

The Mount Observer

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

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A Tribute to the Late Professor Edward Stevens



Photo courtesy of Stevens' family

Professor Stevens and his daughter.

By Nick Cherico,
OBSERVER STAFF

On April 26, every member of the Mount Wachusett community was saddened to learn of the death of Professor Edward Stevens. Stevens was a MWCC faculty member for 51 years of his life, teaching various courses in science, electronics, and mathematics.

According to the faculty page on the Science Department's website, Professor Stevens wrote this about himself: he enjoyed gardening, skiing, swimming, hiking, reading, and playing tennis. Stevens believed that emphasizing to students how science is involved in everyday life was very important, which is why he taught science courses, according to the faculty page.

"Students were very upset to hear the news" said Janice Barney, Dean of the School of Business, Science, and Technology. When speaking on how Stevens will be remembered, she said, "students and faculty are all going to miss his sense of humor and his depth of knowledge on every topic." Barney said that she is available for any students who need to talk.

Danielle Wasleski, Liberal Arts major, had earth science with Professor Stevens last fall semester. Wasleski stated that Stevens would often say how much his students surprised him, which would crack a smile on his face. She also said that Stevens was very organized and spoke

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"Tribute" >>>

How to Use the PaperCut Printing System

By Joshua Needham,
OBSERVER STAFF

With the recent upgrade to the PaperCut printing system it seemed as though it was a broken and expensive system that no one knew how to use.

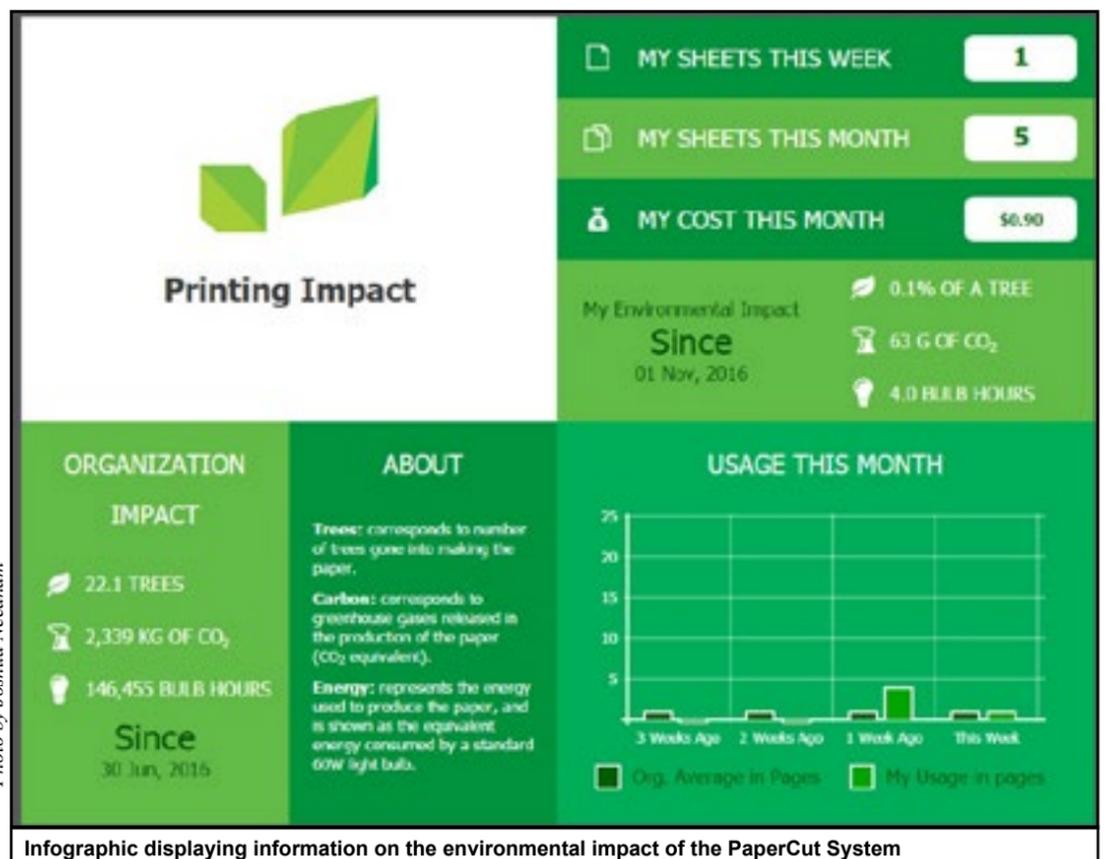
What is a FOB and do I need one in order to print? How do I add money to my account? Why did the company have to call their software PaperCut? Fear not! Some of these questions will be answered (we're still not sure why they chose PaperCut for a name, perhaps they will add a future update called LemonJuice).

The PaperCut system is a printing software that allows students to add documents to their account for printing and then print those documents from any printer in the school. Adding documents to print is incredibly

simple, you don't even need to make a new account and remember a new password! Simply going to papercut.mwcc.mass.edu and logging in with your MWCC student ID and password gets you access to your account.

Funding can be added to the account through a personal debit card directly on the PaperCut website, or in cash by purchasing reload cards from the school library. Funds can be added online in amounts as small as \$1. It was recommended not to add more than you think you'll use during your career here at MWCC, because those funds won't transfer with you to another school, even if that school also uses the PaperCut system.

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"PaperCut" >>>



Infographic displaying information on the environmental impact of the PaperCut System

Staying Awake: What You Might Not Know About Energy Drinks

By Nick Cherico,
OBSERVER STAFF

Almost every college student knows what it's like to be a little sleep deprived. The countless hours of school, work, and trying to maintain a social life can begin to take a toll on you after a while. To boost energy and performance, some people like to drink coffee, use energy boosters, or consume energy drinks.

