



Courtesy of marta.com

MART

## MWCC's MART Summit

### The MART of Something Good

By Jason Greenough

A summit discussing the state of MART bus services, from the student viewpoint, was held on Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup> here at Mount Wachusett Community College, led by those in the FYE program. Robert Evans and Marissa Weld, who both attend MWCC, are among the handful of students who led the meeting.

Over the course of this Hour and a half-long town hall-style discussion, various topics of concern and suggestion were covered, such as safety concerns on and off the bus, scheduling adherence and route extensions. A number of students were able to voice their complaints and frustrations, as well as constructive criticism for the bus company.

Nicole Mattson was one of the students who voiced their concerns over safety measures

on the route she takes, citing an occasion where she had to sit on the floor of the bus due to lack of space. Gregory Germagian was curious of the possibility of a bus route that stretched to his hometown of Hubbardston. Most of the students who spoke, however, were voicing concerns over the "wait time", or lack thereof, that most drivers offer at certain stops. One such student was Jeffrey Jasukonis.

"As it is now, nothing seems to be concrete when it comes to scheduling," says Jasukonis. "There aren't enough bus shelters [on the route], and I live on a highway, so there's this problem where, especially in the winter, I have to trudge through snow and hope that I don't miss my bus, because they do drive by without stopping a lot of the time," he continued. "If I get there before the bus makes the stop, I have to wait inside of [King Phillip's Restaurant] because there's no bus shelter there."

Another student, Marissa Weld, who is part of the college's Gateway program, also voiced concerns of the proposed wait period that drivers are supposed to follow, but are not required to

follow when it comes to "roll-through" stops, like Gardner's Timpany plaza.

"I've noticed, in a lot of places, that if the bus driver doesn't see anyone, they won't stop," says Weld. "I get on at Timpany plaza, which is a big space, and I feel it would be hard to see who is there to go shopping, or who is there to get on the bus, but it's happened to me where I've only been a few yards away, trying to get to the bus stop, and the driver pulls off."

It's safe to say that while the services that MART offers, it is not a perfect service, and students, who are a large part of the bus-riding population are fed up with the actions of the company. Bonnie Mahoney, Grants manager for MART, heard all the students out, and stated that she will certainly bring their concerns and suggestions to the board. She also clarified that MART can only put bus stops in towns that are willing to pay for the service. So, it's not completely MART's fault.

But students are ready for change. And not the kind that falls from the fare box.



Asquino

### Starting a New Chapter

By President Daniel M. Asquino

Congratulations to the Class of 2016! Through your hard work and determination, you have reached a major milestone. Whether you plan to continue your academic studies toward a bachelor's degree or go directly into the workforce – or both – the days and months ahead open a new chapter in your lives. Make it a page-turner!

Over the past three decades as president of this college, I have seen thousands of students not only reach their goals, but far exceed them by being willing – in the words of 13<sup>th</sup> century German philosopher Meister Eckhart – "to start something new and trust the magic of beginnings."

Moving forward does not mean leaving behind the important lessons and people you have encountered along your journey. As you prepare to dive into your next chapter, I encourage you to carry with you the friendships and memories you made while a student at MWCC. Time passes quickly and it is all too easy to lose contact with the people that you connected with and socialized with in class, during grueling study sessions and at campus events.

Do your best to stay in touch with your friends, the MWCC Alumni Network, and also with the professors and staff members who inspired you. It truly is a proud and joyous occasion to receive a call or email out of the blue from a former student providing details about the suc-

cesses and experiences they have encountered since graduating from the college.

While at MWCC, you've received a solid education that will serve you well in the future. Many of you have devoted countless hours on service learning projects and by volunteering for various programs, events and initiatives here on the campus and in the greater community. Through your efforts, the college continues to receive national and statewide recognition for its civic engagement focus. However, of much greater value, is the tremendous difference your efforts have made in our community and in the lives of others.

It is my hope that volunteerism will remain a significant component in your lives. Through acts of giving, both large and small, you all have the opportunity to be change agents.

As you celebrate your much-deserved accomplishments, know that all of us at Mount Wachusett Community College are proud to have been included in the pages of your book, and we wish you success in each chapter along the way.

## MWCC's FBI Scandal

### Mount Posts Warning on Website of an FBI Scam

By Andrew Hoenig

MWCC, Gardner, Mass. – Warning! Students should be on alert as campus police have been notified by the FBI of a telephone scam specifically targeting college students. Campus police are urging that students do everything they can to pro-

tect their personal identity at all times.

The scam was first reported by the FBI's Milwaukee Division. The scam is directed primarily at college students using the FBI's phone number on caller

ID. The FBI received numerous calls from concerned students and parents at several colleges in Wisconsin. All reported that "someone who claims to be rep-

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# Students Becoming Teachers One Last Thing...

## Future Teachers Creating Brighter Times Ahead

By Emily Boudreau

The hardest choice when going to college for many is choosing a major. Many students in college will change their major multiple times before sticking with one choice. I was lucky enough to find two MWCC students who have known their majors for the two years they have attended the school. Their majors both have to do with educations but they vary in many ways and it was interesting seeing the major from two different viewpoints.

Siobhan Haggerty of Fitchburg is majoring in Education with a goal to make a difference in the education system. The main changes in the education system she believes should be the "standardized testing system because the way it is now has very little positive effects on children and their futures and also having more integrated classrooms," said Haggerty. Her main goal for the future is to become a special education teacher for grades six and under or a school psychologist. Haggerty believes that "all children should

learn together and learn from the differences and disabilities of other students."

Choosing a major for Haggerty was very simple because she always knew she wanted to work with children and teach. Her grandmother, mother, and father are all teachers; at a very young age she was always watching them teach and knew that's what she wanted to pursue when she was older. In order for her to choose what grades and type of classes she wanted to teach, she volunteered at different schools and tried out different grades and classrooms. The workload for this major is pretty heavy, involving many years of schooling, observing, and bookwork.

Samantha Brooks of Winchendon is majoring in Early Childhood Education. She chose this major because making a difference and working with children has always been something she wanted to do. Her future goals are to first become a paraprofessional or have a one-on-one position with a child who has

special needs and then become a preschool teacher in an integrated preschool which will most likely take a while to work up to. "Teaching is the one profession that creates all other professions," said Brooks.

Brooks main inspiration to become a teacher was her own preschool teacher, Mrs. Helen; she was one of her favorite people and made a huge impact on her life. "I still write to her every Christmas and when I become a teacher, I would love to impact a student's life so much that they still keep in contact with me years later," said Brooks. She agreed with Haggerty that the workload for this major is also a lot; there are many classes about working with children and families, practicum classes where she student teaches, and then juggling that with her other mandatory classes, along with always having to further her education with higher degrees and workshops.

By: John Mossey

Before my official departure from The Mount Observer, I'd like to thank everyone who has supported us since the beginning of the Fall Semester back in 2015. Our staff had walked into a lot of turmoil going into the new semester, but we pushed through it together and produced some of the best quality newspapers that The Mount Observer has ever published. I'm thankful that we were able to have such a great staff of writers and editors who have all written their best work yet, and will produce better work when I leave. But not only was the staff good writers, they were great people to work with and the chemistry between us was clockwork.

It would be my greatest wish that the continued support for The Mount Observer stays strong and diligent. Jason Greenough and Andrew Hoenig will be taking over as the Editors for the 2016 Fall Semester, and if their past work is any sign of their dedication and work ethic concerning the newspaper, I'm willing to bet that The Mount Observer's best work is right around the corner.

I'd like to give a big thank you to Professor Susan Goldstein, without whom The Mount Observer would not be possible. Without her strong support for the newspaper, there is a good chance it would not have survived as long as it has. But not only am I grateful for her support, but also her guidance and wisdom when the going got tough. Thank you, Professor Goldstein.

The experience here will be unforgettable. The memories will remain with me for years to come. Writing for the newspaper has helped me tone my own personal writing, and my goal is to become a professional creative writer while pursuing a career in education with the intention of focusing on history and philosophy.

I hope our last issue of the semester meets everyone's satisfaction and remember: The best is yet to come.

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## MWCC's FBI Scandal

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resenting the U.S. government has been threatening to arrest the students if they fail to pay thousands of dollars."

So far in each case the threats have ranged from false claims of money owed for student loans to delinquent taxes and overdue parking tickets. During each attempt, it was reported that the scammer tried to "gain personally identifiable information from students and claims to have specific information regarding the students." The originating number used by the scammer(s) comes up as the FBI's local office in Wisconsin and in some cases have even directed potential victims to the Milwaukee homepage on the Internet. They claim they can "verify" the caller ID phone number. All this is in an attempt to keep the students on the phone longer.

Along with this warning, the FBI is now reminding the public that the FBI does not call private citizens requesting money. If students should receive a call

like this then they should immediately disconnect the call or not answer at all if they see the caller ID. If you do receive such a call the FBI is urging students to:

- 1) **Not follow the caller's instructions**
- 2) **Notify your banking institutions**
- 3) **Contact the three major credit bureaus and request an alert be put on your file**
- 4) **Contact your local law enforcement agencies if you feel you are in immediate danger**
- 5) **File a complaint through the Internet Crime Complaint**

Center at [www.ic3.gov](http://www.ic3.gov)

Information regarding this scam sent out by Public Affairs Specialist Leonard C. Peace of the FBI Milwaukee Division and is visible on the [iconnect.mwcc.edu](http://iconnect.mwcc.edu) homepage.



Asquino

# Asquino Moving Forward, As Always

*President Asquino prepares for retirement, reflects on time at MWCC*

By Jason D. Greenough

After 29 years at the helm, MWCC President Daniel Asquino is hanging it up.

