was undoubtedly a heated election. Some people were surprised, and even more people were shocked. It didn't matter who a person voted for, all were stunned to find out who the winner was.

The recent days following the election have been hectic. Some people are scared, others are protesting, and students are being handed teddy-bears to cuddle. There has never been so much up-heave over an election.

The halls of Mount Wachusett Community College seemed grim. It didn't seem as if your favorite candidate lost the election, but instead seemed like there was a massive terrorist attack that took out half the country. A look of sadness covered the faces of students at the school.

However, one student didn't have the same look of fear. Lily Greenland had a different outlook on the whole thing. She was still surprised by the outcome, but didn't see it as an impossible task for Trump.

"My initial thought was that it would be close, but Hillary would win. I thought that Trump gained a huge advantage after the last re-opening of the FBI investigation, but I still thought Clinton would pull out the win", said Greenland. Greenland felt that the hatred for Clinton was why Trump had a strong chance to pull out the victory.

"I thought his ultimate downfall would be his character and the way he conducted himself, but that seems to be what eventually put him over the top", Greenland stated in regards to Trump. Many people felt exactly how Lily felt, thinking that Trump's downfall would be his over-the-top personality. But others saw what Lily realized after, seeing his character as a sign of passion for this country.

Ever since the election occurred, protests have been happening all over the country.

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United We Stand

By Kelly Cacciolfi

United we stand, divided we fall. This is how I feel about what has transpired since this historical election. It's my opinion that we need to raise our voices, let them be heard, and march in solidarity... peacefully.

Our young children are watching every move, protest, and bad word said. This is not what I choose for my children. I believe we should rise together and make this a cry to our young adults and children to be the change.

I took part in the Post Election Dialog two days after the election in the North Café on the Gardner campus, where what was shared in the circle stayed in the circle. Thoughts that were expressed were ones of fear, anger, helplessness, and happiness. This is a wonderful safe place where on campus, students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to come together and share their thoughts, feelings, and how they

will pull through a tough time.

This event was hosted by several, one being Jason Zelesky, and was planned since August. A national grant makes these dialogs possible and this is one of several so far to have taken place.

People were welcomed by Greg Clement, Assistant Dean of Students, and shown to a wonderful build your own salad bar with soup. President Daniel Asquino was present with other faculty, staff, and trained moderators. This was a safe, comfortable, and engaging environment to share your thoughts.

I heard so many different emotions, however, I would like to assure you all that in my house, I am not raising a rapist or a woman who will ever think of herself as less than. It's my opinion that many households are like mine. No matter who is President of the United States of America, I

choose to believe that said person will act in the best interest of our amazing, wonderful, and free country.

Another voice that was different from all others was happy that President-elect Donald Trump won and was hoping that we the people would give Trump a chance and not just close our minds to him. In the end, isn't that what we are asking Trump to do, not be closed-minded? I believe we should lead by example and have hope.

Without hope and faith in our country, what do we have? We should rise together as a whole with many different views and be respectful and supportive. That's what is so beautiful about our great country, freedom. We should let Trump hear our voices and we should hear his. As the great John Lennon would say, "give peace a chance."

December Music Preview

By Jason Greenough

With September, October, and November bringing some of the most anticipated albums of the year, December comes in a bit thin with the amount of music coming out, but the content is nothing to scoff at. With the majority of the releases coming on **December 2nd**, There is a good mix of hip-hop and rock to make everyone happy.

With Comedian and Actor Donald Glover's hip-hop alter ego, **Childish Gambino's *Awaken, My Love!*** When it lands on the shelves, it will mark the first full-length release from Gambino since 2013's Gold-Certified record ***Because The Internet***.

While his last effort was certified gold earlier this year, the overall reception of the album by critics such as Pitchfork and Spin were less than favorable.

The Hamilton Mixtape, the soundtrack to the phenomenon smash hit Broadway musical from Lin-Manuel Miranda, also comes out on December 2nd, and features some of your favorite songs from the stage, performed by various artists such as **The Roots, Wiz Khalifa, Kelly Clarkson, Chance the Rapper, Sia**, and a number of other superstar artists lend their services to bring the tunes from this revolutionary musical to your stereo.

So, while it may seem impossible to get your hands on those \$800 Broadway tickets, you can get the songs for much less, so it is definitely a worthwhile investment.

What would an election year be if it didn't include **Neil Young**? The visionary musical legend's latest effort, ***Peace Trail***, hit shelves on **December 9th**. This will be his second full-length album in the last year and a half, a follow-up to 2015's ***The Monsanto Years***, and if you know anything about Neil Young, you can be sure to expect some insightful and noteworthy advice, as well as some angst and

revolt in this new batch of songs. If you're looking for your fill of musical political discourse, don't miss out on this one!