While energy drinks can give you that boost you need to get through the day, they also can bring a various amount of health risks. According to a study done by Longwood University, "Energy drinks have been found to increase headaches, migraines, insomnia, and type II Diabetes." Energy drinks, such as Monster Energy, also contain caffeine, which can cause dehydration when overused. Dehydration can cause the jitters, anxiety, and irritability.

According to the study, a large energy drink can fill your body with up to 294 mg of caffeine, and they contain a significantly larger amount of sugar in comparison to a cup of coffee. Sugar and caffeine levels vary based on the brand of the drink.

Energy drinks also contain stimulants such as taurine, ephedrine, guarana, and ginseng. These stimulants are used to accelerate the effects of sugar and caffeine. This is a problem because these stimulants can cause your body to overwork, and ultimately lead your body to crash, or grab another energy drink.

Micah Clark, a student at the Mount, has been drinking Monster dating back to his days in high school. "It's like candy for me," stated Clark.

Clark usually drinks coffee and tea, but because of the long days spent at school, he tends to lean on energy drinks a bit

more during the fall and spring. Knowing the risks that come with energy drinks, Clark only has one drink per day. He tries to make the drink last all day, so he doesn't have to drink more than one.

Clark stated that he might be

drinks, he stated that he prefers the wide variety of flavors that it provides. Other energy drinks that Clark falls on include Rockstar, NOS, and Full Throttle.

Clark also stated that there is a noticeable difference in all the different kinds of energy drinks.

"Energy drinks have been found to increase headaches, migraines, insomnia, and type II Diabetes."

able to link headaches he has experienced with the consumption of energy drinks. He believes that drinking energy drinks while already having a headache or migraine can only increase those effects. Therefore, he tries to limit himself.

When asked why Clark prefers Monster over other energy

This difference is based on the different levels of caffeine and sugar that each drink contains. In Rockstar specifically, he stated that the fruit punch flavored drink is much more powerful than the regular flavored drink.

At MWCC, energy drinks such as Monster Energy are one of the school's top sellers. According

to Lynne Francoise, Dining Services Manager at the college, the school goes through 8-12 cases of Monster a week. That's about 96-144 cans. The closest beverage to it in comparison to sales is water.

The main demographic of students purchasing Monster fall into the age range of 18-25 years old, according to Francoise. These sales have increased with the recent introduction of the new purple Monster Energy drink.

Francoise stated that "We make every effort to sell what customers want, while promoting healthy choices." She also stated that the school offers a wide variety of choices for people to make their own decisions based on personal preference. She recommends drinking water as a healthier alternative.



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Tribute

>>> *continued from page 1*

whatever was on his mind. He would always have something to say to make the whole class laugh, according to Wasleski.

Kenneth Takvorian, Professor in mathematics in electronics, taught electronics courses side by side with Stevens for 22 years. When speaking about Stevens, you could see his eyes fill up with emotion. "I was in a daze when I got the news," stated Takvorian. He viewed Stevens as a mentor to him for many years. Takvorian and Stevens were very close, as Takvorian would often say that they were the only two "full-blooded Armenians" on campus.

Lorie Donahue, English Professor, shared an office next to Stevens for many years. "I am so saddened by losing my hallway mate," stated Donahue. She will remember him as a

committed and hardworking man, who always showed up to work no matter the weather. Donahue will also remember the in-depth talks they had about Greek and Armenian culture, along with the gardening tips they shared.

Michelle Valois, English Professor, also shared an office next to Stevens for nearly 15 years. Valois said that "Ed was a grounding presence in that crazy corridor." She often wondered how he put up with her and her "crazy English comrades", but he seemed to tolerate them and was sometimes even amused by their rantings, according to Valois.

She saw Stevens as a father figure, as she would be able to speak to him about things totally unrelated to their work such as car troubles, "Ed was always generous with his time and his advice. He will be greatly missed."

Susan Taylor, Professor in computer information systems, stated that Stevens enrolled in many of her programming courses. She will remember Stevens as "an engaging student who seemed to appreciate the opportunity to learn." Taylor will also remember Stevens' brightly colored ski vests that he would wear on the slopes of Mount Wachusett. "You couldn't miss him," according to Taylor.

Stevens' courses this semester included earth science, physics, and one math course. Each of these courses will be finished with a plan customized based on the state they were in before Stevens passed, according to Janice Barney. Memorial contributions can be made to the Edward H. Stevens Scholarship Fund, Mount Wachusett Community College, 444 Green St., Gardner, MA, 01440.

PaperCut

>>> *continued from page 1*

Still wondering about the FOB? Sadly, it doesn't stand for Fall Out Boy. A FOB is a device that costs about two dollars and will store your login information so you can skip the login step when using a printer at the school. In all reality, as long as you can remember your login info, this will only save you a few seconds when going to print and this reporter would suggest not bothering to get one.

"What about the impact on the environment," I hear you ask. Fear not, PaperCut's online portal has a small button at the bottom of your account summary page called "Environmental Dashboard." Clicking on it will bring you to what could be called "fifty shades of green" and will show you your personal impact on the environment as well as the school's collective impact.

When you print multiple pages using PaperCut, the system will automatically double-side sheets for you to save on paper waste. However, you will still be charged ten cents per page, not per sheet of paper. So a six page word doc will print on three sheets double-sided and cost sixty cents to print. That may seem cruel, but anyone that owns a printer can vouch: ink is expensive.

