

The Mount Observer

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

www.mountobserver.com

NOVEMBER 2, 2016

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 3

8 PAGES

Fighting Mental Illness Stigma on Our Campus

By Rachel Vargeletis

According to the Active Minds Association, "1 in 4 college students has a diagnosable mental health disorder in a given year." And the Anti-Stigma Service project wants to talk about it.

This semester in Sheila Murphy's Abnormal Psychology class, a group of 10 students have decided to form a class-long service project in efforts to bring light to a prevalent issue. That being: the stigma on mental illness. In specific, their goal is to highlight the way we perceive, talk, and act towards those with mental illnesses.

They hope to start a conversation that will change the way mental illness is judged entirely. As student Elise Hamblett explains, "Those with mental illnesses are simply not seen as they should be- as warriors. They fight something hidden every day and therefore are invalidated for it. It just makes no sense."

On October 20th, the Anti-Stigma Service students took turns manning a table, stationed near the café on the Gardner campus, displaying information on mental illness, handing out sheets with resources, and encouraging a pledge students could sign promising they would actively fight against the stigma and create a more understanding environment.

Another student in the project, Douglas Marroquin, stated while at the table Thursday, "No one chooses to suffer from diabetes like they don't bipolar disorder. It is simply something that needs more positive light in hopes those who view mental illness negatively can become more educated.

The panel the students are hosting has a mental illness awareness focus continuing their theme, and will be held on Thursday, December 1st from 12:30pm - 1:30pm in the North

Café. The speakers for the panel will be sharing their own stories and participate in a Q&A time for all attending.

If you would like to pledge, enter a raffle that the project is holding, attain any information

on the subject, or even talk to those in the service project feel free to stop by the table at our two last dates **November 10th**, **November 17th** from **11a.m. to 2 p.m.**, and of course the panel event **December 1st** in the North

Café from **12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

The conversation is sparking, but needs to catch fire. One person can make a difference, and together we can make change.



Local Benefit Music Concert *To Raise Awareness and Empower Women*

By Byron Harris

Sylvie Abate is a local musician out of Fitchburg. Along with being a multi-talented musician, Abate also shares a passion for helping others and creating a stronger community. Abate will be putting together a benefit music concert to celebrate and empower women.

Abate is managing the Out of the Fog Festival to raise awareness for domestic and relationship abuse. The term Out of the

Fog come from patterns of behavior associated with emotional abuse which promote Fear, Obligation, or Guilt (F.O.G). The Out of the Fog Festival will be an all-inclusive, feminist fundraising event for musicians, friends, families, and supporters of all genders.

The Out of the Fog Festival is seeking to raise funds for Safe Passage. Located in Northampton, Safe Passage is dedicated to

creating a world free of domestic violence and relationship abuse. And it is important to know that Safe Passage is for all survivors--women, men, transgender and gender non-conforming survivors, folks of no gender, and people of all sexual identities.

"It's all about the community," Abate said, as she went on to talk about how many members of the community are coming together to help her with the event. All

members of the community are invited celebrate and contribute.

From a very young age of 12, Abate was immersed in music. She studied classical guitar at the HART School of Music then later on attended New England Conservatory. Sylvie later went on to form multiple bands that were all successful and played for many large groups. These experiences set the stage for Abate's passion for music.

The festival will take place on Saturday, October 14 at Lyman Hall (First Churches) in Northampton, from 7:30 - 11:00 p.m. All proceeds after expenses from the event, and the full amount of every ticket sold, will go directly to benefit Safe Passage.

Come Work for Us!

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

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Student Life: Events

Student Photo IDs, By appointment only. Please bring one of the following photo IDs: a motor vehicle license or permit, a military ID, passport or a state issued identification card. ID cost is \$10. Returning students who already have an ID should stop by the MWCC library on the Gardner Campus or the front office on the Burbank, Devens or Leominster campus to have your ID validated for the fall semester at no charge.

CATS Programming Meeting (Campus Activities Team for Students) – 12:30 pm, Room W13. Come and join in on the fun of planning and running activities for MWCC students (i.e. Scary Karaoke, Fall Fest). For more information contact the Student Life office at studentlife@mwcc.mass.edu. 978-630-9148 or stop by room 151. Open to all MWCC students.

Thinkfast Elections Game Show – 12:30 pm, South Cafe. Test your election knowledge and get a chance to win \$100 CASH.

Student Government Association Meeting – 12:30 pm, room W11. Come see them in action and consider running for a seat on the SGA. Meeting open to all.

Film: Grab a Hunk of Lightning, 12:30pm, North Café
Dorothea Lange had to sacrifice something to do what she was born to do, which was take pictures that told the stories of hard lives. What was sacrificed, often, was the people around her. This two-hour “American Masters” special on the late photographer, directed and narrated by her granddaughter Dyanna Taylor, acknowledges the cost of Lange’s driven pursuit -- and forgives her. The documentary tracks Lange walking into the heart of the stories she wanted to tell. She spent months in migrant camps and work camps in the 1930s, following families from their dried-out farmland to often unwelcoming California. Her picture of a woman named Florence

Thompson, titled “Migrant Mother,” became one of the best-known American images from the Depression.

SGA Food Drive, 3pm-7pm, Walmart
Help the SGA collect nonperishable foods for distribution to students in need. Contact the Student Life Office for more information or to volunteer.

Intramural Activity – Lap Swimming – 12:30pm-1:30pm. Sign-up required by noon on 11/9 at the Fitness Center or by email to p_richard@mwcc.edu.

Post Election Dialog – 12:30pm-1:30pm, North Cafe. Come discuss the election results with Dean Jason Zelesky.

Intramural Activity – Pickleball – 12:30pm-1:30pm. Sign-up required by noon on 11/13 at the Fitness Center or by email to p_richard@mwcc.edu.

Intramural Activity - Pickup Basketball - 6pm. Appropriate clothing and footwear are required. Players under

the age of 18 need an adult signature to participate.

Film: We Shall Remain: Geronimo, 12:30pm, North Café.

In February of 1909, the indomitable Chiricahua Apache warrior and war shaman Geronimo lay on his deathbed. He summoned his nephew to his side, whispering, “I should never have surrendered. I should have fought until I was the last man alive.” It was an admission of regret from a man whose insistent pursuit of military resistance in the face of overwhelming odds confounded not only his Mexican and American enemies, but many of his fellow Apaches as well. Born around 1820, Geronimo grew into a leading warrior and healer. But after his tribe was relocated to an Arizona reservation in 1872, he became a focus of the fury of terrified white settlers and of the growing tensions that divided Apaches struggling to survive under almost unendurable pressures. American Experience mini series.

Winterfest Fair, Commons Area
Check out the many vendors as well as the theme baskets and wreaths that will be raffled off. Start your holiday shopping now and support the Emergency Student Loan Fund.

