



Mount Observer



A voice for the students of Mount Wachusett Community College

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Broken Turbine a Temporary Setback

by Daniel Depietro

Mount Wachusett Community College (MWCC), is well on its way to becoming completely energy neutral. This can be partly attributed to the completion of the two 1.65MW Vestas V82 wind turbines on campus. There is just one more detail to be worked out; the generator in one of the massive wind turbines may need to be replaced.

MWCC received a green light to start the wind turbines on March 25, after a successful witness test was conducted one week prior. The two turbines actually performed better than expected during the witness test. According to Ed Terceiro, Resident En-

gineer for the project, instead of the projected 1.65 megawatts, each turbine produced no less than 2 megawatts.

Both wind turbines ran without any signs of trouble for the entire day on Friday March 25. During the day on Saturday the south tower stopped working properly. Terceiro said "The generator may have to be replaced, which might require another crane coming on campus, although not quite as large as the one that was here before." He also said a hole may need to be cut in the top of the nacelle, the large compartment on top of the tower, to replace the generator if that is in fact what needs to be done.

Once both turbines are fully operational they will produce 97 percent of the electricity MWCC

consumes. As a matter of fact, the turbines will even take advantage of the relatively low energy consumption of the college overnight and return 30 percent of their power back to National Grid. The total overall output for the turbines is projected to be a staggering 4,977,442 kilowatt hours per year.

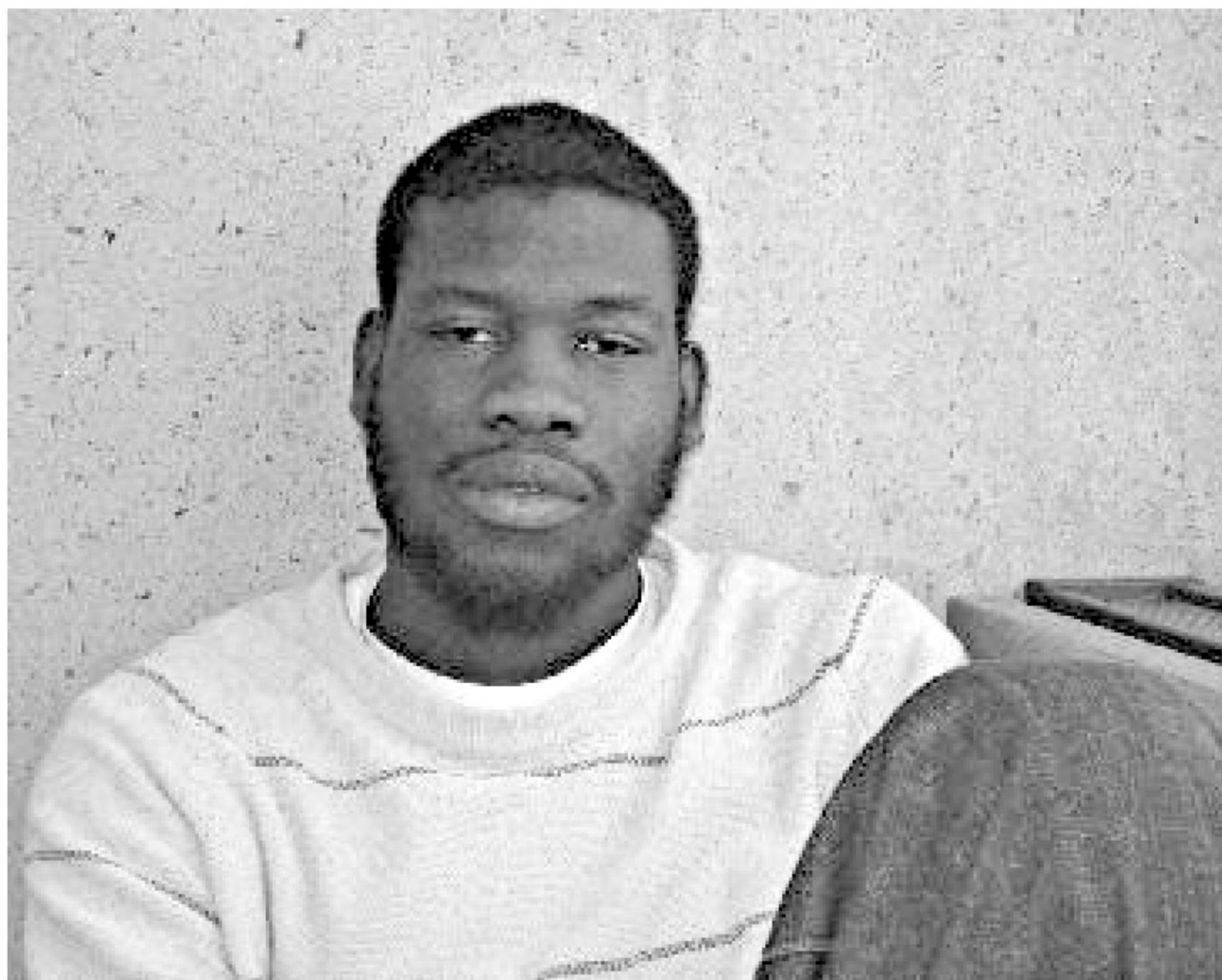
According to Ed Terceiro, the work needed to fix the malfunctioning turbine should be completed within the next couple of weeks. He also said, "The two turbines will be a great addition to the ongoing effort of Mount Wachusett Community College to reduce its carbon footprint." A dedication ceremony for the turbines is scheduled for April 17.



South Turbine not Spinning. Photo by Cheyne Ordonio

Prosper Edme

A Student Profile



Prosper Edme, photo by Elizabeth Shipman

by Elizabeth Shipman

Mount Wachusett Community College is made up of students who come from different backgrounds. One such student is 21 year old Prosper Edme, from Haiti, who is in his first semester at MWCC. He has often been

called "a social butterfly" by people who know him.

Edme came to MWCC with a plan to get in to the nursing program but he wasn't entirely thrilled about it. He is more interested in massage therapy. Edme

is thinking about transferring to UMass Amherst at some point.

On campus, he is a member of the International Club and also volunteered recently with Leadership for Life. He is currently running for Student Government for the position of freshman representative. Outside of school, Edme enjoys playing soccer.