Overall, the PaperCut system wasn't as bad or difficult as we thought it would be and takes minimal effort to start using. The library has a useful handout with all of the steps and the staff down there were willing to answer all of my obscure questions, so there's no doubt they'll help you as well.

If you've had any PaperCut horror stories, or would like to share your thoughts on the new system, let us know by Tweeting us @MountObserver.

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springfield.edu/transferad

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Find Unique Items at Rietta Ranch this Summer!

By Micah Clark

On April 2nd, Rietta Ranch opened for the year after its winter break; this large and popular flea market has a large assortment of vendors attracting shoppers from all around. Located at 183 Gardner road along route 68 in Hubbardston, this flea market is one of the largest in the North East.

As a flea market, it is like an organized mass garage sale, which accounts for variety and maybe rarity of the things you can find. You really don't know what you might find because anybody can rent a table and sell old stuff like at a garage sale. Many tables sell things that are decades old, and seeing these vintage items can give you a little look into the past, and can be a nostalgia trip if it's something from your own history. You may find tables that have an assortment of comic

books from the 70s that you can purchase for fifty cents each.

In addition, you can find video game cartridges and controllers for old generation video game systems. If you like antiques or stuff that is vintage, it's the perfect place if you ever wanted to find artifacts from the 80s, like old toys, or VHS tapes from the 90s. How about old records or maybe even laserdiscs? You can find playing cards and vinyl record. Rare coins are sold by other vendors, and so on. You can even sell stuff yourself if you rent a table.

Flea markets are not just for people selling old used items. All sorts of cheap goods in large quantities are sold, in case you need clothes hangers or deodorant, etc. Maybe a military surplus merchant has set up shop and you can see camouflage jackets and bullet proof plate carriers.

One person might be selling stones and crystals for making necklaces, and another sells BB guns. Candy, towels, brushes all are available, and one person has entire rows of plastic bins full of miscellaneous supplies.

Rietta Ranch is partly like a farmer's market; you can find lots of fruits and vegetable produce, but also all sorts of small business products. There is honey, and another person may be selling candles. Inside the large vendors building is a lady who sells homemade incense sticks with a variety of scents. Another person in the building sells baked goods, like lemon bars and marshmallow covered brownies.

A morning spent at Rietta is an enjoyable experience of looking over various oddities, bargains, and the occasional gem find. If you love garage sales, then you will love Rietta Ranch.



A row of vendors at Rietta Ranch Flea Market

Source: <http://riettafleamarket.com/vendor-information/>

Mount Professor Helps Bring Awareness to Mental Health Issues

By Micah Clark

Professor of Psychology and Human Services, Sheila Murphy and her students, recently set up informational display tables as part of a Mental Health Awareness Campaign. The display tables highlight specific events that take place multiple times a year and are meant to focus on specific issues. At every event, students from Professor Murphy's Abnormal Psychology class set up a presentation dedicated to bringing awareness to mental health issues and to encourage individuals not to stigmatize people who suffer from them.

"We want to let individuals with mental health problems know they are not alone and that mental illness is no different from a physical illness" said Murphy, "Every individual can make a difference on campus and within the community and can help reduce stigma through awareness, education and advocacy."

Every day on campus, there are different mental health issues highlighted. On April 20th, the issues were Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (O.C.D.) and Schizophrenia. Other

topics included disorders like depression, bipolar disorder, and seasonal affective disorder (S.A.D.), which happens when people get depressed based on the changing of seasons.

The service learning project for students this semester was themed around two disorders, anxiety and substance addiction. Two tables were set up in the hallway with poster boards describing these afflictions.

or suffer, but to understand their pain and to help them get help.

Past mental health awareness campaign included mood disorders, substance abuse, anxiety, and eating disorders. One event was focused on suicide awareness, with different tables set up about different local mental health agencies that people can contact to get help, if they or someone they know has suicidal thoughts. There

"Every individual can make a difference on campus and within the community and can help reduce stigma through awareness, education and advocacy."

Murphy's students were glad to tell any who would listen about realities facing people with these issues.

Anxiety testers, stress balls, and candy were handed out along with information regarding these two situations. Both students and staff were encouraged to sign an anti-stigma pledge. The whole effort is based around not shaming people who are addicts

was also a panel presentation with professionals and people impacted by suicide.

Professor Murphy and her abnormal Psychology class would like to "shift the view on those living with mental health conditions to a perspective of acceptance and understanding" and to "promote acceptance and constantly challenge mental health stereotypes."



Source: courtesy Nathan Davis, <https://www.ftcr.com/photos/faxpilot/6984844254>

The International Student Experience

By Klai Iheb

Being an international student is a big adventure. It is a new life that we should be completely prepared for before going for it. That is why many people decide to leave in the middle of their experience, while others stay for years. I personally learned how to overcome obstacles more quickly than other people. This situation makes me a person who is able to travel and live everywhere in the world and communicate with everybody whatever the language is, and now I am able to say: "It was not easy but I made it."

Being an international student means being famous. A lot of people know me and want to talk to me. They always think that I am different and I am going to

fascinate them with my culture such as my lifestyle, my hobbies, and even my music. They find everything I say hilarious. Through my experience as an international student, I found that interesting and helpful to adapt easily in a short period. However, the fears and the challenges I faced during my time abroad are probably more than the good time I had.

One of the main disappointments of some students living abroad is the failure to make local friendships. It is really hard to change my life and start talking in another language with new people. Some students find themselves lost and give up in the first days. Some other students are open to new experiences and go through the

personal transformation easily.