President Asquino is rarely seen sitting still. Whether he is en route to a meeting, or casually strolling the halls with a can of Diet Coke in hand, he is constantly moving, so it's hard to think of him in retirement on a beach somewhere. It was even a surprise to see him lounging in a rocking chair as we spoke for this interview. Granted, he was almost flipping the chair over with how fast he was rocking, almost as if he wanted to jump up and run laps around his office, with the same anxious demeanor as a young kid being told he has to wait to open his gifts on Christmas morning. It's that child-like enthusiasm that has kept him going during his tenure here at MWCC. The word "leisure" doesn't seem to apply to him, and he admits he just isn't that type of person.

"It really isn't my nature," says Asquino. "I can rest for ten, fifteen minutes to recharge my batteries, but then I just have to move."

With any administration or position of power, there is an unwritten rule that some of the greatest successes are to be

challenged by great regrets and sometimes even great failures. President Asquino is fully aware that he is no exception to that rule.

For him, the successes outweigh the failures and regrets, but even the regret that he holds at the top of his list can still be attained, even if it means it doesn't happen on his watch.

"There are very few things I regret," says Asquino, of his time at MWCC. "But I think the principle regret that I have is that we have not been able to erect and construct residence halls on campus, which has always been a goal of mine, and it still is," he continued. "Maybe it's one of the things that will have to be left to my successor. I think [residence halls] are vitally important for the student experience, student success, and student retention."

But even with the dorms going by the wayside for the time being, Asquino still loves coming to work every day, and seeing the growth he has put into motion every day over nearly the last 30 years helps him stay positive for what is to come next in his chapter of MWCC's history.

"That's an easy one," says Asquino, regarding his personally favorite successes as President.

"It would be seeing the college grow from a few thousand students to over 12,000 students, and more importantly, bringing the college into the community with civic engagement and the growth of the Leominster and Devens campuses, and reaching out to 29 surrounding towns and cities," he continued. "Those are the things I am most proud of."

After talking about his time at MWCC, Dr. Asquino shared a little about his life, and how he came to be the man we all see today. Overcoming obstacles and accepting challenges are nothing new for the Navy veteran and UMass Amherst graduate, and the hardship he faced early on has prepared him for the tough times in his professional career.

"After high school, I couldn't go to college, because my grades weren't good enough. In fact, they were terrible," says Asquino. "Four years later, [after my time in the navy] I was married, had two kids, one on the way, two hundred dollars, a broken down car, no place to live, then went to college," he continued. "The city of New Bedford gave me two hundred dollars, I moved in with my parents, got on welfare, eventually had subsidized housing, had couple more kids,

got straight A's, worked sixty hours a week, and well...Here I am!"

"Community Colleges are the gateway. I don't think I was ready for college right out of high school, as I had a disability throughout my junior high and high school years, and people told me I wasn't college material, and I started to believe that. I hear that from so many of our students, that someone told them they weren't ready, that they couldn't achieve, but [I know] they have the capability and capacity to not only achieve, but to excel. If not for the community college, I don't know where they'd be."

"I was interning for the Mass Board of Regional Community Colleges, working on my doctorate, and looking back on it, forty-eight years after starting that internship, it had always been a goal of mine to become the President of one of these institutions. When this job became available, I had been recruited, but I was also a finalist at Cape Cod Community College for that Presidency. But this job was offered to me before Cape Cod [Community College] completed their search, and I accepted [this job], and never looked back."

So, what will Dan Asquino do during retirement? While the rocking chair seemed fitting for a man who has done so much over the years, having served, in addition to his tenure at MWCC, with the President of the Massachusetts Board of Regional Community Colleges, as the Dean of Administration and Development at Cape Cod Community College, and as the chair for various community organizations such as the Boys & Girls Club of Fitchburg and Leominster and the United Way of North Central Massachusetts, surely he would like to take some time to relax. On the contrary, he has no prospects of sitting still.

"I'm still working on that," Asquino says with a smirk, in regards to his plans for retirement. "Probably relax, travel, volunteer. There are many volunteer opportunities, for many great organizations," he continues. "As for travelling, I would like to go back to Italy, probably France, and certainly Hawaii, which is one of those areas that I have not been to, and I really do like to travel."

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Jasson is the Student Trustee and Student Member on the Board of Higher Education for 2016-2017

## Catching Up: An Interview with Jasson Alvarado-Gomez (Part 2)

By: John Mossey

**JM: What were you able to accomplish this semester? Things you were proud of, things you didn't expect to accomplish but did?**

JA: There are many things that I wasn't expecting. One thing was my movie. I just wanted to get it done, I wasn't planning to

have a movie premier or to have a big event, but it just happened. About a month ago, people were telling me, "We want to see the movie, we want to see the movie." So I decided to make the event, and now it's happening. That's one of the things that I'm really proud of. But also, I

became the Student Trustee for next year and I was also selected to be on the board of Higher Education for 2016-2017.

**JM: So let me ask you this: Coming from Honduras to the United States, did you expect you were ever going to accomplish what you have thus far?**

JA: No (laughs), you know I was planning to go to school to learn English and then work so that way I can help my family. I remember going to school my freshman year and the teachers were always talking about dreams and things that you can do, asking what you want to do in life, things like that. I knew I had a passion for TV, so I knew that I wanted to do something with TV or movies. I went through my freshman year, then my sophomore year and then I discovered college. I didn't know about college. My junior year, I was like, "Okay, I want to go to college. I want to graduate high school. And I want to become a movie-maker." But I never thought that I was going to be able to do all of the things that I'm doing now, you know? It's just amazing, I'm really happy.

**JM: How does it feel to have accomplished so much when you never expected to?**

JA: It feels strange because I have a lot of pressure on me. People have counted on me, they say, "Oh Jasson, he can do that," and they believe that I can do things and I don't like letting people down. So it's happiness but at the same time, it's like: oh my god, I have to do my best for everything I do. So that's a lot. For me in this past month I haven't been sleeping good, I haven't had the same kind of life because I'm constantly doing things and it's crazy, but it's good too.

**JM: What's the future look like now that you're the Student Trustee and on the Board of Higher Ed?**

JA: You know, I just want them to remember me. That's one thing that I've said, that I'm going to do the best I can. I'm going to work with all Student Trustees from Massachusetts and I want to get to know them so we can do the best we can for the schools. I believe that education is key, and I really care about education and people go-

ing to school. So I'm going to do the best I can to make school better for everyone.

**JM: How will your new positions affect your future with movies?**

JA: I wasn't expecting it to go this way, but it's happening and I always says, "If I have the opportunity to do it, I will do it." But I will always have time to make my own movies. Like, I think you can do both things, you know? I want to do both things, so maybe I can mix them up. I do want to do both though, because I have a passion for both.

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## Leaving it all Behind, Part II: From the Other Side

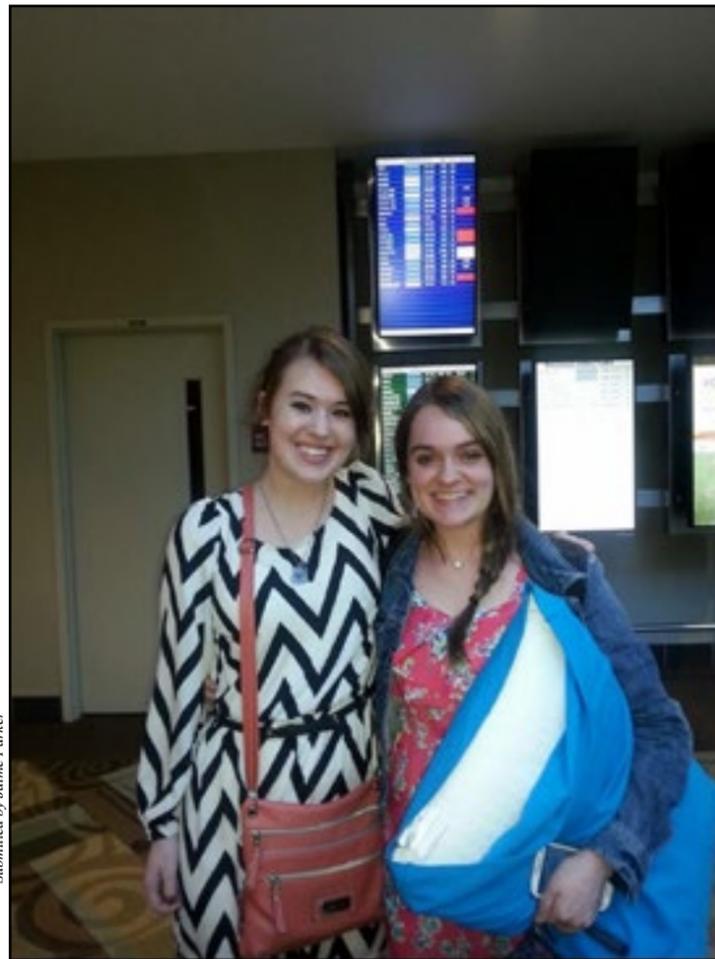
By Jamie Parker

Anessa and I first became friends at a family reunion in 2011. She was only allowed to come and join us for one day. This was all her father's side of the family, and her mother did not approve of Anessa being around so many people who were not Jehovah's Witnesses. But we immediately hit it off. We had not seen each other since we were about four years old, but you would have thought we talked every day. We decided at the end of our fun that it was an absolute necessity that we stayed in touch. We both downloaded an app on to our phones that would allow us to talk to each other without her mom knowing. After that, Anessa and I talked almost daily for years. We even managed to get back together for about a week one summer, because I went and visited her grandparent's the summer after the reunion, during the same time she did. We were some pretty conniving fourteen-year-olds. After that visit, we continued to talk until her mom found out.

