

“We Have Issues!”

The Mount Observer

www.mountobserver.com

OCTOBER 5, 2016

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 2

8 PAGES

Pentagon Loses 6.5 Trillion Taxpayer Dollars

by Rebekah Chiasson

The Defense Department had to present their audit this June and could not account for \$6.5 trillion. Investigators, including Reuters who first released the report, believe the missing money is due to “unreliable” data and “fudged” numbers.

The Defense Department’s annual budget is roughly \$600 billion, but according to their audit report, “The Defense Finance and Accounting Service Indianapolis (DFAS Indianapolis) did not adequately support \$2.8 trillion in third quarter adjustments and \$6.5 trillion in yearend adjustments.” The DFAS managed to double their already enormous loss in the last quarter of the fiscal year. In addition to the trillions lost, more than 16,000 files “vanished” from the DFAS’s computer system because of “a

flaw in the computing software,” according to the report.

The Defense Department, located in the Pentagon, is responsible for wars, healthcare, personnel, housing, equipment, and procurements appointed to them by Congress. “Though there are a high number of adjustments, we believe the financial statement information is more accurate than implied in this report,” said Dov Schwartz, an Army spokesman. Schwartz added that Army is still reviewing the report.

The Pentagon, who apparently has a reputation for bad accounting practices, has never completed an audit before June of this year. In 1996, all federal agencies were ordered by the court of law to perform routine financial audits. However, the Pentagon has failed to complete an audit

within the last 20 years. Scott Paltrow’s 2013 Reuters investigation revealed the Department of Defense commonly “fudges” or misrepresents their financial accounting numbers.

The Department of Defense’s errors are almost 1000 times higher than last year’s \$7 billion in financial errors. If the Defense Department stuck to their budget, the “missing” 6.5 trillion taxpayer dollars could have paid for over one-fourth of the national debt, or pay off the student loan debt roughly five times over.

Capitol Hill Lawmakers are trying to keep the Pentagon accountable by imposing penalties if the Pentagon cannot complete a legally mandated full audit scheduled to happen September 30, 2017.



A Few Good Men (and a Woman): “Comics on a Mission” coming October 29th

by Jason D. Greenough

Comics on a Mission, a night of stand-up comedy to support veteran students at MWCC, will be hitting the stage on Saturday, October 29th, at The Theater At The Mount.

The event, with all proceeds going to supporting veterans on campus, will be hosted by Brockton native Comedian Will Smalley, and headlined by Boston Comedy vet and legend Tony V, who will be joined by a number of fellow Bay State comics including Andrew Mayer (son of MWCC Director of Veteran Services, Bob Mayer), Kate Procyshyn, and MWCC student Brian Dickens, who a lot of you may know, even if he is taking a semester off from classes here

at the Mount. Dickens, a greenhorn when it comes to bringing his unique brand of stand-up to the stage, has always found himself comfortable in the spotlight, and for him, this opportunity, which was granted to him as an award at a stand-up contest in the spring, is no laughing matter.

“I have been a performer of all sorts for about a decade,” says Dickens. “I’ve done singing, poetry reading, guitar playing, and I’ve even acted in a musical. But although I’ve been a huge fan of stand-up comedy my whole life, I’ve only done it myself a couple times,” he continues. “I’m both nervous and excited to try and bring some laughs to the Theater At The Mount.”

If you would like to be a part of what is sure to be a great evening of laughter, fun, appreciation and support, tickets are still available at mwcc.edu/tam/comics-on-a-mission-comedy-show. \$20 for General ticketing, \$15 for students.



Inside this issue:

News	1
Opinion	2
Reviews.....	4
Editorial.....	5
Arts.....	6
Events.....	8

Gateway Student Voice

What It's Like to Come Back to School After 4 ½ Years

by Eden Shaveet

During the spring of my 7th grade year, I decided that I did not want to go to school anymore.

A seemingly tactless and unrealistic decision, I know, but I hoped it would make me happy after years of struggling with what seemed to be an unexplainable, perpetual sadness that worsened with each year I ignored it. After nearly a decade of jumping from school to school and transforming myself to fit each new social environment I was placed into, I grew tired of my "new girl" status and wanted space from everyone and everything I had once so desperately tried to become.

