

The Mount Observer

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

www.mountobserver.com

FEBRUARY 1, 2017

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 5

12 PAGES

Women's March on Washington

By Courtney Wentz

Former student and current computer lab assistant at MWCC, Susan Shute attended the Women's March on Washington on Saturday, January 21st.

Originally, Shute had not planned on going to the march because of potential violence and the cost of the trip, but due to a ticket becoming available, she was able to go with a friend and a bus full of people. Shute said, "I was so excited I couldn't stand it."

The buses left Keene, New Hampshire at 11:30PM and arrived in Washington, D.C. at 8AM the next morning. Shute described it taking an hour to get to the starting point of the march to listen to the speakers, and then began the march at around 3PM in the afternoon.

The Women's March website provided a map, showing the route from 3rd Street SW and Independence Ave SW to Pennsylvania Ave NW, which was a two mile walk.

Shute stated she marched for women, immigrants, all different

faiths, people of every color and orientation, for her son "so he may remain living in a compassionate country and know when it's time to speak up," for her niece, and her family's intercultural marriages.

Even though Shute was concerned about possible violence, there happened to not be any, according to an article on NBC, and Shute who said she felt safe and that the march was under control. She also mentioned, "I couldn't get over the positivity."

On her way back to the bus, she explained and shared photos of signs from the march lining the outside of Trump International Hotel and Federal Triangle Subway Station with signs scattered all over the ground outside and leading inside the station.

Shute said, "I'm still trying to process this all."

The *New York Times* wrote an article about the attendance of the Women's March on Washington, estimating about 470,000 people were at the march.



Protestors gather outside the Capitol Building in Washington D.C. at the January 21st Women's March

Photo courtesy of Susan Shute

Business Honor Society Looking for Students

By Courtney Wentz

Alpha Beta Gamma, the business honor society, is looking for more students to participate in their activities.

ABG has been on campus since 1970, with accounting Professor Linda Bolduc as their advisor. Their new President is Tammy Goodgion who said, "ABG has a life-long membership that people will recognize on a resume because it's known internationally."

Recently, ABG joined the Gardener Chamber of Commerce as a business. This will benefit students a part of ABG by them being able to meet with CPAs,

business owners, and helping out at these local businesses.

Goodgion said, "Students will be able to network and promote themselves, by promoting ABG."

Their current way of reaching out to students is through word of mouth and email, where students get an invitation to the honor society. There is a one-time fee of \$40 for a life-time membership.

The business honor society is associated with majors such as allied health, legal studies, and obviously business. Students must have a 3.0 GPA or higher and be taking 15 or more credits

towards their degree.

Some events they have coming up are: a bake sale with a cherry theme for Washington's Birthday on February 22nd and they will be attending the gathering to welcome the new President in March.

Alpha Beta Gamma has meeting every other Wednesday in room 206 from 12:30 to 1:30 in the afternoon.



Photo courtesy of Tammy Goodgion

Left to right: Elizabeth Lapan, Tammy Goodgion, Cindy Doyle, and Jennifer Davie.

Come Work for Us!

Have a story idea? Want to see your work in print? Send your content to mountobserver@mwcc.mass.edu or drop by our office in Room 344!

Inside this issue:

News	1
Reviews	3
Opinion	5
Sports	9
Arts	10

Michelle Valois's Book of Poems

By Nicholas Velillari

MWCC English Professor, Michelle Valois, expressed her struggle with throat cancer in a poetry book she wrote, titled, *My Found Vocabulary*, which released January 1, 2015.

Valois had throat cancer starting back in 2011. Because of the aggressiveness of it, she was unable to speak for some time, which made it hard to communicate with friends and relatives.

When she got her voice back, *My Found Vocabulary* was a title she coined for a poetry book.

"I didn't do much writing during treatment," states Valois. "Poetry was unusual for me to write in general." However the majority of her poems in her book focus on voice loss.

Valois also got inspiration through small facts about historical figure's lives. In her

poem, *Lives of the Dead*, she speaks of Confucius being a corn inspector and how Thomas Edison, inventor of the light bulb, was afraid of the dark.

"I collected all of these little unknown facts about historical people," says Valois, "I tried to bring them together in my poems."

Valois also stated how everyone has their own form of "dark-

ness" that humans are all afraid of. According to her, it's up to us as people to overcome that darkness. The main message she wants to get across for readers is, "It's all about finding your voice."

Even with her struggle, writing and organizing her poetry wasn't an easy task to overcome. It took Valois around 2 years to write the book in its entirety. She says

she "had to go through a lot of revisions" when going through Aldridge Press Publishing.

My Found Vocabulary has around 20 poems that are thematically and symbolically arranged to tell her story. She's currently not focusing on poetry; she is however working on another book based on her mother's life during The Great Depression.

Themed STEM Murals to inspire new MWCC Science Building

By Liam Scanlon

The murals on each floor of the new STEM wing were recently displayed. Each mural is themed to match the labs taught on each floor.*

The classrooms in the new wing are devoted to STEM classes, but there are also study spaces on the top two floors, which are open to all students.

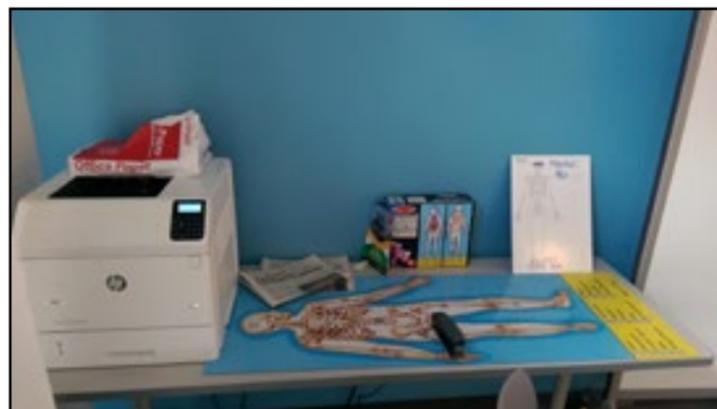
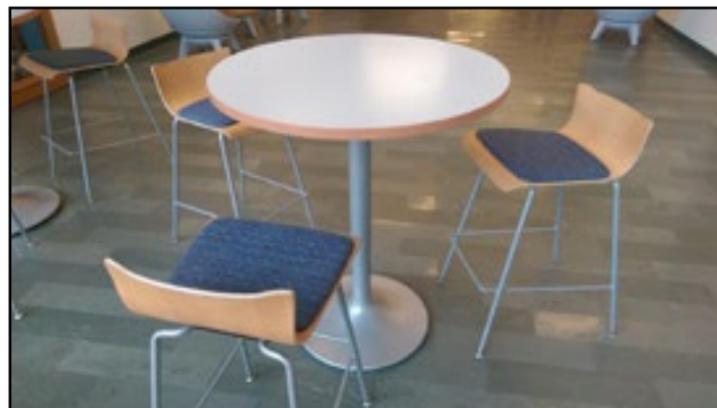
Whether in the devoted STEM study rooms or using the new furniture in the hall of the wing, students may study during operating hours.