In my point of view, I found that it is the best way to adapt and it really works. Due to the big change, most of international students are slow learners with poor language and communication skills because of this total life change. In addition to that, they have a limited participation in class or conferences; also they cannot think critically, that is why they need help so badly. I personally went through those phases and I was in rough situations all the time. But after spending so much time learning from others, I realized that a hard life can make everybody mature enough and ready to start building the future step by step.



Diversity in the student body.

Source: Westminster College, Fulton, MO. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:15%25_of_Westminster_students_body_is_international_students_representing_71_different_countries.jpg

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Thoughts on Graduation

By Courtney Wentz,
OBSERVER STAFF

Graduating from high school was not as exciting or scary as graduating from MWCC is turning out to be.

Some people will be looking for a new job in their chosen field, some will be transferring, and some might decide to get another degree. Whatever it is, we will all begin a new chapter in our lives. Change can be terrifying because it is new, unfamiliar, and unknown.

It would be great, if I could continue hiding in the newsroom, covering the chalkboard with story ideas and editing tips, filling the white board with inspirational quotes, and the computer with sticky notes of things to do. I am going to miss our weekly meetings and rushing to get articles done for the deadline.

I will also miss the support from professors, especially those who let me constantly bug them when their doors were open. Thank you, for the advice and inspiration you gave.

The rest of the faculty and staff have also been helpful in directing me to the correct place to go, or suggestions of how to

go about doing something.

It would be incredibly simple to do another degree at MWCC, but it is time to move on. It is time to learn more and have experiences that staying at a small school cannot offer. It may be frightening, but thinking about the possibilities of the future is thrilling, and I cannot wait.

President Vander Hoover said, "While I have only been on board at MWCC for a couple of months, I am proud of the graduates of 2017. I know that each and every one of our graduates have overcome obstacles, sometimes great obstacles, to become successful both inside and outside of the classroom. I hope that each graduate knows that they can always return for advising should they ever need it. I wish the graduates the very best in their future and the future of their families."

Graduation will take place on May 17th, on the Gardner campus in the Fitness and Wellness Center. The doors will open at 5:00 p.m. for guests and the ceremony will start at 6:00 p.m.

Congratulations class of 2017!

MWCC's Anime Club Attends Anime Boston

By Micah Clark

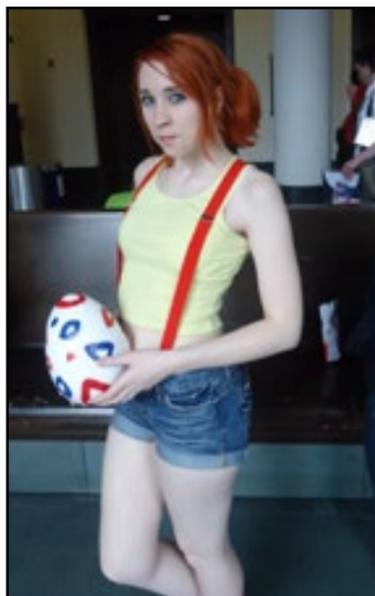
Taking place at the Hynes Convention Center adjacent to the Prudential Center near Back Bay station in Boston, Anime Boston is an annual spring event that members of MWCC's Anime Club attend. According to its website, Anime Boston is the largest anime convention in Northeast America and in 2016 this convention attracted 26,975 people.

Multiple stories tall, this convention site each year houses many discussion panels where relevant topics are discussed, as well as several vendors halls where people purchase goods ranging from Japanese animation shows and movies known as 'Anime', Japanese comic books called 'Manga,' costume supplies, and various other assorted merchandise, like art and clothing.

Amidst the thousands of people in attending crowds, many come dressed in costume as characters from anime, videogames, and various other things; these people are called 'Cosplayers' and many of these costumes are intricate and time-consuming to create.



A group of costumed people gathered for a photo.



Clockwise from top-left: An advertisement sign for Anime Boston above the entrance to the Hynes Convention center; Some people cosplay in groups, with costumes in the same style or from the same show; 'Terry Bogard' from 'King of fighters' (left) and Lord Akuma from 'Street Fighter' (right); A cosplayer dressed as Misty from 'Pokémon' with her Pokémon 'Togepi' as an egg; Here is a man dressed as Bob Ross, because not everybody who cosplays dresses as an anime character.

All photos by Micah Clark



Sculpture Students Participate in Annual Art Department Bronze Pour

By Nick Cherico, OBSERVER STAFF

On Thursday, April 13th, MWCC students participated in the art department’s annual bronze pouring. This year’s pouring was led by Thomas Matsuda, who is an Art Professor and Chair of the Department. Matsuda helped students prepare their own ceramic molds which they could then pour bronze into.



Clockwise from top-left: The molten bronze is removed from the furnace; The bronze is then poured into the ceramic molds, held in place in barrels of sand; the left over bronze is then poured out into molds to form ingots, which will be saved and melted down in next year’s pour; the melting pot is then placed back in the furnace to melt more bronze and repeat the process.

All photos by Nick Cherico



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

Remembering Edward Stevens

For fifty-one years, Ed Stevens was steadfast to the Mount;

For over half a century, true wisdom graced his classes.

At Haley none remained longer, too many years to count;

You could always rely on Ed, he thrived in helping the masses.

Ed began teaching when the Mount was young, a fledgling college;

The community needed educators and Ed Stevens answered its call.

Physics, Engineering, Math; to these Ed showed the light of knowledge.

His torches burned bright for generations; he was a man who stood tall.

Times changed; circumstances changed; Ed was a constant.

