



Mount Observer



A voice for the students of Mount Wachusett Community College

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Welcoming a Year of Renewal

A Letter from the President



by **President Daniel M. Asquino**

As we begin this new year, we do so with great enthusiasm and anticipation for the changes that are ahead, beginning this semester. Most obvious, of course, are the two new wind turbines,

which will bring the college to an entirely new level as a leader in renewable energy when they go online in March.

Equally - in fact even more impressive - are the changes that will be occurring within the classrooms at our campuses, for this year marks the start of a new season of renewal at Mount Wachusett Community College.

Through a variety of federal grants received last fall, MWCC is rolling out a number of new programs and initiatives to provide additional student services to help all students achieve their academic goals.

Veterans and current members of the military will benefit from a

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Four Loko: Just a Small Part of the Problem of Binge Drinking



by **Cheyne Ordonio**

The latter half of 2010 was filled with headlines about Four Loko, its popularity among college students, its link to hospitalized youths and deaths, and the six States that have banned its sale and distribution. Among those states is Massachusetts which banned Four Loko on November 18 after the Alcohol Beverage Control Commission passed an emergency regulation

banning the sale of alcoholic beverages crossed with energy drinks. But students at MWCC seem to think, as Business Major Jake Hamm said, "It's a lot to do about nothing."

"I don't really think it's been a big thing around here," Hamm said after stating that he's never had Four Loko, or even knows anyone who has. Jim Kraskouskas, President of Anthony's Liquor Mart in Gardner, might be inclined to agree. "It wasn't as popular as people think it was," said Kraskouskas, "[selling] 40 cans a week would be a lot."

As far as the effects of Four Loko are concerned, the greatest effect was aversion to drinking it again. Liberal Arts and Sciences Major Andrew White, who's never had the drink but knows people who have, said, "Every time someone

told me what they thought of it, they thought it was disgusting." Computer Graphic Design Major Dean-James Richard has tried a similar drink called Sparks and said, "It tasted nasty, like old moldy bread." The only difference Richard felt between Sparks and other alcoholic drinks was that, "I had more energy."

Hamm, White, and Richard all felt that the ban on Four Loko and similar drinks was unnecessary. "It depends on what you do," Said Richard. "If you have too much you're going to get sick." But Kraskouskas said, "I do think it was necessary." The can size of Four Loko (32.5 oz.), he argued, encourages people to drink a larger quantity. He also feels that the various government and state agencies that licensed

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iConnect Student Feedback



by **Jeffery Boudreau**

Fall 2010 marked the first semester with MWCC's new online portal iConnect and was met with mixed reviews by students. The portal takes on the task of organizing places and information students may need from MWCC's website. Most notably taking advantage of the unified usernames and passwords for WebConnect, Blackboard, and student e-mails done in 2009.

People who have used the MWCC's website in the past may remember scouring the site for what they needed and finding it after some frustrated browsing.

Then if a friend had the same problem the next week, you couldn't remember how to get there.

Once you figured out and got used to the site they change it, like when you get a new phone or Facebook makes some changes. You hate the new set up but within a few months you can't even remember how it was done before.

Web Administer and Developer Tamara Dower, the person behind managing the iConnect portal, said some of the old links were left up like the ones

for WebConnect and student e-mail access to help students with the transition over to iConnect. "Eventually we'll take the other links down; we're weaning people off." Dower also said their will be some, "new and exciting stuff over the spring" for the portal though she didn't want to get into much detail about exactly what is in store.

"At first I didn't like it too much just because I wasn't used to it," Ashlee Bresnahan Elementary Education Major said about her experience with iConnect this semester, "Its okay now." Jim Bures another student at the Mount said, "it is nice that it combines all applications with one password," but he found it to be cumbersome and didn't like it very much, "the concept is nice, but execution is sloppy." Paralegal Major Hollee Watson, didn't use the website very much in her first semester in spring 2010, but said, "This semester I had two online courses and found it pretty easy to use."

One of the more popular complaints is that iConnect opens a new window when redirecting you to applications. Bures said, "It is not so nice that logging into each individual application takes so much time." iConnect opens Blackboard, WebConnect and student e-mails in new windows.

The Green Street Cafe menu, exclusive Mount Observer content, Announcements, and the Events Calendar are designed to be in the portal and load on the same page. "I could never find the events and final schedule online before iConnect," said Bresnahan.