Arguably the most anticipated album for classic rock fans this year, **The Rolling Stones' *Blue & Lonesome*** takes flight on December 2nd, and it won't be the Stones as you've heard them in recent releases. Their 25th studio effort will bring the band's influences in the Blues back up to the surface, with covers of songs from Blues legends such as Howlin' Wolf and Little Walter. To make the album seem even more appealing, **Eric Clapton** contributes his rock-God guitar

work to two tracks on the album as well! And one more thing... The most surprising thing you may find in his record is that it took roughly six weeks to record in full. The Stones show their youth is still in full swing, and it doesn't seem they will be slowing down any time soon!

Whether you pick these releases up the day they come out, or wait to receive it as a holiday gift, one thing is for certain... your choices are not limited, but it may be tough if you can only pick one!

Picasso Restaurant & Bar

By Kelly Cacciolfi

Picasso Restaurant & Bar has been dedicated to bringing you farm to table cuisine and amazing in-house infusions from the bar for 9 years. Located at 2 Common Street in Barre, Massachusetts Picasso's is a casual fine dining restaurant that sits right on the Barre common. There is plenty of parking located in the back of the restaurant and on Common Street.

The Restaurant is open Wednesday through Saturday 4:00 - 9:00 pm and Sunday 4:00 - 8:00 pm. It is wheelchair accessible, accepts credit cards, take out, and has live music. They do not have Wi-Fi, TV, delivery service and no dancing. Even though kids are welcome, I would recommend saving your visit for a nice evening out with your significant other or a group of friends.

Once a post office the restaurant still has the same exterior

and is not overly decorated on the outside. In the summer, they have a patio for outside dining and drinks. The ambiance of the restaurant on the inside is cozy, stylish with contemporary art work. You are welcomed by a chalkboard describing appetizer, dinner and drink specials when you walk through the door. Upon entering there is a small half-moon full bar with stool seating. Greeted immediately by a personable hostess we gave our names and we were escorted to a comfortable booth. Reservations are highly recommended.

Our waitperson Jen came to greet us and reviewed the specials with us for the evening noting what had been sold out. We started with a drink, I chose Grapefruit Awakened for \$10 that was made with Hendrick's gin, strawberry infused St. Germain, grapefruit cordial and served up. My friend ordered

Coconut Pineapple Daiquiri for \$9 made with pineapple infused croc coconut vodka, fresh lime, sugar and served up. We both agreed that the infused drinks flavorful and not overpowering with alcohol. The drinks were both delightful.

The appetizers on the menu range in price from \$10 - \$13 and the salads from \$10 - \$12 in price. I ordered the Bacon Gorgonzola Bread for \$11 which is a toasted house focaccia, onion jam, gorgonzola, balsamic reduction and bacon. My friend ordered the Spinach salad for \$12 and had spinach, orange Supremes, goat cheese, candied almonds, red onion, dried cranberries and honey poppy seed vinaigrette. The appetizer and salad arrived in less than 10 minutes. We shared and both the appetizer and salad were outstanding, the Bacon Gorgonzola Bread was amazing from start to

finish. Just the right amount of topping in each bit of the crispy bread. The salad was light and refreshing with amazing taste with each bit.

Entrees start from \$15 to \$28. I chose the Thai Scallops for \$28.00 made with green curry aioli, coconut rice noodles, carrots, scallions, red peppers and celery. My dining guest ordered Bistro Filet for \$26 made with char-grilled, mushroom demi-glace, garlic mashed potatoes, roasted asparagus and added gorgonzola cheese for \$2 extra. We ordered at the same time as the appetizer and the dinner came perfectly timed where we had enough time to enjoy the appetizers and rest a bit. My meal was outstanding with each flavor hitting each taste bud differently. The Scallops were cooked to perfection and the veggies were crisp and tender at the same time. The Bistro Filet melted in my mouth, the

potatoes were creamy and tasted great with the garlic, and the asparagus was crunchy with the right amount of seasoning.

Dessert priced from \$5 - \$8 was wonderful to look at but we were so full. We decided on sharing the mini cannoli for \$5 fresh hand dipped ricotta with white chocolate and liqueurs. Wow, we both wished we ordered our own. The cannoli were crisp and full of amazing tastes.

Each place came out of the kitchen beautifully presented and with the perfect temperature. Overall our experience from the moment we drove up through the dessert was amazing and was five-star dining. We would highly recommend trying Picasso Restaurant and Bar the next time you are looking for an outstanding dining experience.

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Preview of the Boston Celtics 2016-17 Season

By Nicholas Cherico

In the 2015-16 season, the Boston Celtics finished 48-34, their best record since the 2011-12 season. After a first round exit in the playoffs for the second straight season, the Celtics went into the offseason looking for more pieces to build off their success from last year.

After failing to sign top free agent Kevin Durant, the Celtics made arguably their biggest free agent signing in team history. They signed All-Star power forward/center Al Horford to a max deal through the 2020 season. Next to Durant, Horford was the best free agent available. He provides the Celtics with a deadly mid range shot. He also is going to create a lot of scoring oppor-

tunities for the guys around him with his versatility. The Celtics have lacked a skillset like this from the big man position in quite some time.