From Elm Street to Green Street, Ed taught at them all;

From Haley to Asquino to Vander Hooven; to help Ed was never hesitant.

He always served his students, every semester Spring and Fall.

As the years went by, thoughts of retirement were heard to mention;

Could a man in his seventies still shoulder such an awesome load?

Could someone pre-World War II still relate to the younger generation?

Ed succeeded and led scores of admiring students down education's road.

As an educator, Ed was second to none; his was the mold to follow;

As a family man, no one was finer nor more dedicated than he.

As a religious man, his faith was deep and without a trace of shallow.

As a friend, his loyalty and support could equaled never be.

Ed is no longer with us, and our hearts are heavy with sorrow;

His office is empty, his laboratory and classroom dark;

For those left behind, days without Ed seen like a sad endless tomorrow.

Without him, we are unsure; upon which path do we embark?

Despite the darkness, Ed's lesson in our hearts burns bright:

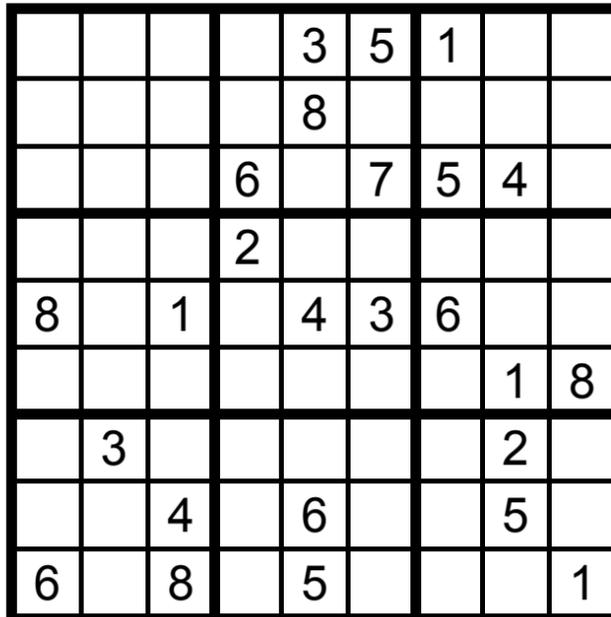
Never surrender, never despair; trust your mind and follow your heart!

Seek fulfillment in your work, find joy when your students see the light!

Ed's legacy is his family and his works; to follow him is in life where to start!

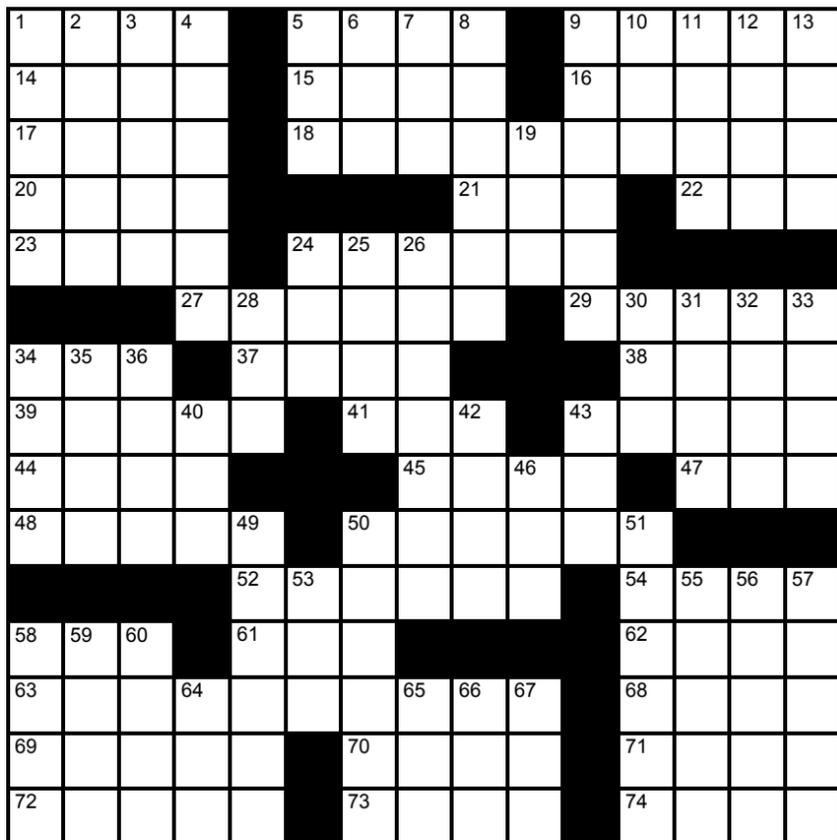
*Thank-you Ed for
Your Example,
William A. Lefrancois*

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 Taper
- 5 Attention-getter
- 9 College groups, for short
- 14 Groundless
- 15 Maui dance
- 16 France's longest river
- 17 Low-fat
- 18 Blue blood
- 20 First light
- 21 Adage
- 22 Resort
- 23 Besides
- 24 *Seinfeld* gal
- 27 Exit a computer
- 29 Change, as a clock
- 34 Japanese coin
- 37 Outcry

Down

- 38 Hot rock
- 39 High point
- 41 Hale
- 43 Tweak
- 44 Lab gel
- 45 Price
- 47 Sea eagle
- 48 Memos
- 50 Went to sea
- 52 Equally
- 54 Lip
- 58 Sign before
- 61 Bolivian export
- 62 Calf's meat
- 63 Distributions
- 68 Earthen pot
- 69 Kind of wave
- 70 Jacket
- 71 Knight fight
- 72 Undue speed
- 73 Weaponry
- 74 To be, in old Rome