By the end of my 7th grade year, I was enrolled into an online academy that held the promise of a new beginning away from the people and places that felt toxic to my wellbeing.

By the time I turned 17, I was a despondent teenage catastrophe who had spent the last 5 years secluding myself from family, friends, and anything that bared a reminder of the life I gave up. By that time, I had withdrawn myself from academics completely. I felt like a disappointment. I couldn't even bring myself to wake up in the morning for fear of remembering who I had let down and wondering why I never asked for help.

Upon acceptance to the Gateway to College program, my initial reaction was to jump with joy over the fact that someone saw something in me worthy of this second chance I so desperately needed. My second reaction was to stop jumping and allow my nerves to sink in over the fact I felt wildly unprepared for the college environment. I had been out of formal academic practice for nearly 4 ½ years (over a quarter of my life at the time), and now I was going to be a full-time college student? Was I crazy?

I felt anxious. Not the sort of anxious that is all-encompassing and debilitating to the point of dysfunction, but anxious in the sense that I was suddenly continuously aware of a dull yet very present ache in the pit of my stomach and forefront of my head whenever I imagined myself sitting in a classroom. I had this recurring dream where I failed every course in my first semester, which always resulted in my waking up in a nervous panic. At the time, failure seemed like an extremely likely possibility.

A year has passed since the day I was accepted into the program. I'd like to be frank in saying that my academic experiences in Gateway thus far have been extremely difficult.

I would also like to be frank in saying that despite these difficulties, I have managed to maintain a perfect 4.0 GPA, head multiple student-clubs, and am now even employed in a student leadership position on my college campus.

For so long, the idea of attending college was a terrifying reality I never wanted to face. Not because I feared the prospects of education, but because I feared the prospects of failing to measure up to everyone around me.

But I was able to defy the odds, and you can too.

I can't speak on your behalf, but I can speak based on what I have learned from my own experiences: if you spend all of your time worrying about what could have or should have happened in the past, you will miss out on the life you have been given to live at this very moment. It's never too late.

Don't give up on yourself.

ties, I have managed to maintain a perfect 4.0 GPA, head multiple student-clubs, and am now even employed in a student leadership position on my college campus.

For so long, the idea of attending college was a terrifying reality I never wanted to face. Not because I feared the prospects of education, but because I feared the prospects of failing to measure up to everyone around me.

But I was able to defy the odds, and you can too.

I can't speak on your behalf, but I can speak based on what I have learned from my own experiences: if you spend all of your time worrying about what could have or should have happened in the past, you will miss out on the life you have been given to live at this very moment. It's never too late.

Don't give up on yourself.

Political Opinions from Across the Pond

by Courtney Wentz

Everyone knows what the United States thinks of the upcoming election, but other countries have opinions about the election too.

Giada Lancellotti, 21, from Ostigliano, Salerno, Italy, is worried about who the next president will be. She said, "I know that who we elect in Italy does not really affect other countries, but you are going to elect the president of one of the biggest world powers."

Lancellotti has never been to the United States, but she un-

derstands the rights and how important it is to vote. She knows three languages: English, French, German, and some self-taught Spanish. She is starting University in Pescara, Italy to become a translator in London, England to translate books.

Lancellotti doesn't like either presidential candidate, saying Trump "is a stupid, racist, xenophobic 'being' who shouldn't be able to speak" and Clinton to be a "freak," even though she does

continued on page 3 >>>

#Adulting

by Jamie Parker

"Adulting (v): to do grown up things and hold responsibilities such as, a 9-5 job, a mortgage/rent, a car payment, or anything else that makes one think of grown-ups." This is how Urban Dictionary defines the phrase that has blown up among millennials, especially on social media. Saying things like, "I scheduled a doctor's appointment AND paid my credit card bill today, I hate adulting," is intended to be completely harmless, and even used as a funny anecdote to relate to other millennials. But let us get something straight; adulting is a terrible trend. It makes the entire generation look not only immature, but also unwilling to participate in the responsibilities that come with growing up. So how did this happen? Were we just born a bunch of lazy degenerates who expect the world on a silver platter? No. This is the result of not being pushed towards responsibilities at a younger age, and not being given the proper

education to prepare us for adulthood.