Intramural Activity – Volleyball – 12:30pm-1:30pm. Sign-up required by noon on 12/8 at the Fitness Center or by email to p_richard@mwcc.edu.

Star Wars, “May the Force be with You” – 11:30-1:30, Café Hallway. Get the extra boost you need to get through finals, stop by and see the CATS Programming Group and “May the Force be with You”.

2016-2017 Humanities Project

By Courtney Wentz

The Humanities Project at MWCC is in its third year with events that can be attended throughout the year.

The project started in 2014, and is funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to enhance humanities programs at MWCC. The grant is up to \$500,000, which is matched 50 cents on every dollar raised.

According to the pamphlets scattered around the building every year, Henry David Thoreau was chosen because he considered himself a scientist and a poet. Last year’s theme was Frankenstein by Mary Shelley, but it didn’t just focus on the book. It also focused on the science of the monster and even psychology. This year’s theme is Imagining Work that

shows how artists, writers, and photographers viewed work in the 19th century.

The project’s co-chairs are Professor Michelle Valois, Professor Lorie Donahue, and Professor Susan Blake. The administrator is Dean Laurie Occhipinti. Donahue and Blake referred to Valois as their “fearless leader.”

Every school year, they work hard to come up with a theme that is going to be relevant in other classes, not just humanities and English, but science and maybe even history. The theme is decided by surveys students, faculty, staff, and even the community can take part in. The chosen theme comes with events throughout the semester that stu-

dents, faculty, and the community can attend, either at MWCC or local libraries.

To raise money for the project, a fundraiser is hosted at Wachusett Mountain where contributors hike the mountain, which raises about \$6,000 a year. This will be their third year for this fundraiser to take place. The project has also gotten \$240,000 in anonymous donations. The money spent each year has been approximately \$8,000.

Professor Blake also wanted to give credit and thanks to the LaChance Library for their help in providing “theme-related materials, creating research guides, and promoting events.”

Description of Theme:

Imagining Work explores the many ways artists, writers, and photographers have expressed the changing nature of work over the past century and a half – from farm to factory in the 19th century; gainful employment to unemployment during the Great Depression; home to defense plant during World War II; a manufacturing economy to our present knowledge economy; as well as the effects of automation, globalization, immigration, war, and race on the identity of the American worker. Our investigation will focus special attention on pictures and poems: the photographs of Dorothea Lange, the paintings of Jacob Lawrence, and the award-winning book of poetry Kettle Bottom that depicts the West Virginia mining wars.

Events – Dates and Descriptions

Fall 2016

October

- Thursday, October 20, 6-8pm, MWCC Library – Kettle Bottom Read-Aloud, Pizza Party at 5:30. Come read your favorite poem from Diane Gilliam Fisher’s awardwinning book of poetry that explores the West Virginia coalmining wars of 1920-21 from the perspectives of the men, women, and children who lived in the mining camps.

- Saturday, October 29, 10:00am, Wachusett Mountain – 3rd Annual Hike for the Humanities. Hike a mountain and help raise money for the MWCC Humanities Project.

November

- Monday, November 7, 12:30-1:30, MWCC East Wing Gallery – Gallery Talk with Tracie Pouliot, Founder of Chair City Community Art Center & Oral History Bookmaking Project. Tracie will discuss her handcrafted books that depict the experiences of people who made their living in Gardner’s furniture industry. Pouliot’s work will be on exhibit in the East Wing Gallery from October 17 through November 30.

- Wednesday, November 9, 12:30-2:30, MWCC North Caf – Film: Grab a Hunk of Lightning. PBS documentary about the life of photographer Dorothea Lange, whose “Migrant Mother” became one of the most iconic images of the 20th century and whose life embodies the struggles of being an artist and a mother.

- Monday, November 28, 11:30-2:00, MWCC North Cafe– Jacob Lawrence ReplicaProject. Recreate a masterpiece with the help of artist and art history professor Donalyn Schofield. Participants will

THE MOUNT OBSERVER
VOLUME 11, ISSUE 3,
November 2, 2016

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Printer:
Athol Daily News

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Question 4: An In-Depth Look

By Jamie Parker

One of the most talked about questions of this election year for Massachusetts is Question 4: Legalization, Regulation, and Taxation of Marijuana. A “yes” vote on this question would, “allow persons 21 and older to possess, use, and transfer marijuana concentrate (including edible products) and to cultivate marijuana, all in limited amounts, and would provide for the regulation and taxation of commercial sale of marijuana and marijuana products.” A “no” vote would keep the laws on marijuana in Massachusetts the same as they are now. So let’s take a deeper look into what the “Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana Act,” the “Marijuana Tax,” and the “Regulation of Use and Distribution of Marijuana NOT Medically Prescribed.”

The Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana Act

The purpose of this act is to control the production and distribution of marijuana. The act works on a system that licenses, regulates, and taxes businesses involved. The system is very similar to that of businesses that deal with Alcohol. It would allow adults over the age of 21 to purchase, and even grow a limited amount of marijuana. The act would have its own advisory board, the “Cannabis Advisory Board.” The board would make recommendations on the regulation of marijuana. The Cannabis Advisory Board would consist of 15 board members assigned by the governor. There would be one expert on marijuana cultivation, one expert in marijuana retailing, one expert in marijuana product manufacturing, one expert in marijuana testing, one board member or officer of a medical marijuana treatment center, one registered medical marijuana patient, one person to represent recreational marijuana consumers, two experts in public health, two experts in law enforcement, two experts in social welfare/justice, and two attorneys with experience with marijuana related cases. Each member will serve a term of two years. The members will not be paid for their work, but they will be reimbursed for expenses they run into while performing advisory board duties.

Marijuana Tax

One of the major arguments in favor of legalization is the potential tax revenue the state would gain. The excise tax for the sale of marijuana and marijuana products would be 3.75% of the total price of the sale. However, on top of that, each city or town has the right to impose its own sales tax on top of that of up to 2%. This collected tax revenue could be used towards things like improving our education system, and the infrastructure around the state.

Regulation of the Use and Distribution of Marijuana NOT Medically Prescribed

In this section, we’ll go over the different regulations, and limitations that will be put into place if legalization is passed. Just like alcohol and guns, marijuana will have its own rules and requirements. These are some of the major limitations: Much like alcohol, it will be illegal to operate any sort or heavy machinery/ motor vehicles under the influence. Also the consumption of marijuana would be illegal on the public or private grounds of any educational facility where grades 1 through 12 are taught, and any negligent conduct would be treated very similarly to that of the current public intoxication laws. A marijuana dispensary will not be permitted to open within 500 feet of a school serving grades K through 12.