The C's also drafted rookie small forward Jaylen Brown from Cal 3rd overall. Brown adds another athletic defensive presence off the bench for Boston, which they did not have a lot of last season. If he can become a more reliable offensive player, he could see his minutes increase as the season goes on.

The Celtics will most likely roll out with a starting lineup of Isaiah Thomas, Avery Bradley, Jae Crowder, Al Horford, and Amir Johnson. This lineup could vary based on who the Celtics

are facing or injuries.

The biggest role player for the Celtics is going to be Marcus Smart. Head coach Brad Stevens said Smart would play the role of the team's "6th starter". While coming off the bench, Smart is going to receive starter minutes. Smart has already proved that he is a great defensive player, but if he can improve his jump shot and become more of a scoring threat he is going to be a really good weapon coming off of the bench.

The Celtics have been able to do over the past couple years what a lot of teams have been trying to do forever: successfully rebuild. After the trade of Paul Pierce and Kevin Garnett,

the Celtics have wasted no time putting their names back in the playoff conversation. They have improved each season since they began rebuilding. Is this going to be the season they finally turn the corner? Even though they have been in the playoffs the last two years, Boston hasn't really showed any signs of making any significant strides in their playoff performance. They have only won 2 of their last 10 post-season games. The team Boston has now will be able to rack up more wins than last season, but still needs one bigger piece to put them over the top and make them a legitimate contender in the East.

Prediction

Record: 56-26 (8 more wins than 2015-16)

Playoffs: Eastern Conference Semifinals

The acquisition of Al Horford alone will be enough to get the Celtics out of the first round, and maybe even to the Eastern Conference Finals. However, if the Celtics are to face a team like Cleveland, Toronto, or Indiana in the second round they could have a very hard time with them. All of these teams are experienced in the playoffs and have a lot of weapons that the Celtics might not be able to handle.

Patriots Review

By Scott Mellecker

We are officially eleven games into the NFL season and the Pats are holding a nice 9-2 record. Although there are plenty of more games in the win column than the loss column, there is still plenty that needs to be worked on with this team.

The first four games of the season were a nice test for the Patriots without the greatest quarterback of all time, and the team passed with an A+ score. First it was Jimmy Garoppolo who was handed the keys to the offense. With everyone in the world doubting them, Jimmy G pulled off a miraculous victory against the Arizona Cardinals to win the first game of the season. Next up, the Miami Dolphins, who Garoppolo absolutely tore up for the first half of the game.

Then the unexpected happened. With the Patriots already being forced to use their backup due to Deflate-gate, Garoppolo went down with a painful shoulder-injury. The Pats then had to go to their last option, rookie third string QB Jacoby Brissett. The Dolphins made a stunning comeback, but the team held on to get the victory.

Next on the list was the Houston Texans. This game is arguable the defenses best game of the season, shutting down the Texan offense to zero points. The offense played well, but the game was won by the defense. The fourth game was a matchup against Rex Ryan and the Buffalo Bills. The defense once again played well, but the story was not the same for the offense. The Bills whooped us 16-0.

Finally, the game we had all been waiting for. I'm not talking about the game itself, which we ended up putting a pounding

on the Browns like many other teams have, I'm talking about the return of the GOAT. Tom Brady stepped onto the field for the first time all season, and even though the game was in Cleveland, Brady erupted for 406 yards and 3 touchdowns to Martellus Bennett. Finally, our team was back on the path to another Super Bowl.

The Pats were rolling over teams for the next 3 weeks, defeating the Bengals, Steelers, and revenge on the Bills. The offense was looking better than ever, and the defense was playing solid. But then fans, reporters, and even some of the players were blindsided by Bill Belichick's next move.

Bill had traded one of our top linebacker's and arguably the most versatile players on our defense, Jamie Collins. Ever since then our defense has not been the same. The trade came on the day of the deadline. And even though we had two weeks to prepare due to our bye-week, the defense got stomped by the Seattle Seahawks in a rematch of Super Bowl 49. Sure, the Seahawks came ready to play, but there was clearly something lacking with our defense.

On the schedule next for the Patriots was the San Francisco 49ers. Tom Brady, as always, looked like a football God. The 39-year-old quarterback looked better than when he was 29. He torched the 49ers all day. But even though we won convincingly by 13 points and the defense only let up 17 points, and one of those scores was a garbage time TD, they still did not look their best.

continued on page 10 >>>



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Carl & Marsha

By Rachel Vargeletis

Marsha looked up from the breakfast table. Her husband Carl was seated across from her, sipping a cup of coffee and reading the morning paper.

Not once did he look up at her and greet those sea-stained eyes. He was sitting across the five foot table, far from the familiar leg he would soothingly rub of the woman he married only years ago. Carl had his routine and Marsha was no longer a part of it, she was an unessential piece to the puzzle.

