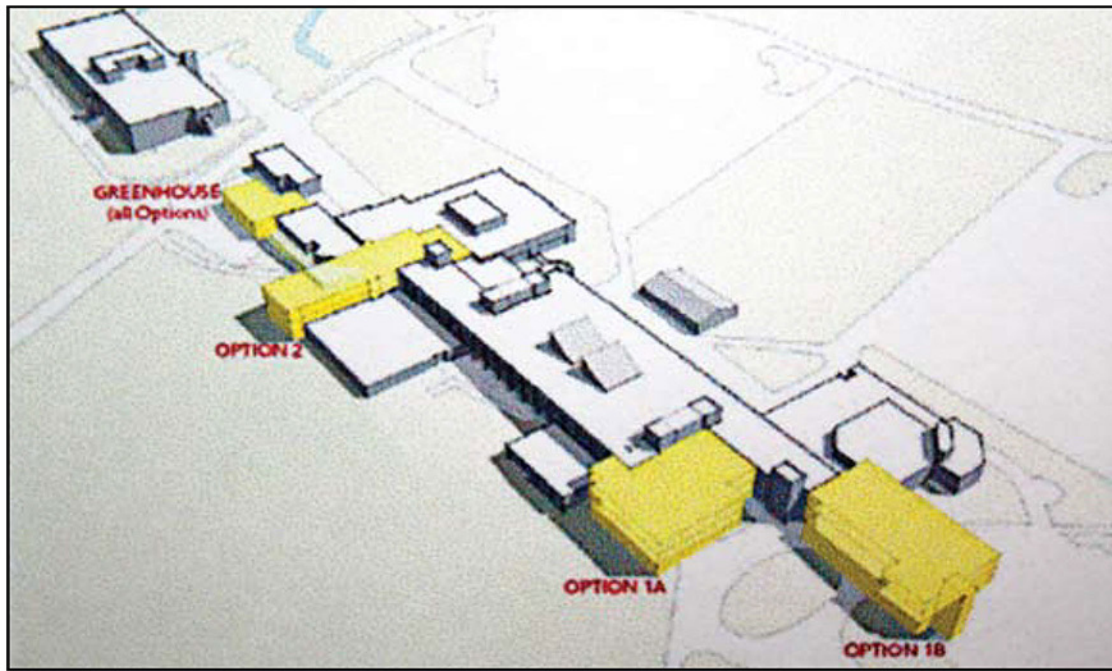




Options for New Science Building Released



Layout of the possible options for the new science building (photo provided by MWCC)

by **Erica Pultorak**

The plans for MWCC's new building project are out and circulating.

The main coordinator of this project is Bob Labonte who is the Vice President of Finance and Administration.

The school is receiving 37 million dollars through the legislature for the renovations. President Asquino's goal is to have about 21 million of it going into the new science building while 15 million will go into the existing college and 5 million will go into the parking lots and roads. Students and faculty will be-

gin to see these changes after it has come up in the Legislature, though we don't know when that'll be, from there, a year of in-depth planning will commence and after that, construction begins.

Currently, there are three ideal locations that are being looked at in detail.

The first one (being called Option 1A) provides what the building plans specify as "a new entrance to the Haley Academic Center", which is over by the Fine Arts Wing. Putting the addition here would allow an elevator to be built which would help people with handicaps. The

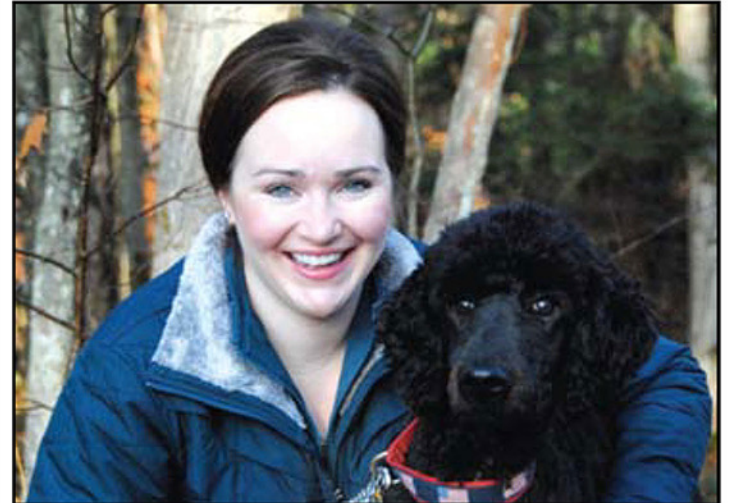
building plans state that the first floor will be "multi-use/general use functions" the floors above will be "labs and specialized spaces".

According to the building plans, Option 1B will "extend southward from the existing Fine Arts Wing" this would create a new entrance. There will be an elevator installed with this plan as well. However, in this plan, its location will be "somewhat remote". Option 1B will also have general rooms on the first floor and labs and classrooms on the second floor, which is similar to option 1A.

continued on page 3>>>

Professor Profile:

Welcome Molly Jarvi



Molly Jarvi and Bruin (photo by C. Kyprianos)

by **Christopher Kyprianos**

Molly K. Jarvi will be joining the Mount Wachusett Community College family in the spring of 2012 as an adjunct Professor and will be based at the Leominster satellite campus. She brings with her a strong desire to serve the academic community, a robust educational background, and a hardy dose or real world experience.

She received her MBA in Management from Fitchburg State College 2009 after having received her BA in Communication Studies

from Bridgewater State College in 2006. Subsequently, Jarvi accepted an AR specialist position with SimplexGrinnell, based in Westminster, Mass. Since that time, she has made several progressive moves within the company and in April 2010, progressed into a Senior Sourcing Specialist position.

With both degrees and her practical experience, Jarvi will be an asset to the institution and will provide a solid education to her future students. "I'm thrilled about teaching this spring. I have been formally working toward this opportunity since Jan-

continued on page 5>>>

Mrs. Massachusetts an MWCC Alumnus



sets-International 2012, Jennifer Salvatelli is using her success to raise awareness for ADHD, a disorder that currently affects 8% of the nation's youth.

"Most of my charity work has revolved around children," said Salvatelli. "However, most recently I have seen the struggles that my sister and her family go through with her son, who has been diagnosed with ADHD, and I see the problems they face with getting him the help and services he needs."

by **Jonathan Jones**

Former MWCC student and current Mrs. Massachu-

continued on page 3>>>

Students Favor Community Time

by **Brienna Lahti**

According to a poll recently analyzed by the SGA, students at MWCC are strongly in favor of keeping community time how it is.

Today, Seth Royer, a member of the Student Government Association reported that among the surveys that were returned,

90% of the students would like to keep community time the same.

90% of the students would like to keep community time the same.

According to Royer, 400 surveys were passed out to classes

around the school and of those surveys 344 were returned. Having such a high return rate for the polls was impressive in the

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Photo Editorial page 2

CONDITIONS ON CAMPUS



Question of the Month page 7

WHAT KIND OF TAIL WOULD YOU HAVE?