As far as regulation goes, here are some of the major points. Marijuana establishments could pay up to \$3000 for the application to become a licensed dispensary. If their application is accepted, the license itself will cost the owners another \$15,000 to obtain. Dispensaries will be required to have certain security measures as well. This includes actual security guards, specific lighting, video and alarm requirements, and secure storage for the marijuana. There will be random testing of samples of marijuana to ensure that all marijuana is labeled, and advertised correctly. There will be restrictions on the advertising to marijuana to avoid being attractive to children. There are also a few rules for the personal use of marijuana. An individual may have up to 10 ounces of marijuana in their person residence, but may only purchase 1 ounce at a time.

For more information on the legalization of recreational marijuana, please read the Massachusetts Information for Voters 2016 Ballot Questions booklet that is free, and given to every registered voter.

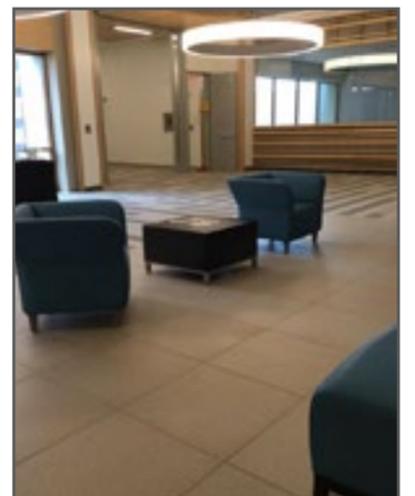
Renovations Shining Through At Last

By Mariah Boisvert

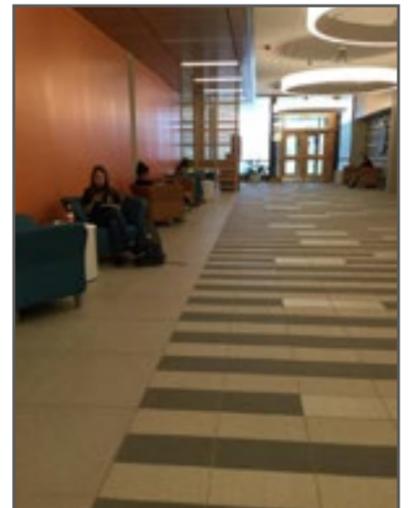
Over the past year MWCC has undergone some major construction with the addition of the new science building and renovations in the main building.



New entrance to the Theatre and Art wing



Above, Below: New furniture and seating areas by the main entrance



continued on page 5 >>>

DNC and the Clinton Campaign Caught in Alleged Illegal Activity

Investigative Tapes cause Two Democratic Operatives to Lose their Jobs Just Days Before Final Debate



An anti-Hillary Clinton promotional decoration prior to the release of O'Keefe's video.



The same anti-Hillary Clinton promotional decoration, this time photographed after the release of O'Keefe's video, now including the names of various mainstream news outlets.

By: Rebekah Chiasson

Democratic operative, Robert Creamer, stepped down from his position at Democracy Partner and Scott Foval was fired on October 18, just two days before the third and final presidential debate, due to the release of an undercover investigative video from James O'Keefe.

O'Keefe's Veritas Project, a non-profit dedicated to uncovering dishonesty, corruption, waste and fraud in public and private cooperations, released its latest investigative video project claiming illegal activity from the Clinton campaign. MWCC student and Trump supporter, Jack Korman says, "Honestly, I don't even care about Creamer and Foval, I am more worried that the mainstream media is barely covering it."

Graduate of Rutgers and UCLA, O'Keefe conducted investigations into ACORN, which ultimately led to the group's demise. His investigations also played a part in Planned Parenthood's Vice President being fired. O'Keefe is founder and President of Project Veritas with his latest work including the first of a four part undercover investigative video, "Rigging the Election: Video I," which released Monday, October 17.

In O'Keefe's latest tapes, Foval admits to being contracted directly with both the

DNC and Hilary's campaign. According to O'Keefe's hidden camera in, "Rigging the Election: Video I," Foval explained the chain of payment saying, "The campaign (Hillary Clinton) pays DNC (Democratic National Committee), DNC pays Democracy Partners, Democracy Partners pays the Foval Group, the Foval Group goes and executes the sh*t on the ground. The campaigns and the DNC cannot go near Priorities (Hillary's super PAC), but I guanran-damn-tee you the people who run the Super PAC all talk to each other and we and a few other people are the hubs of that communication."

Foval explained that Hilary and the DNC cannot communicate directly with Super PACs because that is illegal. Foval and Creamer's jobs were essentially to act as the middle-man to make sure "they can plausibly deny that they knew anything about it," according to Foval.

The video goes on to show Foval bragging about paying people to start riots at Donald Trump rallies. Trump's rallies have been given a violent characteristic with article titles such as, "Protester attacked at Donald Trump rally," from CNN and "Trump Supporter Strikes Protester as Trump Decries 'Deplorable' Comment" from NBC News. According

to O'Keefe's video, Foval explains how his company paid people to act as Trump supporters and start riots. According to the video, Foval said, "We have mentally ill people we pay to do sh*t, make no mistake."

This story did get a brief mention in the Presidential Debate on October 19 when Trump asked, "I was wondering what happened with my rally in Chicago and other rallies where we had such violence." His rally in Chicago was shut down due to violence, which O'Keefe claims was caused by Foval and Creamer's paid posers.

Although it took NBC until October 20 to report about Foval's story and both CNN and Fox over 24 hours, O'Keefe's video blew up social media with over 2 million views on YouTube within the first day of release, according to the video's YouTube statistics.

According to current research there has been no investigation by legal authorities for the alleged illegal behavior by Hilary's campaign and the DNC claimed by O'Keefe

"...I guaran-damn-tee you the people who run the Super PAC all talk to each other and we and a few other people are the hubs of that communication."

Donald's idiocy trumps Hillary's unlikeability

By Jason D. Greenough

Let the record state that I am not writing this as an endorsement of Hillary Clinton. While I will be voting for the Democratic front-runner this November, I think I should clarify that I am not a huge fan of Clinton, given her tactics during the primary season against Bernie Sanders.

Needless to say, I still love Bernie and still do believe that it should be him up at the podium destroying the Republican front-runner instead of Clinton. I use "destroy" in this context like Clinton is doing the unthinkable. It's a bar that is pretty damn low, if you ask me. And Trump's inability to be a cooperative human being is making me fall in love with Hillary all over again.

Clinton's back door shenanigans make for a fair case against her, sure. *Untrustworthy, manipulative, conniving...* I get what you mean. But, at this point, she could bulldoze an orphanage on Christmas (Or a Taco Bell on Taco Tuesday), and I would still vote for her, because no matter what exaggerated scenario you can say she *might* make reality, it's much lesser of a stretch to say that Donald "Bad Hombre" Trump would *actually* do something catastrophic to our country.