Down

- 1 Dramatist Oscar
- 2 Perfect
- 3 Talons
- 4 Dog house
- 5 Triumphant cry
- 6 Heston role, *Ben* ___
- 7 Actor Wallach
- 8 Mountain group
- 9 Bloom
- 10 Mythical bird
- 11 Broadcasts
- 12 Golf hazard
- 13 Stiff hair
- 19 Sunburn
- 24 Conceit
- 25 Baker's unit
- 26 Bantu, for one
- 28 Crumb
- 30 Addition
- 31 Fill up

- 32 Eternally
- 33 Mountain pool
- 34 Glance over
- 35 Hence
- 36 Orderly
- 40 Sp. girl (Abbr.)
- 42 Drudgery
- 43 Dined
- 46 Cunning
- 49 Colonize
- 50 Nero's tutor
- 51 Dedicate
- 53 Energy
- 55 Food shops
- 56 Angers
- 57 Cheer up
- 58 Strip of wood
- 59 Charles Lamb's pen name
- 60 Auto name, for short
- 64 Bran source
- 65 Negative joiner
- 66 Scottish cap
- 67 Ave. crossers

Review of *13 Reasons Why*

By Brianna Stevens

It's 2 a.m. I should have been asleep hours ago, but here I am, crying my eyes out over *13 Reasons Why*. If you're like me, you, too, sobbed at the graphic depiction of suicide in the show. It was gut wrenching to watch.

If you have not seen it, *13 Reasons Why* is based on the book by Jay Asher, which was published in 2007. The show tells the story of Hannah Baker, played by Katherine Langford, a teenage girl who decides to commit suicide, and leaves behind tapes explaining her 13 reasons for this choice.

I was impressed with this Netflix Original Series, and yet, disturbed. It was a bold move to show all the graphic scenes that they did, which was done against professional advice. A "viewer discretion" warning popped up before at least 3 of the episodes because of the graphic content depicting rape, suicide, and general violence.

In the special, "13 Reasons Why: Behind the Reasons," Brian Yorkey, the executive producer of the show, said "we worked very hard not to be gratuitous, but we did want it to be painful to watch." During this scene, I was already crying and I was holding my stomach, gasping for breath because of how painful it was to watch. Despite their efforts, the scene was too over the top. Differing from the book, where Hannah ended her life by taking pills, the show depicted her slitting her wrists and bleeding out.

The choice to adapt this book into a short series as opposed to a movie was a wise one. Every single episode is packed with important details that, if turned into a movie, would have been lost and the power of the story would have been lessened.

Every detail was vital to the message. The overall theme being, nobody knows what's really going on in somebody's

life. Nobody even realized that Hannah was so close to ending it, as she said in the last episode, "The scary part is, it looks like nothing." You can't tell what's going on underneath the surface. To expand on that, we truly do not know what Hannah's true intentions were in ending her life. Was she trying to escape the pain of her own mental illness (which was not identified), or was she trying to make all 13 people on her tapes feel terrible? Either way, what she did ended another person's life, and we do not know if that was unintentional or not.

What I am asking of viewers is to skeptically and analytical watch his show. Was it truly done to the best extent it could have been? Were the "Viewer Discretion" warnings enough to ward off the intended audience? I know when I was a young teen, a silly warning like that would not have stopped me from viewing.

Addendum: Although this

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Netflix%27s_13_Reasons_Why_title_screen.png



show had a powerful message and graphic way of depicting that message, the target audience was inappropriate. This show is marketed as a "teen drama," and yet the graphic nature of Hannah's suicide is far too sensitive for young teens. The way it is depicted is incredibly triggering to those who have had suicidal thoughts or depression. The show sensationalizes suicide and makes it look like a good way to get revenge on people who have hurt you. The reality is that suicide is a permanent end to temporary problems. Once you get passed all the dramatization and glamorization of the show,

there is just the gruesome and cruel death of a high school student who believed she was alone when she absolutely was not. The show glorifies suicide and fails to mention mental illness. In a statement, Dr. Steven Leicester, head of online counselling services at Headspace, said: "There is a responsibility for broadcasters to know what they are showing and the impact that certain content can have on an audience – and a young audience in particular."

Review of the Spring 2017 Literary Magazine, *A Certain Slant*



Photo by Thomas Hill Jr.

The cover to the 2017 edition of *A Certain Slant*

By Deidra Brown

A Certain Slant, spring 2017 edition, is a literary magazine that features original poetry, prose, and artwork of many MWCC students. During the process of creating each yearly edition, any student is welcome to submit their work to Michelle Valois, the faculty advisor.

The artwork featured on the front and back covers, created by Kyle Johnson, is what caught my attention immediately. The vibrant colors and unique design were captivating. Upon receiving the magazine, I quickly brushed my hand across the front of the magazine due to the three-dimensional illusion created by the cover art.

Free copies of the magazine were available to students who attended the Open Mic and Pizza Party that was held on April 25 and they remain free to students in the library as long as supplies last.

I enjoyed the Table of Contents starting on page 4 of the

magazine. It gives the reader a preview and made it easier when looking for a specific piece. There was a wide variety of selections within the magazine, giving the reader many options.

The diverse plots and story-lines of the work in the magazine was an interesting aspect as well. The fact that every piece was different and did not follow a common theme made me want to keep reading.

My favorite piece from *A Certain Slant* was "A Hummingbird Handful," a short story written by Michelle Walsky on page 76. Although quite short, I enjoyed the plot and the deeper message Walsky made known to her readers at the end of the story.