It was about two years after I had been down there, and Anessa and I talked at least weekly. Then one day out of nowhere, it was like radio silence. I had gotten nervous but I knew that I would have hear through the family if something serious had hap-

pened. Then about two months later I got a message from her. She went on to apologize for the sudden departure, and that things had been pretty rough down there recently. I of course forgave her, but asked what had happened. Anessa told me that her mother had gone through her phone one night, after getting suspicious of the people Anessa was working with. She had found conversations with friends Anessa worked with at the time, who were not JW's, as well as all of our conversations. Now like most teenagers, we complained to each other all the time about what was happening in our live. Unfortunately for Anessa, that meant her mom finding out what she said about her, and the church. Her mother quickly realized that her daughter was starting to drift away from her, and banned her from talking to me, or any friends from work when they were not working. Anessa quickly fell into a depression that became dangerous. But again, went behind her mother's back to talk to me. When we started talking again I could tell she was not doing well, and that I needed to try and help her.

When we started talking again, we were nearly seventeen and had both gone through a lot recently in both of our lives.



Submitted by: Jamie Parker

She was really considering telling her mom that she wanted to leave the church. Looking back on it now, I can see that I encouraged her to do so partly for my own selfish gain. She wanted to do it, there is no doubt. But I also wanted my cousin and one of my best friends back. We were so close, and yet there were so many things separating us. We used to talk endlessly about the next time we would see each other, even though we never really knew when that would be. I will never forget when I found out she had left the church, and our hopes of reuniting were as

strong as ever. She had told me she had gone through with it, and that she was going to move in with her dad. It was not until my last trip down there I found out the full story.

"I had just gotten sick of it. So one night I packed a bag for the weekend, got in my car and drove to dad's." The next day the both of them drove to her mom's house when no one was home, and packed most of her things to bring back. Her father accepted her immediately into his home. She finally was with her father's side of the family, and had this new found freedom she had

never known before. But it was far from sunshine and lollipops. After telling her mother and the church she was leaving, they shunned her. She was not allowed to talk to her mother anymore or any of her step siblings. If she did they would face rejection from the church as well.

Since leaving Anessa has pretty much cut most of her ties with the church. Occasionally her mother will send her a text message that varies in content. It is either her begging Anessa to come back, and confess that she was wrong and ask to rejoin, or telling Anessa that she was wrong, and she is so disappointed in her for leaving, or sometimes it just says "I love you." Her step-siblings keep in distant contact behind the backs of their parents and the church. They occasionally like a picture on social media, or text her as well. The oldest one is about sixteen, and is beginning to go through the same thing Anessa did at that age.

I have visited Anessa twice since she left the church. The first time was for her high school graduation party. She was homeschooled, but her dad made sure she got to experience that part of graduating. This also fell on the same week as Easter, which was the first holiday she got to celebrate since she was about three years old. The second time was this past March, and it is truly amazing to see how far she has progressed in five years. She is currently living with her boyfriend, and working towards a degree while working through school.



Courtesy of John Blombach

# Re-engineering Mother Nature

By John Blombach

Next time you take your nature walk or hike up Wachusett Mountain, you may notice that there is a strange new topography. Mother nature has been busy re-engineering the trail structure as well as the summit road and parking lot at the top. Because of increased popularity, particularly on the weekend, the vehicle and foot traffic has quadrupled over the last decade, causing great concern for the stability of the soils and protection of local vegetation. Interest for the use of future generations has mandated the re-engineering of the most used tourist structures.

The summit road has been paved with care to surface runoff. The summit, unfortunately, had to be paved and re-structured for the same reason. The new trails look strange, almost like a stairway to heaven, with steps set by hand from large rocks. The Appalachian Mountain Trail volunteers have been busy readying the trails for the new season. Sadly the summit looks like a supermarket parking lot. Reminds me of the lyrics of the 1970 song *Big Yellow Taxi*, "They paved paradise and put up a parking lot." Pavement everywhere you look and signs of

erosion of soils and extreme runoff. The whole mountain seems over-run with human life, but not much of what most come to see – wild animals and natural fauna.

Kids from the city think that the engineered trails are made by mother nature or left by a great glacial sheet of ice that covered the earth eons ago. Parents who are ignorant of the fact that these "steps" or the "stairway" are a way to fight the rapid erosion occurring at breakneck speed everywhere they put their feet, wear down the underbrush and root systems that hold the soil in place.

The summit had its erosion and runoff problems due to the high amount of foot and vehicle traffic encountered on any given weekend from May through October. So great is the influx of weekend sight seekers and leaf peepers that extra help is needed on weekends. Traffic cops direct and control the heavy flow of traffic making its way to the summit for the breathtaking view of Western Massachusetts and the Quabbin Reservoir to the West, Majestic Mount Monadnock, and the White Mountains to the North, all made possible by a new observation tower. On

a good day, one can see Mount Washington and the White Mountains, the Green Mountains of Vermont as well as the spectacular Boston city skyline and

Logan Airport to the East.

Some poorly designed trails exhibit more erosion than better-designed paths. The trails that follow the fall line, such as the Pine Hill Trail, are typically steep and relatively straight up. Usually, these are the paths with the shortest distance to the summit and are the most widely used in the trail system.

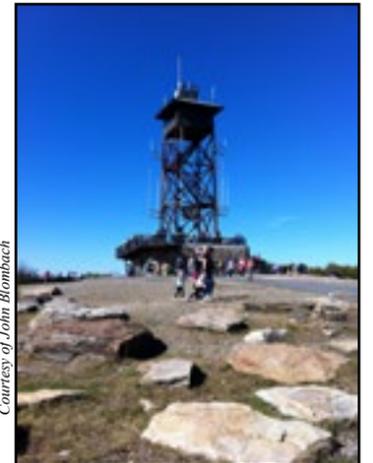
Trails become deeper in snowy vegetated areas than in wind-beaten bare ground areas. The existence and timing of runoff from snowmelt seemed to be relevant to differential erosion. Trail slope is another factor contributing to erosion. Needle ice or saturation of surface soil appeared to cause side wall erosion. Installation of ropes along the trails made hikers stay on the trail, helping to mitigate erosion.

Use of alternating trails is helpful in reducing damage caused by excessive foot traffic. The use of ropes to keep hikers on the main trail are also key to preservation. Use of large stones set into the trail like a stairway reduces the wear and loss of soil, but it also increases the water runoff. This can be controlled on Pine Hill Trail by a series of water bars, which are canals dug diagonally across the trail to shunt the water off to the side. These water blocks can be identified by the characteristic stacking of stone along the upslope and downslope sides to the channels.

Of course, all these improvements are going to cost. Last summer, it was five dollars to drive your car to the summit. One can only guess what it will be this year, but judging from the crowds on Patriot's Day this spring, there may not be any limit to what one is willing to spend for another day in paradise.



Courtesy of John Blombach



Courtesy of John Blombach

# The Panama Papers: a Summary

By Jamie Parker

Not a lot of people have been paying attention to it lately, but there is something huge happening in the world right now. It is called the Panama Papers and it is the biggest leak of confidential documents in history. The leak is full of 11.5 million documents from the Panamanian law firm, Mossack Fonseca founded by Jürgen Mossack. To put that into perspective, 1 Terabyte is equal to 1000 gigabytes of data and the WikiLeaks scandal in 2010 was 1.7 GB of data, and the Panama Papers leak is 2.6 TB. The files include evidence of the firm helping the world's biggest villains cover up their dirty deeds.

So how did this happen? Well about a year ago, an anonymous source contacted a German news outlet – Süddeutsche Zeitung – saying that they had encrypted documents from Mossack Fonseca's system. The source teamed up with Süddeutsche Zeitung and the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists to decipher the documents and expose what was really happening in the shadows. Together, they have brought to light what the super-rich and famous were up to in the shadows.

Mossack Fonseca is known to sell off-shore "shell companies," which are basically used to cover up the shady deals that business owners want to keep behind

closed doors. Now while this process may seem like it should be illegal, it is not. Unfortunately, people use these off-shore shell companies all the time to hide their money. But that is not even the scandalous part. What people are really focusing on is *who* was found in these documents. The list includes, politicians, FIFA officials, fraudsters and drug smugglers, to celebrities and professional athletes. There are even ties to Vladimir Putin, and the North Korean government. While many of the documents are still being sifted through, the Panama Papers have already caused some serious consequences for those involved. For instance, the Prime Minister of Iceland has recently stepped aside due to his involvement. Also, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom is being questioned because of his father's involvement.

So while the story of the Panama Papers may not be on the front page for most news outlets in the United States, it is just as important. The future is unknown when it comes to this, and soon enough we could find out that some of the most prominent people in our society today, have been involved in some pretty incriminating activities.

FINISH WHAT YOU STARTED!



## Transfer Information Session Dates

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

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

Wednesday, June 8 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

BAYPATH.EDU



## Is Trump Unstoppable?

By: Stevie LaBelle

As the presidential election goes forth Donald Trump has managed to gain more and more momentum. According to Politico he currently only needs only 392 delegates to reach the 1237 magic number for the Republican nomination. Considering there is still 733 up for grabs from a number of states, that is a real possibility.

Most other Republican still running have advocated against Donald Trump. Some have gone as far as recommending voters vote for a Democratic candidate if Trump becomes the nominee. They hope for a contested convention as a last hope to keep Trump from becoming the Republican nominee for the 2016 presidential election.

What is a contested conven-



tion and how does it work? According to ABC News and CNN, a contested convention is when one nominee from the party does not win enough of a majority to become the presumed nominee.