According to a report by The Pew Research Center, 32% of people ages 18 to 34 still live at home. To put that into perspective, during the 1960s that number was at 20%. Now to add to this most millennials who still live at home do not really have to help contribute to household expenses such as groceries, bills, etc. This does not teach us how to take care of our own finances, homes, or what we need in a home. Like most baby boomers say, we are a coddled generation, but not in the way they assume. We are coddled in the sense that we have gone so far in life without knowing what it is like to have a mortgage, or how to do our taxes, or how to even cook basic meals for dinner. How could this have been prevented? Well our parents had something that our generation is lacking. The proper education.

Back when most of our par-

ents were in high school, there were many elective classes that revolved around life after school. Classes like Financial Literacy, and Home Economics classes were immensely popular.

These classes are what taught the next generation how to do things that the current generation lacks knowledge on. Since then schools have shifted to be much more focused on college preparation rather than life preparation. While it is important to prepare teenagers for their academic future, there are some essential skills that we are missing out on. Baby boomers always like to comment on our "lack of basic knowledge," but do not understand where it comes from. Well I say we need a serious education reform. Bring back "Life Prep" classes. Let people decide if they want to take on that extra AP class, or if they want to take Weekly Meal Prep 101. Maybe then we can find a balance between academic knowledge, and how "adult." Adulting can finally become a thing of the past, and we can finally stop saying things like, "Ate something for dinner that wasn't Nutella today! #adulting."

Political Opinions from Across the Pond

>>> continued from page 2

think Clinton would be the better choice, saying Trump running the United States "sounds like a joke."

James Corcoran, 26, from Carlow, Ireland, thinks the election is a "highly important matter," saying he doesn't find either candidate appealing. He said President Obama may be hard to live up to because of what he's done for the United States and its allies.

Corcoran travelled to Minneapolis, Minnesota in 2006. While he was there, he went to an American school for a day and from what he saw we actually do have cliques. When he was in school he studied television, film, and journalism.

He does think Clinton is the better candidate, saying, "Hillary has the capacity and potential to run the country the way in which it should be." Corcoran believes Clinton could provide a stable economy for the United States. Corcoran also said

Trump's public image wasn't welcoming, compassionate, or empathic enough.

Tasmin Poole, 18, from Caldecott, South Wales, said "If I were an American citizen, I would vote Clinton and pray that she has the ability to listen to the people because I truly believe Trump will not." She thinks "Clinton is the lesser of two evils," which seems to be a common thought.

Poole has been to Orlando, New York, and New Jersey in the past ten years. She said while in New York, Trump was starting to get covered by the media. She is also doing a degree in Modern history.

Poole said if Trump won, "America would lose any respect from the Middle East, Mexico, and South America, along with strong, female led countries."

UMASS LOWELL OPEN HOUSE



YOUR PURPOSE, OUR PASSION

Open House is a great way to meet students, faculty and staff from every program. Members of campus clubs and organizations are on hand to share what it's like to be a student here. Campus tours run continuously, and a flexible schedule allows you to focus on what interests you most.

Sunday, Oct. 23 or Sunday, Oct. 30

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Tsongas Center at UMass Lowell



REGISTER ONLINE AT
UML.EDU/OPENHOUSE



APPLY NOW

Learn more about our accelerated bachelor's degree programs in:



Psychology (BA)



RN-BS

INFORMATION SESSION

at Mount Wachusett Community College, Transfer Table

October 31, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

FINANCIAL AID AVAILABLE

For more information contact:

Sonia Patota • 413-313-3322 • 413-265-2383 • patotas@elms.edu

WWW.ELMS.EDU/MWCC

THE MOUNT OBSERVER
VOLUME 11, ISSUE 2,
October 5, 2016

Editor in Chief:
Stevie LaBelle

News Editor:
Jamie Parker

Web/Social Media Editor:
Jason Greenough

Assistant Editors:
Courtney Wentz
Rebekah Chiasson

Graphic Designer:
Thomas Hill Jr.
tomhilljr68@gmail.com

Contributors:
Eden Shaveet
Rachel Vargeletis
Andrew Hoenig

Adviser:
Susan Goldstein

Address:

Room 239, MWCC,
444 Green St.,
Gardner, MA 01440

Telephone/E-Mail/Website:
978.630.9260
mountobserver@mwcc.mass.edu
www.mountobserver.com

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

Printer:
Athol Daily News

Mount Observer Advertising Policy:

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

Pumpkins, Pop-Punk, and Prog-Rock: October Music Preview

By Jason D. Greenough

Break out the sweaters, ghost stories, and your best pair of speakers, because this fall is going to be ushered in by some of the most highly anticipated albums of 2016!