She looked back down at her half buttered burnt toast and tea, half empty and cold- much like herself. Carl sniffed and turned a page in his newspaper, raising it above his face now. A barrier.

"Carl," Marsha started, staring at her breakfast.

She looked up, yearning for that stupid paper to drop and the chestnut eyes she fell so deeply in love with to meet her own. All that met her wet gaze was the black and white print of the morning paper. She knew it would only get worse.

A large, rough hand reached out from the side of the paper to pick up a mug then disappeared behind it again. Carl slurped coffee into his mouth. Another snuffle.

Marsha took a deep breath and took her cup of tea into her hands, staring at it, searching for some sort of encouragement. An angular face, with anguished blue eyes stared back at her. Her eyebrows were starting to grow out, she looked so tired without her usual makeup facade.

The picture of a melancholy woman shattered when she started to shake.

"Carl." It came out in a choked whisper. Stuck in her throat, forcefully pushed out by her tongue.

The only response Carl gave was a clang of his fork on the plate out of Marsha's sight.

It was raining outside, clouds shaded the view from the kitchen window of the usually dazzling park behind the apartment building. Inside, no lights were on. The blue of the kitchen walls reflected the mood flawlessly.

Marsha was staring out the window for a moment, contemplating whether or not she could "do this" anymore, when Carl finished with the newspaper.

Her eyes darted to him. There he was. There was that same handsome face in the pictures on the wall and the imprint in her heart. There was the face that twisted and soured now when she spoke, when she moved, when she breathed.

He looked up once, in a deadpan stare. His look had no soft-

ness to it, no caring edge or loving gleam.

"What."

This was the last thing he was to say to Marsha.

She had messed up, he could never love her again. She was not the young, innocent girl he married. She wasn't the woman that worshipped the ground he walked and the words he spoke. The one he could go to for comfort and for requited love. She was trash.

Marsha's whole body trembled now. Her watering eyes released the tears oh-so familiar by now.

She tried to take a deep promising gulp of air, tried to say it in one quick breath.

"I-I'm" was all she could manage before Carl abruptly got up and walked to the sink, plate in hand. The look he gave said everything his mouth didn't need to.

He was sick and tired of the sorries.

"No, no" Marsha wiped at her face clumsily and turned in the direction he was headed.

"No..." she paused and stared wistfully into her lap, lip quivering, "Carl..." she muttered quietly, "I'm pregnant."

A plate clattered into the metal sink. He looked at her, shocked, disgusted.

She was holding her head now, sobbing. There was no other sound to be heard for miles.

Carl couldn't believe her words.

He had always wanted to start a life with her. Have children, raise them to be their own person- strong willed, respectable. Then grow old together. That was always the plan. Grow old together. However that dream disappeared long ago.

There was no growing old together if his wife was pregnant with another man's baby.

He turned back to the sink and grabbed the edges of the counter as hard as he could, as if it was the only thing keeping him upright at the moment.

It was all real now. They were over.

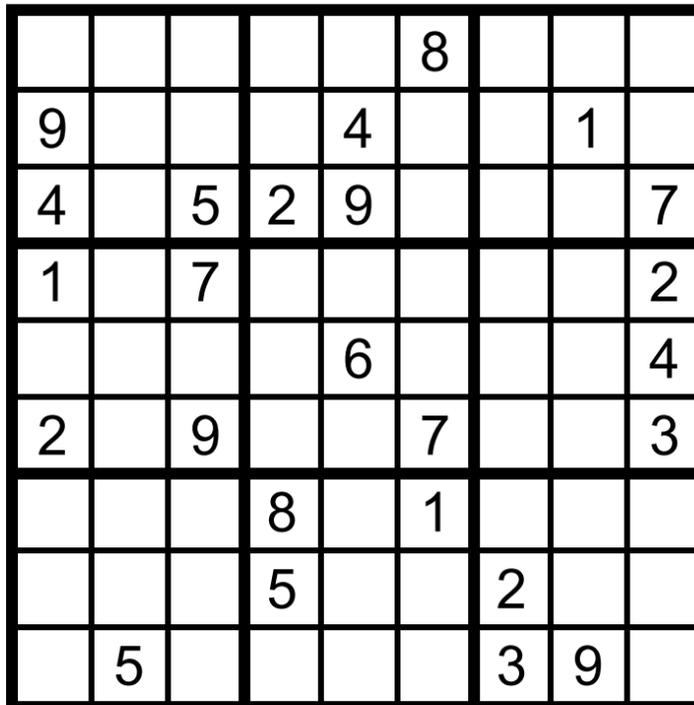
They were really over. Carl's eyes began to water. This is what he wants.

Marsha knew there were no more words to say. Nothing she could tell him would make him stay. She looked emptily at the tearstained pajama pants and waited.

Waited for the slam of the front door, that came in a heart-beat.