Trump's overall idiocy has caused me a great deal of stress, and has me revisiting what I left after the 2008 Democratic National Convention – my admiration for Hillary Clinton. Clinton is unlikeable in a variety of ways, but Trump's lunacy and "drunk uncle at a barbecue" demeanor has me going full-fledged for HRC.

To say that Trump wouldn't hit the red button because Kim Jung Un told him he had small hands would, in all honesty, be a dumb thing to say. I mean,

c'mon, the guy has reverted to a child-like state every time something doesn't go his way. His spoiled-rich-kid temperament and the fact that a majority of his supporters believe he "won" each of the three debates, in which he mostly just pointed fingers at everything wrong with Clinton's campaign instead of focusing on the direction of his own, not only baffles me completely, but makes me lose respect for those supporting him, to be completely honest.

Throughout this whole election cycle, I have heard Trump say very little, if anything, in regards to a detailed policy on camera (No, "we're gonna build a wall and Mexico is gonna pay for it" does not count as "detailed", and neither does "China", "Isis", or "You'd be in jail"), nor have I heard him say much that wasn't targeting women, African-Americans, latinos, handicapped journalists, or Hillary Clinton's e-mail server. For instance, during the final debate on October 19th, Chris Wallace asked Trump to address the numerous rape and sexual assault allegations, and Trump deflected with a mention of Clinton's e-mails.

He doesn't specify any policy positions regularly, because he doesn't seem to care very much about the office of the Presidency, but only his brand. He has given nothing to me that shows me that he is qualified *in the least* to be the guy who fastens tabs onto soda cans, much less the President of the United States.

As specified in a recent article from NBC News, he has flip-flopped on at least 22 original stances, ranging from his belief that the election was rigged against him in the primary (He doesn't anymore, because he won the nomination, accord-

ing to the *Washington Examiner*), to his widely-praised (and criticized) proposal to bar believers in the Muslim faith from entering the United States (First stating that no Muslim is allowed into the country for any reason, then he changed to saying it would call for "extreme vetting" while on *60 Minutes*, and has gone back and forth on it numerous times over the last year.)

So what exactly about his policies has people so gushy about his candidacy? There is no solid, sustainable idea that he has proposed that he hasn't either completely backed out of, or re-structured with more sugar-coating, but is still equally as repulsive and counterproductive. For example, according to *The Washington Post*, his stance on abortion and a woman's right to choose went from "There should be some form of punishment," to "I am pro-life with exceptions," and finally to "States will be given the right to protect the unborn" all within 72 hours. The man has no commitment to what he is proposing, so why should I be voting for him? This is another thing that is just making me support Hillary again.

All I keep hearing is "I just wanna see America great again!" ...*WHEN DID YOU SEE AMERICA GREAT TO BEGIN WITH?!!* Let's say I'm talking to 20-somethings like myself. You were born in the middle of the Bill Clinton Presidency and (probably) can't recollect a whole hell of a lot from it. I know I sure can't. So when exactly did you, yourself, see America great before? Let's take a look back in history, by decade, over the last century to find some clarity in what you mean...

Women weren't allowed to vote until 1920, and African-Americans weren't *truly* given that right until 1965 (They have, technically, had the right to vote since the 15th amendment was ratified in 1870, but loopholes created in various states barred them from casting their vote).

The Great Depression eroded the fiber of the country for years, starting in 1929, and even after its declared end in 1939. Segregation and racism ran rampant through the '40s, '50s and hitting a peak in the '60s, amidst assassinations and propaganda, while never really ending, just taking a "back seat" to the economic dismemberment of the 70s and 80s, the Cold War, the AIDS epidemic that was brushed off by the majority of elected officials, not to mention the droves of bigots who, even after learning more of the terrifying disease, still sought out to harm those in their neighborhoods suffering from it.

The '90s saw the injustice of the OJ Simpson verdict, the Rodney King chase and beating, and its subsequent reaction of riots across Los Angeles, the Oklahoma City bombing...I could practically go on forever. Again, I ask...

When did you see America great? And do you really think our solution to getting back on the saddle is a reality TV star who would consider dating his own daughter if she weren't blood-related? Is Benghazi a big deal to his supporters because it was a horrible accident? Or because the word is just fun to reiterate?

A large number of his supporters love the fact that he was in favor of the Bathroom bill, because that means he wants what's best for our children, yet you find

nothing wrong with him bragging about sexually assaulting women, and when asked to address the allegations during a debate, deflects to barking about Hillary's e-mails *uhhhh-gain?* Do you hear yourselves? Can you even reiterate *one* of his policies? Or are you just riding the coattails of some empty motto that looks cool on a hat, and looks good on paper? Is Hillary the ideal candidate? Certainly not. But is she better than the alternative (Gary Johnson and Jill Stein included)? I can honestly say yes to this.

Donald's Trump's website offers detailed policies ranging from education to veteran affairs, as does Clinton's website. But something I noticed upon further investigation is that Trump's website also includes a section, at the bottom of each policy detail, that is titled "Contrast with Hillary Clinton". Why must everything revert to what Hillary hasn't done, as opposed to what he plans to do?

He's playing on the fears and desperation of the middle and working class. His "big money" persona, and his (incredibly exaggerated) success in business make him look like he has all the answers when it comes to pulling America out of the well. But he doesn't. Well, really no one does. But he *really* doesn't. The circus that he has created in this election has me doing something I said I would never do when Bernie Sanders was in the race – overlook Hillary's flaws.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt said "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself"...Well, Trump is one big orange ball of fear, the human equivalent to a narcissistic, sociopathic Garfield, and I, for one, am scared to death that there is an actual possibility that he can become our next President.

MWCC Spotlight: Renovations Continued

Nancy Regan

Advisor to the Hiking Club

By Tyler Morgan

Hiking a mountain can be a tough obstacle for some, but it is also a way to relieve any stress one may have or even just to clear one's mind. For Nancy Regan, who works in Health Services on the Gardner campus at Mount Wachusett Community College, this is a way of life. She hikes nearly every weekend and does it year round.

"I love it. For me, it is exhilarating. I consider it a lot of soul-searching that you can do when you're out in nature and I think it's great for anyone," said Regan, who is currently in her third year as the advisor of the MWCC Hiking Club.

The outdoors is a way for her to relieve stress, if she has a headache or is overwhelmed by something; the outdoors is a way for her to just take a deep breath and relax. Her goal was to bring students and show them how to relax in nature. With the hiking club, they do many activities such as kayaking, snowshoeing, and climbing various mountains.

Nature is a big part of Regan's everyday life; even in her free time, she hikes Mt. Monadnock twice a week. She has even hiked the largest mountains in Ver-

mont, Maine and New Hampshire. Regan hikes year round, but feels that she is in need of a new goal. If she didn't have a job, she would be completing the Appalachian Trail, which takes approximately six months to do.