While the summertime was graced with a one-two pop-punk assault, October will welcome two of the genre's most adored giants, with Good Charlotte's *Youth Authority* and Blink-182's *California*, and a triumphant attempt at Rock redemption for the Red Hot Chili Peppers with *The Getaway*; October will welcome a more diverse herd of music, allowing fans of almost every mainstream genre to submerge themselves into rock n' roll bliss.

While releases from hair-metal mainstays Bon Jovi and Twisted Sister's Dee Snider make

their way to shelves later in the month, and a truckload of historic re-issues from rock titans like David Lee Roth, Phil Collins, and Carlos Santana land in stores, there are two albums I am especially excited to see released. The first of which is Alter Bridge's *The Last Hero*, the fifth addition to their 12-year catalog, dropping on October 7th.

Why am I excited for this album? Two reasons. The first being that I was not a huge fan of *Fortress*, the band's previous album. Personally, I feel *Fortress* lacked that signature Alter Bridge determination and drive, accompanied by the recycled Alter Bridge sound. It was too cookie-cutter for me, if you will. The second reason is because it is politically fueled, and

in a time where we might need more awareness brought to the forefront by alternative means like music, poetry and other art forms, this is a perfect them to write a record around. The first single off the album "Show Me a Leader" is, while not directly pointing fingers at specific government officials, showcasing the band's frustrations with the circus on Capitol Hill. The singles off the record, which also includes the anthemic "My Champion", shows growth in Alter Bridge's musical arsenal, while also incorporating what worked best on their previous four efforts. I would suggest Alter Bridge to anyone who asked, but I can't stress this enough...if you are a fan of prog-rock, and you somehow haven't heard of

Alter Bridge, or have heard them and wasn't a fan, I urge you to take a gander at this album when it drops on the 7th.

Also dropping on October 7th is the record I have been waiting for since my senior year of high school, and definitely the album I am anticipating the most this fall. Green Day's *Revolution Radio* is, by many regards, a comeback for the East Bay kings of pop-punk. It was no hidden reaction that the *Uno!, Dos!, Tre!* Trilogy was a let-down in many ways after its release in 2012, with the goofy lyrics, bubble-gum riffs, and all-around feeling of the production being rushed watering down its overly-anticipated release. But the announcement of *Revolution Radio* comes as a refreshing drink of ice-cold pop-punk. Ga-torade by serving up the record's first single, "Bang, Bang!", which I can only describe as the

product of *Dookie* and *American Idiot* making a baby, with its Gilman Street-rooted inner-rage and political outrage busting through the seams from the very beginning. The second single, the title track, is a bit more reminiscent of the *21st Century Breakdown* sound, but still packs a punch when it comes to being enraged at the current state of political vanity. To say I am excited for this album is a gross understatement, and there is no doubt I will be at the nearest record store the moment it drops.

October is sure to bring back many lifelong fans for many different bands, but these releases will surely also bring a new wave of fans, continuing the legacy of each group for even longer than some of us expected. And get this...November is already shaping up to be just as good for music lovers!

Consider Staying at Oscar's Hotel

by Courtney Wentz

Oscar's Hotel for Fantastical Creatures, created by YouTube's KickThePj, is a short film turned web series buried under cat videos and make up tutorials.

Oscar's Hotel is about a hotel for unusual and mystical creatures, temporally being run by the owner's nephew and the only human, Oliver, played by YouTuber Chris Kendall. Kendall has been in two other short films by KickThePj. The series follows Oliver taking care of the odd guests and trying to handle the strange events going on with in the hotel, like venturing into another dimension and dying in the middle of the series.

The web series was originally a short, ten minute film on YouTube funded by New Form Digital, but the power of the fans came into play and Vimeo became interested in creating a six episode web series. The series was written by Pj Liguori, Sophie Newton, and Louis Grant, and directed by Pj Liguori, the creator of the series. The Jim Henson Creature Shop made the costumes and puppets seen in episode two "Hunger Pains," where food from the freezer comes to life and hold Oliver hostage.