James Benoit, who is a student of the Mount, a full time locksmith, and a veteran of 5 active years, enjoys the new facilities. He says it is "very nice

and bright," a "motivating place to learn," and that it "feels warm and welcome." It is the choice area of study for his colleagues to study General Chemistry II.

Photos by Liam Scanlon

Continued on Page 6



Have a Scoop? See something newsworthy? Tag us
@MountObserver and use the hashtag
#observemwcc!

THE MOUNT OBSERVER
VOLUME 11, ISSUE 5,
February 1, 2017

Editor in Chief:
Stevie LaBelle

News Editor:
Cortney Wentz

Opinion Editor:
Jamie Parker

Social Media Editor:
Joshua Needham

Graphic Designer:
Thomas Hill Jr.

Contributors:
Liam Scanlon
James Pelletier
Nicholas Velillari
Tyler Morga
Jason D. Greenough
Santiago Ferreira Vila
Michael R Young
Nicholas Cherico
Jocelyn Leger
Tammy Goodgion
Susan Shute
Charles Morchauser

Adviser:
Susan Goldstein

Address:
Room 344, MWCC,
444 Green St.,
Gardner, MA 01440

Telephone/E-Mail/Website:
978.630.9260

mountobserver@mwcc.mass.edu

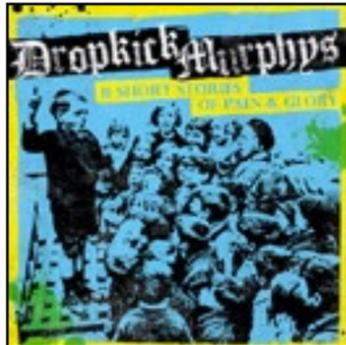
www.mountobserver.com

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

Mount Observer Advertising Policy:
The Mount Observer will reject any ad that is libelous, obscene, violates any laws or encourages discrimination against any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, age, color, creed, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability. *The Observer* reserves the right to edit or reject any ad copy at any time.

Music Review: Dropkick Murphys' *11 Short Stories of Pain and Glory*



By Jason D. Greenough

Boston's favorite sons, Quincy-based Dropkick Murphys, started 2017 off with a bang, with the release of their ninth studio record, *11 Short Stories of Pain and Glory*, on January 6th.

I always enjoy the anticipation of an album, because being able to finally listen to it gives me a

glimpse into how a band has progressed and grown. Not only in their sound, but in the lives of the members as well. In that regard, this album did not disappoint. In fact, this album was, in my opinion, their most personally revealing album in their catalog.

One of my favorite parts about this album is the very first song, "The Lonesome Boatman".

It almost serves as hype music, with its gang vocal chants and heavy Celtic-influenced instrumentals, to "Rebels With a Cause", which is reminiscent of DKM's *Warrior's Code*-era sound, describing the hardships that Boston's homeless and impoverished youth have faced in the wake of the Heroin and Opiate epidemic. While songs like

"Blood" and "4-15-13" are very Boston-centric, with the former acting as a tribute to the band's loyal fanbase that was cast down by the city of Boston and it's leaders very early in the band's career and the latter being a striking memorial of the victims and all those affected in the Boston Marathon bombing, many of the tracks on this record were centered around the experiences that the band has had in regards to the epidemic, such as "Paying My Way" and "You'll Never Walk Alone", and I honestly feel it was very noble of them to put awareness and solidarity for their community above the traditional Irish songs they revamp with their own flare.

Now, while much of the re-

cord's subject matter is relatively heavy, there is still a playful sort of feeling that the Dropkicks have preserved on this album when it comes to tunes like "I Had a Hat", "First Class Loser", "Sandlot" and "Kicked To The Curb".

True to form, the band closes this ninth chapter in their history with the anthemic tune that I can only imagine being sung in unison at the local bar while a well-known regular heads home for the night. "Until The Next Time" shows the band's willingness to acknowledge the past 35 minutes of music that they poured their hearts into over the last few months, but also their itching to move onto the next project, and I'm okay with that.

It makes me feel better that they aren't planning on going anywhere anytime soon.

I can honestly say there were not many flaws on this record – if any at all – in my opinion, when compared to their other albums. Of course, I recommend this album with five stars and two thumbs up, and couldn't recommend it enough, but your taste is your taste. *11 Short Stories of Pain and Glory* has everything for the punk in all of us, and it while it delivers that same old Boston punk punch, the growth and progress in DKM's sound only makes me more excited for the next record.

Overwatch: Review Edition

By: Joshua Needham

On May 24th 2016, game giant Activision Blizzard dropped on the world its newest massive success: Overwatch.

Blizzard has built itself up as the parent of some incredibly successful game franchises, including StarCraft, WarCraft (subsequently World of Warcraft), and Diablo. However, Overwatch was their first venture into the world of first-person-shooters (FPS).

Seven years prior, Riot Games launched the highly successful game League of Legends (LoL). LoL was a multiplayer-online-battle-arena (MOBA) style game, where players would choose from various hero characters, each with different attributes, strengths, and weaknesses, to fight for control of their enemy's

territory. Players could identify with various heroes in the game, gaining skills in playing one hero in particular, while forging new friendships and rivalries within the community the game created.

With the huge success that MOBA-style games were getting, especially within the realm of professional eSports (where people play these games competitively for massive cash prizes, much like major league sports), it's no wonder that Activision Blizzard borrowed the concept to create Overwatch. Overwatch takes from the fast-paced play style and quick reaction times needed for popular FPS games and combines it with a League of Legends-like hero roster.

Each hero character operates entirely differently from all the others, with some characters being good for attack, some good for mobility, and some good for defense. It offers the player the ability to identify their play-style with a hero that fits them, rather than using a class and upgrade system that many popular FPS games – like the Call of Duty franchise – utilize.

Overwatch offers distinct modes of play, changing up the formula from a standard "kill the most enemies" or "capture the flag" styles many players are used to. In one game mode, players fight to control a point on the map, needing to occupy that space longer than their opponent during the round. It operates much like a tug-o-war, trying to

wipe out the enemy forces from that area long enough to claim it for your team and then keep someone there at all times to gain points.

Attack and defend points are another style of match found in Overwatch. One team will be tasked with defending a point from oncoming enemy attackers. If the point is taken by the enemy, your team's goal is then to stop the enemy from transporting the "payload" (usually a vehicle of some sort) to its destination point across the map. The payload moves only when enemy heroes are on or around it, but it does progress quicker as more enemies are in its area, making it a real struggle to keep it from moving forward.

Along with the game, Blizzard has also released several animated shorts on YouTube that give some history of the heroes you play in the game. It has been a long-running tradition for Blizzard to create rich backstories for their characters and the worlds they inhabit and Overwatch is no exception. For its interesting characters, balanced gameplay, beautiful graphics and scenery, Overwatch gets a 9 out of 10.