Edme is not entirely sure of what he wants to do with his life. However, he said "I like traveling. Love to travel, go different places, try different things." He also enjoys meeting new people in his interaction with fellow MWCC students.

Four Year Course Options with 'A to B & Beyond'

by Elena Rivera

Beginning in the fall semester of 2011, Nichols College of Dudley will offer fourth year course options at the Devens campus through the new "A to B & Beyond" Program.

In order to be eligible for this program students must be enrolled in Mount Wachusett's College Business Transfer Program as well as maintain a grade point average of 2.0. Students who meet these requirements can apply to the program during their second year of study. Once accepted, students can continue taking classes at Mount Wachusett for a third year before transferring to Nichols.

In a press release from Nichols College, officials stated that the "The 'A to B & Beyond' Program is the perfect extension to MWCC's business program as there are significant career benefits associated with being a Nichols graduate.... Program flexibility is a significant advan-

tage to the student as fourth-year coursework taught by Nichols professors can be completed on the Devens campus, on Nichols campus in Dudley, or through Nichols online program."

According to the Nichols College website, ten percent of Nichols' graduates become business owners, presidents, or CEOs. Additionally, more than 90 percent of the students from the graduating class of 2006 successfully found employment within six months of obtaining their degree.

Although this program is currently only available for students pursuing a degree in business management, other bachelor degrees can be obtained through Mount Wachusett's Three Plus ONE Program. On this track, students can earn an extra 30 credits at Mount Wachusett, and then transfer those to one of the program's five partner schools.

Reviews



Puzzles



Calendar



Ellen Pratt on Why Wisconsin Matters to MWCC



Ellen Pratt, photo by Cheyne Ordonio

by Cheyne Ordonio

Members of the Massachusetts Community College Council (MCCC) had a rally at the Statehouse in Boston last Feb 22 in response to Wisconsin's ongoing battle between State budget needs and teachers unions fighting to keep their collective bargaining rights. Ellen Pratt, Chapter President of MWCC's Faculty & Professional Association, a chapter of the MCCC, said the purpose of the rally was "to bring attention to the threat to collective bargaining rights for public employees."

Pratt said students at MWCC should care what happens in Wisconsin because "It's through our collective bargaining agreement that class size is determined. And also workload; a faculty teacher has to teach the equivalent of five courses a semester."

Part time and full time teachers have different contracts. Before 2010, full time teachers could have class sizes up to 40 students, or 200 per semester. Part time teachers could have classes of 32 students. Through collective bargaining, class sizes are now no larger than 32 students for full and part time teachers and no more than 22 for developmental, writing and foreign language courses.

With no more than 160 students per semester, teachers can give greater focus to their students and are more readily available when students need them. While the idea is to give students a higher quality of education by not overloading teachers, critics of unions don't see it that way, and Pratt says one of her greatest difficulties is the public perception that people in public unions have "cushy jobs."

"It's not fun," Pratt said of her position as chapter President. She later added that unions are important because they come from the need to fight against child labor, low wages, and poor working conditions. "It's about human rights," said Pratt.

Generally, a three year contract is negotiated between MCCC and the Department of Higher Education, which has no fiscal power. Once the contract is negotiated, it goes to the State Legislature and Governors' office for funding as part of the yearly budget. As part of a compromise

to help the State during our current recession, MCCC agreed to an amendment which delays a 1.5% salary pool increase from July 2010 until June 30, 2011.

The point of collective bargaining is to come to an agreement on the best ways to balance the needs of lawmakers, school management, teachers, and the best interests of students. "There's a need for experts in the field to be part of policy making," said Pratt. Otherwise, classes could become overpopulated, teachers overloaded, and students would wind up paying for a lower quality of education.

Pratt's involvement in teachers unions began in 1993 when she worked at Northern Essex Community College as a librarian.

Gail Stuart, another librarian got Pratt interested, though Pratt described her participation as minimal.

When Pratt came to MWCC in 2005, where she now works as the Distance Education and Outreach Librarian, she took a more active role. After being mentored for a year by Elena Natalizia, then President of the Faculty & Professional Association, Pratt ran for the position of President and took over in 2007.

Pratt has Bachelors in Biology from Fitchburg State University and a Masters in Library Science from the University of Alabama.

Flags Missing from the Commons

by Elizabeth Shipman

Several weeks ago the display of flags in the Commons at MWCC were taken down. Bob LaBonte, Vice-President of Finance and Administration at MWCC, said "We're trying to make the college more attractive for students." He wants to make the Commons a better place for students to gather.

LaBonte also said that he thinks the flags were bought by MWCC and installed 5 to 10 years ago. The purpose of the flags was to celebrate the international diversity of MWCC.

While LaBonte says he thinks taking down the flags made the Commons more open

and attractive, others thought differently. Chris Ambold, MWCC student, said he thought the flags should be put back up. He remembered thinking, "Whoa, that's cool" during one of his first visits to the school.

Another student, Rob Milton, said, "I did like them. I don't know why they took them down." Two other students said they never really noticed that the flags were no longer being displayed.

Currently, the flags are in storage but there is a possibility that they may be displayed differently when the budget allows.



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April 22. For all article submissions after April 22, please coordinate with the Mount Observer Editor.