Basically the delegates will vote again in a series of rounds until the 1237 is gained by one candidate. Each party and state has different rules on how this exactly works as well as when and

how many delegates will be allowed to vote as free agents.

Supporters of Trump have a simple explanation of why trump is popular with so many people from different walks of life, and

why he has not lost momentum despite the negative publicity and huge campaigning against him.

“Trump is awesome. He uses his own money and tells people the truth. He also doesn’t hold back. People want change and he isn’t the norm” says Thomas Berger, a Business major and soon to be graduate from the Mount.

While neither Trump’ nomination nor a contested convention are a sure thing, one thing is for certain, it will be an interesting last 15 contests to see the how the race pans out.

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**“Trump is awesome. He uses his own money and tells people the truth. He also doesn’t hold back. People want change and he isn’t the norm”**

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## Students on Cheating

By Mark Ramos

Cheating. Whether you do it yourself or know somebody who does, it’s something we all know happens. So instead of going over preventative measures or the morality of it, let’s take a look into how and why some students cheat.

While some confessed to old school methods of sitting next to friends who would let them copy or writing answers on their arms, others had taken things a little further in the classroom. One student told me a tale of how her professor had left out examples of past student’s lab reports, so the current class had an idea of how they should be done. When the professor wasn’t looking, she took one with a good grade home and copied the entire lab report.

“Since he only had hard copies, he wouldn’t even know it was missing or even have something to compare what I turned in to” was what she had to say when asked about her rather bold decision.

Another student, who had an art project due, had her boyfriend do the entire thing for her. “It was just a class that I was forced to take, it’s not like it was crucial to my major, so I didn’t care about it,” she explained. Her boyfriend did such a good job that it was put on display here on campus for awhile.

One student when writing papers said “I would look for extremely rare sources on the web and just copy and paste different parts of it into my paper,” going

on to further state, “There are some websites that the schools system just won’t pick up or recognize.”

This bring us to the heavy hitter: Online classes. While online classes provide students with convenient access to classes from anywhere with a web connection, it is also the place where cheating is the most egregious and prevalent.

A former student summed up what most of the online cheaters had to say with this, “I had to do an online statistics course and I’m bad at math so I just paid my buddy’s girlfriend \$300 to do it for me and I got an A.” With the exception of paying, most students who cheated while taking online courses gave a similar response. When asked about the risk of getting caught while cheating online, another student said, “How are they going to catch you? They have no way of proving that you didn’t do the work, so how?,” a statement that was reiterated by all of the online cheaters.

When asking these students why they cheat, they all gave

similar answers. For most, it has to do with financial aid benefits or transferring. “If I fall below a certain GPA I’ll lose my financial aid, my scholarship money will go away and then that all affects what schools I’ll be able to transfer to. It’s just a lot of pressure,” explained another student with heavy disappointment in his voice. This disappointing tone was echoed with the overwhelming majority of the students interviewed.

Some of the students, while not proud of cheating, had a lighthearted tone and would laugh it off while going over the how and why they had cheated. A hand full of others had little to no remorse, with one stating, “We have a college system that is designed to screw you over as much as possible, at every chance they get. So if I have a chance to make things a little easier for myself then I’m going to take it and if it screws them in the process, then good.”

Another student added, “Look, at the end of the day, when you’re all done here, all other schools and jobs are going to see is your

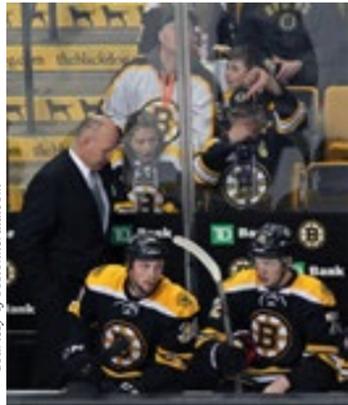
GPA and your degree. Do you really think they care how you got those two things? Because they don’t and those are the only two things they care about, did you do good in college and did you finish. Nothing else matters.” That’s a very condemning statement, one that most students agreed with on varying levels.

So, now that we have taken a peek into one of the well know taboos of college education, does it change your perception on cheating? Or does it reinforce the feelings you have already had? One thing is for sure, though, not all students cheat because they are slackers. For many, it was a survival instinct that kicked in out of a fear of failure, not just failure in the classroom but a failure that could have a long lasting ripple effect on the rest of their lives. Not that it makes cheating ok, because it doesn’t. It just makes it a little easier to understand what brings most students to their individual breaking point.

## Work for us!

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

# Boston Bruins Miss Playoffs for Second Straight Year, Now Look to the Future



Courtesy of bostonherald.com

By Andrew Hoenig

Boston, Mass. – The 2015-2016 Boston Bruins season ended rather abruptly Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. For the second straight year the Bruins just missed out on competing even further for the Stanley Cup, failing to make the playoffs after finishing the season with 42 wins, 31 losses, and 9 overtime/shootout losses. The Bruins finished with 93 points tying the Detroit Red Wings. The Red Wings were the final team in the Eastern Conference to clinch a playoff berth after squeaking by Boston with

a record of 41 wins, 30 losses, and 11 overtime/shootout losses. The teams that clinched playoff spots in the Eastern Conference were the Washington Capitals, Pittsburgh Penguins, Florida Panthers, NY Rangers, NY Islanders, Tampa Bay Lightning, Philadelphia Flyers, and Detroit.

Bruins fans will not get their opportunity to bleed “black and gold” as they saw their team get demolished in the final game of the season, losing to the Ottawa Senators 6-1. In a game where the Bruins had a chance to clinch a playoff spot, the team’s play just further emphasized all the problems that had occurred all season long. The Bruins’ defense once again came up lax and couldn’t protect the net to help out backup goalie Jonas Gustavsson. The Bruins’ troubles on the back end ultimately was the team’s undoing as the offense only scored 1 point in a losing effort. Gustavsson had to play the last game of the season in place of starting goalie Tuuka Rask due to a strange illness.

Rask ended the season with his .915 save percentage proving once again he’s one of the best goalies in the league after winning the Vezina Trophy, awarded to the NHL goaltender who is judged as the best at this position, in 2014. The team’s chances of making the playoffs had certainly taken a blow before the final game began.

The Bruins offense was 5<sup>th</sup> in the league this year in points scored at 2.93 but defensively they were below the league average of 2.71 points allowed at 2.80, coming in at a ranking of 20<sup>th</sup> in a league of 30 teams. Too many times the Bruins defense came up short and it showed once again this season in their last game collapse. “I don’t know if we thought it was going to be easy or what”, said Bruins defenseman Torey Krug after the game against the Senators. “We could have controlled our own fate,” said head coach Claude Julien also after the loss. Fans aren’t sure what to make of the head coach at this point. The

team did announce on Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, shortly after the season ended that Claude Julien would remain the Bruins coach next season. But after going 17-18-6 on home ice at TD Garden, fans have started to wonder if the head coach should be let go. Former MWCC student and Bruins fan Jon Kaminsky believes it could be “time to clean house”. “Something needs to change man,” said Kaminsky. He’s right and plenty of other fans agree. Even the Bruins know they must do better with team captain Zdeno Chara admitting after the game that their play was “not very good”. He continued saying, “I don’t think anybody can say they had a good game.” But now the wait is on for the offseason and the future of such free agents as veteran forward Loui Eriksson. Changes are coming but it’s a matter of when. Fans will eagerly await the offseason in hopes of ending the team’s streak of now two straight missed playoff appearances after making seven straight times be-

fore that. For now Bruins players can enjoy the playoffs like their fans...from a seat on the couch.

Some stats of note: Brad Marchand led all goal scorers on the team with 37 this season. Patrice Bergeron was second with 32 goals and the aforementioned Eriksson third with 30 goals. If Eriksson was to leave, his offensive production would be missed. David Krejci was the team’s assist leader with 46 assists on the season. Krug was second with 40 and Bergeron third with 36. Also Rask posted 31 shutouts this season as well.

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# 7 Hiking Spots for Beginners

## As told by an out-of-shape college girl and her dog

By Jillian Manty

### 1) Lake Dennison Recreation Area: Winchendon, MA

Lake Dennison is a popular camping area that attracts both locals and out-of-towners. There are plenty of trails throughout the entire area. If you're looking to stay out of the woods, you can walk on the road of the campground and check out the boating area.

### 2) Tully Lake: Athol, MA

Tully is another recreational area close by. They have an area set up for barbecuing with picnic tables and fireplaces. If you're looking for a nice, easy hike, this is a beautiful place. The trail loops around the entire lake, offering several places to stop and check out the view.

### 3) Doane's Falls: Royalston, MA

If you're looking to hike somewhere where there's a waterfall, Doane's Falls is the place. The waterfall itself is beautiful and there are several good hiking paths throughout the woods.

### 4) Mount Watatic: Ashburnham, MA

Mount Watatic is a great hike for beginners. There are two trails that lead up to the summit to choose from. It can get pretty steep at times and you have

to keep a look out for the trail markers on the trees. The view from the top is gorgeous and worth the hike up.

### 5) Birch Hill Dam: Royalston, MA

The walk to Birch Hill Dam is on a concrete road, not necessarily the traditional hike, but definitely a place to check out. The dam itself is cool to look at and they also offer picnic tables at the top to eat lunch.

### 6) Dunn Park: Gardner, MA

Dunn Park is another popular picnic spot in the area. However, they offer quite a few trails as well. You can loop around the entire lake or check out a few of the other ones. They're mostly level terrain so there's not a

whole lot of climbing.

### 7) Mount Wachusett: Princeton, MA

Mount Wachusett is another mountain that's awesome for beginners. You can either park at the bottom and hike up the road to the summit, or you can drive the majority of the way up and explore the top like that. The view from the summit is beautiful and there is also a fire tower you can climb to get even higher up.