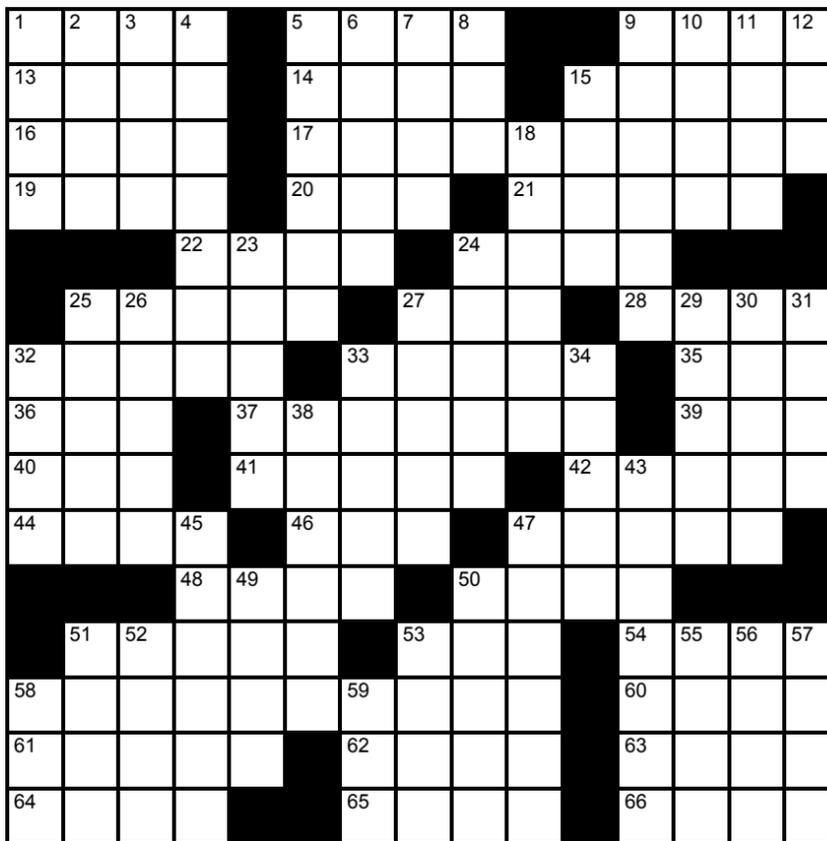
And that was the last time she saw Carl.

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



Solution on Page 11 >>>

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Across

- 1 Rush job notation
- 5 Grow dim
- 9 Graf ___
- 13 Wise one
- 14 Between ports
- 15 Lagers
- 16 Arab chieftain
- 17 After pencil and knife
- 19 Toy
- 20 Gymnast's goal
- 21 Woodworking tools
- 22 Store sign
- 24 Quote
- 25 Tuck was one
- 27 Bubble source
- 28 Challenge
- 32 Intends
- 33 Singer Vaughan
- 35 Accomplished

- 36 Actor Wallach
- 37 Mexican liquor
- 39 Captain's journal
- 40 Family girl
- 41 Opus
- 42 Bind
- 44 Fires
- 46 Cow chow
- 47 Disregards
- 48 Remain unsettled
- 50 Light bulb unit
- 51 Native New Zealander
- 53 Tank
- 54 Secret message
- 58 Averageness
- 60 Amazes
- 61 Certain exams
- 62 Affirm
- 63 Ooze
- 64 GOP rivals
- 65 Red Planet