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May 1

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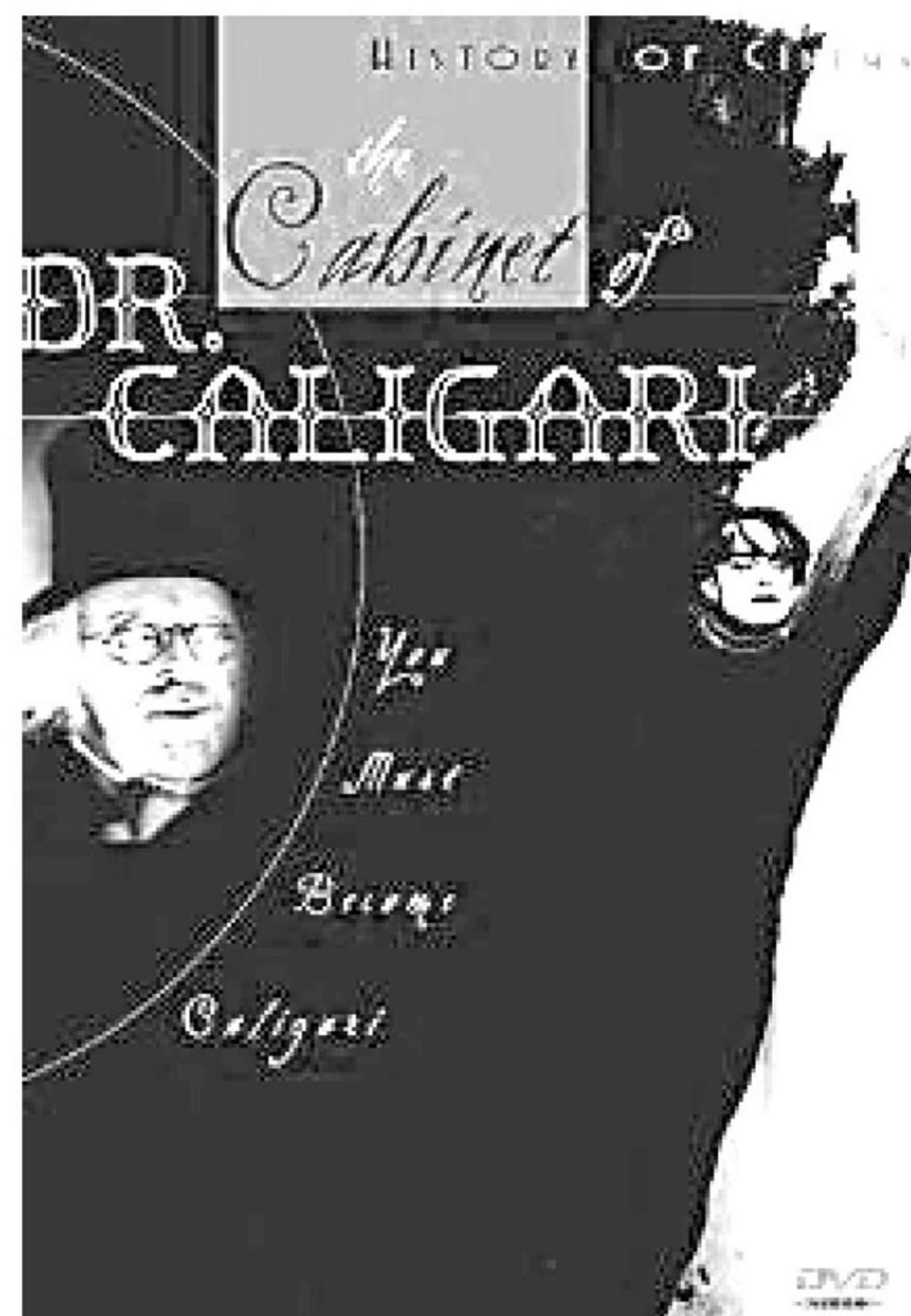
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Movie Review:

The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari

Silent 1920 - Directed by Robert Wiene



by **Cindy Knox**

I have found that the best way to judge a silent film is if I forget I am watching a silent movie and just get caught up in the film itself. *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* was so interesting and the characters were so creepy that I forgot I was watching a silent film. This movie is 91 years old! It frightened audiences all over the world in 1920. Not only is the plot one that twists and turns, but the score alone is enough to give you the creeps! Add in a mad doctor, a sleepwalking killer, and a beautiful woman and you have all the elements for great horror film.

It was a pioneer in many ways, but most notably, its special effects were groundbreaking in filmmaking. The sets are mostly made of paper and the shadows are painted on them. Adding to its eeriness is that most of the movie is filmed on a slant. I would imagine that moviegoers who saw this in 1920 would have thought the special effects were as remarkable as we did when we first saw a movie in 3D.

The story centers around Dr. Caligari, who exhibits his somnambulist (sleep-walker) named Cesare. Cesare has been sleeping for 23 years and is awakened at county fairs to make predictions. Dr. Caligari uses Cesare to murder people around the countryside. When he is sent to kill the beautiful woman Jane, he, of course, falls in love with her and cannot bring himself to kill her. The police catch on to this scam, and there is a final plot twist that will surprise and delight you.

If you have never seen a silent film before, this is a great one to start with. You will enjoy the crazy sets, the overly dramatic acting, and the story of Dr. Caligari and Cesare! Cesare is delightful as a classic movie monster: he wears heavy makeup, and he walks zombie-like with his hands out in front of him. You can catch it on youtube or get it at Netflix. I plan to add the DVD to my collection.

Music Review:

Femme Fatale

Britney Spears



by **Sam Ingemie**

As of March 29, world famous pop artist Britney Spears has returned to the music scene with the release of her new CD *Femme Fatale*. As some people said when she released *Circus*, her album in 2008, "Britney's back!!"

Femme Fatale throws a myriad of big techno-like beats and a lot of bass at the listener, which is not a bad thing in my opinion as it is very tastefully done. The music is very catchy and sounds a lot like music you would hear at a club. It is definitely a CD that you could throw in at a party and dance the night away.

The lead single off the album, "Hold It Against Me," was a very good way for Britney to introduce the album to her fans. It pretty much defines the music on *Femme Fatale* in the sense that a lot of the music is like "Hold It Against Me" - big bass and even bigger beats.

Moving from *Circus* to *Femme Fatale*, it is clear that Britney has mastered hooks, which are melodic or rhythmic pieces in the music that catch the ear of the listener. "Seal It With A Kiss," another song on the album, is the perfect example of this. I have to admit ever since I heard the 30-second snippet of the chorus, the song has been stuck in my head. Now, with the album out, it has only gotten drilled into my brain more!

One of the only downsides that I see in this album, and is notorious of Britney, is the lack of substance to her songs. As like most of her other music, the records on *Femme Fatale* can be taken at face value and require little to no interpretation from the listener. This is precisely what separates her from some other artists today, namely Lady Gaga, whose music has much meaning behind the lyrics.

While some people enjoy not having to think about the lyrics they are listening to, I personally do. I really enjoy looking for the "hidden meanings" behind song lyrics and *Femme Fatale* is definitely lacking there. Songs like "Criminal" and "Seal It With A Kiss" are two prime examples of this. They are both great songs, but require very little thinking when listening to them.