Another common complaint is iConnect logging you out after some idle time. Dower said that is in place for security reasons because you can access your entire student account from the portal. Since iConnect opens other portals in new windows, "it is easy to forget after working in your e-mail or Blackboard

that you have iConnect open," Watson said.

Dower said they like hearing feedback about the portal and try incorporating feedback into the design but, "we don't change things drastically for one person just because they don't like it." "Little changes here and there," are instituted to make it a better experience for students.

The Student Government Association (SGA) will meet in the Murphy Conference Room from 12:45-1:45 p.m. on these dates:

Feb. 7, 24

March 7, 21

April 4, 19

and May 2

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Letters to the Editor

Punks

It has come to my attention that there has been a serious increase in the lack of respect that children have for adults today, and I believe that the lack of respect is due to the lack of discipline that parents are enforcing on their children today. We live in a world that is now based upon feelings and many parents are afraid that by disciplining their children they are only hurting the child's feelings. My belief is this philosophy is only going to lead our children into an unsuccessful future.

When I go out in public, I am surrounded by youth who run amuck with no respect for others or for themselves and all I see are their parents standing around looking ashamed or uncaring about their children's behavior; either way I see nothing being done about the behavior of the out of control children. The most discipline I've seen enforced on a child recently is a parent quietly begging their child to "simmer down" while they try to pretend that their child is not causing a ruckus.

I implore parents to see the injustice they are doing to their children when they do not enforce discipline in their children.

Today, parents are too afraid of hurting their children's feelings while what they should be focusing on is doing their best to instill good morals and work ethics into their children and more importantly respect for others and respect for themselves. I'm not saying that in order to succeed in proper discipline parents must spank their children because although I support controlled and appropriate spanking, it is possible to enforce discipline in children without using corporal punishment.

If the lack of discipline remains, the only thing that parents will accomplish is teaching their children that if they behave in an inappropriate manner then they can receive anything they want, and this philosophy will only hurt the child in the real world. If an employee of a bank walked into their superior's office to ask for a raise or a day off and proceeded to throw themselves on the floor in a fit or threatened to behave badly towards their superior, then that employee will find themselves thrown onto their curb by the not-so-empathetic security guards. Lack of discipline in children will only result in failure.

Respectfully,
Olivia Fortier

TMI

The rise of social networking sites like Facebook has caused many problems with identity theft. Many people today do not realize the consequences that come from ignorantly displaying too much information on social networking sites. With all of the identity theft problems that have risen with regards to social networking, I would like to believe that most people would understand that the internet is not a safe place. There are many people who have the knowledge to take your information and wreak havoc on unsuspecting online users. Most sites even have security settings to protect users from possible theft but the majority of people either don't know about it or just do not use it.

With just a little bit of research, users can protect themselves from online threats. Most people are not aware of the safety controls or security settings that social networking sites have. These simple settings can protect you from potential identity theft. Some people even know about these settings and are just too lazy or don't want to use them. Well, if you choose not to access these settings then how do you expect to protect yourself online? Linda Crindle, an internet security consultant, said that "There is a significant shortage in people who know how to stop online predators and that the internet is a valuable tool and we have the right to use it safely". People must use the tools available to them to protect themselves from identity theft.

Although learning to use the tools is a very important way to protect oneself, limiting the amount of information on social networks is just as important if not more. Adding your location, age, and other personal information is not necessary for use of these sites, so why add it? It seems to me that placing private information on the internet for all to see is just asking someone to steal your identity. According to PCWorld.com, at least one third of people on social networking sites like Facebook contain at least three types of personal information on their profiles that would make them an easy target for identity thieves. Also a poll taken on PC World indicated that 80% of people said that they were concerned about their privacy on social networks, and 60% said they had no idea what their privacy was and who could access their personal information.

These are some frightening statistics and with just a little bit of research people can find out just how bad this problem has become and what they can do to avoid it. Even though it seems as though online criminals can get just about any information they want, you can make it harder for them by erasing a lot of the information you post on social networking sites. Only post the information necessary to communicate with friends and family. Sitting back and waiting for someone to solve this problem is not the solution. We must all contribute in order to stop these online thefts from happening and make the internet a safer place to access.

Christopher Amanatidis



A voice for the students of Mount Wachusett Community College

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- Have a question you need answered? Leave your questions on www.eTutoring.org anytime and anywhere you have access to the Internet.