Each mountain that Regan has hiked has something different about them. She enjoys being able to see the view once she gets out of the woods and everything opens up. Regan believes hiking is a way to really find yourself, especially for the younger generation that is so attached to their phones and social media.

The winter is the best time for hiking; it's so pristine and nothing has been touched. With the sun coming down, the snow looks like ice and it is very beautiful.

Regan's son even became interested in hiking about a year ago so they may end up attacking what is called the "48's" which is located in the White Mountains of N.H. She has already accomplished hiking the 48 mountains, which are four thousand feet or higher, and would like to do it with her son now that he has expressed the same interests.

Aliza Miller

By Liam Scanlon

Most students at Mount Wachusett Community College may know Aliza Miller as their math professor. She teaches a wide range of levels of math classes. She is a Project ACCESS (Advancing Community College Careers: Education, Scholarship, and Services) Fellow with the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges (AMATYC). She posts a Math Problem of the Week on the whiteboard outside her office.

Aside from her work with the math department at The Mount, she is also the Chair of Interdisciplinary Studies at The Mount, has traveled all around the world, and is an artist. Miller has lived in New York, Kaohsiung (in Taiwan), Montreal, Vermont, and here in Massachusetts.

Miller taught English in Kaohsiung through HESS International Educational Group. She came into the country without knowing how to speak Chinese. It was a 'huge culture shock' she recalls.

She had to learn to drive a 90cc scooter aggressively through crowded streets. She eventually had to learn some traditional Chinese characters. There were

vastly different landscapes within 50 miles of each other. Karaoke was a big deal. After a week of training, she was teaching.

She taught students from the kindergarten level to junior high level. She has kept in touch with some of her former students through social media. One of her students, whose English name is Vivian, is now an aspiring dancer living in London.

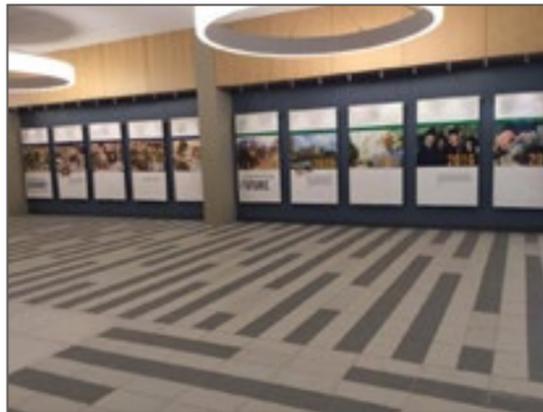
What she misses most from Taiwan is the food. It isn't the karaoke or having to drive aggressively on a 90cc scooter in crowded streets, but the 'fresh,' 'legit,' food available at almost any hour. She could get fresh food at a night market on her way home from teaching late night classes.

Miller has decorated her current home with artwork featuring origami and geometry. She has a flock of origami cranes following the path of a huge Pythagorean Spiral on one of her walls and a flock traveling along a sine curve on another. She does Bonsai Origami. Her office also has some origami artwork.

Like most professors here at the Mount, Miller is more than what meets the eye in her classes.



Panorama view of the front of the building



Timeline of the school



Outside view of the addition



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MWCC's East Wing Gallery Busy with Fall Exhibitions and Gallery Talks

Rebekah Chiasson

The East Wing Gallery at MWCC opened its doors to the public this semester after its temporary close due to last year's construction. Joyce Miller, Gallery Director and art professor at MWCC, took full advantage and planned exhibitions and gallery talks for this fall semester, even if it meant doing some construction work herself.

Miller said through an e-mail interview, "All summer, May through August, with the help of the Studio Assistant, I repaired and refinished the gallery walls and all the pedestals." This enabled Miller to start exhibitions as early as September 9, with paintings from retired art professor, John Pacheco, who had been teaching at MWCC for over 30 years. His exhibit ended October 4, but drew in "lots of gallery visitors" according to Miller.

Although Pacheco's position still remains vacant, the Art Department has welcomed a new professor. Jesse Connor has been with MWCC since Pacheco's retiring, and is currently exhibiting his acrylic series, *Far Reaches*. Students, faculty, staff and the community can meet him at his Gallery Talk, November 8.

Tracie Pouliot's Chair City Community can also be found currently on exhibit in the glass cases of East Wing Gallery. Pouliot's Gallery Talk will be hosted November 7, from 12:30pm -1:30pm.

When asked if Pouliot could give a prequel to what she'll be addressing at her Gallery Talk and she explained, "I'll be

talking about the process we use to make the books in the Chair City Oral History Book Series, from start to finish. I'll also talk about why we are making the books in this series." She encourages students to come because she thinks her Gallery Talk "will really tie in the theme of 'Imagining Work' that many classes are studying this year as part of the National Endowment for the Humanities program."

Pouliot is a former MWCC student and now teaches the very class that made her want to become an artist. Pouliot told me through e-mail, "I'm a brand new adjunct faculty teaching Printmaking, and I took this same class when I was a student at the Mount many years ago. MWCC is where I first fell in love with printmaking, so it feels full-circle to be able to teach printmaking."

Pouliot took her printmaking students to the Chair City Community Workshop to work on the Book Series project. Pouliot said, "It was really fun to welcome them into the space and teach class there for a day."

The final art exhibit planned for fall comes from Isabella Bourque Dixson, another MWCC alumna. Her exhibit will be on display December 12.

Miller also was able to get approval to plan the high school art show that had to be cancelled last year due to construction. Miller is now in the midst of scheduling the exhibitions and gallery talks for the spring semester.