Down

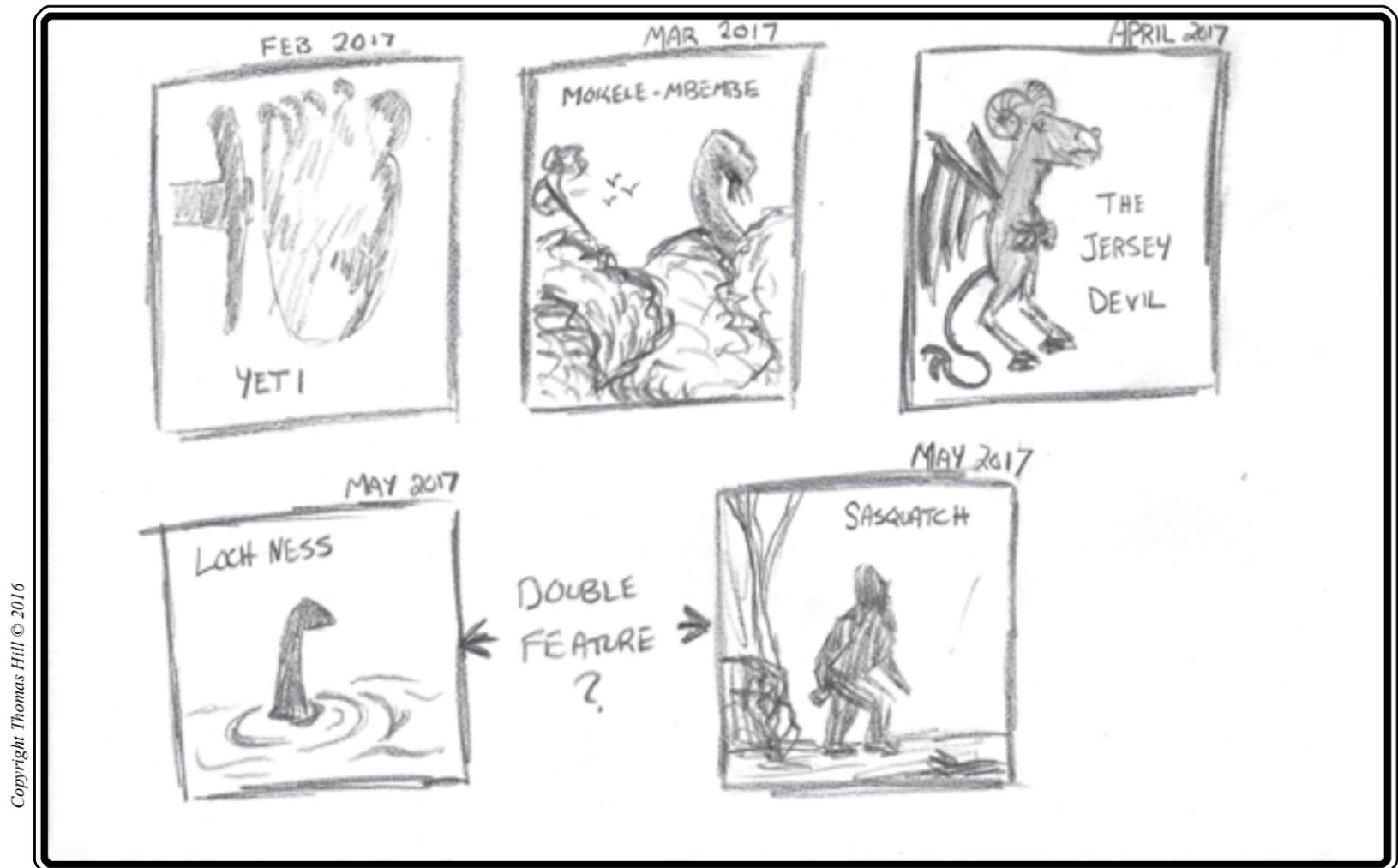
- 1 Ancient
- 2 Kind of wrestling
- 3 Seed covering
- 4 Swipe
- 5 Quicker
- 6 Pallid
- 7 Campus bigwig
- 8 Corn serving
- 9 Had a hunch
- 10 Chick's sound
- 11 Flubs
- 12 Sharp curve
- 15 Exhausted
- 18 Aboriginal
- 23 Sticky stuff
- 24 Radium discoverer
- 25 *Odd Couple* character
- 26 Up the ante
- 27 Garish

- 29 Improvise
- 30 Thigh-slappers
- 31 Brink
- 32 Arizona city
- 33 Old TV hit, with 58 Down
- 34 Be the ghost
- 38 Cultural
- 43 Weirdo
- 45 Goes sour, like milk
- 47 Forest gods
- 49 Love god
- 50 Lake filler
- 51 Paltry
- 52 Garden figure
- 53 Cheer starter
- 55 Was in debt
- 56 Exploit
- 57 Notice
- 58 See 33 Down
- 59 Battering device

Comics

No new Monster Tales this time. However, not wanting to leave you with nothing, here's a page from the ol' sketchbook, giving you all a special preview of what to expect from Monster Tales next semester! Check it out...if you dare!

-Tom



Creative Writing

Content Imitation

A Date

By Rebekah Chiasson

Take this you'll feel better
Anything, whatever
Any color
Even better,
Smoke this,
Take a flame
and blaze it
Breathe it in and don't let
Your mama see.
Wait, what are these?
Not mine but that must mean
Three for you and four for me
What was that feeling?
I can't remember
Lost inside numb nothing
No longer able
Remember pleasure
pain, love, wrong, right
They prescribed
And took a life.

By Rachel Vargeletis

"But why are we really here"
he asked her
soft in the beginning,
a harsh word plummet
by the last word.

The ducks swam in their
safe little lines.
And that soft lilac breeze
going by it all
somehow couldn't cushion
the blow of what was to come.

They both walked in the park,
as couples do.
They looked at the scenery,
talked about her new job
and his great grades.

But he could sniff out that
melancholy undertone of
her essence.
She had brought him here
on a Sunday afternoon for
more than just a view of ducks.

"Anna"
she met his bright silvery pooled
gaze
with her own dismal brown
glance.
And it hovered at her mouth
for a minute or two.

It had to be done,
but his hair was waving
in the wind so easily,
and his brow furrow
almost caused her hand to
reach out and smoothe it.
Her mouth formed that first
word-
the hardest part of it all-
but his hand looked so empty
without her own in it.

And the broadness of his
shoulders
looked so heavy and weighted,
she found it hard not to wrap her
arms around them.