Courtesy of Jillian Manty

# Ibsen and Hansberry and Miller, Oh My

By Courtney Wentz

Every other year, MWCC offers a one of a kind class called Modern Drama, taught by Professor Susan Blake.

In Modern Drama, students read and discuss popular plays from the 20th century, like Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House*, Arthur Miller's *All My Sons*, and Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun*, along with a handful of others, plus a professor who is passionate about the topic. "I always loved plays," Professor Blake said, "I'm always looking for new plays and playwrights."

There is something captivating about a play and more real to a

play, than a movie or a book. Professor Blake said, "Playwrights speak to our times, particularly to events in society." Plays will focus more on big events in the history of the world, not just to individual countries or states.

When asked about her favorite play and playwright, she had a tough time deciding on a play and playwright that are her favorites. She simply enjoys all of them. Although, she did have high praises for Martin McDonagh, an Irish playwright, and his play *Beauty Queens of Leenane*, saying, "It's the perfect play. It does everything drama is

supposed to do. The end is inevitable."

Professor Blake did say she "appreciates the experimental playwrights," like Luigi Pirandello and Samuel Beckett, but she "really loves the realist." The playwrights that write about the noticeable changes and impacting events in history. They make the characters relatable to the audiences.

She came to teach this class because the professor before her was retiring, and she had studied and wrote about plays by Tennessee Williams, Arthur Miller, and Eugene O'Neill,

and of course, many more. She also studied with a drama major, who did influence her interest in plays.

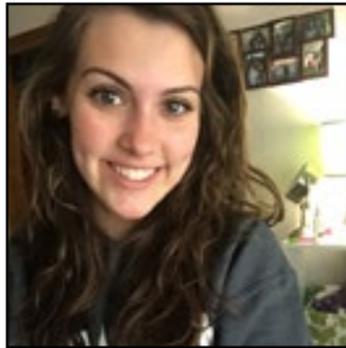
Professor Blake is always looking for new plays and playwrights to experience. She mentioned Lynn Nottage, writer of a play called *Ruined*. "Live theatre is more immediate. It's happening right there, when you're in the theatre," Professor Blake said.

She also wanted to thank the Theatre at the Mount "for all the work they do to keep theatre alive in this area with their work of the highest quality."

**"Playwrights speak to our times, particularly to events in society."**

# Student Tattoos and Their Meaning

Everybody's got a story, but does every tattoo have a story?



By Holly Tata  
Photos courtesy of Holly Tata  
Name: Marina Leone  
Major: Radiology Technology

**Is there a story behind your tattoos?**

"My aunt and I got tattoos on the same day. She got a Celtic cross, and I got the Celtic knot. The Celtic knot represents the four seasons, four elements, four cardinal directions etc. I'm Irish, so that's part of the reason, but I also got it to remind me that life is constantly changing, anything could happen at any moment, and there's always things that are out of your control."

This one says "You are my sunshine" and it's in my grandfather's handwriting. My grandmother used to sing it to me when I was little, so I got this in memory of both of them."

**Who did your tattoos?**  
Brett Caron

**Do you have any tips for someone looking to get a tattoo?**

"Get something meaningful, original, and think about it for a long time before you do it. Pick a good tattoo artist that you're comfortable with, and hope you have a high pain tolerance."



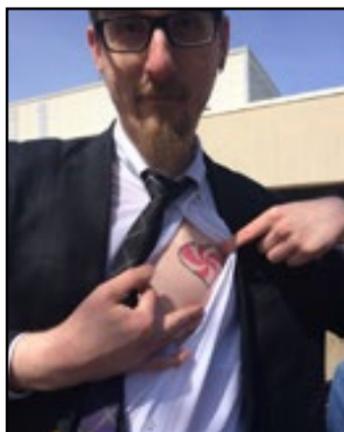
Name: Ralph Hogan  
Admissions Office

**So what's the story behind your left arm's tattoos?**

I grew up with Pokemon. I played them when they first came out, and I still play them to this day. I was replaying Pokemon Blue at the time when I was thinking about tattoo ideas, and it just clicked! I originally started with the Bulbasaur (first on the left, in green) but then I decided to get the other starter Pokemon.

**And the Legos?**

Similar to the Pokemon, just for a Nostalgic theme. Similar to the Pokemon tattoo, I sort of have a nostalgic theme. It's funny, the Pokemon and Lego tattoos have all gotten students to talk to me and join my summer programs!



Name: Dylan Crowley  
Major: Liberal Arts

**What's the story behind your tattoo?** "This was my first tattoo ever, and when I was trying to think of something meaningful, I thought of what I've spent the most time liking throughout my whole life, and throughout the years I've always loved the band The White Stripes. They toured for a long time with a peppermint decal on their drums so I

**Is there a story behind your triangle tattoo?**

It's a pride tattoo! It's funny, I actually never had any intention of getting a pride tattoo. But it signified, to me, being out and being comfortable with who you are.

**Who does your work?**

Emily Shortsleeve at Fight or Flight Tattoo in Fitchburg.

**Do you have any tips for people who are looking to get tattoos?**

Know what you want to get, because tattoos are forever! Also, take care of them! After-care is so important!

decided on that!"

**Who did the tattoo?**

"I can't remember his last name, but his first name is Evan and he used to work at Flesh By Design in Fitchburg."

**Do you have any tips for someone looking to get a tattoo?**

"There's no way that it isn't going to hurt. Just accept it, relax, breathe, and you'll get through it."



Name: Cami Charlonne  
Major: Allied Health

**Who is your artist?**  
"My dad, actually!"

**Does he have a shop?**

"No, he just kind of does this as a hobby."

**What's your favorite tattoo?**

"I have a Star Wars Rebel Alliance symbol with a rose...on my butt. No lie."

**Is there any meaning or story behind the tattoos on your arm?**

"Not really...They're both inspired by Edgar Allan Poe, though!"

**Do you have any tips for someone who's looking to get a tattoo?**

"Think about it before hand!- I definitely regret some of them."

**“Get something meaningful, original, and think about it for a long time before you do it.”**



**“Know what you want to get, because tattoos are forever!”**



# Going Back to School

By Michael Harris

Going back to school is a big decision for some. According to statistics from *US News & World Report*, 1 in 3 first-year students will not make it back for their sophomore year. Many people start school and end up having to drop out due to family, academic struggles, and or financial stress.

According to the National Student Clearinghouse, an estimated rate of only 56% of those enrolled in college will graduate with a degree within 6 years. This statistic didn't include students who transfer to other schools, equaling about 25% of the total students surveyed.

Evan Mattison, 23, of Leomin-

ster, recently made the decision to re-enroll at the Mount for this upcoming fall semester. He left school almost five years ago due to a need to work at the time. He currently works full-time for a local grocery store and just came to decide, "I wasn't happy with where I am currently, and I felt it was time for a change."

Mattison is excited to returning saying, "I know what I want to do now, I was unsure when I was last enrolled here at the Mount, but I now know I want to work through the legal studies program and eventually go to school and become a lawyer."

Another new student this se-

mester, Joshua Grullon, 24, of Leominster, is also happy to be back in school. He recently enrolled for the first time in the Liberal Arts and Sciences Pre-Engineering track here at Mount Wachusett Community College. He is excited to finish in a maximum of 2 years, taking both cycle 1 and cycle 2 classes.

Grullon said, "My major is liberal arts and pre-engineering. I've been out of school for about 5 years, and I've decided to come back because I want a great job, not just some full time job but a job where my daughter, Arianna and I can live very comfortably.

While some degrees may not

guarantee employment, a Pew Research Center report showed that graduates with at least a bachelor's degree had a median salary of \$45,500 compared to that of a high school diploma median \$30,000.

Although graduation doesn't guarantee success, going back to and graduating with at least a bachelor's degree can open up many doors that were previously closed. According to data from the Census Bureau and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 44% of college graduates were working in jobs that don't require a degree.

If you're contemplating returning to school, take it from those who have finished and can look back on its impact. For both the baby boomer and Gen X generations, the Pew Research Center reports that over 85% of college educated adults from those generations believe it paid off or will pay off given their investment.

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# Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

In order for journalists to feel safe pursuing news-worthy stories, they need the ability to assure their sources that their identities will not be revealed. If they are not provided with this basic right, then it would not be beneficial or safe for them to pursue the articles and stories that should be persisted the most.

The first Amendment of the U.S. Constitution which ensures freedom of speech decrees that the freedom of the press is necessary in order to encourage an informed public. Some argue that national security and that a defendant's rights to a fair trial trump a journalist's rights but the freedom of the press proves otherwise.

Many states have already started in the right direction by passing a State Shield law, however, until there is a Shield Law on a federal level, then journalists cannot be certain that they will be safe from prosecution for the identities of their sources. According to Merriam Webster, a Shield Law by definition is "a law that protects journalists from forced disclosure of confidential news sources."

Currently in the U.S. majority of the states have some form of a state-level Shield Law in place, with varying levels of type of protection and strength of coverage. "Thirty-seven states and the District of Columbia have some form of a Shield Law" according

to Justin Silverman of the Citizen Media Law Project.

This means that only thirteen states have not granted some form of protection to their journalists. The list of those that do not guarantee this protection includes: Idaho, Wyoming, South Dakota, Kansas, Iowa, Missouri, Wisconsin, Mississippi, West Virginia, Virginia, Massachusetts, Vermont, and New Hampshire.

If so many states, far more than half, believe that a journalist should have protection from being forced to reveal sources in a court of law, then why has this issue not been revisited in the highest courts of our country in more than 40 years?