Besides Oliver, the only other character from the original short

film is Mo Nay, who is like Oliver's best friend and is a painting. He gives Oliver positive advice with his whimsical voice and takes Oliver to Artlandia, where Mo Nay isn't just a section of a painting. He has a buff human-like form.

Many YouTubers were involved in the making of *Oscar's Hotel*, along with two special guests in the last episode. The entire cast couldn't be in Los Angeles filming the series, so they lended their voices, but those who could be on set, were put into eccentric and dazzling costumes, like the Hermit, played by Grace Helbig, who is quite forgetful and the Queen Bee, Hannah Hart, who makes bee puns every time she speaks. Patrick Stewart and Alfred Molina play two fish characters obsessed with funny hats.

The original short film can be watched for free on YouTube and also on Vimeo, along with the first episode "Party Nightmare." To see the other episodes, they can be purchased on Vimeo for \$9.99 and be downloaded to your favorite device.

BOSTON
UNIVERSITY

LEARN
INNOVATE
NETWORK
TRANSFORM

Complete your bachelor's part-time at BU's Metropolitan College. Choose from 15 self-paced majors, accelerated programs in Computer Science & Management Studies, or an online degree in liberal arts.

Undergraduate Open House
On Boston University's Charles River Campus
Saturday, November 5, 10:30 a.m.

Sign up at bu.edu/met/info.



The Land of the Morning Calm

by Jamie Parker

South Korea's nickname, "the Land of the Morning Calm," comes from the Ming Dynasty when the emperor of China commented on the country's beautiful mountains, clear waters, and its amazing tranquility. But that all changed on June 25th of 1950 when the North crossed the 38th parallel and attacked the South to begin the Korean War. Over the next three years, the country would be torn apart by war. After the war it was said that it would take over one hundred years for the Republic of Korea to rebuild from the ashes of war. Earle Stone, a veteran of the Korean War describes the capital city of Seoul as a post-apocalyptic wasteland that he could only relate to Berlin at the end of World War II.

But instead of just rebuilding what they had prior to the 1950s, the Republic of Korea has risen like a phoenix from the ashes; brilliant and as beautiful as ever. After the war, Korea hit their in-

dustrial boom. According to the United Nations, Korea is now a world leader when it comes to innovation, technology, and overall economy. On top of that they have a top 20 Quality of Life ranking with Newsweek. But even with all of these fantastic reviews, nothing can quite compare to seeing their progress firsthand. My grandfather helped fight for that country's freedom, and it was an absolute privilege to see just how far they have come since then. Especially when you consider where there neighbor to the north is since the war. North Korea is on the constant brink of self-destruction, which is such a stark contrast to the South. South Korea's actual pity – rather than fear – the North because of hopes of a future reunification. But that's a whole other story! Anyway, Korea is back on the rise and the land of the morning calm is anything but that.



Football is Back, But Pats Fans Await Brady's Return

by Andrew Hoenig

New England - It's that time of year again! Football is back!!

Every September when fans of the game hear those three words, their hearts soar a little higher with a joyful glee.

But this year has a different feel to it in New England. And that may be because of the suspension that has loomed over New England all offseason and that will continue to loom till October.

New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady had his suspen-

sion decision by Judge Richard Berman from last year overturned by a federal court which stated the primary reason for the 180 degree turn as being "Roger Goodell has the given power to impose the penalty based upon the agreed upon CBA by the NFL and NFLPA".

Because of this decision and eventually Brady's sacrifice of giving up the fight that could tarnish his name just based on the ridiculousness of the whole proposed scandal with no support-

ing evidence, Patriots fans now watch their team go the whole first month (four games) without the man who's led the team to four Super Bowl titles.

For some fans, it feels like the season hasn't truly started. A feeling reiterated by a fan by the name of Matt Pilcher, a Peterborough local. "Ya of course we think and know it's wrong and it feels weird but hopefully Jimmy comes in and does well for now."

"Jimmy" is in reference to Jimmy Garappolo, the Patriots sec-

ond string quarterback. He gets the starts while Brady takes the suspension.

The whole team has seemingly gathered around Jimmy G singing his praises. Patriots tight end Rob Gronkowski said that he has confidence in Jimmy G and that he believes Jimmy can steer the team in the right direction in Brady's absence. "Guys just have to get behind him", said Gronkowski.