"Anna"
She looked back up at his
wide eyes and trembling lip
and could almost feel the
prickly
skin of his awfully shaven face
in her hand with the great
feeling
that came along with holding a
world
in your own palm.

It is at the end of everything that
she realizes how "everything"
he really was to her.
A smile, potentially
inappropriate
to the situation, crept to her face
as she thought about his own.

"Let's keep walking"
She made her smile as soft
and as inviting
as she possibly could.
Then took that hand
in her own once again
as they walked down the path
together.

Just Go, According to Heather Conn

By: Kelly Cacciolfi

“Just Go and go with someone” is what Heather Conn, current Assistant Professor of Biology and Department Chair, Natural Sciences, gives for advice about travel. Conn shared what she has learned through her journeys from a young age.

It all started with a trip with her family to Disney in Williamsburg where Conn said, “that’s when I became obsessed with maps and I am very good at reading them.” When Conn was in 5th or 6th grade, her father (Steve) won a trip to Mexico through his work. He then decided to rent a car for their excursions.

At the pyramids in Mexico is where Conn said, “I found out I am claustrophobic from my parents sending me into the pyramids to explore ALONE”.

She also shared that’s when she learned how assertive men were toward women, even at her young age. Next the family took a trip to Jamaica where Conn said, “I got mono; it’s not good getting so sick in a third world country”.

Next came Conn’s study abroad with her trip to Australia; here she learned that “Australians like our accents as much as we like theirs” and so much more. Conn saw what an undertoe could do to a friend swimming in the ocean. One minute they were together and the next they had been pulled out to sea. They went to the Great Barrier Reef, “That’s where I got over my fear of fish and I went snorkeling so much”.

Conn had been addicted to seeing a manta ray and was

convinced that she would find one while at the Great Barrier Reef; one morning a friend and Conn went snorkeling only to get tailed by a shark. Conn said, “all I could do was think, keep in front and swim fast!” On her way home, she stopped in New Zealand where Conn said, “it was 1995 and I was surprised people who had purchased round the world tickets would not want to come to the US because they feared us and they would go right to their next destination”.

Once Conn graduated, she toured Europe where she said, “I loved staying in hostels; they are so cheap, and in Germany and Spain we would hang out and sing. Music connects so many people from some many different places.” In Rome she had the chance to sit six rows back from

the Pope during Easter Sunday just by not sticking to a plan.

She shares that her favorite place by far to travel has been the United States. Her advice, “grab a tent and get in the car. We live in an amazing, diverse, beautiful country”.

Conn does have a bucket list of places to visit in the future and her advice is “that if you’re a teacher marry one so will can take the summers off together to explore”. She would like to trav-

el to Switzerland, Rome, Spain, and her husband would like to go to the Tour de France, as he is a cyclist. When her two children are older, they will go to Machu Picchu to spread both her grandmother’s and grandfather’s ashes on a peak of a mountain. That will include a seven-day hike to get there.

Conn’s passion is represented in her office, which you can stop by to see in room S205.

That is where she displays some of her travel treasures including a tile from Pompeii, shells, and lots of rocks. She brings her joy of travel into how she teaches in the classroom. Conn stated, “I love seeing travel through new eyes” and hopes one day to start a program here at MWCC for travel.

“I love seeing travel through new eyes.”

Peace Camp for Korean War Descendants

By Jamie Parker

Travelling the world is something most people want to do. But one of the things that most commonly gets in the way is the affordability of these trips. Flights alone from Boston to Seoul, Korea cost anywhere from \$1,000-\$2,000. That, on top of hotels, tours, food, and entertainment, you are looking at a \$10,000+ trip!

But what if there were a way to get a weeklong trip to Korea, for just the price of a one-way ticket? Well good news; there is. If you are the descendant of a Korean War veteran that is.

If your grandfather has ever talked about his time in the Ko-

rean War, then there is a high chance that you are eligible to travel back, on behalf of the Korean Government. The people of The Republic of Korea are so grateful for the veterans of the Korean War for their service, that they actually pay for the descendants to come see the progression of Korea since the 1950’s.

So how do you take advantage of this amazing opportunity? First, go to www.miltours.com and search for “Peace Camp for Youth Korea Grandchildren Return Program.” After that, download the application. On the application, they require

you to be seventeen years old, or older, be enrolled in college, have at least a 2.5 GPA, and be in relatively good physical condition due to the light hiking that happens on the trip. After you fill out the application and send it to the Military Historical Tours home office. It’s that easy!

Now the trip itself is absolutely amazing. You are immediately greeted at the Incheon International Airport, right outside of Seoul. Then, you are escorted to Yonsei University where you, along with 200 other students from all over the world, will all dorm together. There is a wonderful meet and greet with all of

the other students so everyone can get acquainted. For the next week, these people become your family.