Still thinking about trying out Overwatch, but haven't had the money to pick it up and give it a go? Fear not! Blizzard is hosting Free Overwatch Weekend from November 18th to the 21st on all platforms.* Head on over to playoverwatch.com to find out more.

FINISH WHAT YOU STARTED!



BAYPATH.EDU

Transfer Information Session Dates

Tuesday, February 21 8:00 am - 2:00 pm

Don't Just Transfer to Bay Path, Transform Your Life.

 **BAY PATH**
UNIVERSITY

588 Longmeadow Street Longmeadow, MA 01106 413.565.1235 transfer@baypath.edu

Comedy Review: Neal Brennan's *3 Mics* on Netflix



By Jason D. Greenough

If you're like me, live stage performances tend to hit you right in the feels. Something that always affects me is stand-up comedy, and for many different reasons.

The first, and possibly the most prevalent, is that I agree with most of the views and ideas that some of my favorite comics share. The story doesn't change much with Neal Brennan's new Netflix special, *3 Mics*, but it hit me deeper than any other special has in recent history.

It's deep, it's innovative, it's hilarious, it's raw, and it's real.

As if it comes as any surprise to any viewer, the premise of Brennan's first Netflix special involves three microphones, each acting as a window to different parts of Brennan's personality, alternating in a cycle.

First Mic, Downstage Right: Brennan begins in the spotlight with one-liners, and random, quippy thoughts that serve as a warm-up of the crowd, in a way that is reminiscent of an opening act. While bringing up good

points, I wouldn't say it was my favorite part of the show, but I did come to appreciate it as the special progressed, with the first mic serving as sort of a tension reliever. When we get to the third mic, you'll understand why.

Second Mic, Downstage Left: There wasn't anything much different from a regular stand-up special when Brennan hit the second mic, but his timing and delivery show just what a true comedic genius he really is. With not a lot of crowd work, Brennan still slayed the crowd into bouts of ferocious laughter, and that is not the easiest thing to do when you don't talk directly to your audience.

Third Mic, Downstage (Center): The third mic was my favorite. The wind was taken right out of the room while Brennan switched from jokes and goofy musings to heartbreaking life stories in an instant. On the third mic, Brennan bared his soul, discussing his bout with clinical depression and subsequent substance abuse, the sudden demise

of *The Chappelle Show*, which he and Dave Chappelle started together, and his tumultuous relationship with his alcoholic father. While still delivering these feeling and memories with his charm and wit, Brennan displayed an unmatched versatility in being able to stay true to form, and in the moment. The third mic showed that Brennan is a mastermind when it comes to gripping the crowd, and he did it with zero dramatics. Just himself, his veteran composure, and three mics.

I highly recommend this to anyone who 1) has Netflix, and 2) wants to see great, well-rounded talent. If you like the styles of Patton Oswalt, Mike Birbiglia and/or Bo Burnham, I'm sure you'll enjoy Neal Brennan, if not love him!

Retro Nintendo system gets reboot

By: Tyler Morgan

When the Nintendo came out in 1985 it was the best thing ever for a kid, there was no other thing you would rather do then get home from school and play it. Now 36 years later, we have consoles like Xbox and PlayStation that are very high tech, especially with graphics.

About two weeks ago, adults could finally enjoy a childhood console that I'm sure they didn't have any more or forgot about. The Nintendo classic was released and there was a very high demand for it. I was able to get out and see if there were any lines at the local GameStop and Walmart, what I discovered was a long line of people waiting to bring it home.

The Nintendo Switch sold out in matters of a minutes, most stores only carried about ten of the consoles making it very limited for customers to buy. If you weren't able to purchase one in store or online, the only other place to buy from would be eBay. The only problem with purchasing the item from eBay is you would have to pay the

resellers price which was just ridiculous.

There are some pros and cons with the new Nintendo Classic, one pro is it looks and feels just like the original although it is much smaller. The system can be powered by your TV's USB port, it also has a great selection of about 30 classic games.

There are definitely a few cons one of them being the controller cable is extremely short and there is no way to buy new games. If you had an idea of using an old controller from the original Nintendo like my parents had, think again because it does not support original accessories.

When I asked my parents about what they thought, they were extremely happy with what they purchased. The system was nice and small and it had most of their favorite games, the first night we played for hours and had a great time. They did have a few things to say about the tiny controller cable and also how you can't get any other games for it, but overall it was a great purchase.

Letter to the Editor

Thoughts on Student Loans

Dear Editor,

One topic that comes up frequently in connection with higher education is the crushing burden of student loans. It is massive and growing all the time. The bigger question might be, is that smart public policy? I would contend that it is not.

One of the economic effects is that students are taken out of the consumer pool for many years or decades by crushing debt that prevents them from buying a house or other goods which reduces demand and economic growth. When it happens to millions of people you can bet that hurts the economy.

A little history lesson here might be illustrative a generation or two ago things were different. At the end of World War II the Federal Government enacted the GI bill. This provided millions of veterans with free of very low cost college. It had a very positive effect because it fueled a huge post-war boom in industry as increasingly high tech industries had a huge

number of educated employees. If the GI bill had not happened that wouldn't have happened. Many of the amazing post-war accomplishments like the space program benefited immensely.

Another big factor in early times was that tuition was much lower relative to average wages so that an average person could save for college and pay for most of it themselves. This was especially true at state colleges. At one time in the 1960s, before Governor Ronald Reagan, the University of California had almost free tuition.

The other problem is we turn education into a mere commodity. That is a sad thing that sells it far short. We end up with lots of business majors and very few poets. Poets matter, too, as do wise citizens. That is not to say that English majors don't have debt just that people tend to go into high paying careers out of necessity to pay off students loans.

State governs, often Republicans, seem to go first for university budgets to close budget

gaps. These foolish cuts reduce the quality and availability of college and drives students out of these states. It comes down again to investment spending: a dollar in education brings many dollars in return. Employers look at the quality of education when they think about where to locate.

The individual lives matter too. It is a hard like when you owe \$20,000 and you work at Starbucks. The students who go to one of those for Profit College are in worse shape because they owe \$100,000 for a diploma that is often worthless. These businesses are more like fraud schemes than what colleges ought to be. That is a big risk especially if you don't graduate, which a large percentage of students don't.

In summary, massive student debt is a huge millstone around the necks of students and around the economy. It's time we start looking at the big picture again. I vote for a few more poets and a few less business majors.

Charles Morchauser

Things are getting Strange..?

By Santiago Ferreira Vila

Early last week Marvel Cinematic Universe released its latest film in their franchise, Doctor Strange. Based off the comic book of the same name, Doctor Strange follows main character Dr. Stephen Strange, played by Benedict Cumberbatch, an esteemed neurosurgeon who ends up in a horrific car crash, which ends his career after his hands are injured beyond repair. Following the crash, Dr. Strange finds himself studying the possibilities of fixing his hands, in which he ends up studying the mystic arts, entangling himself between the fight of good and evil.