Calendar page 12

DECEMBER STUDENT LIFE CALENDAR

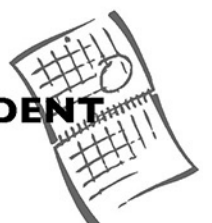


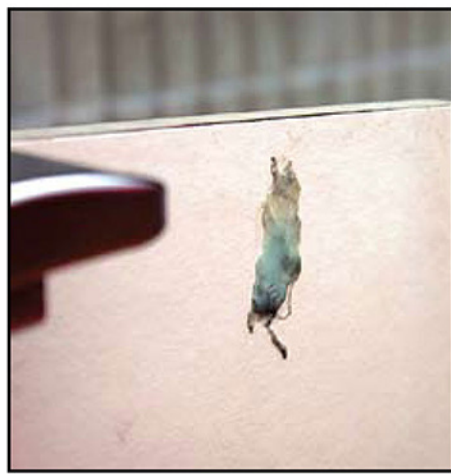
Photo Editorial:

Conditions Conducive to Students' Success?



by Brienna Lahti

This collection of photographs was taken at MWCC's Gardner campus. It is a compilation of classrooms and hallways that have either been vandalized or are in a poor state. Are these conditions conducive to students' success?



Student Life Hoping to Bring Workshops and Clubs to Leominster Campus

by Jonathan Jones

A recent survey was passed out to students at the Leominster campus in an effort to gauge interest in starting clubs and workshops at that MWCC satellite location. Some of the questions asked of students included, how many weeks would you like the workshops to run, and what type of activities would you like the workshops to cover. In addition, students were asked if they would be willing to spend as little as a dollar or as much as \$10.

"What we are trying to do is build a bridge to the Student Life office to provide something outside of the classroom that could be co-curricular in nature, that would give a more comprehensive feel to the campus overall," said Leominster Dean John Walsh.

Three hundred ballots were returned and 58% of students that filled out the survey were either "somewhat" or "very interested" in the potential workshops. Students were asked on a scale of 1-5 of their level of interest and the majority chose between 3-5. The results of the survey also found that students would be willing to contribute between \$5-\$10 to participate in the workshops. Six week workshops were

also the most popular choice as opposed to one day workshops.

The most popular choice for workshops was photography. The top three rounded out with topics such as self-defense and healthy eating.

"We are really excited that students are interested in doing things during that time period [11:30-12:45], they had some very interesting choices and after the

The most popular choice for workshops was photography. The top three rounded out with topics such as self-defense and healthy eating.

winter break we should have more information," said Assistant Dean of Student Services Greg Clement.

According to Dean Walsh, there has been a lot of momentum behind the ESL Club at the Leominster Cam-

pus and it is his hope to be able to spin that off to other students in the form of either chapters of existing clubs or the formation of a Leominster Campus Club.

"The value of having something like that is once we have identified clubs with advisors, they're eligible for SGA funding, to provide the club with seed money to gain some traction," said Dean Walsh.

Details such as what classrooms the activities will be held in and who will be conducting the workshops has yet to be decided.

Bottled water, is it really good for us?

by Linda Patterson

There needs to be more education about the ill effects of bottled water, not only for health reasons but for the environmental issues linked with plastic.

This seven billion dollar a year industry acquires the water for free (some times from areas suffering from major droughts), spends on the average nine cents a gallon to bottle it and then sells it back to us for six dollars a gallon. 40% of bottled water is nothing more than filtered tap water.

Public drinking water must be tested hundreds of times a month in every city. Whereas bottled water is not regulated by the FDA and any testing is performed by the companies producing the water. These test results are not submitted to the

FDA and are not accessible to the public.

When private companies have tested the different bottled waters some of their findings included:

- Arsenic
- Bacteria
- BPA – carcinogen
- Styrene – carcinogen
- Toluene – neurotoxin
- 3 types of phthalates – dysfunction within the fetus

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Mrs. Massachusetts

<<<continued from page 1

Salvatelli also said that because this disorder is newly labeled, that may be a reason it is not taken seriously or diagnosed early enough. Because of Salvatelli's employment as the Co-Owner and Director of Education at Teaching Wonders Child Learning Center, she has seen first-hand that children can show the symptoms at a very early age.

In addition to Salvatelli's work as the Worcester Chapter Director for Queens for a Day, a non-profit organization that offers parties for pediatric cancer patients

"Most of my charity work has revolved around children."

- Salvatelli

aged one to twenty-one, she is also working with the local Children and Adults with ADHD (CHADD) organization.

"I want to help parents as well so they are not afraid of having a child that is labeled, and let them know that there are services and organizations like CHADD available to them," said Salvatelli.

According to the Center for Disease Control, 5.2 million children have been diagnosed with ADHD at some point in their childhood. In the same study, the CDC reports that ADHD affects 11% of adolescent boys compared to 6% of adolescent girls.

Salvatelli graduated from Mount Wachusett Community College in 1998. She received her Associates Degree in Child Study and the Child Curriculum Award for her detail in age appropriate activities and program planning.

Community Time

<<<continued from page 1

opinion of Greg Clement, one of the SGA advisers.

Recently, there has been talk about a change in community time with the possibility of getting rid of the free hour all together and replacing it with more class time. With such a high return rate and an almost unanimous response, members of the SGA have a hard time seeing anything like that going into affect in the near future.

Community time is the one-hour block from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm where no classes are held. During this time students are free to hang out and grab lunch in the cafeteria, study in the library, attend club and organization meetings, or run off campus for a quick errand before their next class starts at 1:45. For some students with full schedules, this is the only time during the day that they get the opportunity to relax.

Related story on page 9>>>

SGA: Students Don't Want Community Time Changed



Science Building

<<<continued from page 1

Option 2 would replace and add to the "courtyard at the northwest end of campus adjacent to the cafeteria" according to the building plans. A winter garden is being considered which would provide an area for students to enjoy the beauty of a greenhouse and the benefits of a lounge. This option also includes elevator plans, as do the other 2 options. Also, the current greenhouse will be replaced with one twice its size. The first floor connects the library and the new greenhouse. The building plans state that Option 2 changes the image of the greenhouse from a "remote structure to a well-connected associated natural science facility".

Most of the money will go to the new science building but some will go to renovations within the existing building. Mr. Labonte has expressed a desire for the cafeteria to feel more like a Starbucks. Also, he is looking at other places around the school that could use some renovating including classrooms and offices. "It breaks my heart to see students sitting on the floor in the commons area"-Bob Labonte

As of right now, faculty can go online and look at the plans to submit their opinions. At some point in the future, Mr. Labonte is going to be collecting student opinions.

It would be easy to get anxious about the renovations and new building plans, but it needs to be remembered that this is "a pretty comprehensive process," said President Asquino, and that it is going to take time and patience to see this project through.

Club Review:

Active Minds

by Benjamin Allen

Active Minds, a new club at MWCC, has been created to raise awareness of mental health in students. The goal of this club is to inform students of healthy ways to deal with stress.

Another goal of Active Minds is to remove the stigma or negative attitudes and beliefs associated with mental health issues and to encourage students to seek help as soon as problems arise. The main focus is on mental health not mental illness.

According to Michelle Brennan, the president of the club, many students drop classes due to stress and mental health issues. She said, "Active minds will offer the tools to navigate through the stressful periods."

The Active Minds club hopes to serve as a liaison between students and mental health services at MWCC. So far 20 students have signed up to participate in the club and club leaders are hoping for this number to grow in the upcoming months.

The club received \$300 in funding from the Student Government Association (SGA) to help plan club activities and events.