Regardless of its "lack of substance," if you are bored and are looking for something new to add to your music collection *Femme Fatale* would be a great choice! Most of the tracks are very catchy and you will find yourself dancing along to their big beats.

My rating? 8/10. Good job, as always, Britney!

Movie Review:

Edward Scissorhands



by **Thomas Mullins**

Tim Burton's *Edward Scissorhands* is a mysterious romantic fantasy into the journey of a young, gentle man with scissors for hands who falls in love. The story is intriguing and keeps the viewer interested and curious as to what will happen next. I have watched this film many times and have realized that even with repeated viewing it is always enjoyable.

The film starts with Kim (Winona Ryder) putting her granddaughter to bed and telling her a story about a man with scissors as hands. Edward (Johnny Depp) is discovered by Peg (Diane West); as she is having trouble selling her Avon products, she decides to venture up the dark and creepy hill where Edward resides in a mansion that looks abandoned. When she finds him, he is nervous and scared but looks terrifying because he has scissors for hands. When Peg realizes he is

harmless she invites him to her home so she can help him treat the cuts and scares on his face.

Tim Burton's directing ability makes this film so fascinating and enjoyable. The set design, the personalities of the characters, lighting, and the use of close-ups to express feelings and emotions is superb. The setting of most of the film is a small town where the men all go to work at the same time and the women stay home and gossip about each other and their families. The color of the homes and vehicles are very bright and unusual, which gives the viewer the feeling of fantasy. The originality of the music score also gave the viewer a feeling of fantasy.

Johnny Depp is considered by myself and many others as an amazing actor and I believe this film proves his amazing acting abilities. He has few lines in the film, yet I felt as if I knew what he was thinking at all times just by his expressions and actions. The use of close-ups helps show these expressions and actions. The lighting of the film also helped in setting the mood of the film. For example when Edward is being introduced to life with other people the sun is always shining. Whenever something bad happens it is nighttime.

I give *Edward Scissorhands* a 5 out of 5 and would recommend it to anyone who is looking to be taken away for a couple of hours into a world of mystery, gossip, love and to experience the struggle of a man with scissors for hands who longs to be accepted.

Movie Review:

Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back



by **Brian Colcord**

Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back is fifth movie in the *Star Wars* saga, but was the second filmed. It takes place shortly after the rebels blew up the Death Star, as shown at the end of *Star Wars*. The momentum from the destruction did not carry over as the empire is "striking back" at the rebel forces who have to take refuge on an ice world named Hoth. Their hope is to hide from Lord Vader who is obsessed with finding Luke Skywalker. It just so happens Skywalker is also on Hoth.

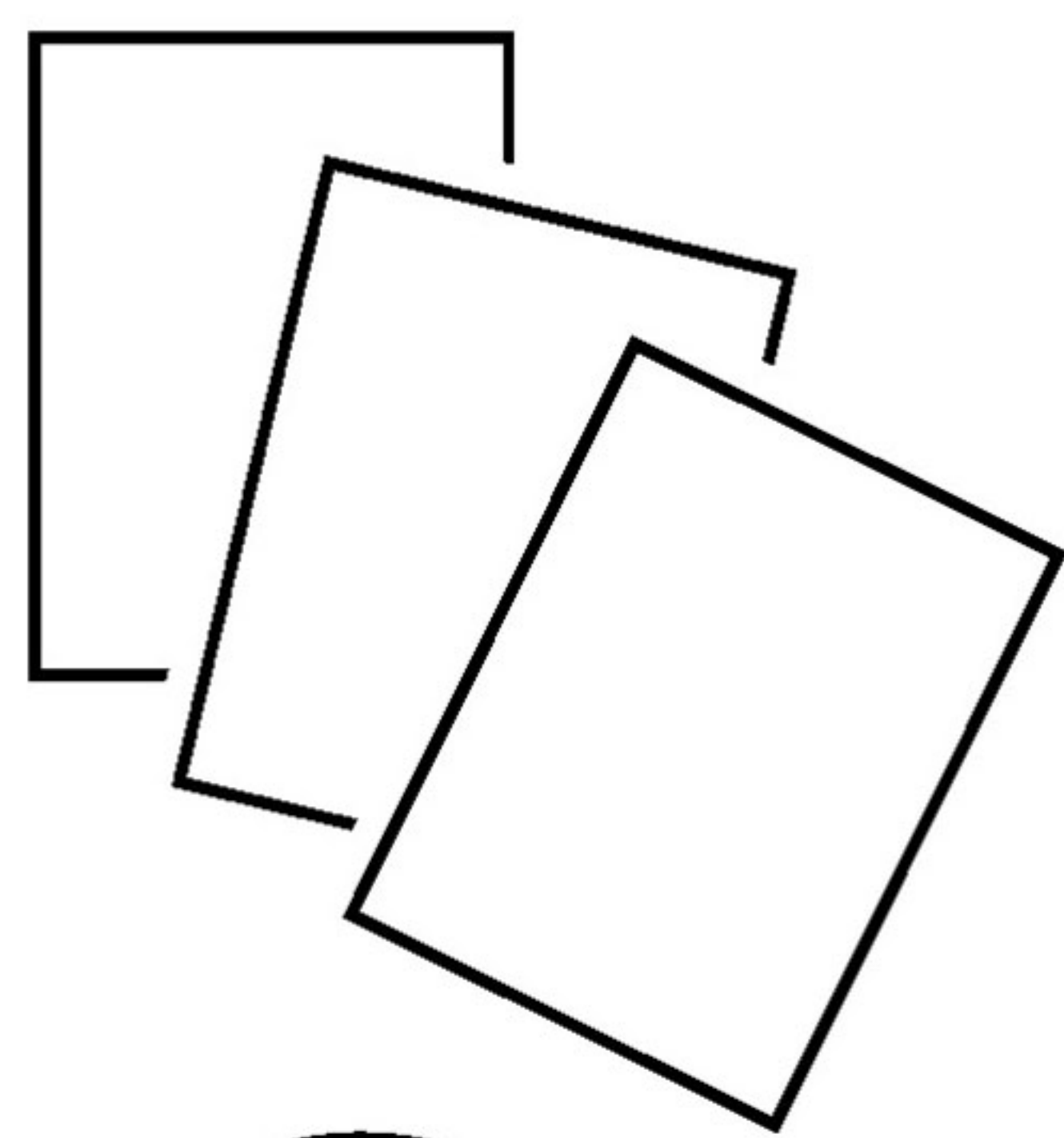
This movie was filled with visual masteries, no different from any other film by George Lucas. In the first fifteen minutes alone there are many special effects being used. Some of these are more apparent than others, but one element that stood out is the Imperial walkers and how smoothly they move and blend in with the cinematography of that day and age. Despite being released in 1980, the techniques used by Lucas rival some special effects that you see on television and in movies today. This is only one element that makes *Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back* a true work of art in the eyes of viewers.