The movie, like the rest of its predecessors, comes out beautifully and Marvel themselves should be proud of what they accomplished. The story follows the comics inconsistently and

fully entices the viewer from minute one. Doctor Strange also finds itself separate from the past Marvel movies in which viewers don't need to be caught up on every other superhero's storyline to be able to fully enjoy the film. This being said, the movie is expected to tie in with the films later on (Marvel fans, remember to stay until the end!).

Doctor Strange held a budget of \$165 million, making it the smallest budget of the Marvel movies in the third phase (compared to Civil War's \$250 million and Guardians of the Galaxy 's estimated \$200 million). You'd expect the special effects to be a bit dumbed down to fit the budget, but this film proves the complete opposite. The studio outdoes itself with bringing both the character's original story and

fantastical abilities to life. The vibrant and elaborate world distortion feels almost lifelike when watching, mix that with some very well performed stunts and fight sequences, and you have yourself one of the most beautiful films of the year.

Benedict Cumberbatch seems to be doomed as he is type casted into yet another role as a genius character (prior characters include Sherlock and Alan Turing in *The Imitation Game*). This is going well for him as he brings the character of Dr. Strange to life, capturing both the intelligence and cocky attitude of Strange. He meets standards leaning towards par, leaving almost no room for criticism. Another A-game performance was given by Chiwetel Ejiofor (12 Years a slave what is capitalized) who performed as

Karl Mordo, Strange's mentor in the mystic arts.

In contrast, the film had a few setbacks, one being the original storytelling of Stephen Strange. Commonly found in every marvel movie: character is doing well, character faces tragedy, character gains powers. This sort of repetition is one that fans might want to see a change in but, in retrospect, still worked. Another weakness is found within one of the major strengths of the film, the amazing visual aspects found within Doctor Strange sucks the soul away from the equally as good story. Audiences may find themselves so overwhelmed by the special effects that their minds will soon wonder away from the script.

Though the film had great acting performances, there were also some not great

performances. Tilda Swinton (the ancient one) was one of those where you feel that someone just wasn't doing their best. Both Strange's and Mordo's teacher, Swinton's portrayal as the ancient one was just a near cringe every time she talked one on one to any character for all her lines were read in mere monotone. This was a major upset as Swinton received major acclaim for her roles in *Shipwrecked!*, and *Only lovers left alive*.

In all Doctor Strange delivers all you would expect from a Marvel Movie, a thrilling story, unique hero, and great visual effects. Pair it up with great actors and a director with background in cult classics (Scott Derrickson) and you have yourself a movie for all types of audiences.

College: The Next Step



By Nicholas Cherico

After students graduate from high school, they are never sure what to expect going into their first semester of college. "Am I going to make friends?" or "How hard are the classes going to be?": These questions, along with many more, are what went through the head of Julie Henderson of Shirley as she started her college career.

Henderson started taking college courses early, as she participated in the dual enrollment program during high school. She

did this for two years at Mount Wachusett Community College, then transferred to Fitchburg State University. After just one year at Fitchburg, she decided to come back to the Mount and is currently in the Dental Assisting program. She is hoping to be in the Dental Hygiene program next fall.

When asked about her transition from high school to college, she said, "It was really tough at first because I was technically still in high school, too. But once

I got in a good rhythm it became easy."

She was then asked about the difference in classwork/homework and she laughed and said "There's definitely a lot more work and you need to really stay on top of it. If you don't, you're most likely going to be screwed."

Henderson came up with a short list of do's and don'ts for any student that is coming into their first year of college.

1. "You will not succeed if you don't pay attention and get your work done. I thought I would be able to skate by and miss a couple classes my first year and I almost failed. It was a pretty big wake up call."

2. "Be friendly. If you don't make friends and get yourself out there, you won't enjoy yourself at all. I made a friend in my anatomy class my first semester and we're still friends now in my dental hygiene program."

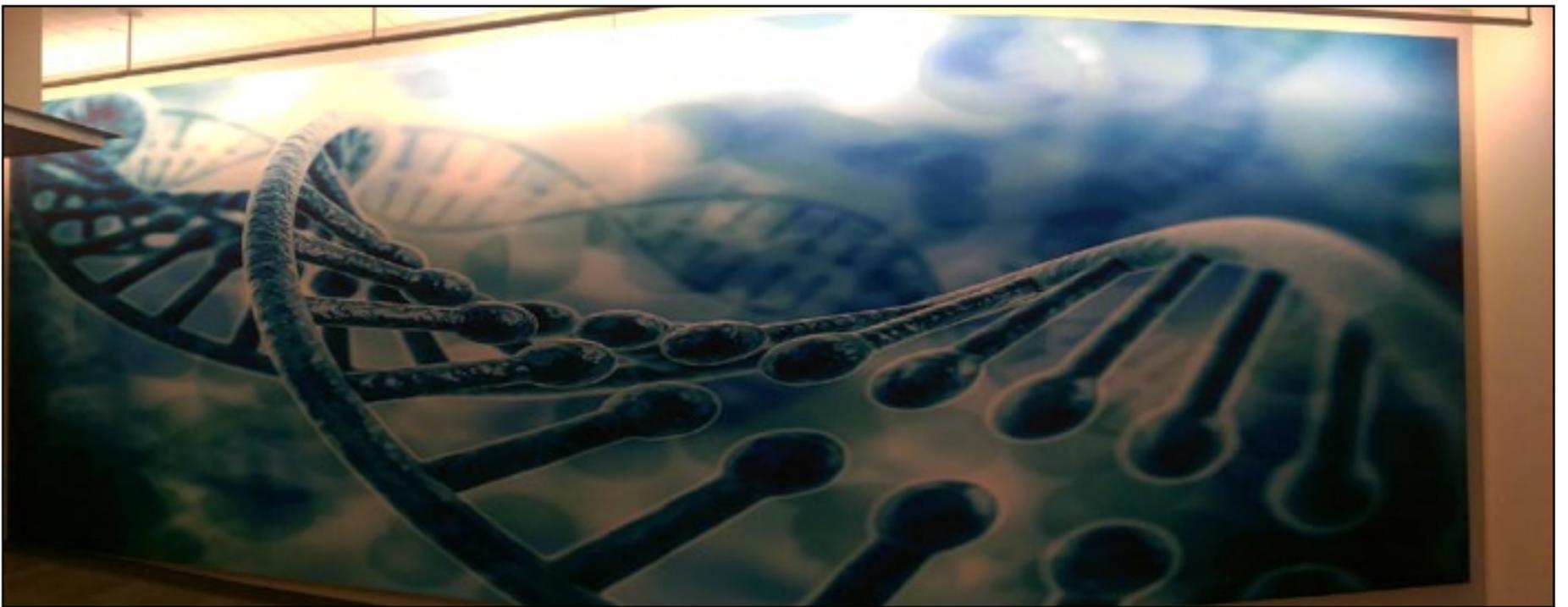
3. "Be open to trying new things. If you stay boxed up in what you're comfortable doing, you may never find out your true passions in life. When I wasn't sure what I wanted to do I shadowed somebody who was in the dental hygiene program. It really helped me decide that I wanted to go into dental hygiene!"