This issue was argued in the case of *Branzburg v. Hayes* in 1972. At the time the Supreme Court "held that (1) there is no privilege to refuse to appear before a grand jury until the government demonstrates a compelling need for the testimony; and (2) there is no privilege to refuse to answer questions that directly relate to criminal conduct that a journalist has observed and written about."

Our country is in far different place than it was 40 years ago and with that it has very different needs than was necessary at the time of the U.S. Supreme Court's previous decision.

First Amendment Scholars James Thomas Tucker and Ste-

phen Wermiel, who have argued in behalf of a Federal Shield Law, have pointed out the very issue with having differing restrictions and protections between the state and federal level. Their position states "A host of different approaches were adopted at the state and federal levels ... what has resulted is a lack of uniformity and uncertainty that can lead to different results for the same set of facts." Without the clarity that would come from a Federal Shield Law, journalists cannot bring forth the information that should be responsibly available to the public without fear of being dragged into court and ordered to break confidences and out valuable sources.

Sincerely,

Stevie LaBelle

Dear Editor,

I am writing to support and refute some of the claims made in an article titled "Survey finds increase in healthcare proxies" of the September 13, 2005 issue of *The Boston Globe*. The issue was talking about a survey that was taken in the state of Massachusetts with a finding that there was an increase in the appointing of healthcare proxies. It is true also that there is a huge line between consumers and healthcare providers when it comes to the issue of talking about death as the writer claimed. I support the fact that people should write down how they want to be treat-

ed during end of life.

Terri Schievo suffered a cardiac arrest on February 25 1990. This placed her in a vegetative state due to the massive brain damage that she suffered. A legal battle ensued between Schievo's husband who wanted her to be taken off the life support for her to die and her parents who still wanted her to live in that same state even after doctors had declared that the situation will not get and better. Schievo's husband won the case and on March 18 2005, Schievo was taken off the feeding tube. She died on March 31<sup>st</sup> 2005.

In the fourth paragraph of the said article, it was stated, "there was a Schievo effect but there is a gap between peoples preferences and the actions they take to have those preferences honored". This Schievo effect spoken in the article refers to the vegetative state of Schievo. I beg to differ that, that effect is not the Schievo effect. It is a kind of death effect that has been there for years. People are just so uncomfortable talking about it.

On June 12 1985, *The New York Times* reported the death of a 31-year-old lady by name Karen Ann Quinlan after a ten-

year battle of her right to die as she lay in coma. This was a similar case to that of Terri Schievo. This happened about twenty years before that of Terri Schievo. Schievo's case was just a re-awakening of a serious medical issue that seemed to be put to bed.

On December 26<sup>th</sup> 1990, two days after Christmas that year, there was a similar case that happened to another lady called Nancy Cruzan when she finally gave up life after been in a vegetative state for almost seven years, after she lost control of her car and was thrown out of

her car. (*The New York Times*, December 27 1990).

I will agree with the writer on the fact that there should be a lot of education to hasten residents to start talking about such issues as uncomfortable as it may be just to eradicate issues like that of Schievo. Advance directives are very important and I commend the writer for adding the voice to ensure that residents have to write down their wishes as to how they would want to be medically treated when the unexpected happens.

Sincerely,

Kwadwo Acheampong.

Dear Editor,

In Robert Bryce's 2013 article *Wind Turbines Are Climate-Change Scarecrows*, there is an apparent underlying argument that makes a much larger statement than his evidence supports. There is also a concluding, clearly hyperbolic, statement that highlights this apparent argument. "Over the past few years, the U.S. and other countries have been subsidizing the paving of vast areas of the countryside with 500-foot-high bird- and bat-killing whirligigs that are nothing more than climate talismans." (Bryce, et al.) To define wind turbines in this manner indicates an opinion that wind turbines are not worthwhile whatsoever and that people should not invest in them.

Bryce's main argument is that renewable energy would not be able to practically meet the growing demands of what was the 2013 global economy. This

was, and even today is, true. However, it does not prove that renewable energy is not worthwhile. A demand, as defined by the Oxford Dictionary, is an insistent and peremptory request, as if by right. It is not always necessary to fulfil a demand. Even if one were to deem it absolutely necessary to fulfill the demands of a global civilization that discards over 41 million tons of plastic annually, (worldwatch.org, 2015) it is still illogical to discourage a form of renewable energy that contributes 2.4 million barrels of oil equivalent per day, (Bryce, et al.) even if that contribution is considered to be small. Also, Bryce does not mention the fact that nuclear power production requires a supply of uranium ore (niauk.org). Once that resource is depleted, nuclear power will not be able to fulfill any demands.

Using uranium ore to create

nuclear energy is extremely efficient and produces less carbon emission than coal. (Bryce, et al.) This does not mean that investing in other, non-depleting resources is incorrect.

Sincerely,

Liam Scanlon



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



## Great Road Kitchen Review

By Rebekah Chiasson

If you are looking for a place to take your date, a place to hang out with the guys and watch a game, or even a place for a girl's night out, head to Great Road Kitchen, a brand new restaurant in Littleton. Owner Marcus Palmer opened the Kitchen doors in early 2016, with Executive Chef Chris Frothingham (who you can find on the Food Network show "Beat Bobby Flay"), and Chef de Cuisine, Sean Smith. The restaurant caters to all types of foodies including seafood lovers, steak eaters, and the health conscious.

Great Road Kitchen is a "trendy place, a modern American take on kind of everything, we hit all the bases at once," said Colin Ireland, grill cook for the Kitchen. You walk up to a beautiful stone walled building and enter the modern warehouse-esque space to a shuffle board on your left, a massive horseshoeing service bar, and eclectic decorations. There are old-school coke signs, reclaimed church pews, and giant letters on the wall that spell, "Drink Whiskey." "Everything looks handmade, professional but handmade, really just American things," Ireland said.

Ireland explained the Kitchen is a place to get finer dining

with foods like oysters and \$500 wine bottles, but customers can play shuffle board, order burgers, and listen to live music. Come in a suit or Levi's and a t-shirt and feel just as comfortable. The food is all made fresh, meat butchered on site, dressings made from scratch, and the seafood is delivered every morning from day boats.

The open kitchen allows customers to interact with the creators of the meal, hearing, smelling and seeing your meal being made. "It's like being on stage every night," Ireland said. "It's crazy because you get the roar of the crowd; you get energized by them. It's like what I'd imagine a sports star feels." Diners can sit as close as three feet away from the action, dining at the oyster bar.

The multi-million dollar restaurant is lead by Chef Chris, "a culinary bad ass" according to Ireland; "He is the most intelligent chef I have ever met with a great vision and a successful business plan." Chef Chris oversees every dish that leaves the kitchen, making sure every meal meets his expectations, all while keeping the entire kitchen running as smoothly as possible.

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The Revenant

## The Revenant Review

By Holly Tata

After losing a fight with a grizzly bear, frontiersman and all-around-tough-guy Hugh Glass (Leonardo DiCaprio, *The Wolf of Wall Street*), crawls, hobbles, and fights his way over the frozen unforgiving wilderness back to the fort and the men who left him for dead.

*The Revenant* is harrowing and enjoyable to watch, but it seriously missed the mark when it comes to character development. The movie does not give the audience much detail about DiCaprio's character other than painting him as a tough as nails survivor and loving father, making Hugh Glass seem like an unfinished character.

There were so many opportunities to give us a look into Glass's past or his personality

that were missed, and instead we are just watching an angry man in the woods. His story arc almost feels boring because of how tough they make Glass out to be at first, so the audience already gets a sense that he will survive.

There are some scenes that are so intimate with Leonardo DiCaprio's character that the screen/camera fogs up, creating an immersive experience that really makes the audience feel as if they are struggling to survive in the wilderness with Hugh Glass.

The film is set in North and South Dakota circa 1823, when it was simply known as "The Northern Plains." While the movie depicts in historic detail the fights frontiersmen would have had with Native Ameri-

cans, the Native Americans were not necessarily made the villains in this movie, which was important. The movie portrays the plight of Native Americans in a very realistic light, showing both sides of the struggle for supremacy on the plains instead of only telling the white side of the story.

There is very little dialogue to this movie (unless you count grunting and groaning), but the breathtaking nature shots and captivating score by Ryuichi Sakamoto keep the viewer engaged throughout.

*The Revenant* is an enjoyable experience, and DiCaprio certainly deserved every award he earned for his performance. I just wish that the writers had given us a little more to the story.