The Active Minds club is a part of a national program that is driven by college students with chapters all over the country. Currently the National club has 368 chapters in various colleges and universities around the country.

Campus 4 Christ Gathers Gifts for Kids



Operation Christmas Child from <http://www.samaritanaspurse.org>

by Brienna Lahti

Campus 4 Christ, a student organization at Mount Wachusett Community College, is participating in community service projects that spread Christmas spirit across the world this semester.

According to group president Isaac Manson, these students have decided to partake in Operation Christmas Child. This a yearly project held by Samaritan's Purse in which shoeboxes are filled with essential and nonessential items for children between the ages of two and four-

teen. The boxes are stuffed, wrapped, and then sent to different locations around the world for children in need.

Campus 4 Christ has decided to have each of their members pick an age and a gender. Each student will collect or purchase items throughout the week, bring the items into the next meeting, wrap the boxes, and then send them on their way through collaboration with a local church.

Because of a tight deadline, the group is not able to involve the rest of the student body with this particular project. However, Manson said that they would like to expand their campus involvement in future projects.

For their next community service project, Campus 4 Christ is considering teaming up with the Veteran's program on campus to collect donations that will go to in-need families and children of veterans in the Gardner area.

If you would like more information about Operation Christmas Child, visit <http://www.samaritanaspurse.org/index.php/OCC/>.

Phi Theta Kappa is Growing in Numbers and Importance

by Benjamin Allen

Honor society Phi Theta Kappa is growing at MWCC. With new faculty advisors and student leadership, PTK is rebuilding their student base in an effort to become more active at MWCC. Over 700 invites were sent out this semester to join the society this semester.

According to society president Jennifer Forgues, PTK has lowered their requirements to be eligible to join. Currently a student who wishes to join must have 12 credits and an overall GPA of 3.2. There is also a onetime \$50 membership fee for joining. The society is open to all majors and the club meets on Mondays at 12:30 PM in room 202.

According to Dr. Mike Greenwood, a PTK advisor and Professor at MWCC, some of the main goals of the organization are to recognize academic achievement, help build member resumes, provide scholarships, and complete service learning projects for the school and community. In an email communication Dr. Greenwood said, "The MWCC PTK chapter membership has grown 25% over

the last year and this is due in large part to the hard work and leadership of our chapter President, Jennifer Forgues, and the dedication of local members."

According to the PTK national website, members of the international organizations will have access to 37 million dollars in transfer scholarships to over 700 four year colleges and universities, 18 of which are located right in Massachusetts. Some of these include Suffolk University, Northeastern University, Harvard University, and Boston University.

The group is currently exploring ideas for some service learning projects for the future, some projects include tutoring local middle school students, raising money for academic supplies, and working with the Gardner CDC.

The society recently had an election for club officers; the new President of the club is Jennifer Forgues, the Vice President is Ryan Sansossio, and Caroline Horvitz is the club's treasurer. The club currently has three faculty advisors, Dr. Mike Greenwood, Fagan Forhan, and Professor Bob Mayer.



Photo from left to right: Dr. Mike Greenwood, Fagan Forhan, Jennifer Forgues, Kara Bradbury, Elizabeth Reiser

Photo Story by Luiz Arduini



MWCC Ping-Pong Tournament

FALL 2011



Student Profile:

Carly Gagne – SGA Member



Photo by Ericka Pultorak

by Nicole Hilerio

Always greeting everyone with a smile and sharing a word of encouragement, Carly Gagne, a Health Major at Mount Wachusett Community College, is a delightful member of the Student Government Association (SGA).

When originally approached with the idea of becoming a part of the SGA, she was slightly uneasy about taking on unknowing tasks. Now, in her third semester as a member, she has gotten the hang of it, seeing it as a part of her college experience.

As an active member, she became more aware of what is going on around campus; she knows the annual events and so she is able to schedule around them and make time to help organize the events. Knowing

ahead of time what is going on makes the time easier; a few things are mandatory but mostly its volunteer work that is encouraged and enforced by the members.

Usual meetings include the review of the meetings minutes, votes on what changes need to be made to better improve student life at the Mount, and discussions on the budgets for other clubs and organizations on campus.

“Get involved” is her advice. “Don’t just sit there. Go out and do something. Share in the experience; be active in the making of a difference or you’re not going to make one.”

The best part of being in the SGA, according to Gagne, is that “we help a lot of people, you get to bond with the other members during charity events, it’s like a family. We learn each other’s strengths and weaknesses so we’re able to work as a team. We support each other and it is lots of fun.”

Joining the SGA is a quick process of filling out a form, getting 28 signatures from students that think you would be a good addition to the SGA, and being proactive in encouraging other students to take part in the election. During the voting process, candidate’s pictures are put online along with a bio they can write about themselves so students can learn more about them.

“Being in the SGA looks great on resumes, you can actually see the changes in the school, you’re included and have a say in what’s going on in the student community,” said Gagne.

“Don’t just sit there. Go out and do something”
– Gagne

Welcome Molly Jarvi

<<<continued from page 1

uary 2010 when I applied to the MWCC adjunct pool. Informally, I’ve been planning and preparing for much longer. I have an immense passion for education and I am determined to demonstrate that in my enthusiasm for the material, support of the students and dedication to the MWCC community. I just hope students learn as much from me as I know I will from them.”

Ms. Jarvi has also been a MWCC trustee of the Foundation since August 2011. “Having the opportunity to work with such passionate, smart and distinguished professionals is such a privilege. Their commitment to the college and students is what I admire most. I am looking forward to getting more involved with the Foundation, specifically the Development Committee.”

Fellow Foundation Trustee, Dr. Michael T. Greenwood indicated about Jarvi, “Our business learners are fortunate that talented and experienced business leaders like Molly are willing to get involved as adjunct instructors. Our adjuncts bring many years of practical “lessons learned” from many years on the job.”

Ms. Jarvi intends on being an active participant in the MWCC community for

a long time. “One of my goals is to start a Forensic Team (competitive speech and debate) at MWCC. I was heavily involved in the Forensic Team when I was working on my undergraduate degree at Bridgewater State College and would love the opportunity to establish and coach a team at MWCC,” Jarvi mentioned in a recent interview.

In the first cycle session of the fall 2011 season Jarvi shadowed one of Professor Reilly’s Strategic Management courses, gathering a feel for the environment in which she will be teaching. Professor John Reilly noted, “She is very energetic, enthusiastic, highly motivated, and will make learning for her students a very positive experience. She will be a welcome addition to the Adjunct faculty.”

Jarvi has many interests, which extend beyond her professional vocations. She has a passion for skiing and for the great outdoors in general. She enjoys hiking with her fiancé Patrick Ruble and with her four legged friend Bruin, a black eleven month old Standard Poodle. Jarvi is very enthusiastic about professional hockey too, which she declares Ruble is responsible for.

“I just hope students learn as much from me as I know I will from them.”
– Jarvi

‘Free to Tweet’ to encourage young people to celebrate First Amendment

There’s an important date coming up in December, and it has nothing to do with gift-giving.

Dec. 15, 2011 will be the 220th birthday of the First Amendment and the Bill of Rights, but you won’t see commemorative events in America’s schools or flags flying on Main Street. In sharp contrast to Independence Day, our nation largely overlooks the importance of the ratification of our most fundamental freedoms. American society of Newspaper Editors (ASNE) and its partners in the “1 for All” First Amendment campaign are trying to do something about that.