Continued from Page 2

**All shots taken by Liam Scanlon using the panorama capture function of a cell phone.*



The first floor labs are for natural science classes. The mural is a shot of the sun through a layer of foliage.



The second floor labs are for biology classes. The mural is an illustration of a DNA helix in shades of blue and white.



The third floor labs are for chemistry and physics classes. The mural is a depiction of the cosmos.

Drug Testing Welfare Recipients is *Bad* for Taxpayers

By Jamie Parker

Food stamps, “free” health-care, subsidized housing, and other government funded programs that all count as welfare programs. According to the Census Bureau, at the end 2012, about 34% of US citizens rely on one welfare program or another. That’s about 109,631,000 people. That’s a lot of people, and a lot of tax dollars.

Now one argument you have probably heard is that we should drug test all welfare recipients, to ensure that our hard-earned tax dollars are going to people who are “doing the right thing.” But in states like Florida, and Tennessee, these tests have been proven to cost more than they save. On top of that, these pro-

posed laws are being challenged on whether they are even constitutional.

Now don’t get me wrong, I understand the argument. As a hardworking taxpayer, I don’t particularly favor the idea of people – especially those addicted to drugs – taking advantage of government systems that were created to help the needy. However, most people who are for drug testing welfare recipients use the argument that the testing would save the taxpayers an incredible amount of money. I wish it would be that easy to fix the system. But the reality is, that where this strategy has been tested, it has proven costly, and in turn, unnecessary.

Tennessee has tried this strategy back in July of 2014. Now during that month, 800 people applied for welfare, all of which had to pass the new mandatory drug test. Of all those people. One person tested positive for drugs. In the first month of Florida’s implementation of this strategy, only 2% of applicants ended up testing positive. So right off the bat, mandatory drug testing hasn’t delivered the results that advocates were hoping for.

On a legal standpoint, mandatory drug testing may not be 100% constitutional. According to the Fourth Amendment, “The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreason-

able searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation...” The key words I this statement are, “probable cause.” Being poor is not probable cause for drug testing. Needing help is not probable cause for drug testing. People have right to privacy of persons. As an American citizen, you are allowed a certain amount of personal freedoms that the government cannot infringe on.

Now let’s get to the actual cost of this endeavor. Per a national survey, approximately 9% of Americans (about 32.5 million people) reported to be drug users. For arguments sake, let us

assume that all 32.5 million of those Americans were applying for welfare. If we strip all benefits from those people, that would still leave 71,120,000 people eligible for welfare. Each drug test costs \$30. If we reimbursed every person who tested negative, that would cost the American taxpayers about, \$2,133,600,00. Again, that is assuming that every single one of the people who reported using drugs was a welfare recipient. So, my question is, is it really worth it? Are there no other solutions to help the taxpayers save money?

Why I March: A Response to Those Who Were “Too Good” To

By Jamie Parker

After the Women’s Marches that took place on Saturday, January 21st, the day after the Inauguration of Donald Trump, people all over the country took to the internet to tell the people who were participating in the marches how they felt about it.

Many of those people were supportive of the marches that were happening nationwide. Yet there were some, as there always are, who were not as supportive. These people condemned the marchers as, “not real” women because they’re only marching for themselves, or how these marchers were being “irrational,” because the current administration hasn’t even done anything yet, or even how there is no need for this because women “already have equal rights.” So this is my response to those people. This is why I march.

First off, let me set the record straight. I am a straight, white, twenty-year-old, American girl who was brought up in an upper-middleclass household, in one of the most liberal states in the country. I have not known much struggle in my short life, and this me checking my privilege. I am not marching for myself. I am mostly marching for my sisters of all races, religions, class, sexual orientation etc. So I march for them.

I refuse to allow someone to tell me I am not a real woman because of how I choose to support my sisters. There is a



Photo courtesy of Susan Shure

picture circulating Facebook, as well as other social media sites of a few women standing in military uniforms with the caption, “Here are the Real Women who fight for your rights! #Womens-March.” Those women are absolute heroes. Nothing I ever do, or say could thank them enough for their service to my country and I. But their service does not me any less of a woman than them. Just because someone does not make the choice of military

service, doe by no means mean they are any less of a person than someone who does serve.

I march for the thousands of women in the military who have been raped, or sexually harassed by their male counterparts. The men that were supposed to have their backs, and then decided to stab them in it. I march for women to have to sign up for the draft, just like men. So I march for our service women.

I refuse to be called “irrational” because the current administration hasn’t done anything yet. In a brief interview with Professor Susan Blake, she said “We wanted to show him and his administration that our eyes are on them. From day one we are watching you, and counting on the decisions you make for us.” Which I think sums it up quite nicely.

We are here, from the literal day one. Generations of women have been fighting battles with government since we established our government. We have come so far since Women’s Suffrage, and it would simply be tragic if this administration were to bring us back to where we have been before in the past. We still have a long way to go, and many more generations of fighting for what we want. So I march for my daughters.

“We wanted to show him and his administration that our eyes are on them. From day one we are watching you, and counting on the decisions you make for us.”

All of that progress being said, women are still not equal to men. Economically, women still make about 80 cents for every \$1 a man makes. This takes place everywhere from Hollywood roles such as, Emmy Rossum, who recently fought for equal pay as her co-star William H. Macy on the highly rated show, Shameless. It takes place all the way up the ladder to CEO positions of major companies.

We also aren’t equal in the sense of safety. We are still urged to never be alone, whether that be walking home, or even going to the bathroom. Women are never to go anywhere without an escort. Plus, when women do choose to be promiscuous, or choose to embrace their sexual identity, they are immediately chastised for being “sluts,” and “whores,” but when men do the same they’re perceived as a god amongst their friends. And those issues are just those happening here! Don’t even get me started on how women are treated in places like the Middleeast. We have come exceptionally far, especially in comparison to the struggling women in other countries. So I march for them.

I march for all women, not just me, not just American women, or white women, or straight women. I march for every woman, and their allies. We are all in this together, and I will continue to march for as long as I have to.

Is a college athlete entitled to the benefits they typically receive?

By: Tyler Morgan

If your child was recruited to play a Division sport, didn't have to pay for school, food, or clothing, would you still want them to be paid? For many reasons, I believe college athletes shouldn't be paid.

There are many benefits that College athletes receive for playing sports at school. I asked friends of mine who were Division 1 as well as Division 2 athletes about benefits they or other athletes they know receive. They mentioned how these benefits that the athletes receive include first class travel, free food at some of the best schools across the country, private tutoring, as well as free clothes.

Although some may think that is nothing, they need to consider that not any student can just go to the store and buy one shirt that cost \$30, while these athletes are

getting some of the more expensive athletic wear and lots of it. Also they get shoe benefits because most of these schools are sponsored by Jordan, Nike, Under Armour and Adidas. The big time schools travel all across the country by plane and coach buses, which are not cheap by any means, and the amount of food that some of these teams eat costs a lot of money.