All registered Mount Wachusett Community College students have access to FREE online tutoring. Professional Tutors are available in writing (all subjects), math (all levels), accounting, statistics, research methods, biology, chemistry, and anatomy & physiology 7 days a week. Go to www.eTutoring.org, log in using your MWCC email user name and password, create your account, and visit an eTutor today!

eTutoring.org is a collaborative, online tutoring program sponsored by The Connecticut Distance Learning Consortium (CTDLC) and Mass Colleges Online (MCO). For additional information, visit the Academic Support Center or call 978-630-9333.

Music is Magic

George N. Parks once said "Playing in a band is the best thing you can ever do and don't you ever let anyone tell you any differently!" Truer words have never been spoken, but music, concert and marching band, is counting for less and less these days. Instead of doing something fun and educational, most children have turned to video games, believing that 'Rock Band' and 'Guitar Hero' expertise means that they are musicians. Pressing green, yellow, blue, and red buttons is not musicianship. So instead of hitting a piece of plastic, hit a drum. Instead of pressing a few buttons, learn how to play guitar. Forget about being the next American Idol and pick up a trumpet, or a clarinet, or a saxophone, or a flute and do something that you will never forget; play in a band.

The great thing about playing an instrument is that there is so much to learn. It's hard work and takes dedication, but nothing is more rewarding. Most people will have stopped reading this at 'hard work' and therein lays the problem. Kids, young and old just don't want to put the work in anymore; they'd rather sit around playing video games or eating junk food. They don't understand the magic that comes with a musical instrument. They don't understand how rewarding it actually is; nothing is better at the end of a long hard day than to sit back and listen to the music that you are playing. Nothing is better than setting a musical goal for yourself and reaching that goal. While hard work and dedication are a big part to learning an instrument, it is all worth it in the end. Just listening to music enriches the soul; imagine how enriching it is to actually play music. Nothing in the world can ever top that.

A band is more than just musical talent, however; a band is a family. Band is where the real work starts, playing alone, you can keep your own tempo, your own beat, and it doesn't matter whether or not you are playing in tune. However, once there

is a whole band together, it is a give and take system. Playing at the right time and on the beat is a must! It is a great way to learn and improve your skills. By listening to other musicians you can learn from things they do, and teach them things that you do, such as practice methods, alternative fingerings, and tricks to holding the notes out longer. Band is a place where you can learn and build on skills without feeling judged.

When you play in a band you will make some of the strongest friendships. These friendships touch the heart in ways that are unimaginable. Band people are the coolest, funniest, most amazing people that anyone could ever meet. They are kind and loving people who can change lives in ways they do not even realize. Band friendships last a lifetime. When powerful connections are made between two souls, they can never be broken. A band is much more than just a band, it is a family filled with the best people a person could ever meet.

No matter what your style, is there is a band out there for you! So put down the video games and start to play, music that is! Age doesn't matter in the world of instrumentalists, it doesn't matter if you're four or forty, you are never too young or old to start playing. So pick up something that interests you, find a band, and make some new and incredible friends! While it is true that not every college or high school has a band, that should not stop you. Most communities offer a community band where they will welcome any new members. There is no excuse to not try; everyone should be able to play some type of instrument. Everyone should participate in the lifestyle that is band. Everyone should feel the magic that is music.

Sincerely,
Danielle Girard

To Cool for Homeschool

Dear Editor,

While the National Education Association means well when it expresses concern in a lack of social development among homeschoolers, I feel that these students gain rich experiences in life that they otherwise may not acquire. The fact is that homeschooled students are excelling socially by learning how to create relationships in their community.

Generally the definition of socialization is the process of learning to interact with society in meaningful and constructive ways. What real evidence is there that these lessons in life have to come from a child's fellow peers rather than their family and other individuals? The actual social level of homeschooled versus public schooled children was studied by Thomas Smedley and Dr. Larry Shyers of Radford University in 1992, with dramatic results. Home schooled students ranked in the 84th percentile while public schooled students ranked only in the 27th. Smedley's conclusion was that "public school

students are socialized 'horizontally' into conformity by their same-age peers, while homeschooled students are socialized 'vertically' toward responsibility and adulthood by their parents."