## Asquino Moving Forward, As Always

>>> continued from page 3

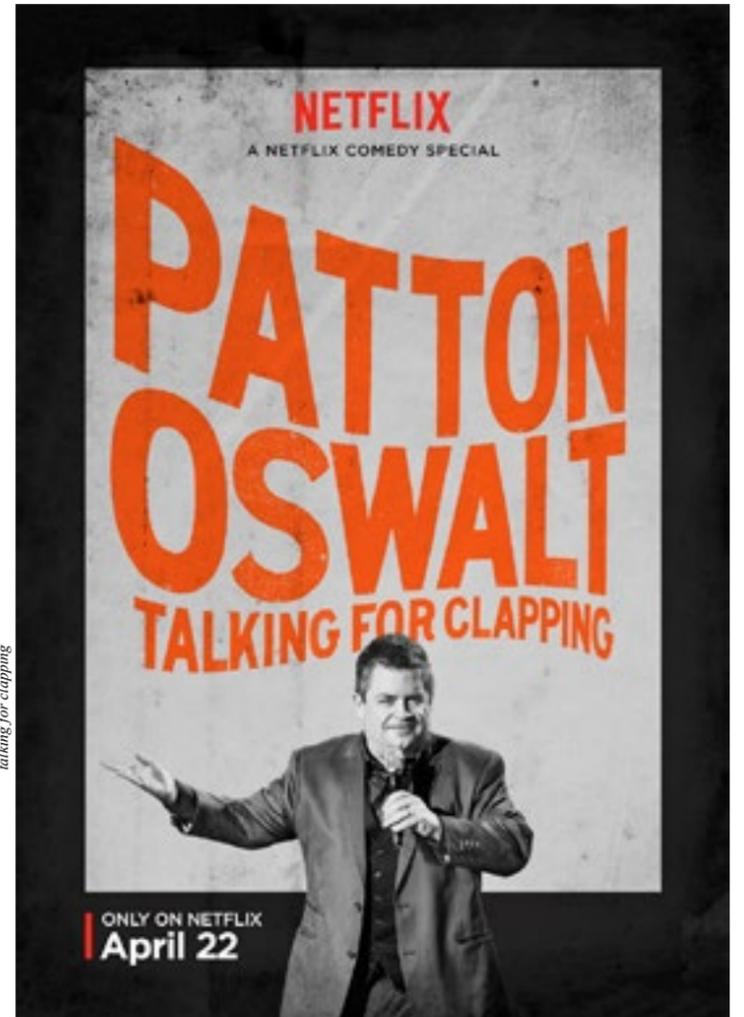
"I will tell you, in the almost thirty years I've been here, there has never ever been one day that I have not enjoyed coming to work. Does that mean that every day has wonderful and great, and without challenge? No. It's a tough job, but I always try to remain positive. I've always tried to be positive, and give back. There are always other people out there that could use your help, as bad as it might be. You know, generally in life, people have better breaks than others, and while it's okay sometimes to say 'whoa is me, life isn't fair,' but you gotta get up, move forward and help other people. Life is a merciless reflection of your own attitude. That's the type of person that will excel and do well."

Imagine, reader. Imagine if President Asquino had been appointed President of Cape Cod Community College in the summer of 1987. Chances are, we would be looking at not only a completely different campus here at MWCC, but we would also be looking at a continuously thriving campus at in Cape Cod. We may not be looking at a new STEM building being erected right before our eyes, we may not be seeing the art wing receiving a makeover, and we may not be seeing our school evolve more and more every morning as we walk through the door. Sure, the naked wires, pipes, and scaffolding aren't exactly the prettiest thing in the world, but that's all here with the vision of a more beautiful campus and future at

the Mount, thanks to President Daniel M. Asquino.

We thank you for your dedication to us and our campus, Mr. President. After your hard work and determination over the years, you deserve nothing but the best retirement. Let us know how Hawaii is!

**"I will tell you, in the almost thirty years I've been here, there has never ever been one day that I have not enjoyed coming to work."**



Talking for Clapping

## Patton Oswalt's Talking For Clapping

By Jason Greenough

When I first sat down to review Patton Oswalt's new Netflix stand-up special, *Talking For Clapping*, which premiered on Netflix on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, I honestly had no idea how to start to review it. Patton Oswalt, if you're familiar with his brand of comedy, is the type of Comedian that you can't review easily, unless you know his older "stuff". In *Talking For Clapping*, which I did stay up until 3 a.m. to watch the premiere of (damn you, time zone differences!), continues the self-deprecating assault that you can see in Oswalt's previous Netflix special, *My Weakness Is Strong*, with life stories about his time living in San Francisco, his early days of doing comedy, how customers are to blame for the poor reputation of Postal workers and DMV employees, being mistaken for a heroin addict and having the flu during a show that he couldn't cancel. Not to mention, his signature dark humor that make some in the audience and at home cringe, and make most give out a resounding "Awwwww", all the while keeping himself and his hand-picked inadequacies at the center of everything he says. He does it masterfully, I might add!

Now, Oswalt doesn't normally get political, or intertwine social awareness into his comedy, but this new hour of material brought his thoughts on the unfair treatment of the LGBT community

and the ignorance that people have towards them, and also his frustration with President Obama after having voted for him twice on the idea that he wasn't going to harm people further. He puts into perspective what voters must have been thinking when they voted George W. Bush into office, and he seems to stay neutral, meaning that he holds both Bush and Obama to a higher standard, voicing his disappointment in Obama's decision to call in drone strikes. Oswalt's ability to make points that we all have thought of at least once in our lives is almost unmatched. He continues to be down to earth and relatable, and that is really refreshing in a comedy world seemingly ruled by Kevin Hart.

*Talking For Clapping* is vintage Patton Oswalt, and he keeps the crowd howling throughout the set. If you have the chance to sit down and breathe during this grueling stretch of classes and finals, I highly suggest turning this on if you're looking for a laugh. I don't think you'll regret it. If you do, though, don't blame me...I only suggested that you watch it. There was no force used in the making of this comedy review.

# Batman v Superman

## Review

### Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justifiably Mixed Feelings

By Mark Ramos

*Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice* is a film movie goers and comic lovers alike have been waiting 3 years to get their eyes on. Now that we have, the film is sure to leave many with more questions than answers and also left to struggling with not liking a film they wanted to love.

Let's get the elephant in the room out of the way first. Many fans were uneasy with the casting of Ben Affleck as Bruce Wayne/Batman and it needs to be said, Affleck is the shining star of this film. Not only does he nail the role of both Bruce Wayne and Batman, something none of his predecessors have been able to do, but he is the only actor cast in the role who physically matches the sheer size of

the character from the comics. Affleck also gives us the greatest fight sequence that has ever been filmed in live action for the iconic character.

The rest of the cast really delivers as well, at least for the most part. Gal Godot's take on Wonder Woman silences critics as she easily steals the last 20 mins of the film. Jeremy Irons take on Bruce's butler and confidante Alfred was perfect as their chemistry chews up every interaction that they have together. Amy Adams dishes out a great performance as Lois Lane, even Laurence Fishburne stands out in the handful of scenes he's in as Editor in Chief Perry White.

Then there was Jessie Eisenberg's Lex Luthor. Or at least



something that was supposed to be some type of take on the iconic villain. Instead of a cool, calculating and charismatic genius CEO, we got a mentally deranged, mustache twirling, mad scientist version of Mark Zuckerberg whose name just happened to be Lex Luthor. This is where the problems with the film start.

It's not Eisenberg's fault; after all, he was just working with what he was given. It just happened to be a terribly written character who is completely unlikable in every way imaginable. This is ultimately one of the stand out problems with this film: the writing.

The writing is unbalanced, lazy and riddled with so many

plot holes that it's insulting. Things happen in this movie and there is zero explanation given as for why. This is mostly going to apply to Lex but here go some examples: Lex just knows Superman and Batman's secret identities, he just has files on all the members of what will become the Justice League, he can somehow trick an alien computer to create what would become a wasted character called Doomsday.

They also fail yet again to do Superman's character any justice. While Henry Cavil is given some great scenes as Clark Kent, especially those shared with Lois, Superman is left to only be seen in two spectrums, either stoic or angry. Clark is seen hap-

py and in love while Superman is lost as to who he should be in this world.

The biggest ball the writers drop was with the reasoning behind why Batman and Superman even come to blows. Did the writers decide to draw from the rich history between the two icons and use their philosophical differences to bring them to blows? No. Not even a little bit. They fight because Lex Luthor has been manipulating the two heroes for almost two years and ultimately kidnaps Superman's mom to force him into fighting Batman. Superman tries for all of two seconds to not fight Batman before he loses his temper and starts fighting. To make matters worse before he fights Batman he says something neither character would ever say "No one stays good forever." Talk about poor dialog choices.

Then there is the problem with the editing. This film is cut all over the place and is very incoherent at times. It jumps from scene to scene with no real natural flow and your left feeling like the studio didn't know what kind of movie they were trying to make. It tries to shoehorn in so much to the point that it loses the focus of the film, a focus that was a winning idea.

That idea was *Batman v Superman*. Had that been the focus and not the *Dawn of Justice* we likely would have ended up with a much more enjoyable film.

## Springsteen, Pearl Jam, others fight to flush "Bathroom Law"

### Rock Icons protest North Carolina's controversial House bill

By Jason Greenough

Many people around the US are in an uproar over a decision made by the North Carolina House, HB2, known as the controversial "Bathroom Law", including some of the biggest names in music history. This law, passed in March only one day after being brought to the attention of Governor Pat McCrory, prohibits anyone from entering a public restroom that is not designated for the gender stated on their birth certificate, and further strips local Government of their ability to enact anti-discrimination laws in these cases, and disables the ability for LGBT citizens to sue when their rights are infringed upon in the work place. As you could have guessed, this has proven to be exclusive of those in the LGBT

community, specifically those who are Transgender.