The visual masteries the audience has the privilege to see are not the only elements that make this film a masterpiece. In fact, many of the times you see visual effects (explosions, laser blasts, ships jumping to warp, etc.) there are audio visual effects there to give the visual aspect a little extra flair. The music that is heard during the film is for the most part nondigetic, in that it is being performed by a symphony orchestra outside of the film. Having a symphony do a musical score is less commonplace in modern times, which gives an added touch because this was before the time of digitally enhanced music and electronic sound.

Any time there is a ship, a hovercraft, a laser blast, a lightsabre duel, etc. digetic

all pictures by Mount Observer staff

face space



More photos in color online at mountobserver.com

a photo album of student life activities this semester



SGA President Edwin Martinez helps hopeful SGA candidates get signatures for the Ballot.



The International Club during their bake sale across the hall from the cafeteria.



Someones breaking the rules...



Officers of MWCC's Student Government Association take 2nd Place in a Volley Ball Tournament. Photo courtesy of the Office of Student Life.



Author Connie Hanagan spoke to MWCC students and faculty about her struggles with self abuse for Women's History Month.



The Art Wing is holding its annual High School Art Exhibit. Some art students at MWCC have expressed discontent since many of them will be graduating without being allowed the opportunity to show the bulk of their portfolios.



While in New York, the staff visited the site of The World Trade Center.



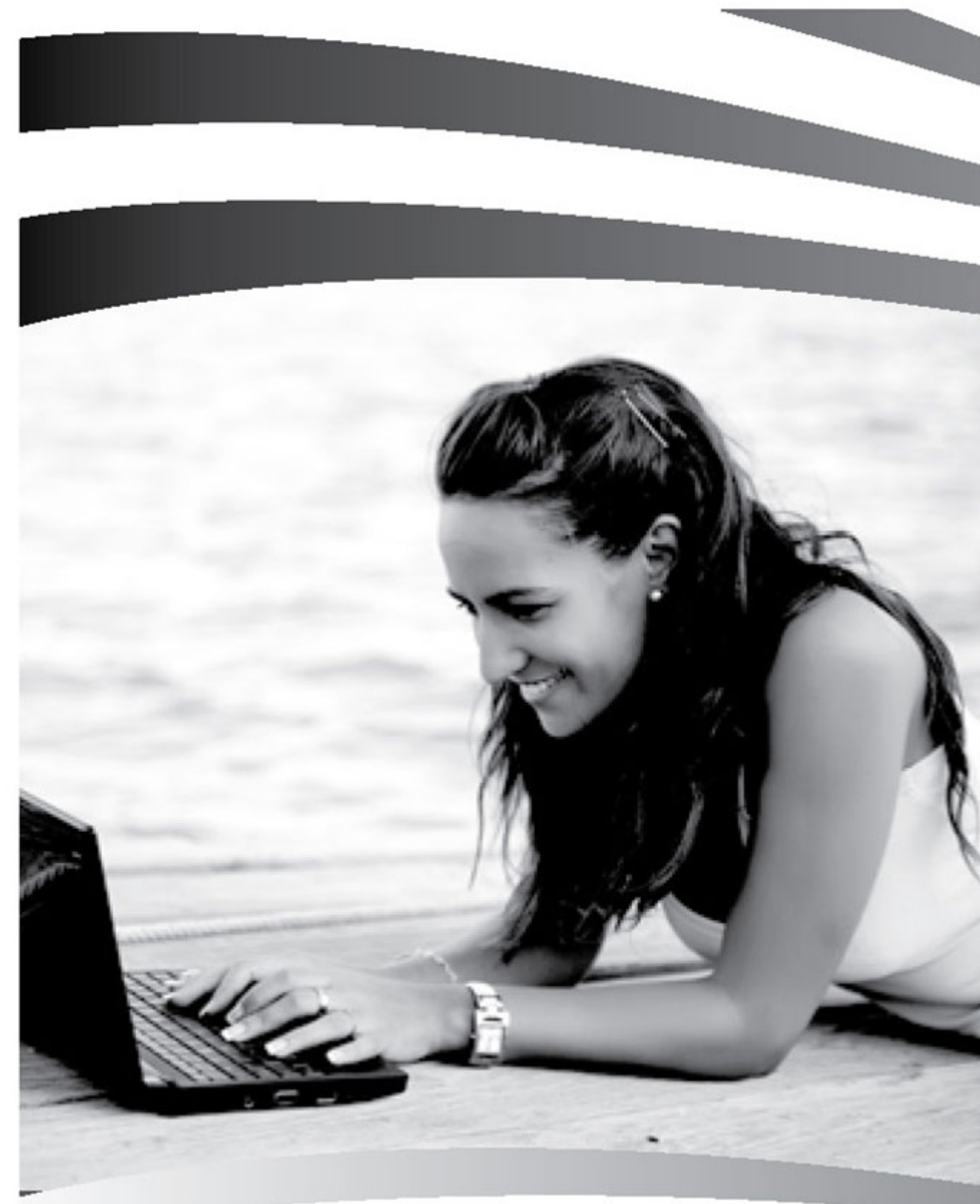
The staff of The Mount Observer visited New York for a conference of college media students. This is the view from Times Square.

Mount Wachusett Community College

Veterans Group Fundraiser

Thursday, April 14, 2011
9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Cafeteria Hallway

Proceeds benefit MWCC Veterans Club.
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To register:

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- Register online-- go to iConnect.mwcc.edu and click on “WebConnect”!
- Call or visit the Advising & Counseling Center, 978-630-9568!