Nobody is making these players attend these Division 1 schools. Many athletes argue that they don't have time to eat, study, or have any free time. An article by *CNN* quoted March Madness Tournament Championship point guard from UCO-NN, Shabazz Napier, saying, "I go to bed starving". I think that those are just excuses because if you want to be successful and become a pro, which many of these

athletes do, you have to do what it takes; becoming a pro athlete is not supposed to be easy.

An article from *U.S. News* said, "Students are not professional athletes who are paid salaries and incentives for a career in sports. They are students receiving access to a college education through their participation in sports, for which they earn scholarships to pay tuition fees, room and board, and other allowable expenses.

Collegiate sports is not a career or profession; some of the most successful people in the world didn't make it big by having it easy. Some people went hungry and lived on ketchup and mustard sandwiches, ran on barely any sleep and no free time and now are some of the most successful people in the world such as the NBA Dallas Maver-

icks owner Mark Cuban.

Mark Cuban stated, "I had a whole lot of fun and loved my life when I was eating mustard and ketchup sandwiches and sleeping on the floor of a 3 bedroom apartment that housed me and 5 buddies".

Since people argue that college athletes should be paid because they are looked at as full time employees, it is fair to relate big time colleges to big time businesses. Colleges are making money each year, but just like other business, they have costs to cover and people to pay for all of the resources being used whether you're an athlete or not. If these athletes were to get paid, how and who would determine how much they should be paid?

Then another argument would come into question: why are men getting paid more than women?

It would be too difficult and controversial to break up an even pay scale due to better performance even though all athletes are putting in the same amount of time.

To ignore these controversies, it is beneficial that the NCAA avoids paying players any extra income. In conclusion, I believe a college athlete that has earned free tuition, food, clothing and plenty of other things, I feel they should not be paid. It would cause many issues on and off of the field/court.

You have to remember at the end of the day these students are still kids and unfortunately money can cause a lot of issues. They choose to go play a sport for a reason and that is to excel at their craft and earn a free education.

Time to work, Time to study

By Santiago Ferreira Vila

Wake up. Go to class. Come home. Go to work. Do homework. Repeat. That is the life of many students at Mount Wachusett Community College. Financial aid may help students who are having trouble being able to pay off classes, but there is still the matter of personal purchases and bills students need to pay off as well. Many jobs can either be flexible with the students schedule while others may snarl at the fact that the job itself isn't the student's number one priority.

Jobs can range from either part-time to full-time, to some even seasonal workers. Either way, it's a clash of the interests' battle that always leaves the student in shambles.

"I had to leave my old job to a new one," commented 25 year old Joshua Needham. Needham recently left Dunkin Donuts in pursuit of a new Job at Rent-A-Center. "All the free time I had out of class, they took."

Joshua is a full time student and faces the same problem many other full time students have, which is balancing both school work and regular work. He said he now has a more "flexible schedule at Rent-A-Center". Needham works about twenty-eight hours a week and is more satisfied with the "friendly management" at his current job.

Though some students may have difficulties juggling both school work and regular work,

others are calmer and can find openings in their schedule. Twenty-one year old Collin Reynolds works at Shirley Catering and is also a full time student. "I put about twenty five hours into work a week and twenty five hours of class time and homework a week."

Reynolds has been working at Shirley Catering for a few years now, and they've always been able to work around his class schedule. "I work more weekends than weekdays, so it's never built up too much stress".

Other jobs vary in whether they can be stressful or not. Nineteen-year old Matt Ford attends MWCC full time and works about 20-25 hours a week at Shaw's. "It isn't that work is hard; it's just that the amount of time classes and schoolwork take up stops me from working any more than I am."

According to Ford, supermarkets like Shaw's hire enough people so that the employers can easily work around a student's schedule. On the other hand, twenty-year old Rafael Donascimento spends about 25 - 30 hours at Oak Hill Country Club. He worked there for about four years. "I've gotten used to the job." Donascimento's job has him working afternoons for short shifts, but he still finds time to focus on school.

A little fix here. A little fix there.

By Santiago Ferreira Vila

Construction. The one nightmare that affects almost every commuter, whether it is just a simple (or not so simple) one-lane closing, or an entire street wiped out. Mount Wachusett Community College has a student body of about 10,000, according to its website, and every one of those students are commuters. Construction; unfortunately; makes the effort of driving to the school difficult. Whether it be the Gardner, Leominster, or Devens campus.

Commuting towards the Devens Campus shouldn't be all that bad. Located off Route 2, exit 37, there is no major roadwork being done. This means your cars should be taking a smooth ride, which it is unless you're coming westbound and enjoy taking the scenic route through Leominster. As of now, Leominster is renovating one of its busiest streets, Mechanic Street. This street spans from downtown, all the way towards the Old Union Turnpike bordering Lancaster. For some commuters, the Route 2 west exit is located off Mechanic St. The street has either been torn up or filled with man-made potholes. That's right, they make their own potholes in the streets, as if we didn't have enough to swerve through. According to the MassDot website, the work on Mechanic Street is project number 604928, and is planned to run until spring 2017.

The car is an important tool, one that needs to be taken care

of very carefully. The amount of damage potholes and stripped roads can do to your car is extensive. According to the Fires-tone website, "pothole damage is an everyday road hazard and a tricky one at that". Construction on major roads such as Mechanic St. can puncture your tires completely or even cause suspension damage or misalignment. Now I'm not saying this roadwork is unnecessary, but I think I speak for every driver, whether they take Mechanic or any other major road that is having work done, that there needs to be more precautions for areas like this. With every second my car runs on these kinds of streets, it is slowly losing a second of its life.

Another major problem with construction is the work being done on highways. Again, this is not me blasting the cities and towns for wanting to fix up what needs to be fixed. I'm just saying that they should be done at times where major traffic is not occurring. Let's say; for example, not during the morning rush hour? People are headed to work and students off to class, but they are met with staggering speeds and frequent stops on the highways. Why? Because someone thought the best time to work on a bridge was when everyone needed to cross under it. I'll be more specific, the Route 140 bridge in Westminster, the one that overpasses route 2 east and west. Currently MassDot sees this as project 86777 and is set to be finished fall 2016, but doesn't seem like it so far.

Many who travel this route to head to the Mount in the mornings would recognize this project, mostly due to closing lanes at the most random times. With personal experience of commuting Monday through Thursday to get from Leominster to Gardner, I can tell you the frustration of travelling through there.

For a few weeks at the start of the semester, it seemed as if the bridge was under repairs, yet at the morning travel times there was no sign of workers or any obstructions of the road. Unfortunately, I got used to that. One day I was driving down that exact area on Route 2, no signs or pre warnings beforehand, and to my surprise the right lane was closed. Now a regular driver probably hits about 60 mph on that stretch, so when a whole lane is blocked out of nowhere, you can imagine the strain a driver puts on his breaks, especially when the left lane is full. What did not help the sudden stop, was the tow truck twice the size of my car, coming up behind me, still going 60. If it wasn't for that driver's quick thinking into turning towards the breakdown lane, I would have been hit for sure.