The campaign is launching an innovative promotion called “Free to Tweet,” to encourage young people to celebrate the First Amendment on that date. Students who tweet about the First Amendment will be eligible to win one of 22 \$5,000 scholarships, funded by the Knight Foundation.

Here’s how New England newspapers can help build awareness of this special event:

1. Read about the campaign at www.freetotweet.org. The FAQs will give you a good understanding of what we’re trying to accomplish.
2. Carry ads in support of the campaign. You’ll find both web and print ads at <http://1forall.us/media-resources/print-and-web-ads/>.
3. Write about the “Free to Tweet” contest. This could be in the form of an article or an editor’s column. We’d also love to see news organizations editorialize about the importance of the First Amendment and the Bill of Rights, tied to “Free to Tweet.”

4. Consider publishing my op-ed piece or Gene Policinski’s “Inside the First Amendment” column on “Free to Tweet.” We’ll send you both next week.

5. Agree to be a guest tweeter on Dec. 15, encouraging students and saluting the First Amendment. Your only commitment is 140 characters on Dec. 15.

If you can help us in any of these ways please drop a short note to Charlie Nutt, ASNE member and “Free to Tweet” project director. He’s at cwnutt00@gmail.com and 856-213-5431.

Please note that all of this is time sensitive. We want to build visibility for the campaign, but the competition only runs from 12:01 EST to 11:59 PST on December 15th. That means that in addition to advancing the event, it would be very helpful to jog people’s memories that day. We’ll also have updated ads that say “Today only” to run on December 15.

ASNE has a self-interest in all of this. If more Americans understand the importance of the First Amendment and the role it plays in preserving our democracy, they will also have a better appreciation of the mission of a free press. We’re all in this together.

Richard Karpel
Executive Director
American Society of News Editors
11690B Sunrise Valley Drive
Reston, VA 20191
Phone: 703/453-1120
Fax: 703/453-1133

Student Profile:

Nathan Bixby - PRIDE Member

by Nicole Hilerio

When Nathan Bixby, a Communications Major focusing in audio, came to Mount Wachusett Community College he immediately began looking into LGBT organizations on campus. He came across People Rising In Defense of Everyone (PRIDE).

Suicide rates are rising amongst LGBT teens. As the nation becomes more proactive in the fight against bullying and cyber bullying, people are finding ways to help support those who are victimized. PRIDE is the place to go for those who want to make a difference or need a helping hand on campus.

The club itself is trying to grow and expand to be able to plan more elaborate events for students and to help raise awareness of issues facing the LGBT community and their allies.

“We do a lot of events on campus related to the LGBT community which include Wearing Purple to raise teenage suicide awareness, the Day of Silence and National Coming Out day.” Bixby explains, “There’s an inconsistent attendance, that varies meeting to meeting but the meetings are open to allies, friends and those

with open minds that want to make a difference”.

The Day Of Silence is described as “Sponsored by GLSEN, the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, the National Day of Silence is a day of action in which students across the country take some form of a vow of silence to call attention to the silencing effect of anti-LGBT bullying and harassment in schools. Through their activities students can speak out against harassment and organize for change for their schools and communities,” according to DayofSilence.org.

The club itself gets a warm welcome for the students and faculty on campus, Bixby had no bad experiences he could think of.

When asked what he enjoyed most about being a member of PRIDE Bixby responded “I like that everyone’s really chill and we try our best to reach out to LGBT students and let them know we’re here for them, I love that we have a presence and are known around campus as a support system.”

Photo from [facebook.com/people/MwccPride/](https://www.facebook.com/people/MwccPride/)
100000862193438



Student Profile:

Ben Buckland – Horse Trainer



All photos by Luiz Arduini

by Luiz Arduini

The air is a bit cool and the skies are clear, it's a sunny fall afternoon at Crimson Acres Equestrian Center in Orange, Massachusetts. Known for its various services in the field of horseback riding, the place welcomes many visitors daily, from riders to horse owners and enthusiasts.

Ben Buckland, a student at Mount Wachusett Community College, has a horse trainer's apprentice at Crimson Acres for three years. His past at Crimson Acres stretch back to when hew was only twelve years old.

Growing up, Ben, one of five boys, was highly active in sports. Horses, however, for some reason always intrigued Ben. For his twelfth birthday, Ben's mother sent him to a weekend camp at Crimson Acre.

From that weekend on, Ben's fascination with horses slowly turned into his passion. A year later he had saved enough money to buy his own horse, which cost him \$2,000.

Since he bought the horse from Peter Whitmore, Owner and trainer at Crimson Acres, part of the deal was that Ben would work a few hundred dollars off at the stable. He's been working there ever since.

"His enthusiasm and passion, along with is past experience working with us, certainly makes him a great asset to our center. He's here every-day ontime, and when he can't make it, he always calls in advance," said Whitmore.

When referring back to when he first bought his horse, Ben chuckled and said, "It was a disaster. I fell off my horse countless times, but I kept getting up. It took a while, but eventually we kind of clicked. I did not realize at the time that this bond with my horse would serve as a foundation for future training."

Ben's main responsibility as an apprentice is to patiently go through a strict routine with each individual horse in for training. Though most of the routine consists of physically preparing the horse for riding, each precise step serves as way to communicate with the horse.

For example, "proper grooming before

workouts is very important. It not only keeps the horse clean and comfortable, but, most importantly the act itself prepares the horse's mind for the work out," said Buckland.

After properly grooming the horse, Ben then uses a concept inherited from Whit-

"Patience is something you must have to train horses."

- Buckland

more, which, with a lasso, he commands the horse to ride around a corral. This is a simple exercise that conditions the horse to be co-

operative and respectful.

The next step, which consists of properly saddling the horse, requires extreme attention to one particular part. If the saddle cinch is too tight, while riding, the horse might think that it can't breathe, responding by bucking off the rider.

When saddled, Ben usually does "ring work" with the horse, where he simply rides in various speeds around the arena. Then he rides around the stable, pushing the horse through various obstacles to improve the horse's confidence.

The obstacles vary, but one that Ben usually does with every horse is riding through a tarp hanging from a beam. To horses, the tarp is a wall and cannot be pushed through, but by repetition and patience, Ben is able to ride the horse through. This not only boosts the horse's confidence but also teaches the horse to trust the rider's command.

Ben then refers to Whitmore to see what specific exercise the horse needs.

"I fell off my horse countless times, but I kept getting up. It took a while, but eventually we kind of clicked."