The Wiz: Ease on Down the Road

The Wiz, an updated version of *The Wizard of Oz*, will be performed at Mount Wachusett Community College in Gardner, on April 12, 13, 14, and 15 at 9:30 A.M. and 12 noon as well as April 16 at 11 A.M. and 2 P.M.

The Wiz features a cast of nearly 40 performers including leads by Emily Xarras (Dorothy), Andrew Kelly (Scarecrow), Wesley Young (Tin Man), Tom Moretti (Lion), Danny Rodriguez (The Wiz), Ally Doyle (Evillene), Paige Craine (Glinda), Cameron Moylan (Addaperle).

Tickets are \$6 and can be purchased online at <http://theatre.mwcc.edu> or by calling the box office at 978-632-2403.

TAM auditions for Forever Plaid: Plaid Tidings

Director Rob Houle is looking for a cast of four men (ages 18-40) to play within an age range of 20s to 30s. All must be strong singers and actors who can handle close harmony in the style of the "guy groups" of the 1950s - 60s.

Auditions will be held in room 182 at MWCC on Monday, April 11 and Tuesday, April 12 at 7 P.M.

For more information visit theatre.mwcc.edu or email Professor Gail Steele at g_steele@mwcc.edu

TAM 'Rest of Season' Tickets for Sale

For \$52 you can buy tickets for Theater at The Mount's "rest of season" tickets which include four shows. To purchase tickets or request a season brochure, call the Theatre at the Mount box office at 978 632-2403. Tickets may also be purchased online at <http://theatre.mwcc.edu>

Forever Plaid: Plaid Tidings is a Christmas musical playing June 17, 18, 24, 25 at 8:00 P.M. and June 26 at 2:00 P.M.

Rent tells the story of a group of young artists and musicians struggling to survive and create in New York's Lower East Side. *Rent* shows on August 19, 20, 26, and 27 at 8:00 P.M. and August 28 at 2:00 P.M.

Beehive, a 60's Musical, runs October 7, 8, 14, and 15 at 8:00 P.M. and October 16 at 2:00 P.M.

Children Of Eden is an examination of the age-old conflict between parents and children with a message that "the hardest part of love... is letting go." Performances are November 25, 26, December 2, 3 at 8:00 P.M., and November 27, December 4 at 2:00 P.M.