Now again I want to say that this is not an attack towards what I'm sure is much needed construction, but more a comment on the execution on how the work is done. Many commuters face similar problems of delay or damage to their own cars, just putting an overall strain on their days.



Photo courtesy of eschiplan on Flickr

Superbowl LI: Who will reign victorious?

By Stevie LaBelle

After two very heated and epic conference championship games, we are left with not one, but two teams looking to dominate Superbowl LI.

The NFC Championship game ended with a score of 44-21 with the Atlanta Falcons crushing the dreams of Green Bay Packers fans everywhere. There was an apparent lead throughout majority of the championship game.

After the first half, the Packers were not even on the board. Despite the best efforts of both their offense and defense, they could not catch up and the Falcons are the ones proceeding onto the Superbowl.

The AFC Championship game ended with a score of 36-17 with the New England Patriots leaving the Pittsburgh Steelers hoping for a better chance next season.

This means both games ended with almost a 20 point or more lead. Which team will lead going into the Superbowl on Sunday February 5th, 2017?

Some clues to look at include the top players in both championship games. For the New England Patriots, Tom Brady set a new high post-season record for himself with 384 passing yards. Another to mention for the Pa-

triotics would definitely be Chris Hogan. Hogan caught 9 passes and scored twice. This will be Tom Brady's seventh Super Bowl Appearance, having won four Superbowls so far.

As for the Atlanta Falcons, they had two key players that helped lead to the success of their championship: Matt Ryan and Julio Jones. Matt Ryan threw 392 yards, had 4 touchdowns

and made a 14 yard scoring run. Julio Jones had 9 catches, and 2 scores. This victory may light a special fire under Matt Ryan as this is his ninth season and his first Super Bowl.

Superbowl LI will be held at NRG Stadium in Houston, TX on February 5th at 6:30pm EST.

Preview of the 2017 Boston Red Sox

By Nick Cherico

After having a couple of down years, in 2016 the Boston Red Sox finished 93-69 and first in the American League East for the first time since 2013. However it did not end too well for them because the Cleveland Indians swept them in the first round of the playoffs. Going into the offseason, Boston was looking to build on their success from the prior season.

At the the beginning of the season, the Red Sox already knew that they would be dealing with the departure of one of the greatest players in team history, David Ortiz. According to espn.com, in 2016 Ortiz hit 38 home runs, 48 doubles, and hit with a .315 average, which was good enough for 6th overall in the American League.

Ortiz's production and leadership will be very hard to

replace next season. To try and do that, the Red Sox signed first baseman Mitch Moreland. According to baseball-reference.com, Moreland has a career batting average of .254 and has hit 110 homeruns and 125 doubles. While Moreland's production will definitely help out this team, it will not add up to what Ortiz has meant to Boston over his career.

Dave Dombrowski, President of Baseball Operations, also knew that he had to make a major splash if he wanted to solidify his starting pitching rotation and his bullpen. Dombrowski did exactly that by trading for both Chris Sale and Tyler Thornburg.

According to baseball-reference.com, in his 7-year career Sale has an ERA of 3.00 and 1,244 strikeouts. Sale has also been an all-star every year

since 2012 along with being on the Cy Young Award ballot since 2012. The acquisition of Sale, paired up with 2016 Cy Young Award winner Rick Porcello, David Price, Eduardo Rodriguez, and Drew Pomeranz gives the Red Sox many different options to go with in their starting rotation.

Thornburg on the other hand, while not posting sensational numbers over his 5-year career like Sale, has proven that he can be a reliable option coming out of the bullpen. This is something that the Red Sox did not have a lot of last season. According to base-ballreference.com, Thornburg posted career highs in saves, strikeouts, and ERA over his 67 appearances last season. If Thornburg can improve on these numbers, he will be able to help a Red Sox bullpen that finished

in the middle of the pack last season.

With all of these acquisitions and the talent that the Red Sox already had on their roster, they are already penciled in as one of the favorites to make

the World Series. According to vegasinsider.com, the Las Vegas Pro Baseball Future Sports book gives the Red Sox the second best odds at winning the World Series at 11/2.

Predictions

Opening Day Starter: Rick Porcello

Record: 98-64 (5 more wins than 2016)

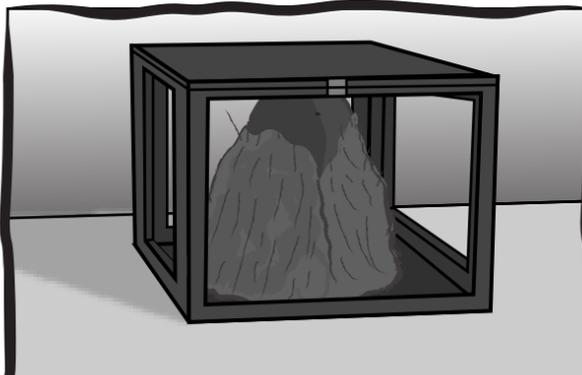
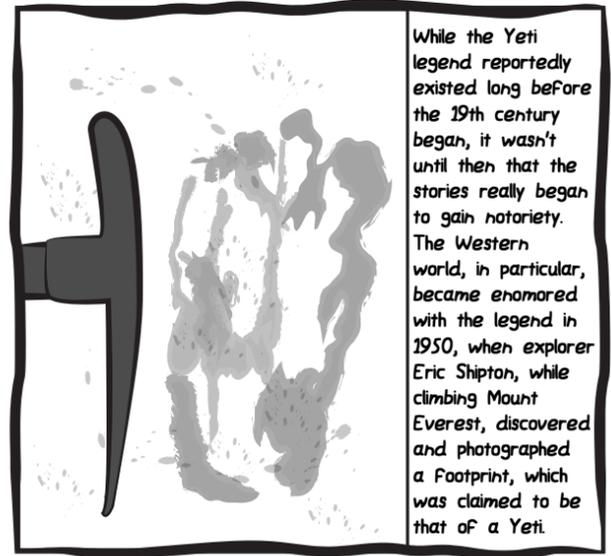
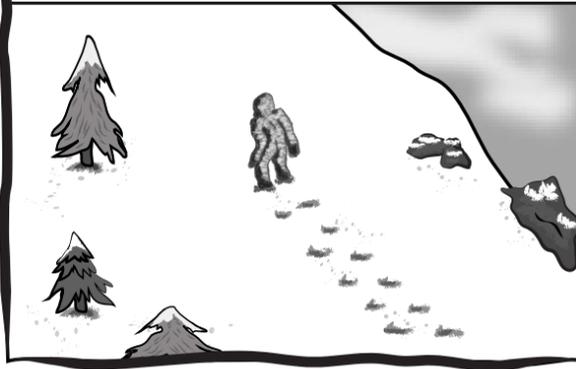
Playoffs: AL East Champions, World Series

While the departure of David Ortiz is going to be a huge blow to the Red Sox offense, they do still have plenty of other weapons on the offensive side that can get the job done. With the acquisition of Chris Sale, the Red Sox are believed by many GMs and writers around the league to now own the best pitching staff in the American League. Yankees GM Brian Cashman was even quoted as saying that the Red Sox are now "the Golden State Warriors of baseball", or the new super team in the MLB. No other team in the American League has improved the way that Boston has, and with their young talent only getting better, they are going to be a force to be reckoned with next season.