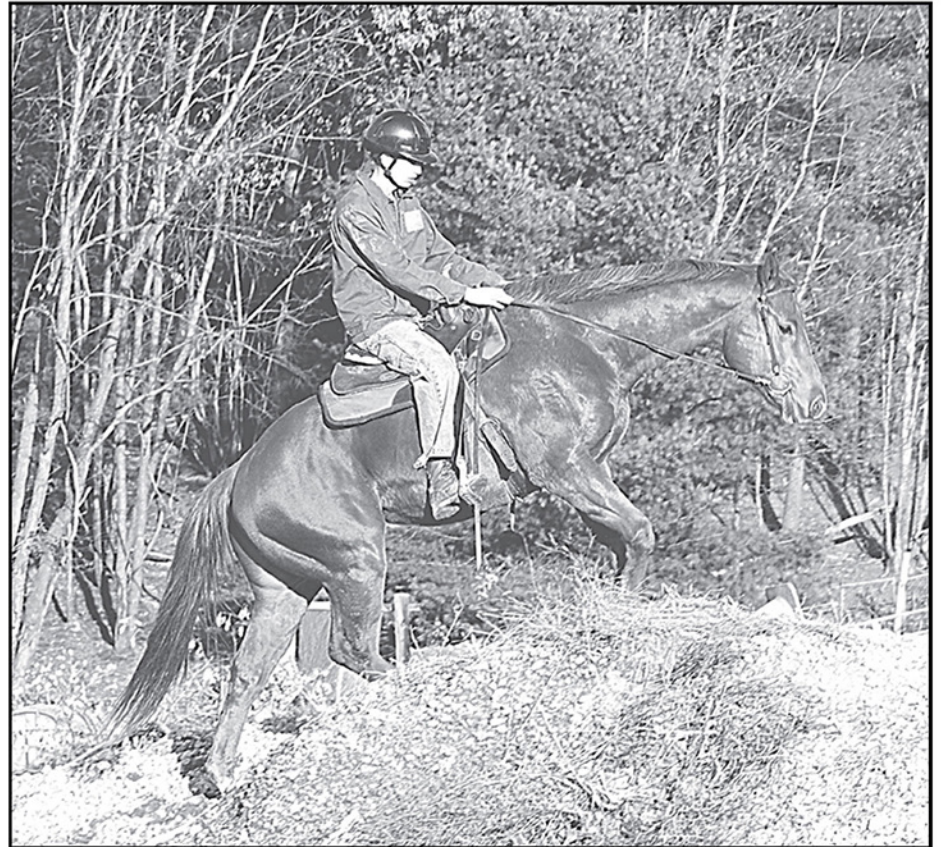
- Buckland

One of the main services provided by the stable is that they can fix just about any problem a

horse has. The problems commonly dealt with range from behavioral issues to fears, like jumping or trail riding.

Depending on what the problem is, Ben usually works on the horse for up to an hour. Totaling the preparation work and actual training, Ben can spend up to two hours on a single horse every day. It can take a week or sometimes months to fix a problem.

"Patience," said Buckland "is something you must have to train horses. They need a lot of time to connect with the rider and then to remember positive behavior. It's a repetitious and often a long process,



continued on page 12>>>

Question of the month:

If You Could Have Any Tail, Real or Imaginary, What Would It Be and Why?

by *Ericka Pultorak*



Sarah Wilson:

A Wolf's tail

Why? Because the mother wolves are associated with warmth and protectiveness.



Deven Chiasson:

Dinosaur club tail (Ankylosaurus)

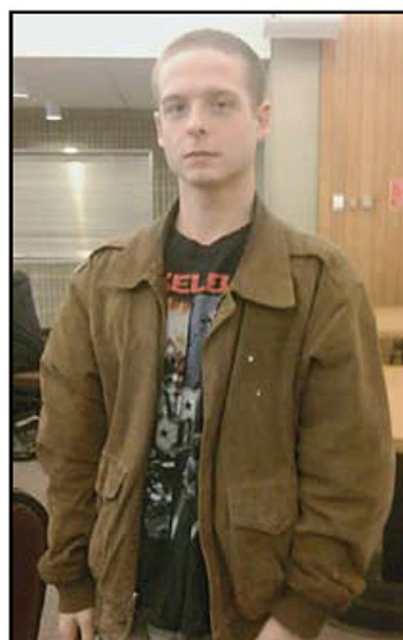
Why? "Be kinda cool to have a club tail"



Alex Moore:

Sheep's Tail

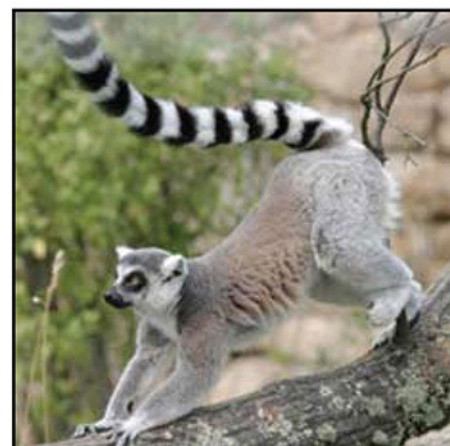
Why? It's his favorite animal and "It's cute."



Caleb Copp:

A Lemur Tail

Why? "It'd be like having an extra hand" and "I could do more than multi-task."



Carly Gagne:

A Mermaid's Tail

Why? She thought it the most interesting. Also, it's like the fantasy from childhood to have a mermaid tail. Because we rely so heavily on our feet Carly thought it would give her a different perspective on life if she had a mermaid tail instead.

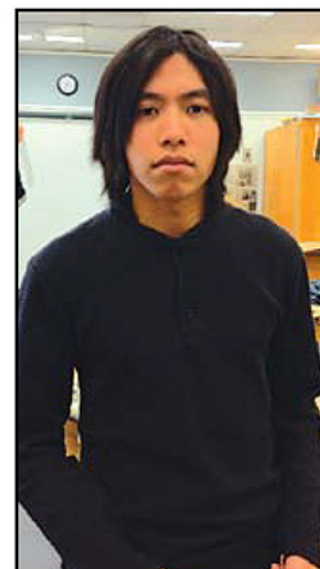


What do You Think About Government Censorship on the Internet?

by *Leigh Edwards*



"I personally don't have an opinion on the subject. As far as if it's actually possible? Lots of research would have to go into the idea of censoring." - Susan Taylor, Professor of Computer Science



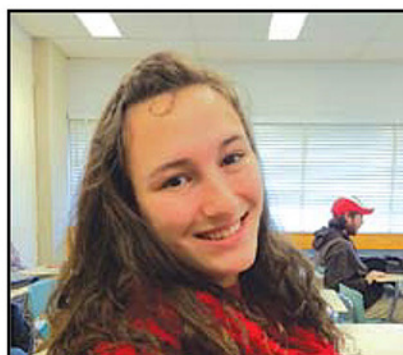
"I feel as if this country was made to hear the voices of our nation, without the government getting in the way." - Loi Tran, Art Major



"I think that it would block creativity; there's a filter on your expression and it becomes contained." - Sarah Adams, Honor Society Student Art Major.



"The internet is about finding information. If the government censors the internet, they're censoring possible information that one could gain from." - Michelle Schrock, Art Major



"I feel strongly that people have the right to have freedom of speech. People should have the right to view what they want to view online." - Monica Diffenderfer, dual enrollment student

REVIEWS



Game Review:

Modern Warfare 3 Arrives With a Bang



by Jonathan Jones

As a long time supporter of the Call of Duty franchise, I was very anxious to get my hands on the latest installment, Modern Warfare 3. So anxious in fact that I reserved a copy months in advance and stood in line at midnight to secure the game. When I finally returned home around 1 a.m. and popped the disc into the drive, I was instantly blown away.