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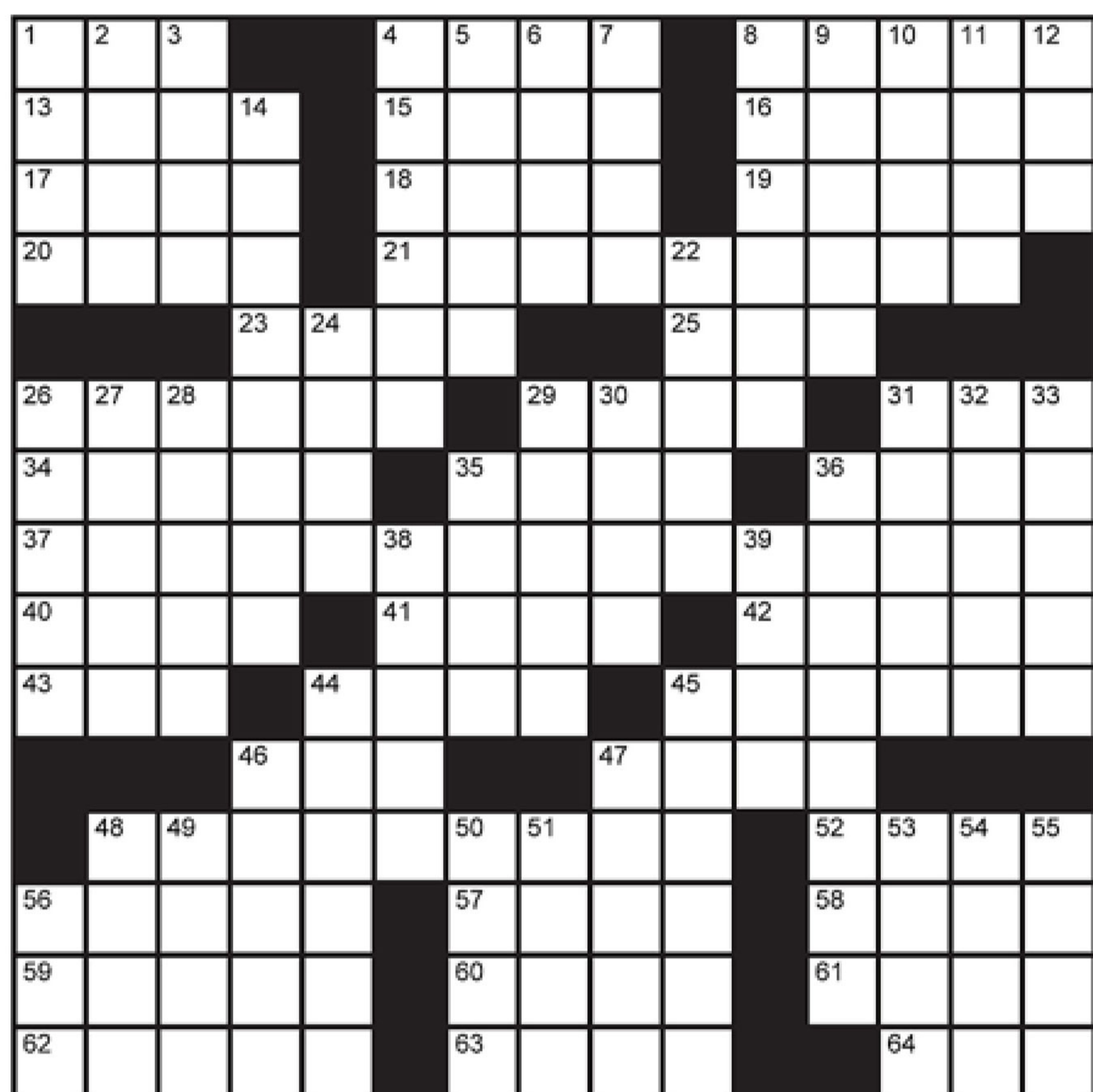
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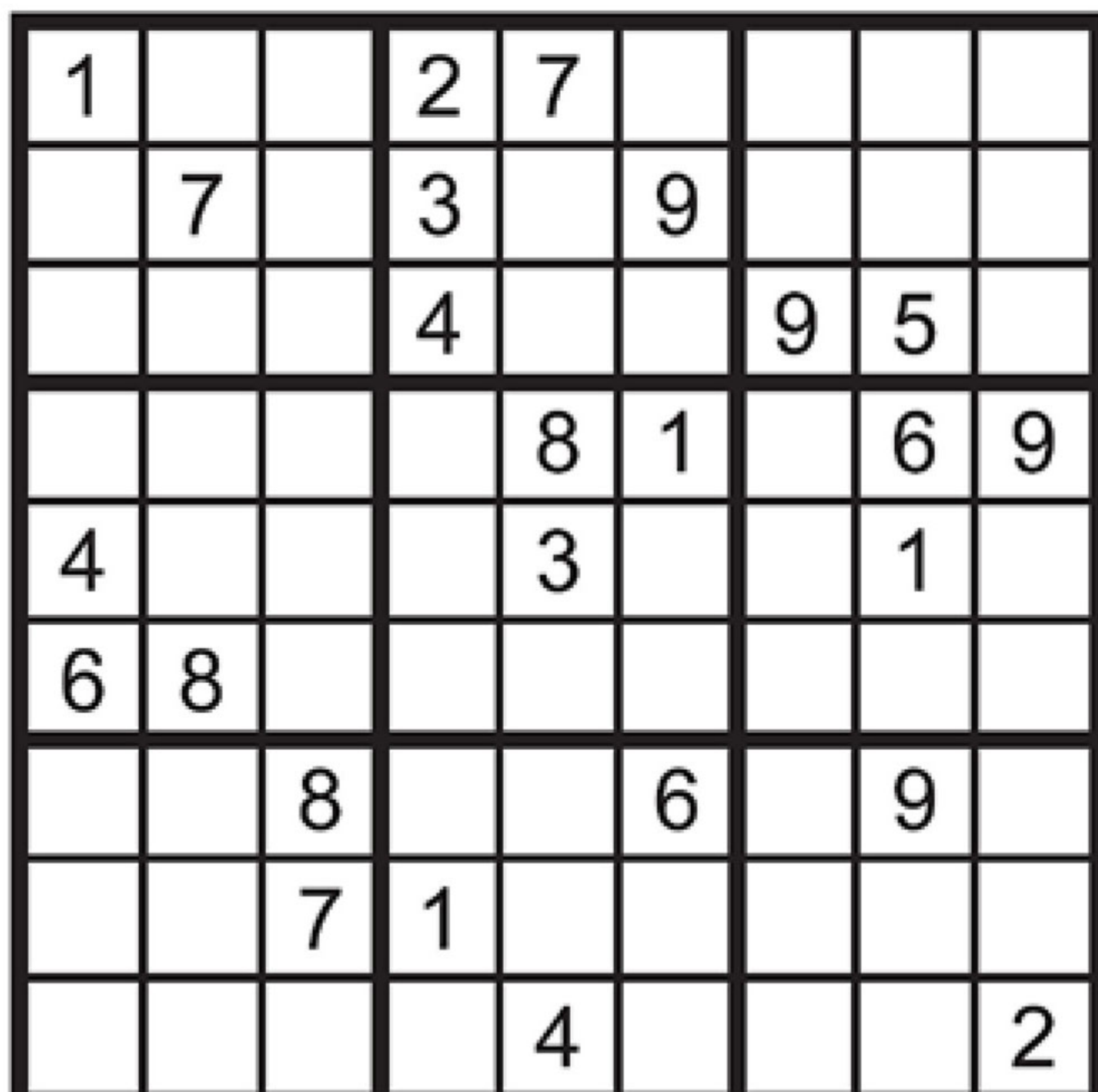
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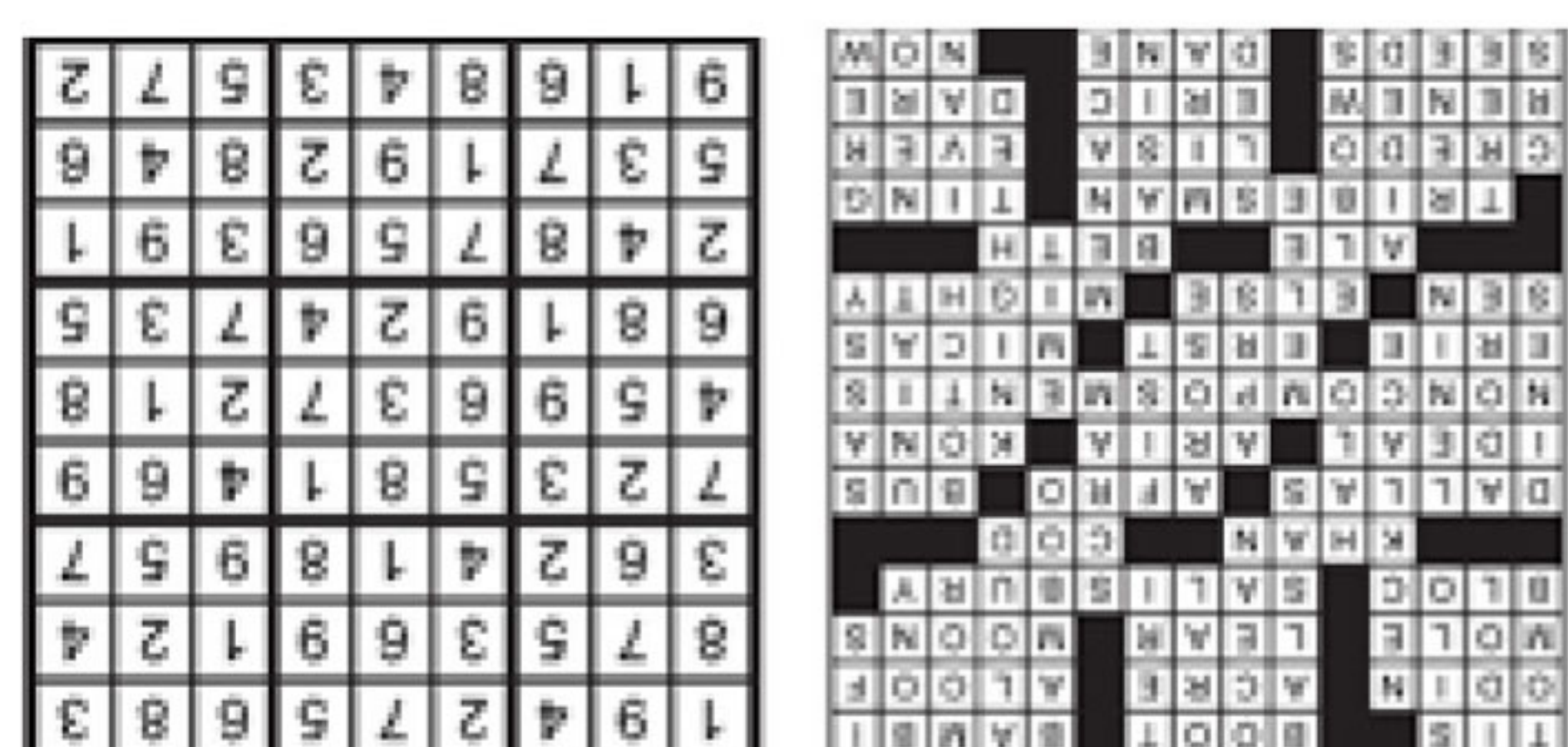