Comics



One of the most famous monster legends in the world tells of a large, mysterious, hairy creature that traverses the snow-covered peaks of the Himalayan mountain range. This creature goes by many names, though to most of the world, it is known as either the Abominable Snowman, or, originally, the Yeti.



Some explorers have looked for proof of the Yeti's existence by researching alleged artifacts held by monks native to the mountains, including a "Yeti scalp." After being DNA tested, however, it was proven to actually be a taxidermed fake, made from the pelt of a serow, a goat-like animal native to the Himalayas.



If the Yeti is not a monster, a creature all unto its own, then what could it be? Answers have ranged from a new species of ape, to hoaxes, to misidentification of known animals, such as the Himalayan brown bear (the Himalayan words for "Yeti" and "bear" are sometimes mixed up or misused, adding to the confusion).

Whether the Yeti is fact or fiction, the truth remains that it has had an enormous impact on popular culture and monster legends since its introduction to the world at large. Perhaps someday its true nature will be revealed; until then, it shall remain one of the most beloved and inspiring of the Monster Tales.



Creative Writing

I Remember My First Cigarette

By Jocelyn Leger

I remember my first cigarette.

I was fourteen and my grandmother told me to hold it while she went into the store;

I remember watching the smoke dance off the tip into the air. It had its own solo.

It pranced where it pleased and twirled into the once clean air, now poisoned.

I wondered if it could turn my lungs into a ballroom.

So I set up the dance floor, sent out invitations and danced for the next two years.

When I couldn't catch my breath during my routines anymore I discovered that my addiction to dancing had become detrimental to my health.

I hung up my dancing shoes.

Over the year I had many partners

I tangoed with Newports, slow danced with the Marlboro man, went swinging with camels, even disco with DTC.

I swayed and moved and jumped and spun and I learned the choreography to every song.

I didn't dance for years -

There were far too many blisters on my feet and my knees wouldn't allow me to stand for too long but when you flicked your lighter that one night and looked at me I saw my old routines in your smoke.

You asked if I wanted to dance and for the first time in years I heard music from my chest and felt rhythm in my breathing.

This time around, I didn't have many partners, I had you and a pack of LM Blues, and the three of us danced for the next year and a half.

We danced until one day you couldn't keep up, and then the next day you told me how you hated the way I managed to dance everywhere I go.

But you neglect to remember that I had given up dancing, and you refuse to acknowledge that it was you who took my hand and spun me around.

Although you hated my dancing, you never turned the music off, and you would spend all night practicing new routines while I sat down and watched.

You have quit dancing with me and found a new partner - but you took my dancing shoes with you.

For that, I thank you.

You have ridged my body of toxins and opened my eyes to bad habits,

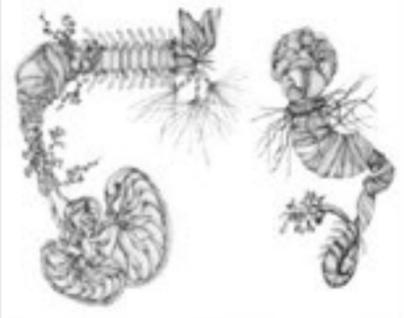
My lungs are now longer a ballroom.

I feel music in worthier places.

I hope wherever you and my shoes are,

that they fit her better.

EAST WING GALLERY ~ Mount Wachusett Community College
SPRING 2017 EXHIBITIONS, GALLERY TALKS & EVENTS



Specimens, (W)holes and In-Habitats
Drawings and Prints by
Maggie Nowinski
February 22 - March 21
Gallery Talk: Wednesday, March 8
3:30-4:30 p.m.
Reception: Friday, Feb. 24, 5:30-7:30
< *Abductions Series III: Leviathan*, 2015
< *Abductions Series IV: Muscleshed*, 2016

34th Annual Regional High School Art Exhibition & Competition
April 3 - April 21
Reception & Awards: Thurs., April 6, 6-8 p.m.





46th Annual MWCC Student Art Exhibition
Work from foundation & advanced art courses
May 5 - May 17
< Lynch, Kevin, *Marsh Etc. 1*, 2016, oil on canvas

Exhibition in the glass cases

Mark Burnett
Sculptures
February 6 - March 9
Gallery Talk: Thursday, Feb. 16
12:30 - 1:30 p.m.
Reception: Friday, Feb. 24, 5:30-7:30
Untitled, 2013, bronze, 16 x 6 x 6 in. >



For more information contact: Joyce Miller, Gallery Director
j_miller@mwcc.mass.edu or visit MWCC Art Dept. Facebook page

WOMEN'S MARCH

By Michael R Young

I do not have a womb or breasts.
I am a man and I care.
I could not bear or nourish a child.
I am a man and I care.
I was refused to be a midwife because
I am a man, yet I care.
I was born of a woman and I care.
I have family – a wife, a sister, daughters and grand daughters – all women and I care.
For those of color – black and tan, red and white – I care.
For those of transgender, trans sexuality,

I care.
For immigrants, Latinos, Syrian refugees, legal and illegal aliens, I care.
For those of All faiths – Christian, Muslim, Jew Hindu, Buddhist – and none, I care.
For those with or without jobs, with or without homes, I care.
For the sick and the poor I care.
For those who are powerful and those powerless I care.
I am a man with a heart, and I care.

The last word in the dictionary

By James Pelletier

I look through the dictionary wondering which one will be my last word and what letter it will begin with and what letter will it end.





Anna Maria College

Criminal Justice • Fire Science/Emergency Management • Social Work • Business Education • Psychology • Art • Graphic Design ... AND MORE

3 Reasons to **TRANSFER TO AMC**

<p>1 PROXIMITY</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Minutes from Gardner AMC is closer than you think.</p>	<p>2 EASE</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">AMC is transfer friendly, with a generous transfer credit policy.</p>	<p>3 AFFORDABILITY</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">AMC offers merit scholarships in the range of \$15-20K annually.</p>
---	---	---

For more information, contact Susan Murphy at smurphy@annamaria.edu or 508-849-3798.

annamaria.edu/transfer | 508.849.3798



Mount Wachusett
Community College



Earn an Elms College Bachelor's Degree at MWCC

**ACCEPTING
APPLICATIONS
NOW**



Competitive Pricing

RN-BS Program

- ***Now only a 15-Month Program***
- ***Allows you to transfer up to 90 credits***
- ***Requires only 30 residency credits***
- ***Includes six graduate level credits***

Make an appointment for an interview/transcript review and have your questions answered.

Financial aid available

For more information contact:

Virginia Newell-Stokes, MS, R.N., Academic Program Coordinator & Academic Advisor
413-265-9521 • newellstokesv@elms.edu

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

WWW.ELMS.EDU/MWCC