The physical magazine was of excellent quality. The print was a perfect reading size, and the headings and student's names were clearly distinguished. *A Certain Slant* was a success in my opinion, and I am looking forward to the next edition.

Kenyan Student Shares What it is like being from Another Country

By Deidra Brown

Brenda Nyariara, 20, nursing student at MWCC, shared her experience on moving to the United States from Kenya. Nyariara recalled noticing drastic changes in culture and education here in the U.S.

"I was excited," Nyariara said as she explained how she felt about her big move. Around 2 years ago, at the age of 18, Nyariara made the decision to move to the United States to finally join her mom, who moved here 7 years ago.

During the first weeks of Nyariara's life in the U.S., she immediately recognized the difference in culture. When asked how the culture is different in the U.S., she responded, "The way people think. In Kenya, it is more traditional. The people are more grounded and conservative. There is more freedom here (U.S.)."

Nyariara noted that she felt the U.S. was more "developed," and the mixed races led her to believe that the U.S. held a more diverse population than she was used to in Kenya. "It opens your mind to see different people and cultures," Nyariara said, as she explained how everyone she grew up with lived near, sharing the same traditions and customs, which is drastically different from the United States.

Nyariara left all her friends

and family when moving to the U.S. For Nyariara, one of the hardest parts about "starting life fresh" in the U.S. was trying to fit in and make friends. "Being a teenager and moving to the U.S. was hard because of the influences. Life is not easy and there was a lot of pressure," Nyariara said.

Nyariara also stated that going to an American high school when she first arrived would have prepared her for the difficulties that she faced, but she had finished high school in Kenya. In Kenya, Nyariara attended 8 years of primary school, and then 4 years of high school at Mutira Girls School, an all-girls boarding school. She started attending boarding schools when she was eleven years old.

"Boarding schools are the norm," Nyariara said. She did not enjoy living at the boarding schools, since it was boring to her. Nyariara felt she was "missing all the fun" not being able to mingle with other people.

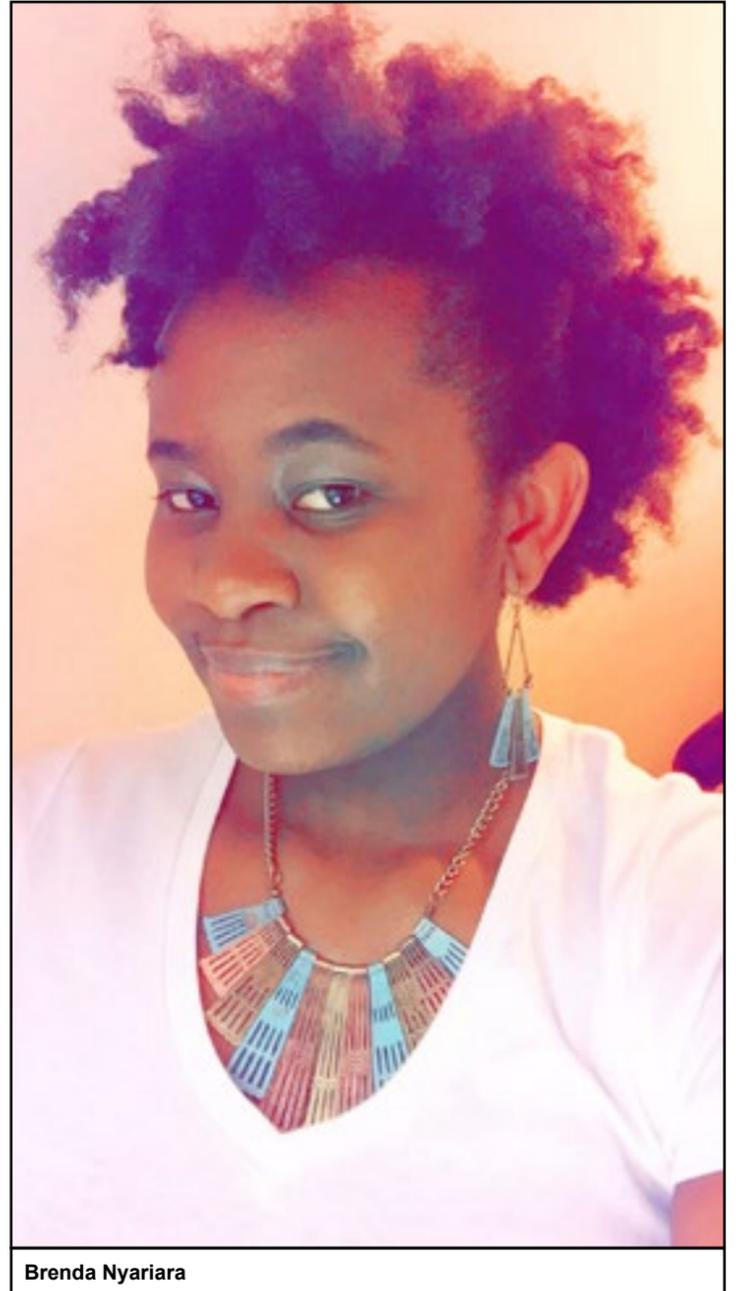
While comparing education between the U.S. and Kenya, Nyariara said she believes the curriculum in Kenya was much harder than it is in the U.S. Nyariara said that the U.S. has an easier curriculum because of the devices and tools that are available to the students. In Kenya, students do not have these same advantages.

Nyariara referred to her lab courses she took in Kenya, sharing that the course was much harder with the lack of equipment, compared to how it is now with what is available to her lab courses at MWCC.