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|------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Across | 37 Of unsound mind, legally | 64 Right away | 30 Closed hand |
| 1 Poetic contraction | 40 Keystone State city | Down | 31 Mishandle |
| 4 Footwear | 41 Formerly | 1 Burial chamber | 32 Eastern Christian member |
| 8 Disney character | 42 Translucent minerals | 2 Fan favorite | 33 Impertinent |
| 13 Norse deity, ruler of the Aesir | 43 Japanese coin | 3 Storage unit | 35 Months (Abbr.) |
| 15 Area unit | 44 Other | 4 C. Amer. trees | 36 Ennobled |
| 16 Distant | 45 Powerful | 5 Body of water | 38 Noisy fight |
| 17 Skin defect | 46 Pub feature | 6 Viva voce | 39 Expel |
| 18 Jet name | 47 <i>Crimes of the Heart</i> playwright | 7 Actress Garr | 44 Arm joints |
| 19 Satellites | 48 Clan member | 8 Woody | 45 Threat |
| 20 Coalition | 52 Bell sound | 9 See 6 Down | 46 Helped |
| 21 Steak type | 56 Doctrine | 10 Berth | 47 Washstand |
| 23 Genghis, for one | 57 Actress Bonet | 11 Emaciated | 48 Bonsai |
| 25 Fishcake ingredient | 58 Of all time | 12 Conditional words | 49 Actress Russo |
| 26 Tx. city | 59 Modernize | 14 String of pearls | 50 Toboggan |
| 29 Hair style | 60 Author Ambler | 22 Buzz off | 51 Actress Sorvino |
| 31 Coach | 61 Defy | 24 Nimbus | 53 Lendl or Pavlov |
| 34 Utopian | 62 Kernels | 26 Has breakfast | 54 Roman Emperor |
| 35 Opera | 63 Zealander | 27 Worship | 55 Increased |
| 36 Hawaii's ___ Coast | | 28 Bolsheviks founder | 56 Accounting entries (Abbr.) |
| | | 29 Emerged | |



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Empire Strikes Back

continued from page 3

special effects are used. Think of how boring lightsabres would seem without that oh so familiar humming noise. Many of the sounds and effects used were previously unheard of, meaning that Lucas and his crew took it upon themselves to find or create the perfect sound for the effect at hand. Without the creative sound effects and scoring efforts present throughout the movie, some of the events and sequences would be incredibly anticlimactic.

enough to draw you in, the plot and the various twists and turns it follows until completion will be. There is everything from battles on a snowy wasteland, to a man being frozen in carbonite, to the narrow escape by our heroes from the jaws of defeat. Take the two hours necessary to watch this movie, and even if you have seen it before, it is a film masterpiece that deserves a second look.

If these two aspects of the film were not



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Student Life April Calendar

Pizza for Evening Students

Tues., April 12, 5:00 pm--while it lasts, Cafeteria Hallway. Sponsored by the Student Life Office and CATS.

MOVIE: *The Joy Luck Club*

Wed., April 13, 12:30 pm, North Cafe.

This film, based on the best-selling novel by Amy Tan, reveals events and conditions that shaped the lives of several generations of Chinese women. Sponsored by the Student Life Office.

Origami Workshop -- In celebration of Asian Awareness Month.

Thurs., April 1, 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm, Lion's Den Student Center.

Come try your hands at Origami (demonstration and instructions). Free for students, faculty and staff. Sponsored by the Student Life Office and CATS.

Student Government Association Meeting

Tues., April 19, 12:30 pm in the Murphy Conference Room. Meeting is open to all.

Come Celebrate EARTH DAY

Thurs., April 2, 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm in the south cafeteria and the commons area. Activities to include “do it yourself lucky bamboos” and “going green” grocery bags (both are free); Green Society club light bulb sale, displays, vendors, and more. Sponsored by Student Life Office, CATS, Green Society, Energy Management Program and Natural Resources Program.

MOVIE: *Earth*

Mon., April 25, 12:30 pm, North Cafe

This film is a feature length version of the BBC series *Planet Earth*. This look at nature shows us whales cavorting in the oceans, rivers crashing down mountain-height waterfalls, the migratory patterns of several species and many other wonders. Narrated by James Earl Jones. Sponsored by the Student Life Office.

Performance by Jason Levasseur, singer/guitarist

Tues., April 26, 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm, South Cafeteria. Sponsored by the Student Life Office.

Events are held on the Gardner Campus unless otherwise noted.

Check out the student life web page at www.mwcc.edu/studentlife/default.html for information on MWCC clubs and organizations, student photo ID dates and times, and much more. Also, check out the on-line MWCC calendar at <http://iconnect.mwcc.edu> for more college events.

If you have a disability and may require accommodations to participate fully in the program, please contact the Office of Student Services, 978-930-9142.

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