MW3 is by no means the greatest game ever made, nor is it the "perfect" first-person shooter. However, with a revamped graphics engine and more emphasis placed on different playing styles, it is the best game in the Call of Duty franchise. In the past when a multiplayer map took place in an arctic environment with snow, the snow was in fact limited to covering the ground and that was it. In one particular map in MW3, the player is thrust into a blinding snowstorm that affects visibility in ways not seen in previous installments. This small detail may be lost on the average gamer but it just goes to show the extent to which programmers and developers wanted to improve the look of this game compared to previous versions.

The single player aspect of the game picks up right where Modern Warfare 2 left off and thrusts the gamer instantly into a war-torn New York City where World War 3 has already begun. The first mission is to disable a Russian radar jammer placed on top of a building so as to allow the United States Military to begin the task of reclaiming the harbor from the opposing force.

Gamers experienced in the style of play of Call of Duty will have no problem picking up the controls and completing the task at hand and finding some new twists to the regular experience. For those that are not familiar with the controls, fear not, the simplistic layout of buttons will have you retaking New York City and eliminating enemies very quickly. Overall the missions are widely varied and for those

that have not completed the single player missions, no spoilers will be included in this review. One should expect, however,

With a revamped graphics engine and more emphasis placed on different playing styles, it is the best game in the Call of Duty franchise.

to traverse the globe to repel the true enemy to the US, Vladimir Makarov.

The Spec Ops missions, which are a great way to hone your skills before jumping into multiplayer, have returned and been beefed up tremendously. With the all new Survival mode, gamers can stave off an endless wave of enemies with a gradually increasing level of difficulty. This mode supports up to two players teaming up and using strategy and skill to fend off the enemy. Much like the zombie mode for Black Ops, you can compare high scores between friends. With the inclusion of a ranking system that parallels the multiplayer ranks (but is completely separate from multiplayer), this mode will keep

players engaged in the game and provides a replayability factor that developers want. Also included in Spec Ops is the ability for you and a teammate to play several missions varying from stealth, obstacle courses, and aerial support. The only part of the Spec Ops that is a major letdown is the fact that you can only play with one other friend. In Black Ops, players could team up with up to three other players and coordinate strategies in the zombie mode. Alas, one can hope for an update or in the next installment of the series this might be remedied.

Lastly but certainly not least, the multiplayer mode has returned and puts the previous Call of Duty's to shame. New strike packages have been included and with the all new support package does not require players to maintain a kill streak, but re-

wards team play. Unlike previous installments players had to chain together kills to receive air support. This shift towards a team focused reward is sometimes critical in certain game modes for the overall success of the team. For players that are focused on personal success, the developers have rewarded you with a varying degree of kill streak rewards, provided you can chain enough kills together. Also new to multiplayer is the ability to receive extra perks instead of support in the form of the "Specialist" rewards, where a player can receive extra perks such as quick draw or sleight of hand, when chaining kill streaks together. In addition to new equipment and weapons the overall feel of the maps has been revamped, most likely to eliminate the dreadful "camper". For those new to first person multiplayer games, a camper is a player that prefers to sit in corners, out of sight, and wait for an unsuspecting player to run by. These players usually do not get very many kills (as they are not moving) but are great at ruining a good chain of kills that you have going. The maps have been revamped by making them much smaller and rather than have a map horizontally large, the maps are now compressed and more vertical. This creates a situation where players are constantly moving around the map and eliminates the opportunity for players to sit in corners (see camping) for very long. While this can be seen as a great game play tweak, the ability for a player to be "quick-scoped" has not been addressed. This involves a player with a (usually overpowered) sniper rifle running around the map and when they go to zoom in, the trigger is pulled prematurely and you are hit with a bullet that was never aimed. This requires no skill and usually is met

The single player aspect of the game picks up right where Modern Warfare 2 left off and thrusts the gamer instantly into a war-torn New York City where World War 3 has already begun.

with obscenities and broken controllers. This however is a simple game play mechanic and should be addressed in the form of a patch in the near future. Overall the multiplayer mode is the best in the series despite the minor problems.

As a whole, Modern Warfare 3 is a game that is very capable of breaking all the sales records of the previous game, Black Ops. Players that have experienced the Call of Duty series from its inception will appreciate the attention to detail as well as the focus on a wide variety of play and skill styles. I'm not a big fan of rating a game with a number but I will say this, if you are a fan of first person shooters, this is a game you will enjoy for months to come. If you aren't a fan of the shooter genre, then give this game a try, I guarantee you will be hooked.

Book Review:

The Help

by Leigh Edwards

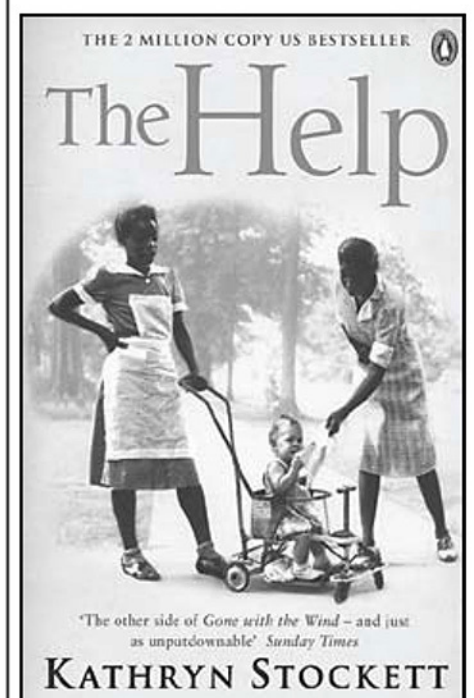
The Help, a novel by Kathryn Stockett, was published in 2009 in the United States and has been read by millions of people across the country. Based in Jackson, Mississippi in the early 1960's, *The Help* follows two maids, Aibileen and Minny, and a young Journalist, Miss Skeeter Phelan, on a journey to reveal what it's really like being a maid for white people during segregation by publishing a book called *Help*. Along the way, the reader

Ultimately the book projects the message of equality and that the color of someone's skin does not determine their integrity and worth as a human being.

meets colorful and sometimes downright mean characters, such as Miss Hilly Holbrook, which keeps you turning the page and rooting for the maids and Miss Skeeter the whole way.

The characters Stockett created gives the reader a good depiction of how the characters act and what they look like within the first few moments of introducing each, which leaves no room for the infamous "guessing game." Immediately knowing and understanding the character's foundation in the book allows the reader to instantaneously fall in love with a character or inevitably dislike them. *The Help* doesn't gently ease you into the characters or what they stand for; within moments Stockett has given you the meat and potatoes of the book, or would "fried

continued on page 10 >>>



Café Selling Pudding for Heifer Project

by Jillian Richard

Last year the Green Street Café participated in the Heifer Project to raise money for their fundraiser so less fortunate people would have access to food such as cows, chickens, and sheep. They raised just about \$1,000 last year and although they are falling short so far this year, it doesn't stop them from trying.

Tracee Bergeron is the cafeteria supervisor and has worked here at the MWCC campus over a year now. "We support the Heifer Project because of the cause. The food is more than just local, it's international." She can see the impact that the choices the school has made as far as where they buy their food. "People are eating more fruits and making their own salads."

Sid Weiner & Son have an extensive background in the business in dealing with food and the food here at the school shows how much they really care. With fresh fruits and vegetables as well as organic drinks and even snacks offer a wide variety of essential food that young adults need when they get to school.