So will the fans. Some fans seem ready and willing to jump on the Jimmy G train which is all fine and good so long as the media doesn't overblow his play. Bill Belichick really isn't one for headlines and won't much care what we think. The Patriots head coach has already, in a shocking development, TOLD the media of his future plans at quarterback this season; a rare thing indeed.

"Jimmy will be the quarterback the first four weeks and Tom will take over again in week 5 when he comes back," declared Belichick in one of his news conferences before the start of the season.

This just laid a nail in the coffin of an already resounding echo by Belichick all season that Brady is his quarterback and wouldn't want anyone else. There's something to be said about loyalty. It might be why

Belichick and Brady have enjoyed so much success over the last previous 16 seasons. Or at least a small part of it.

As fans who know what Brady has done for the team and the situation he has been forcibly put in by the league, mainly commissioner Roger Goodell, loyalty might be the best thing to show during that four game stretch no matter what promise (or not) Jimmy Garappolo shows. One day Tom Brady will retire and there will be another quarterback leading the charge in New England but today is not that day. One thing is for sure... Tom will come back and he will be hungry. He's still got further to go. #DriveFor5

"Ya of course we think and know it's wrong and it feels weird but hopefully Jimmy comes in and does well for now."

THE EAST WING GALLERY ~ Mount Wachusett Community College EXHIBITIONS & GALLERY TALKS FALL 2016

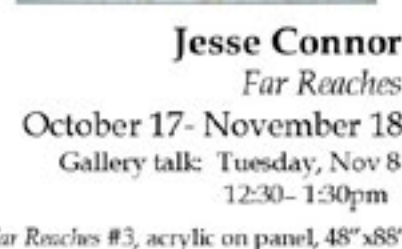


John Pacheco

Paintings

September 9 – October 4

< Resurrection, oil on linen, 30" x 40" >



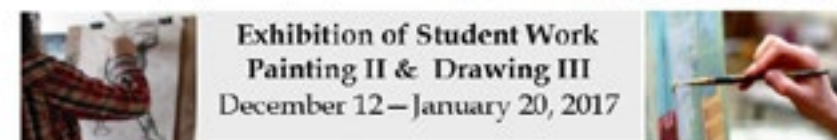
Jesse Connor

Far Reaches

October 17- November 18

Gallery talk: Tuesday, Nov 8
12:30- 1:30pm

Far Reaches #3, acrylic on panel, 48" x 88" >



Exhibition of Student Work
Painting II & Drawing III
December 12 – January 20, 2017

Exhibitions in the glass cases

Tracie Pouliot

October 17 – November 30

Oral History Book Project

Chair City Community Workshop

Gallery Talk: Mon. Nov 7

12:30-1:30pm



Isabella Bourque Dixon

December 12 – January 27, 2017

Gallery talk: Fri. Jan 27

12:30-1:30pm

< Breakout Plate, stoneware, 4" round >

For more information contact: Joyce Miller, Gallery Director
j_miller@mwcc.mass.edu

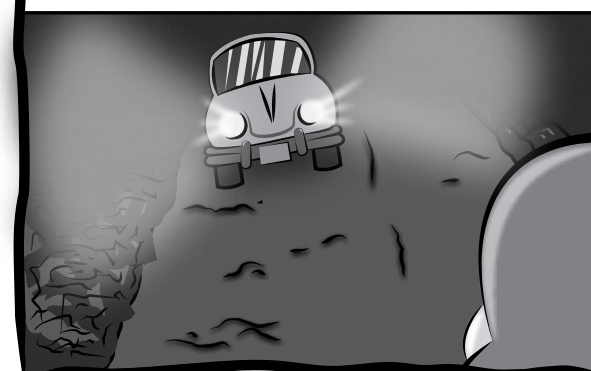
Come Work for Us!

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 239!