All food, tours, entertainment, and transportation is completely free. Just to give you a small preview of what that includes, we visited: The DMZ (North Korean border with South Korea,) the beaches in Busan, toured the streets of Seoul, and visited countless museums, and monuments. We ate at fantastic restaurants for lunch and dinner, and breakfast was always provided at the school. Plus, we were bussed privately to every location, got free tickets for the bullet train

from Seoul to Busan, and free subway passes! We basically lived like kings and queens!

Other than that, there was something very humbling and surreal about just how grateful the Korean people were. Every place we went to, Korean people thanked us for what our grandfathers had done almost 50 years prior. So if you want to go to Korea, or start to travel in general, make sure you use Military Historical Tours!

Patriot’s Review Cont.

This past Sunday we played the New York Jets who were 3-7, one of the worst teams in the league. Now I will say this, if you follow Patriots-Jets games, you know the Jets will always give us a run for our money simply because they are our rivals. But this is another team that we should have handled with ease. Ryan Fitzpatrick who has been an interception machine this season looked like an All-Star against us. Once again, Tom

Brady had to bail out the defense by playing like the freak he is at the end of the game to give us the go ahead touchdown that eventually won the game.

There were a few good defensive plays against the Jets, such as Malcolm Butler’s forced fumble or Chris Long’s strip-sack to seal the deal, but our secondary got burned most of the game and we could not get any pressure on the QB. It seems to be that is going to be the story of our defense.

The Pats defense is a bend but don’t break type, but they bend a lot. We haven’t even been facing great offenses and our defense gets burned. With so much potential on the defensive side of the ball after the great drafting Belichick has done, it seems like were back to the same defense we had back in 2009 (which if I must remind everyone, it was terrible).

Everyone goes by the motto “In Bill we trust”, but I’m not so sure about it anymore. People

put their blind faith in Bill as a GM, but to be honest they need to open their eyes. Going back to last season Belichick has been dismantling this defense.

The type of defenders that Belichick has always gone after are speedy secondary guys. Speed does win in this league, but it’s time we get some players who play with some attitude. We need a defense that wants to punish the other team, some hard hitting guys that hate your guts just because you play for the

other team. Our defense has no identity.

As most people know, we are too far into the season to expect anything different out of our defense. The best we can hope for is that our offense stays intact and keeps beating teams up, because if it comes down to needing our defense to win us a game, I won’t have much confidence that we can do it.



Mount Wachusett Community College's Greg Clement Receives Student Affairs Award

GARDNER – Mount Wachusett Community College Associate Dean of Students Greg Clement has been named the 2016 regional winner of the Doris Michiko Ching Excellence in Student Affairs Award by the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) at the Region 1 conference, which encompasses the states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont; the Canadian provinces of New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Quebec; and the United Kingdom, Belgium, France, Ireland, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland.

The award honors a student affairs professional at the mid-level whose outstanding commitment to the profession includes development of programs that address the needs of students, creation of a campus environment that promotes student learning and development, and support of an active engagement in NASPA.

College is very fortunate to have a leader like Greg Clement," said MWCC President Daniel M. Asquino. "He puts students at the center of all that he does and creates outstanding leadership opportunities for all of our students."

Asquino noted that Clement has implemented student programming that targets effective reasoning; self-understanding awareness; sense of civic responsibility; health and wellness; effective leadership; meaningful interpersonal relationships; and, understanding diversity. "These support our college's teaching and learning, but also support the needs of our greater community," said Asquino.

MWCC Director of Veterans Services Robert Mayer praised Clement for his leadership. "Gregory Clement is a remarkable individual, a capable leader and a passionate advocate for diversity, inclusion and tolerance," said Mayer, who was one of several student affairs professionals who nominated Clement for the award.

Post-Election Cont.

When asked about how she felt about the protests, Lily stated, "all Americans are allowed the constitutional right to protest. Good for you people who are protesting, have at it. But for those of you who are burning the American Flag and holding posters of Donald Trump being hung, I hope that your right gets taken away".

Lighting the American flag and supporting violence is intolerable, no matter who is doing it. Greenland has strong feelings towards the protesters. "These protesters are setting a worse example than Trump ever has".

The final topic of conversation was how she felt about students not going to class and even getting the ok to take a couple days off to recover from this emotion-

al roller coaster. "The only way I can describe it is absolutely ridiculous. The younger generation is acting like a bunch of cry-babies. I may not have voted for Trump, but he is our soon to be President meaning that I will support him. These kids need to get themselves together and move past their feelings towards Trump and people who support him."

Greenland finally wanted to make a point about unity in our country. "Trump, Clinton, and Obama all stated in their post-election speeches that at the end of the day, we are not democrats, we are not republicans, but we are Americans. These protests are not displaying the unity that they are preaching".

Sudoku Puzzle

Solution

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



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at Mount Wachusett Community College, Transfer Table

For more information contact:

Sonia Patota, Off-Campus Program Coordinator • 413-313-3322 • 413-265-2383 • patotas@elms.edu

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