Lynne Francious is the Dining Service Manager at the Mount and she is responsible for the actions that are being taken to make these changes. She supports the Heifer Project and Sid Weiner & Son and has no doubt that her impact will prove that the world has more to offer than just money. Regardless of the season, the

school is doing whatever it takes to get the food that is most fresh and available and is at the highest consumer demand, especially considering winter is here, says Francious.

Philip Gentry is a student here at MWCC and he thinks the food here is great. "It's a lot better than the food they serve in high school. I like the pizza here. It's better than Domino's Pizza and doesn't give me heartburn. The breakfast is awesome too. Compared to breakfast diners I have eaten at the Mount has excellent omelets with all kinds of fresh veggies and cheese you can put on them."

When asked about the Heifer Project and what is being done for America as well as the world he said he hasn't donated much except change when he has it but he likes the idea of this food project.

As of December 1st 2011 the Heifer Project has accumulated about \$485, not as much as last year or as much as they wanted. To help speed this process the café has offered an incentive to everyone that will donate, they are selling Oreo Pudding cups and a .50 cent donation is made to the project for every purchase of an Oreo Pudding cup.

They will also be giving away candy canes for every .50 cent or more donations that is made for the month of December. Tracee expressed that she just wants the students to see how important this project is and how agriculture impacts the world like it does.



Should Bullying be made illegal?

by Leigh Edwards

Across the United States over the past year, the subject of bullying has been brought up numerous times, as it has become an epidemic among students in schools, and especially online. However, the biggest argument brought up in schools by victim's parents and bullying activists is that bullying should be put into law as a crime, and MWCC students and faculty seem to agree.

A major cause for bullying in the U.S. is discrimination against one's sexual orientation. According to the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, 86% of the LGBT community has experienced harassment.

Since the boom in social networking has occurred, cyber bullying is becoming the "go-to" way of harassing students, as it takes little effort and is available at any time of day. However, it is still not set in

stone as to why bullies bully. "9 times out of 10 bullying comes from ignorance, and that's what's so frustrating about it. Something should be done to prevent it" said Professor Conn, a Biogeology Professor at MWCC.

Even as close as Hadley, MA bullying became so traumatic for young Pheobe Prince. She eventually took her own life.

Cyber bullying is becoming the "go-to" way of harassing students.

Pheobe's story isn't the only one like it; many past students have taken their lives due to bullying. The string that attaches each bullying/suicide case is

that the act of bullying was reported to the school it was taken place in, but there was no action taken place at any school's establishment. Some argue, that if school's had taken a stronger stand on the reported bullying, lives could have been saved, "Something needs to be done in schools to prevent bullying, because it needs to be stopped" said Veronica Alejandro, a dual enrollment student at MWCC.

All I want For Christmas

by Eric Fisk

I hate it when my wife asks me what I want for Christmas.

Seriously, do I give her an honest answer so she'll spend too much on the kids and me? (If that's the way it has to be, have it be in that order.) Or do I tell her what she wants to hear. "Oh, I just picked out a couple of books I need for work and school on my Amazon Wish List..." and hope she doesn't go overboard and buys all of them this year.

Simultaneously she's thinking the same thing. "Do I tell Eric what I really want for Christmas, or do I just put a few things I really need on my Amazon wish list?"

Meanwhile, my two boys Coppertop and Tumble (nicknames that match their personalities) are living their own version of "A Christmas Story" starring themselves as "Ralphie" with their 2010's equivalent of "an Official Red Ryder Carbine-Action Two-Hundred-Shot Range Model Air Rifle!"

This is the year, folks. I'm going to be completely honest with everyone and I'm absolutely sure that if I could tempt you with liquor or truth serum (or just ask politely) I would get the same answer from you, too.

All I want for Christmas are a couple

of things, so incredibly simple but so impossible hard to get. You can't buy these things at the store, can't wrap them, or procure them at any price. If someone could put a price tag on what I want and actually sell it at a reasonable price then that person could be rich beyond anyone's imagination.

Number 1; I just want everything to work exactly the way they're supposed to work.

Every product that I have, at every level I want them to work exactly the way they were promised without having any problems or hiccups. Software or code is the best example I can think of right now. All the Microsoft products, all the Adobe products, all the Apple/Mac software... should just do exactly what I want you to do. If I'm following a lesson plan in a book (a topic for another gripe) and it asks me to do steps A, B, C, and D and when I'm finished I should get "this" then I should get exactly this! I used to be a Technical Writer, I know how hard writing instructions can be... but that's the job; write it and get it right! I should never have to guess what the author actually meant.

Continue reading at mountobserver.com

SGA: Students Don't Want Community Time Changed

by Leigh Edwards

The Student Awareness Committee of the Student Government Association (SGA) said at last week's meeting that out of approximately 344 MWCC students recently surveyed, 90 percent are in favor of keeping community time as it stands now, from 12:30-1:30 p.m., Monday-Thursday.

The SGA also voted to accept the Music Club as an official club at MWCC.

The following items were discussed under old business:

The SGA's Thanksgiving Food Drive pro-

duced 60 baskets of food and 58 of those baskets were given to area families. Left-over food was delivered to the Gardner Food Pantry.

The SGA raised \$224.07 for the St. Baldrick's Foundation through a bake sale.

Member Caroline Horvitz reported that over 15 people shaved their heads to support the Chrissy Lajoie (a former Student Trustee) fundraiser and over \$15,000 was raised for the St. Baldrick's Foundation.



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Cycle Classes are both Intense and Convenient

by Christopher Kyprianos

Cycle classes are not an uncommon way for students to earn college credits at the Mount Wachusett Community College Leominster campus, which happens to be conveniently perched near the intersection of the route 12 and route 2 in Leominster. The students who tend to utilize cycle classes are often busy individuals who work while going to school, are single parents, or persons who have chosen to take an accelerated path to obtain their degree.

The fall 2011 Cycle 1 sessions run from Sept. 6 through Oct. 26, while the Cycle 2 programs occupy the Oct. 29 through Dec. 22 segment of the first semester. Many of the standard courses available through the MWCC course brochure are offered in the cycle format, which run about 8 weeks as compared to the traditional 17 week course.

Leah Smith and Andrea Gendron are two examples of students who are driven to succeed, utilizing the MWCC School of Business' MGT250 Strategic Management cycle course. On Tuesday October 25th both of these women successfully completed the rigors of this Capstone class, taught by Professor John Reilly. Under Reilly's tutelage Smith and Gendron became Project Managers of their respective teams, leading those teams through two deep dive studies of publicly traded companies. Their presentations included a PowerPoint, public speaking and a Q & A wrap up. Both teams did a remarkable job under their leadership.

Smith lives about 15 minutes from

the Leominster campus. She said that she likes the cycle programs because they, "Gets it over with quicker." Though Smith is in the business major she noted that she aspires to become a full time novelist.

Gendron is a single mom and travels from the Athol area to attend class. Gendron is a double major student with concentrations in Business Administration—Transfer Degree (BA) and Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS). Though her commute to

the campus is about 40 minute one way she enjoys the challenges of cycle classes. Gendron stated, "I'll be graduating in May and then I'll be transferring to

Smith College in Northampton." After receiving her Bachelor's Degree she hopes to open a youth drop in center in the greater Athol region. She sees a need to serve the community and the foundation she is building now using cycle courses will help her to operate such an enterprise.