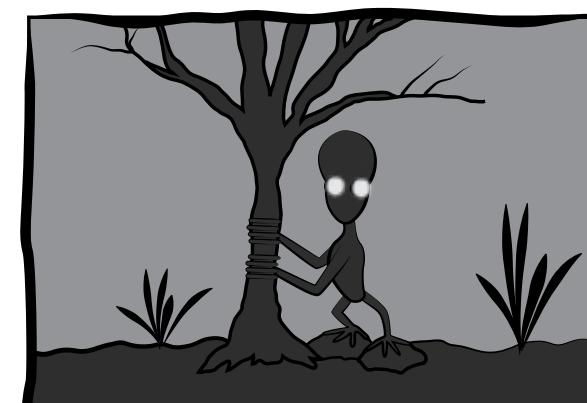
Comics



The Dover Demon was first spotted on the night of April 21, 1977, by young William Bartlett, who was driving down Farm Street in Dover, Massachusetts.

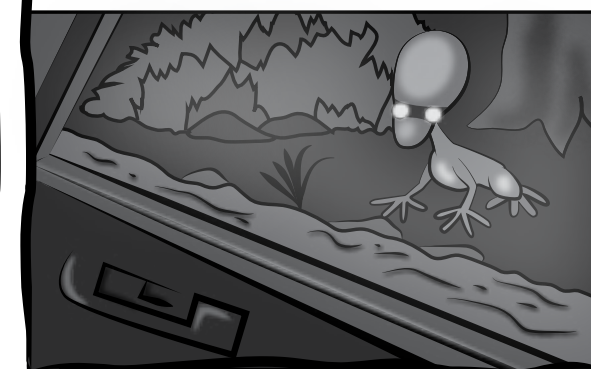


He later described the creature he saw as around 3-4 feet tall, with a large head, small body, spindly limbs, and large, glowing eyes.

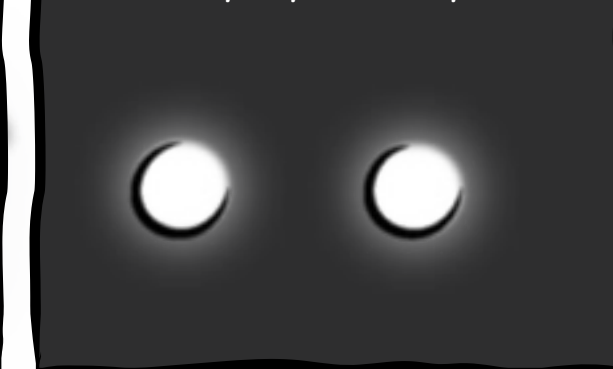


Later that night, young Bill Baxter was walking home when he encountered a similar figure silhouetted next to a tree.

The next night, 15-year-old Abby Brabham was riding home with her boyfriend when she spotted the creature on all fours on the side of the road.



That was the final time the Demon was ever sighted. No one knows what it was, or where it came from. Its true nature remains a mystery to this day.



Copyright Thomas Hill © 2016

Creative Writing

Lessons I Had to Learn on My Own Because of You

by Rachel Vargeletis

Never in my life do I remember my chest physically hurting more than it did the moment I realized I meant nothing. I breathed, I was alive, but I wasn't living. It, pathetically enough, seemed like my world was over. It felt as if he was ringing my heart dry in his clenched fists, drawing out every last bit of worth and feeling I could try to muster. There was a new crack developing in every one of my bones as each word bounced off his tongue, one by one in a calamitous nose dive.

"I didn't mean to use you, but I guess I did..." Crack.

"I guess I just don't find you emotionally attractive..." Snap. "You wouldn't be enough..." Total heartbreak.

And from that day on, I swear I was worthless.

It's like learning how to ride a bike, but on a tightrope. That

is how it feels to try and make yourself believe (if you even tried) that you are more- more than this anyway. More than that dumb boy who added to this dumb seemingly perpetual feeling that I will never be enough- or I never even was to begin with.

To clear some things up; yes, as cliché as it sounds- I, a young woman, got my heart broken by a young man that probably wasn't worth my time in the first place maybe once or twice. Like an abusive relationship, I kept coming back and coming back, trying to make things work - somehow - with a boy I was never actually in a relationship with. I had already told myself I'd find no one better. I was so messed up in the head, I convinced myself I wasn't settling, per say, I just earnestly believed I deserved nothing better than what I was "dished". It didn't feel like he

wasn't worth my time- for the longest time- and as accurately as I can try and appropriately explain that sad situation to be, all that really matters- all that I can actually benefit from now were the lessons I had to learn from that one person. Lessons I believe with every ounce of my (now) well-being, every single man or woman, girl or boy, need to come to know.