Photos Courtesy of Rebekah Chiasson



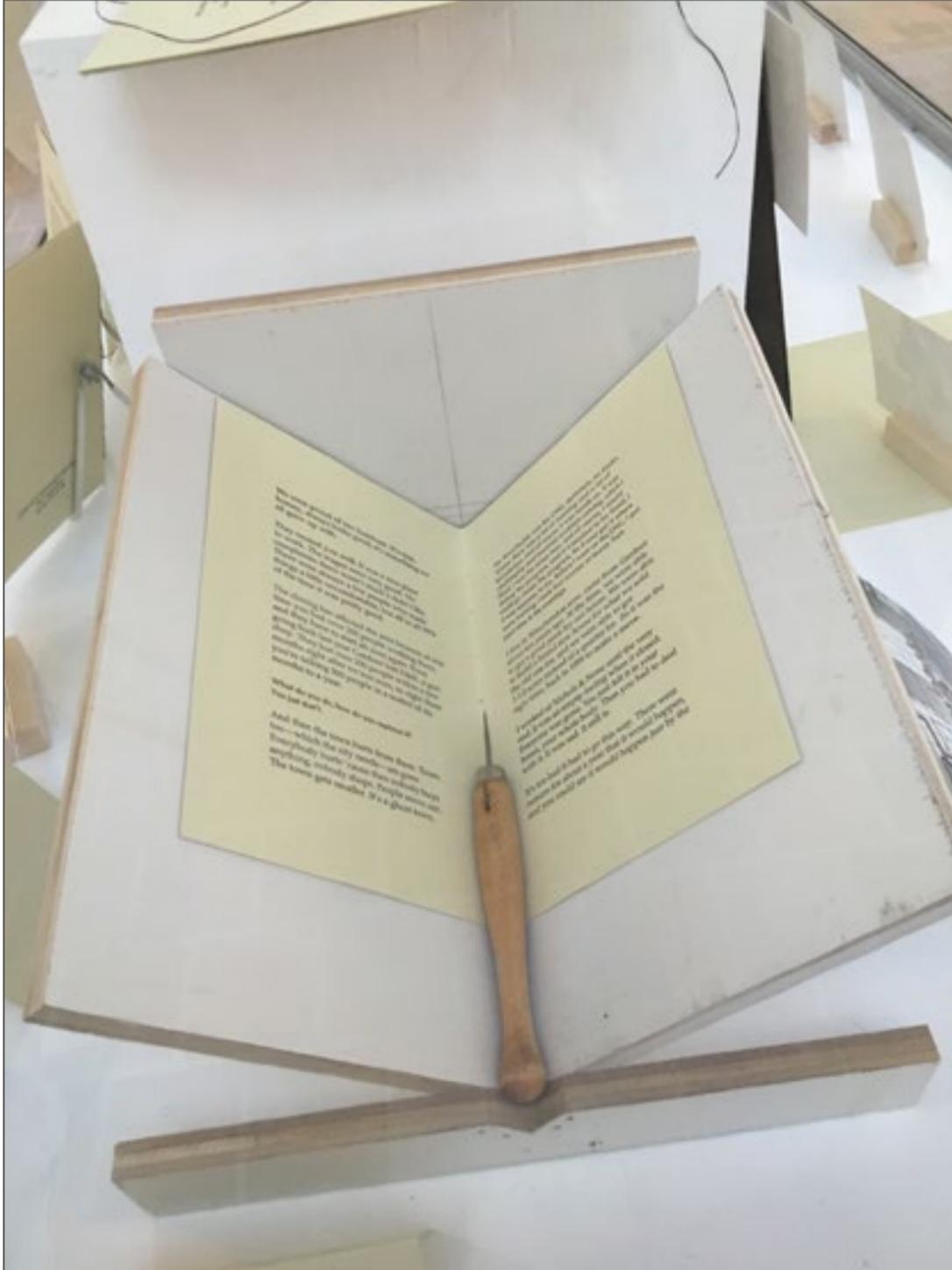
Far Reacher #3 by Jesse Connor, acrylic on panel, 2015, 38 x 88 in.



Outdoor Laboratory by Jesse Connor, oil on panel, 2016 16 x 20 in.



Metal Monuments #1 by Jesse Connor, oil paint on panel, 2014, 8 x 24 in.



Tracie Pouliot's Chair City Community



Large Sketch Book Page by Jesse Connor, mixed media on panel, 2015, 48 x 44 in.



Tracie Pouliot's Chair City Community

Pics Or It Didn't Happen

By Courtney Wentz

Everywhere you turn, someone has their phone out to snap a photo of where they are, what they're doing, or who they're with.

When you go to a show, whether it's a concert, play, musical, comedy show, most of the audience has their phone out to record or take a picture of the performance, instead of living in the moment and enjoying the show. You aren't enjoying the show if you're on your phone the entire time trying to get that non-blurry photo.

Even when people go on a trip or vacation, you feel like

you're there because your friend is posting every second on social media. Your phone is not your brain. Yes, the photo is going to be a great reminder, but how well are you going to remember that moment? How you were feeling? How environment felt around you?

Last September, the BBC wrote an article where they talked to Linda Henkel, a psychology professor at Fairfield University in Connecticut. She said, "What I think is going on is that we treat the camera as a sort of external memory device. We have this expectation that

the camera is going to remember things for us, so we stop processing that object and we don't engage in the types of things that would help us remember it."

A photo may say a thousand words, but it's not going to tell you how you were feeling in that exact moment and you're not going to remember it because you were too busy thinking about how this would make a great profile picture or Instagram post.

When you go to a concert, the crowd is lit up by cellphone screens, not fans being there with the band. When you go to a play or a musical, people are try-

ing to seek taking a video instead of being in the world the actors on stage are creating.

People should be more focused on enjoying the experience and living in the moment, instead of worrying whether or not your hair looks good for the photo op.

One of my cousins is always posting photos of everything he's doing on Facebook. It's great to see recent photos of him because he lives far away, but I can't help to feel that he should just write a post about the things he's doing and the things his students make. I would rather know what he's

thinking and feeling.

Last month, YouTuber and author John Green said in his *Drowzees and Masterpieces: Thoughts from London* video, "At times it feels like documenting a meaningful experience is more important than having the experience."

The next time you go to a concert, museum, play, musical, comedy show, or leave the middle of nowhere Massachusetts, put the camera down. Tell people a story about your experience with words, instead of a photo because you're clogging up Facebook with all your selfies.

Living Out A Dream

By Tyler Morgan

Traveling across the United States on tour with a popular musician is something not many people can say they have done. The rock star lifestyle is not fit for many, especially with what goes on from day to day while traveling from state to state.

Imagine not being able to take a shower for over a month while being stuck on a luxury tour bus traveling around the U.S. having the time of one's life? For Travis Collier, 21 a graduate of

North Middlesex High School in Townsend, the time spent touring was well spent.

"Waking up in a different city or state every day is crazy," Collier said.

Collier is the Head of Sales for Merchandising for pop artist Sammy Adams. He is in charge of all T shirts, sweatshirts, hats, etc. The two met through social media about six years ago and have been working shows together since then.

Every night is different especially when meeting new people. Every city and venue has a different atmosphere and that's what makes things fun. After performing a show, the entire crew will load up and get back on the tour bus.

If there are multiple shows in the same city, the crew will head to the best nightclub in the area to stand in the VIP section with bottle service. The best part about being in a different state

every other day is exploring, Collier said he would wake up as early as possible to go explore the city. His favorite sights to see was the Chicago Bean and also the Canadian National Tower in downtown Toronto.

With another tour coming up in December, Collier is excited to get back on the road and enjoy another adventure with the entire crew. He also just wrapped up a three day tour with the well known Rapper Nelly. His future

plans are to continue touring with artists and to hopefully land another position, possibly becoming a tour manager.