Nyariara ended with, "People here (U.S.) are spoon-fed. In Kenya, you need to use your mind and improvise." Just because the U.S. has more advantages, it does not mean students in Kenya cannot do the same work and solve the same problems. Brenda Nyariara feels strongly that people from countries such as Kenya, "don't get as much credit as we should."

"Everyone's experience is different. It was easy for me because I have my mom and family here," said Nyariara, who explained that it would have been different if she came here alone. Nyariara shared that moving to a different country can be a horrible experience for some people, "Some people fall into depression because there is nothing familiar here (U.S.)."

Nyariara keeps her future plans simple. She plans to finish her freshman year at MWCC, continue her education, and finally start her career in nursing. For now, Nyariara will continue enjoying life with her mother, step-father, and 16 month old brother.



Brenda Nyariara

Student Uses Military Experience at MWCC

By Jennifer Ballou

When it comes to the military, most people think of jobs like radio tech, engineer, or mechanic. For Alan Knesek, his job was something completely different: a photojournalist.

Now 35, Knesek's career with the Army Reserves began after Christmas his senior year of high school. "I didn't know what to do," he said. "So, I followed in my father's footsteps. He was a Lieutenant Colonel when he retired." Since he was under 18, he had to get waivers signed by his parents allowing him to join the Reserves. Knesek spent the first four months doing drill, all while finishing and graduating from high school.

Knesek finished his basic training in Texas over the summer and was ready to find his place within the Reserves. "I thought I'd be a carpenter or plumber, but was quite surprised when they said they needed a photojournalist," said Knesek. Never having any formal camera training, he "went in blindly" when he agreed. He was given about three months training at Fort Meade in Maryland, where he had to "learn on the fly."

As a photojournalist, he was part of the Civil Affairs branch, acting as the liaison between civilians, the military, and the media. Knesek covered news on the bases, which had their own local papers. He spent a year in

Cuba, as well as time in Korea and Germany, interviewing military personnel and covering events.

year. I did so many interviews: Miss Universe and Miss U.S.A. contestants, Jimmy Buffet, 4-star generals on detail visits. Though

back into it with the setup and Nikon that he bought. "I learned on film, so it's going to be a learning process."

Now, Knesek is a full-time student in his second semester at Mount Wachusett, working in the nursing program. He was convinced to pursue the field after meeting a former nurse that suggested the Mount and their program. His drive is his children, one of which has eight major food allergies. Knesek hopes to work on developing treatments and services to help children with severe allergies.

"I thought I'd be a carpenter or plumber, but was quite surprised when they said they needed a photojournalist"

When asked about what stuck with him the most during his eight years, Knesek said his deployment to Cuba was the most memorable. "Basically, you're on a tropical island for a

we were stuck on base, on the whole, it wasn't a bad gig," said Knesek.

Though he hasn't done much photographing since leaving the Reserves, Knesek hopes to get

100 Days and Hopes of Making his Friends Richer

By the Editorial Staff

Over the past 100 days, since President Trump took office, it seems as though nothing good has been accomplished for the American people, foreigners, and the environment.

During his campaign, Trump promised he was going to build a border wall between the United States and Mexico, repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, create jobs and tax cuts. He made it seem like he was going to take care of all these issues within the first 100 days of his presidency, and then vacation the next 1,360 days, in hopes the country would run itself. In an interview with *Reuters*, Trump said, "I thought it would be easier."

There are over 300 million people in the United States. What made him think governing one of the most populated countries in the world was going to be *easy*? What made him think keeping foreign relationships civil was going to be *easy*?

What made him think creating a budget for the country was going to be *easy*?

A country cannot be run like a business. The tax plans set into motion will not affect just our economy, but the world economy. Cutting the funding for the EPA is going to affect the places we live in.

There have been arguments over the replacement of the Affordable Care Act, an increase on lumber coming from Canada, funding cuts to everything except defense, a travel ban President Trump refuses to say is a Muslim Ban, and endless, unnecessary Twitter rants.

Everything done is just going to benefit the wealthy, something Trump supporters thought he would not do. His Cabinet is filled with people who are from businesses. His Secretary of State is the CEO of ExxonMobile and his Secretary of the Treasury is a former bank manager, neither who have any

kind of government experience. They are not politicians, which could be seen as good. People might think they could represent them, but they are wealthy business men. They do not care about the little guy. They care about filling their wallets until they bust apart.

In an article from the *Washington Post*, written by E.J. Dionne Jr., he said, "None of the economic executive orders he has issued has strengthened the hand of workers or consumers. Instead, they are aimed at getting rid of rules that corporations would prefer not to live by."

The people in Trump's administration only care about themselves, specifically making their wallets and bank account fatter. President Trump just wants his friends to be happy, while he hopes to remain popular with his supporters, who think he is there to help them.



President Donald Trump

Source: 15 Dec 2016 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Donald_Trump_official_portrait.jpg

ATTENTION STUDENTS!

Graduation Information Below:

- Commencement Rehearsal is Tuesday, May 16 at 6PM, in the Fitness & Wellness Center.
- Commencement Ceremony is Wednesday, May 17 at 6PM.
- Guests should begin arriving between 5:00 – 5:45PM. Have your tickets ready!

For more information, go to <http://mwcc.edu/commencement/>

Elaborations on Brianna Stevens' article "Professor Says Travel Ban is Constitutional," from the April 2017 issue:

- Fielding further elaborated that checking social media accounts from people from banned countries would have helped us to discover what motivated the Pulse nightclub attack, as well as the attack on San Bernadino.
- To clarify, it is the U.S. Code 1282, which clearly states the president has the right to ban certain categories of individuals from entering the country.

Sudoku Solution

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



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