Leading the way for cancelling highly-anticipated rock concerts in protest of the newly passed law is rock titan Bruce Springsteen. "The Boss" released this statement on his website following the announcement of the cancellation of his April 10<sup>th</sup> show in Greensboro, North Carolina:

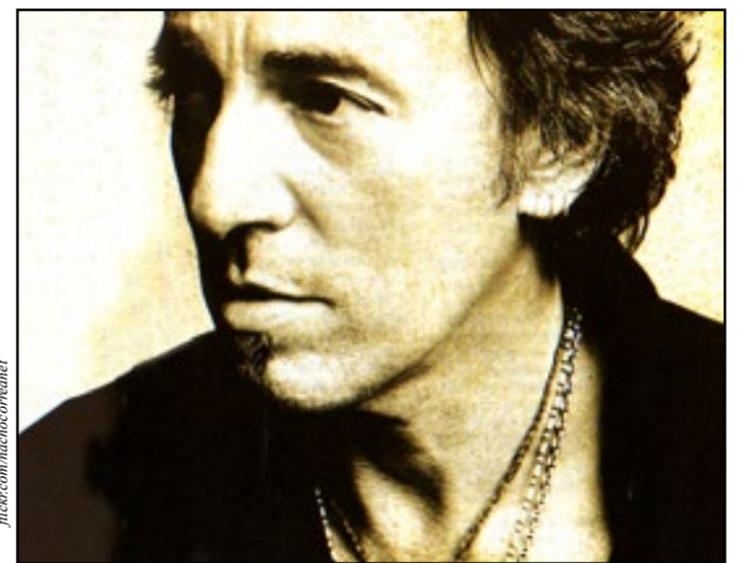
*"Right now, there are many groups, businesses, and individuals in North Carolina working to oppose and overcome these negative developments. Taking all of this into account, I feel that this is a time for me and the band to show solidarity for those freedom fighters. As a result, and with deepest apologies to our dedicated fans in*

*Greensboro, we have canceled our show scheduled for Sunday, April 10th. Some things are more important than a rock show and this fight against prejudice and bigotry — which is happening as I write — is one of them. It is the strongest means I have for raising my voice in opposition to those who continue to push us backwards instead of forwards."*

Springsteen's actions led a sort of domino effect for other all-star performers, like Pearl Jam, to follow suit in solidarity.

The Grunge Gods had this to say, as part of a statement to explain the cancellation of their 25<sup>th</sup>-anniversary tour stop in Raleigh, which was scheduled for April 20<sup>th</sup>:

*"The HB2 law that was recently passed is a despicable*



*piece of legislation that encourages discrimination against an entire group of American citizens. The practical implications are expansive and its negative impact upon basic human rights is profound...It is for this reason that we must take a stand against prejudice, along with other artists and businesses, and join those in North Carolina who are working to oppose HB2 and repair what is currently unacceptable."*

The protest didn't stop there, with other performers like classic rock-lifers Boston, and ex-Beatles drummer Ringo Starr, to also cancel shows to show support for those being discriminated against in the Tar Heel State. In addition to these cancellations, some artists, like Mumford &

Sons and Cyndi Lauper, are continuing on with their scheduled performances in North Carolina, but will be donating proceeds to the fight against HB2.

It's been said, time and time again, that entertainers should not have a voice when it comes to social justice issues like the one in question. But when a discriminatory government blatantly disregards the collective voice of "average" citizens, who is left to stand and fight for those buried under the rubble of inequality?

# “Workin’ eight days a week..”

By Patrick J. Miller

Song: Eight Days a Week/

Artist: The Beatles/

Writers: Lennon-McCartney/

Album: Beatles for Sale/

Release Date: 4 December, 1964

“Eight Days a Week” is one of my favorite Beatles songs during their “pre-Rubber Soul” era. It maintains a somewhat-unique composition and a possible double-meaning.

On the album of origin, Beatles for Sale, it is the first song on the B-Side, or back, of the vinyl long-play, alongside seven other

original compositions, and pitted against six covers. This may have been done to illustrate just how exhausted the band was after being in the spotlight for all of 1964.

In other words, that means concert tours around America, the UK, Australia, and New Zealand, as well as shooting for a movie and making radio appearances, notably on the BBC.

And the album reflects that. In almost every original composition on that album, each song is much more downbeat than their usual output at this time, especially “I’m a Loser” and “Baby’s in Black.” “Eight Days a Week’s” inclusion might have triggered similar feelings of feeling “down,” but I feel that this song has a much more uplifting second meaning.

For example, its instrumentation is much brighter in sound than any of the other originals on this track. It is more guitar-

driven than “I’m a Loser,” also a brilliant track on the album.

It may have to do with the fact that while “I’m a Loser” was directly inspired by Bob Dylan’s overall sound, Eight Days a Week is much more subtle, as it may not have taken much inspiration from Dylan at all.

“Eight Days a Week,” instead, takes some inspiration from one of Ringo’s malapropisms, but Paul McCartney has also attributed the name to a chauffeur who drove him to John Lennon’s residence once.

From both interviews:

‘LINDA: Ringo also said, “Eight days a week.”’

PAUL: Yeah, he said it as though he were an overworked chauffeur. In

heavy accent “Eight days a week.” Laughter When we heard it, we said,

“Really? Bing! Got it!” -1984 Playboy interview

‘Paul: I usually drove myself

there, but the chauffeur drove me out that day and I said, “How’ve you been?” – “Oh working hard,” he said, ‘working eight days a week.’” -The Beatles Anthology

Secondly, “Eight Days a Week” maintains both sad and comparatively happier meanings. The desire for the song’s lead to stay with the girl that he loves despite some hinted, and maybe not really hinted at all, exhaustion, playing right back to the title of the song. The second, happier meaning, which can work alongside the other one, is the overall determination of the lead to continue despite all odds. And that’s what I feel was brilliant about this song.

The composition is somewhat simple. First, we have two verses, each ending with the title, then a bridge, followed by a refrain of the first verse, followed by a refrain of the bridge, and finally, a refrain of the second verse. Also notable about its

overall composition was its fade-in intro.

Despite the fact that it wasn’t a complete fade in, it was the first time anyone has ever attempted that in a pop song, adding a little bit more uniqueness to this track.

Overall, I really like “Eight Days a Week.” It is simple, yet its lyrics can be interpreted in a few ways that actually improves the longevity of this song. It is definitely recommended.

“Eight Days a Week” can be found on the “Beatles for Sale” album, available on Amazon.com for at least \$13. [8/10]

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

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| <p><b>Across</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Winter toy</li> <li>5 Lion’s share</li> <li>9 Grow dim</li> <li>13 Mystiques</li> <li>15 Curved molding</li> <li>16 Biblical shepherd</li> <li>17 Lady’s garment</li> <li>18 Ore carrier</li> <li>19 Computer info</li> <li>20 Reddish brown</li> <li>21 Assists</li> <li>23 Ring count</li> <li>24 “___ De-Lovely”</li> <li>26 Avid</li> <li>28 Happening</li> <li>31 Winter wear</li> <li>33 Family group</li> <li>34 Malicious look</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>36 Fire remnant</li> <li>40 Final notice</li> <li>41 Bridge material</li> <li>43 Torso</li> <li>44 Wish granter</li> <li>46 Additionally</li> <li>47 Balcony section</li> <li>48 Salad green</li> <li>50 Cubic meter</li> <li>52 Military action</li> <li>54 Season (Fr.)</li> <li>55 Embargo</li> <li>56 Certain exams</li> <li>59 Legal proceeding</li> <li>64 Flows out</li> <li>66 Rainbow goddess</li> <li>67 Cooktop</li> <li>68 ___ vera</li> <li>69 Citrus fruit</li> <li>70 Chips in</li> <li>71 Succeeding</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>72 Blabs</li> <li>73 Fling</li> </ul> <p><b>Down</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Window part</li> <li>2 Gospel writer</li> <li>3 Hibernia</li> <li>4 Mend</li> <li>5 Nocturnal insects</li> <li>6 Beast</li> <li>7 Ocean goer</li> <li>8 Irritability</li> <li>9 Craze</li> <li>10 Decrease</li> <li>11 Block</li> <li>12 Flamboyance</li> <li>14 Wood covering</li> <li>22 Benefit</li> <li>25 Sums (Abbr.)</li> <li>27 Risk</li> <li>28 Hamburg’s river</li> <li>29 Conceited</li> <li>30 Attract</li> <li>31 Rinds</li> <li>32 Mars, to the Greeks</li> <li>33 Sprocket</li> <li>35 Gr. letters</li> <li>37 Rude person</li> <li>38 Advantage</li> <li>39 Deli bread</li> <li>42 Missing</li> <li>45 Hence</li> <li>49 Spookily</li> <li>51 Aquarium fish</li> <li>52 Expensive fur</li> <li>53 Desk file</li> <li>54 Twisty turns</li> <li>55 Carob, e.g.</li> <li>57 Solo</li> <li>58 Hobble</li> <li>60 Bluster</li> <li>61 Division word</li> <li>62 Long, long time</li> <li>63 Minus</li> <li>65 Gel</li> </ul> |
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# MWCC Celebrating 51<sup>st</sup> Commencement Ceremony

By Janice O'Connor.

Mount Wachusett Community College President Daniel M. Asquino, Alumnus of the Year, Gardner Mayor Mark Hawke, and Service Above Self Award recipient, Raymond J. Martino, president and CEO of Simonds International and chair of the MWCC Foundation, will be among the speakers during the college's 51<sup>st</sup> commencement on May 18.

"We are extremely proud to honor Gardner Mayor Mark Hawke as our 2016 Alumnus of the Year and community leader Raymond Martino as our Service Above Self Award recipient," said President Daniel M. Asquino. "Through their work professionally and in a volunteer capacity, both are making a tremendous difference in the lives of North Central Massachusetts residents, and in our students.

"I am deeply indebted to MWCC," said Mayor Hawke, who graduated in 1994 with an associate degree in interdisciplinary studies and went on to earn a bachelor's degree in political science from UMass Amherst and a master's degree in business administration from Anna Maria College.

"While I didn't know it then, the Mount and its faculty put me on the track to success. As a graduate, I have firsthand knowledge of the college's positive impact on students. As mayor, I have seen the transformative influence the college has had on our community."

This year, the Phi Theta Kappa honor society is conducting its 13<sup>th</sup> annual Project Graduation and will be collecting donations of nonperishable food prior to the ceremony for distribution to local food pantries.

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**"As mayor, I have seen the transformative influence the college has had on our community."**

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Ray Martino

## Puzzle Solutions

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Gardner Mayor Mark Hawke