Although it is tough to acquire a position working with any celebrity, Collier believes that social media is a huge gateway that can do wondrous things. For him it worked and for others, even at MWCC it could work; just don't give up and keep tweeting!

Living for Learning: Total Immersion Education

By Joshua Needham

For three days during October, something strange happens at the Radisson Hotel in Manchester, NH. People from all over the country gather to share their love of anime, video games, and pop culture. Colorful costumes and home-made props fill the halls and courtyard for nearly a full 72 hours and it's clear, Another Anime Convention (AAC) is back in town.

When people outside of that culture think of such events, they likely think of the socially inept gathering to discuss Star Trek, dressed as their favorite characters and roleplaying their favorite scenes with one another. What they may not think about

is the professionals that make the journey to attend the gatherings.

Many major conventions centered around media, such as AAC and Anime Boston, can be split into two main attractions: entertainment and education. A ticket to attend grants access to many spaces for entertainment, such as the Dealer's Room, a space where industry dealers can sell their merchandise directly to the fans, Artist's Alley, where independent artists are able to sell their art work and share their creative visions, and convention panels, where a lot of the main focus lies.

Panels at conventions serve as small classrooms, where guests

can learn skills and traits of the professionals in the media industry. From game developers to music composers, film makers to animators and professional prop designers, the people making a living in the media industry are there to guide those that want to break the mold of the mundane.

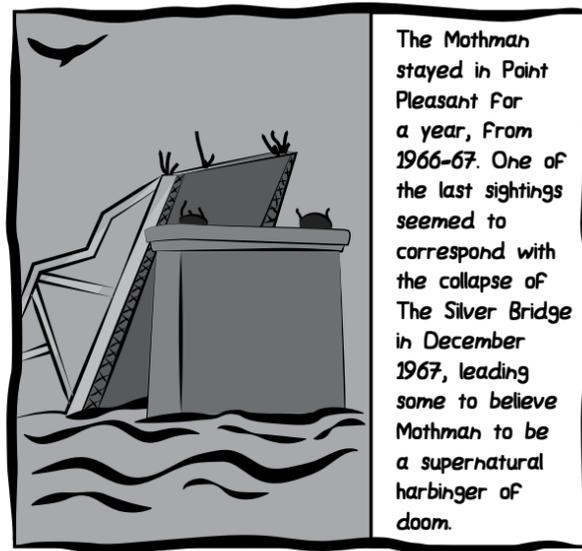
This year, a panel called "Put some kick in your flick" was presented by members of Good Heart Media Services and Back Lot Films to help aspiring film makers learn better practices for filming. In the panel, they covered the basics of three-point-lighting, the 180-degree rule, how to frame your shots, and the importance of audio. These

things are basics within the film industry, but probably sound like gibberish to anyone new to the game, but time was spent explaining each aspect for everyone from absolute beginners to seasoned filmmakers. The panel lasted about three hours and was jam-packed with good information.

Education is on-going and events such as these can help to make the learning process both more entertaining and easier to understand. Reading something from a text book may help understand how something is done, but there's nothing like being able to learn from and ask questions directly with someone that

has been in the line of work you aspire to be in.

Anime conventions such as these can be a great resource for students in the media arts fields, but they're far from the only conventions around. With a little bit of searching, all types of conventions can be found for nearly every career desire. Not only does attending conventions offer new opportunities for learning, it can also be a great chance to network with others in your industry, and it's a great way to immerse yourself in your subject matter. Check out anotheranimecon.com for more information about AAC.



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The Older One Gets

He hath set eternity in their heart...

By Rachel Vargeletis

Eyes tend to glisten with a certain, familiar Shine of regret the older one gets. Wrinkles tend to cast a deeper, darker shadow Upon their chagrined pretense The older one gets.

"Sorry"s feel empty and "I love you"s only feel like a way of apologizing. The sun hurts more than is ever brightens your day, And suddenly, You find your feet sore from

The routine Instead of bouncing in eager leaps across each room, Craving sand under their seasoned edges And wet dirt between their wriggling toes, The older one gets.

Worlds tend to fade into a comfortable Black and white- Lives tend to wrap themselves up in a Cocoon of security. Hair that once danced

freely in the wind Tends to find itself tucked away. And arms that once held The entire universe In their tender embrace Tend to cement themselves to one's side, The older one gets.

The smiles that glazed the soft cheeks of a lover Tend to form now only Robotically, laboriously. No emotion- or an especial lack thereof. No sentiment, and no passion.

Life suddenly means less, Love suddenly seems less, The older one gets.

One tends to die before the day one stops their breathing, The older one gets. And my question is Why?

By James Pelletier

Life is not fair but Eternity is.

It lasts exactly the same amount of time for everyone.

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Sunday, December 4 10:30 am - 3:00 pm

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Non-traditional Students Club Launching Unique Outreach

By Stevie LaBelle

The Adult College Experience Club is looking to reach out to Mount Wachusett Community College's non-traditional student population. While this club started out as a program within the college, it has expanded into a means for seasoned non-traditional students to mentor incoming non-traditional students.

This club is for measure of helping to ease the anxiety of these students while entering into the college experience. Co-Advisors to the club are Melissa Sargent and Sarah Dorsey. While

they hope that students will find the club fun and engaging, their overall goal is to be available to help.

They hope to be able to host workshops relevant to this population of students. These workshops would be offered at no cost to the students. Some topics that may be covered include: how to balance life and school, juggling methods for study when you have children, resume writing, etc. Additional topics would be decided by the members of club as to represent what is they feel is necessary to

their experience and challenges undertaking college.

Since a great deal of non-traditional students have an inflexible and sometimes challenging schedule, the ACE Club has additional options to the standard club meetings. "Life happens," explains Melissa Sargent, which they began looking into these alternate meeting options. The Club is going to launch a virtual meeting tool to its members.

"This variation in club meetings will allow students from not only the Gardner

campus to participate, but the Leominster, Devens, and Web students as well," Melissa Sargent explained. Not only will the meetings allow for students who have a web camera and microphone to actively participate, the meetings will be recorded so that students who could not watch at the scheduled time, can view at their own availability. The club will encourage its members to participate in the discussion via Facebook as well.

With "National Non-traditional Students Week" coming up,

November 7th – 11th, the ACE Club is recruiting new members as they currently do not have their Officer positions filled. Their first meeting will be held in the North Café at the Gardner campus on November 17th at 5pm. This meeting will be launching the new technology for a virtual meeting. Sargent encourages students who are available to come to campus for the meeting to do so, as it will not be solely a virtual experience.



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A November to Remember for Metal Fans: November Music Preview

By Jason D. Greenough

The temperatures may (finally...possibly) hit freezing, but the metal is burning hot! November 2016 is sure to bring any metal fan a few moments of bliss.