Professor John D. Reilly has been involved with MWCC since being an adjunct back in 1981 and received his MBA from Anna Maria College in Paxton, Mass. Many students seem to enjoy Reilly's teaching style noting that he is really down to earth and has a makes learning fun. Professor Reilly teaches Principals of Management, Business Ethics, Human Resources, and Small Business Management, as well as Management Communication for Business and Industry and Strategic Management. According to his online bio Reilly can be found "teaching a wide array of business classes at the Gardner and Leominster Campuses.

Many of the standard courses available through the MWCC course brochure are offered in the cycle format, which run about 8 weeks as compared to the traditional 17 week course.

The Help

<<<continued from page 8

chicken and collard greens" be more appropriate?

Stockett did an excellent job doing her research for the book. The reader would never have to guess who wrote the point of view for each character because the reader automatically assumes the characters have written it themselves. For example, the character Aibileen is so well written, one would never assume it was entirely written by Stockett, a middle aged white woman originally from the South. The

diction for each character is exactly on point, which is so important and crucial for this book because it is based on a very specific period of time with very specific types of women.

Ultimately the book projects the message of equality and that the color of someone's skin does not determine their integrity and worth as a human being. Stockett did an amazing job portraying this theme, leaving the reader fulfilled and moved. *The Help* is a book that will leave you a better person and is certainly not a book you merely want to pass by.

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Check it out and gain access to the following features:

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- Weather Updates
- Color Face Space With More Pictures Than Printed Issues
- Additional Articles



www.mountobserver.com

What Trio Programs Are For



Trio Logo from MWCC.edu

by Alison Griffin

Gaurav Khanna, director of the Trio organization at Mount Wachusett Community College said he Trio Program consists of three sects: Upward Bound, Talent Search, and Visions. Visions, in co-ordination with the Trio program, was created in 1965 under the Johnson Presidency. It is designed to help students succeed despite their disabilities and financial shortcomings.

Admittance into the program requires at least one of the following criteria: students must be a first generation college student, have a disability, or be in poor financial standing. Although many of this applies to students at the Mount, space is limited. Mr. Khanna said, "All funding comes from the Federal Government."

Mr. Khanna described the selection

process and explained that even though students may embody two of the criteria, it does not constitute admittance.

Mr. Khanna also said that "Trio has always been colorblind." He said that the Trio organization does not use external markers to determine the demographic of its students. The selection process has nothing to do with ethnicity, race, gender, sexual orientation, or marital status.

The program has seven counselors that work only with the Visions students, meaning that the frequency of meeting with their advisors is high. Counselors provide services such as career and transfer counseling, tutoring, and academic advising.

In speaking of the success and length of the program, Mr. Khanna said, "It is one of the few programs to survive the test of time." Mr. Khanna also said that every five years, each Trio program must submit a report to the Federal Government in order to determine funding for the following five years. The program has been around for almost thirty-five years.

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Is Bottled Water Good for Us?

<<<continued from page 2

Of all these BPA (bisphenol A) is the worse and is considered the most potent toxic chemical known to man. This by-product of plastic bottles has been linked to:

- Breast cancer
- Prostate cancer
- Impaired immune system
- Obesity
- Diabetes
- ADHD/ADD
- Liver disease
- Low sperm count

This is not the entire list of maladies linked to BPA. BPA also mimics estrogen in the system which poses a problem for those suffering from estrogen based cancer. So why do we buy so much of it, certainly not because it's safe or good for us.

Now take a moment to consider the impact on our environment. We consume over 80 million bottles of water a day. 2.5 million bottles are discarded (not recycled) in the U.S. every hour, where do they end up, in landfills and the ocean. In

1999 there was found to be 6% more plastic in the ocean than plankton. In 2008 that number jumped up to 46%. What will it be in 2020? Environmentalists believe these bottles to be the biggest problem our environment faces.

This does not even take into consideration the petrochemical refineries that make the bottles, their pollutants and the greenhouse gas emissions created. It takes 17 million barrels of oil annually to produce the plastic bottles we use.

These seemingly harmless bottles of water we've all come to believe are so good for us are killing us. The big corporations that profit from our free and dwindling resources are not going to stop production for ethical reasons. The only way we can save ourselves and our planet is to STOP buying bottled water.

If you want to drink filtered water (which is what bottled water is) save yourself the dollar and visit the bottle filling station outside the common area. Bring your own bottle and save the planet! If you need one the Green Society is selling BPA free water bottles at a bargain for 5.00.

As consumers we all take responsibility for the damage being caused by bottled water. I can no longer purchase bottled water with a clear conscience knowing I am part of the problem. Make a difference, make a better choice!



Photo by Cheyne ordonio

WAAF's Mistress Carrie talks to MWCC Vets



Photo by Kristine Larkin

by Cheyne Ordonio

Mistress Carrie, a radio personality for the WAAF, visited MWCC on 29 Nov. to speak with members of the schools' Veterans Club.

Carrie, who recently returned from a trip to Afghanistan as an embedded reporter, shared many of her photos and stories about the trip with the group.

When arriving in Afghanistan, Carrie recalled that the airline lost her luggage and that she had to buy new supplies there. She spent the majority of her time at Camp Phoenix.

Among the photos she shared was a picture of some orphans. Carrie said that

their nicknames were George Bush and Sugar Daddy, and that some people taught them to say, "Yankees Suck." Later Carrie said, "Kids are kids no matter where they are."

Other photos she shared were a pair of castles, not too far from each other, that lay in ruins. The castles are known as the Princess Palace and the Prince Palace.

Carrie's personal style includes purple hair and long dark nails. She said that most of the Afghans got a kick out of her hair, but that she had to wear gloves for most of the trip because the locals might freak out.

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The Observer is currently looking for reporters, photographers, and critics. All interested should speak with the Editor in room 191 or email mountobserver@mwcc.mass.edu.



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DECEMBER STUDENT LIFE CALENDAR

Student Government Association Meeting

Mon., Dec. 12
12:30 p.m.
Murphy Conference room.

Intramural Activity—Basketball

Wed., Dec. 14
12:30 - 1:30 p.m.
MWCC Fitness and Wellness Center.
You must have athletic sneakers to participate. For more information contact Paula in Room 149.

Intramural Activity—Open Gym

Tues., Dec. 20
12:30 - 1:30 p.m.
MWCC Fitness and Wellness Center.
You must have athletic sneakers to participate. For more information contact Paula in Room 149.

Student Profile:

Ben Buckland

<<<continued from page 6

but it's something you must grasp and learn to appreciate as a horse trainer."

Ben repeats this meticulous process two to three times a day. Though he spends most of his time working as a trainer, Ben does a little riding himself. Just last year he placed 8th for horse showing and 1st place for sportsmanship at a national competition.

His success in horseback riding along with his dedication and passion has earned a very humble and interesting job. In two more years Ben thinks that he'll be knowledgeable enough to train a horse by himself.

As of now, Ben is just taking life step by step. Though he's undecided on what to major in, Ben's primary focus is to attain his associates' degree in Liberal Arts. Between college in the morning and working the afternoon, the next two years will certainly be challenging for Ben. Only patience and determination will get him through the day. It's obvious that he doesn't lack either of the two.



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