Going through a pain like the one I did where my whole world was demolished at the blink of an eye and for years afterwards, is something I would never wish on anyone. And one of the biggest accomplishments in my life, honestly, is overcoming that nothingness that was so deeply imbedded in me.

Life, itself, is falling down, but living is getting back up- and that's why what I can take from this is far greater than what I went through.

This accomplishment in my life, of getting back up, has really given me the greatest satisfaction. It may seem petty from an outsider, however especially necessary to me in my journey through life. What I have taken from this experience I call: "The Lessons I Had to Learn on my Own Because of You".

Lesson Number One: I don't need somebody; I may want somebody- but I am not lacking anything on my own.

Lesson Number Two: My worth is not determined by the arch of my curves, or the flutter of my eyelashes, and even the weight of my step.

Lesson Number Three: If I am not worth someone's time and effort, they are not worth my affections.

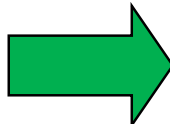





Lesson Number Four: I am altogether lovely, from the girth

of my hips, to the snort when I laugh, the width of my feet, and the heart on my sleeve.

Lesson Number Five: Sometimes the end of your world is the beginning of something better.

Lesson Number Six: I am not nothing; I am not even something. I am everything even if you can't see that.

Without a bottom low, and a (small) desire to keep going, I will have never known how high I can possibly go on my own- by myself- without any boy, because I am worth it, can capable of amazing heights. And I don't need anyone else to come to that realization. Just as I hope you will too.

	10/3 SGA Meeting Room W12 12:30pm	10/4 Breast Cancer Awareness Café Hall 11:30am-1:30pm	10/4 Pick-up Basketball Fitness Center 6pm-7pm	10/5 Photo IDs 12:15pm-4:00pm Leominster Campus	10/5 CATS Programming Mtg., 12:30pm Room W13	10/6 Photo IDs 11:30am-1:30pm & 4:30pm-6pm Room 149	10/6 Film: "Precious Knowledge" 12:30pm North Café
10/31 Tea Time Speaker Series North Café 12:30pm							
10/27 Scary Karaoke 6pm-9pm South Café	 Get into the Student LIFE 						10/11 SGA Meeting Room W11 12:30pm
10/26 Film: "The Hungry Heart" 12:30pm North Café							10/11 Pick-up Basketball Fitness Center 6pm-7pm
10/26 CATS Programming Mtg., 12:30pm Room W13	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"> <p>Fall 2016 Leadership for Life program- a series of eleven short presentations or service opportunities on topics that will help you feel more comfortable and be successful at MWCC. From the first one in September to the last one in December, <i>Leadership for Life</i> will help you. Upcoming workshops are being held: September 21, October 5, 14, 19, 21 November 2, 4, 16, 30, December 7, 14. Most workshops are held from 12:30 to 1:30 pm in the North Café. For more information: Contact Sarah Savoie in Student Services at ssavoie7@mwcc.mass.edu, 978-630-9855 or stop by room 141.</p> </div>						10/12 CATS Programming Mtg., 12:30pm Room W13
10/25 Pick-up Basketball Fitness Center 6pm-7pm	<p>Please see the reverse side for detailed information.</p> <p>For further information or to inquire about an event, please contact the Student Life office at studentlife@mwcc.mass.edu or 978-630-9148. Full details may also be found on the Student Life webpage at http://mwcc.edu/studentlife/</p>						10/12 Film: "Lady Valor" 12:30pm North Café
10/25 Mocktails & Fatal Vision South Café 12:30pm	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>10/17-10/21 Empty Place at the Table Display</p> </div>						10/13 Sabor Latino South Café 12:30pm
10/25 Mocktails & Fatal Vision South Café 12:30pm	10/24 SGA Meeting Room W11 12:30pm Open to All!	10/19 Try out an Evening Group Exercise Class 4:30pm-7:45pm Fitness Center	10/19 Monster Costume Show & Food Drive South Café 12:30pm	10/18 Pick-up Basketball Fitness Center 6pm-7pm	10/17 It's Your Birthday Lion's Den 12:30pm		10/14 Leadership Retreat 8:30m-4pm