Want to get away from the awkward family get-together? Need something to keep you awake before you go shopping on black Friday? With retrospective releases galore, ranging from Queen's *...On Air: The Complete BBC Sessions*, and Pink Floyd's *The Early Years: 1965-1972*, to REM's *Out of Time* celebrating its 25th anniversary with a re-issue, and Soundgarden's *Badmotorfinger*, you're pretty much all set. But, I have a few other suggestions as well...

For all the hair metal misfits, Bon Jovi is back with their second album in just over a year, *This House Is Not For Sale*, due out November 4th, and I can honestly say that, to me, it is a sign that Bon Jovi is back. With as much as grit and riff rock as *Slippery When Wet*, but as much personal discovery and uplifting as *Have a Nice Day*, Jon Bon Jovi further cements his rightful place among the best songwriters and musicians in all of rock history. While Richie Sambora is AWOL from this studio effort, the New Jersey quintet didn't skip a beat in creating one of their best records since the turn of the century, and I know I won't be disappointed, and I have a feeling that, if JBJ

is your jam, you won't be either!

While Bon Jovi & Co. tucks you into bed, Metallica is under your bed, waiting for you to fall asleep. With *Hardwired...To Self-Destruct* on the horizon, the Bay Area Thrash vanguards have blown me away with their first two singles featured on the album ("Hardwired" & "Moth To Flame"), and it just makes me wonder how much more they have in store when the album hits shelves on November 18th. It was no secret that many metal fans, and even those who eat, sleep, and breath Metallica were not too enthused by 2008's *Death Magnetic*, so you could probably assume that the Rock n' Roll Hall-of-Famers knew they had to redeem themselves

with their first full-length EP in 8 years. And you know what? So far, it has blown my mind as much as it has the speakers in my headphones.

Nikki Sixx, legendary bassist for Motley Crüe, and founding member of Sixx:A.M., is going to have a busy month in November!

Although Crüe's 35-year career came to a close at the end of last year, the full-length feature DVD documenting their final concert, *Motley Crüe: The End Live in Los Angeles*, is set to make its way to the masses on November 4th as well, and a limited edition version seeing daylight on November 25th. Also on Sixx's plate is the release of

Sixx:A.M.'s *Prayers For The Blessed: Vol. 2*, dropping on November 18th, a follow up to their smash hit *Prayers For The Damned*. A tour to support the new release will also bring them to Worcester's DCU Center on November 25th, in case you really dig it and want to see it played live!

November is sure to be a great month for music, and if you wind up picking any of these up, be sure to let the Observer know what you think!

Battlefield 1 Video Game Review

By Nicholas Velillari

Battlefield 1 is the new first person shooter released by EA and Dice and is the sequel/prequel to *Battlefield 4*. With most shooters sticking with a futuristic/modern setting, *BF1* is going back in time, focusing on World War 1.

The draw to *Battlefield* games is their multiplayer and in *BF1* the multiplayer is the best it's been since *Battlefield 3*. At launch, there are six modes to play: Conquest, Rush, Team Deathmatch, Domination, and two new modes called War Pigeons and Operations.

Conquest is still the classic 64 player mode, but with a new points system implemented along with killing the enemy team. Domination is good for 32 player combat for those looking to steer clear of 64 players. Rush is still a decent attack/defend struggle, but it's been limited to 24 players. Not only that, but it's overshadowed by the new game mode, Operations.

Operations is a 40-64 player mode that pits an attacking team against a defending team. The attackers have to capture zones and push the defenders across the map. If they succeed, the game then switches to another map where they have to attack

again. If the defenders can't hold out on the 2-3 map sets, then they lose. However, the attackers have 3 battalions (150 reinforcements each) to attack. The game mode is extremely addictive and it actually feels like you're in a warzone.

The map design is also unique and diverse. They range from Sinai Desert, a massive middle-eastern location featuring sand dunes and central village, to Argonne Forest, a small infantry focused map littered with trenches. Each map has a well designed shape of pathing and it's very refreshing. Much better than the symmetrical shape that *BF4* maps relied on.

BF1 features a single player campaign; however, it's presented as an anthology of war stories that you can play in whichever order you chose. The stories are centered around the struggle of soldiers' emotions and how they experience the war. The two strongest are "Through Mud and Blood", a story of a dysfunctional tank crew learning to overcome their differences, and "Friends in High Places", a tale of two pilots fighting over the frontlines in France.

The other stories don't pack the emotional heft, particularly

"Avanti Savoia!" It's only two missions long and feels like a dull shooting gallery. But there is replayability with the first two stories for those looking for a fun single player experience.

Overall, *Battlefield 1* is a multiplayer shooter first, and a campaign second. The WW1 theme is spot on and the graphics and sound quality are the best they've ever been. A must play for fans of the series.

Score: 9.5 out of 10

Pros: Fantastic multiplayer, amazing visuals and sound quality.

Cons: Single player falls flat at certain missions.

Humanities Project Events Continued

create replicas of Jacob Lawrence's moving paintings that recall the Great Migration of African Americans from the south to the north during the early 20th century, a migration fueled by the Jim Crow-era conditions of the South and the demand for labor in the North.

December

- Wednesday, December 7, 12:30-1:30, MWCC North Caf – Student Poetry and Prose Slam on the theme of work. Students will read original poetry and prose inspired by their personal work experiences as well as work in a broader philosophical, historical, and political context.

Spring 2017

February

- Thursday, February 23, 6:30-8:00, Levi Heywood Memorial Library Lecture: "The Struggle for Just Wages as a Just Reward for Hard Labor: Women Mill Workers in Lowell, Massachusetts 1825 – 1860" with Professor Robert Farrant from UMass Lowell.

March

- Saturday, March 4, 11:00-5:00, Leominster Public Library Double Feature Movie Marathon – Workers in The Movies: Modern Times (Charlie Chaplin, 1936) and The Devil and Miss Jones (Sam Wood, 1941) – Two films, lunch, and a talk by Professor Joe Moser of Fitchburg State University. See Chaplin's "Little Tramp" on the assembly line and Jean Arthur as a department store clerk in two classic films about Depression-Era work and workers. Cosponsored by the Friends of the Leominster Library. Pre-registration for this event is required: please visit www.leominsterlibrary.org

- Wednesday, March 29, 12:30-1:30, MWCC North Caf – Film: The Life and Times of Rosie the Riveter. Celebrate Women's History Month by honoring women defense plants workers during WWII in this film that explores the racist and sexist propaganda of the American home front during the war.

April

- Thursday, April 6, 12:30-1:30, MWCC North Caf and 6:30-8:00, Athol Public Library – Poetry Reading with Diane Gilliam Fisher, author of *Kettle Bottom*, an award-winning book of poetry that explores the West Virginia coalmining wars of 1920-21 from the perspectives of the men, women, and children who lived in the mining camps.



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