I think that our definition of socialization is in need of adjustment. As the Minnesota Homeschooler's Alliance accurately suggests, do we as a society in general feel that throwing a child in a room with thirty peers and one adult will somehow make them a more rounded individual than a child that is living and learning in the real world? If so, then we are obviously overlooking the power and place of community and family in a child's life, and our faith would be sincerely misplaced. Rather than criticize the choice to home school, perhaps it would be best to think about what we want our children to be influenced by.

Sincerely,
Amber Pittman



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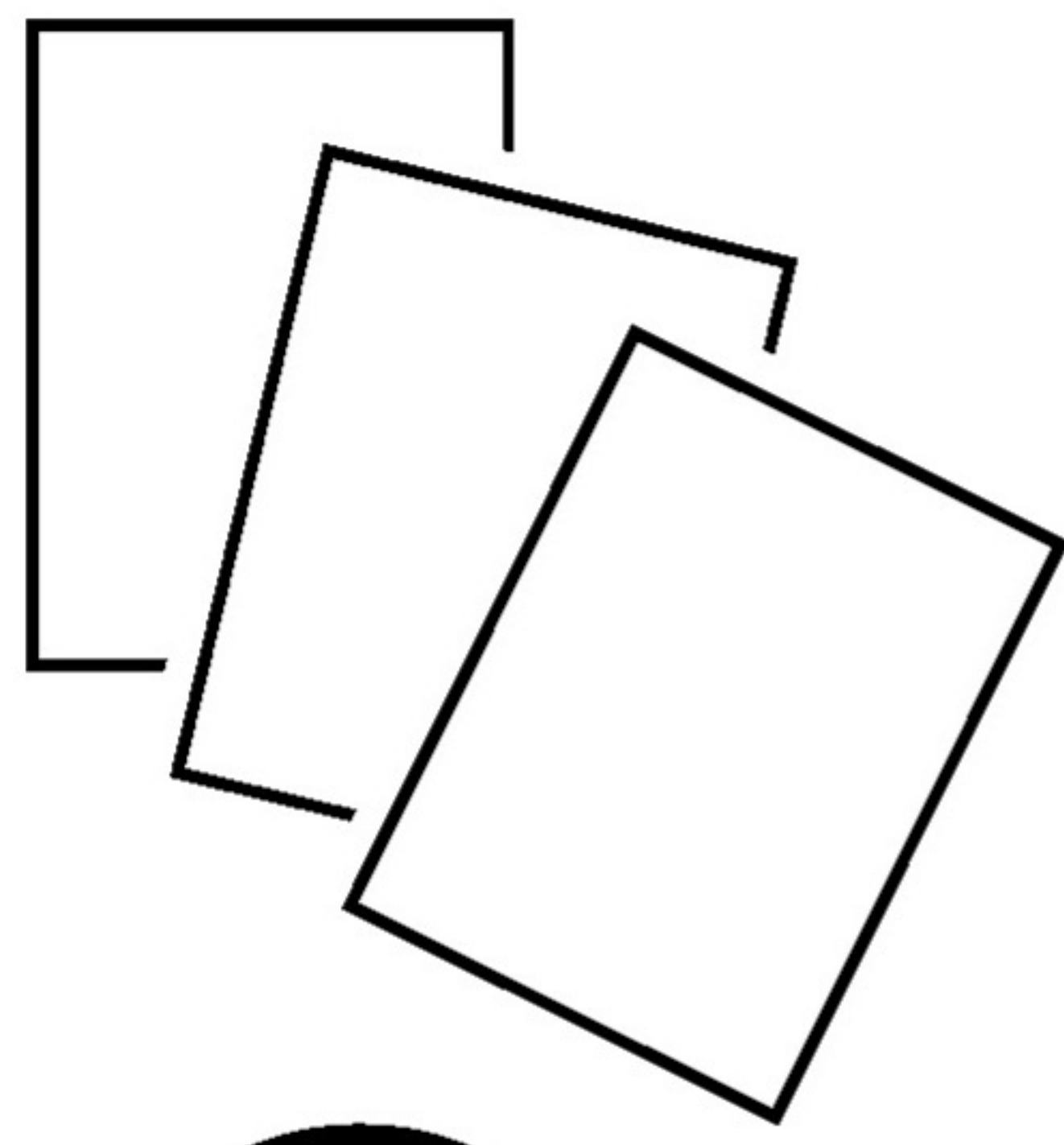
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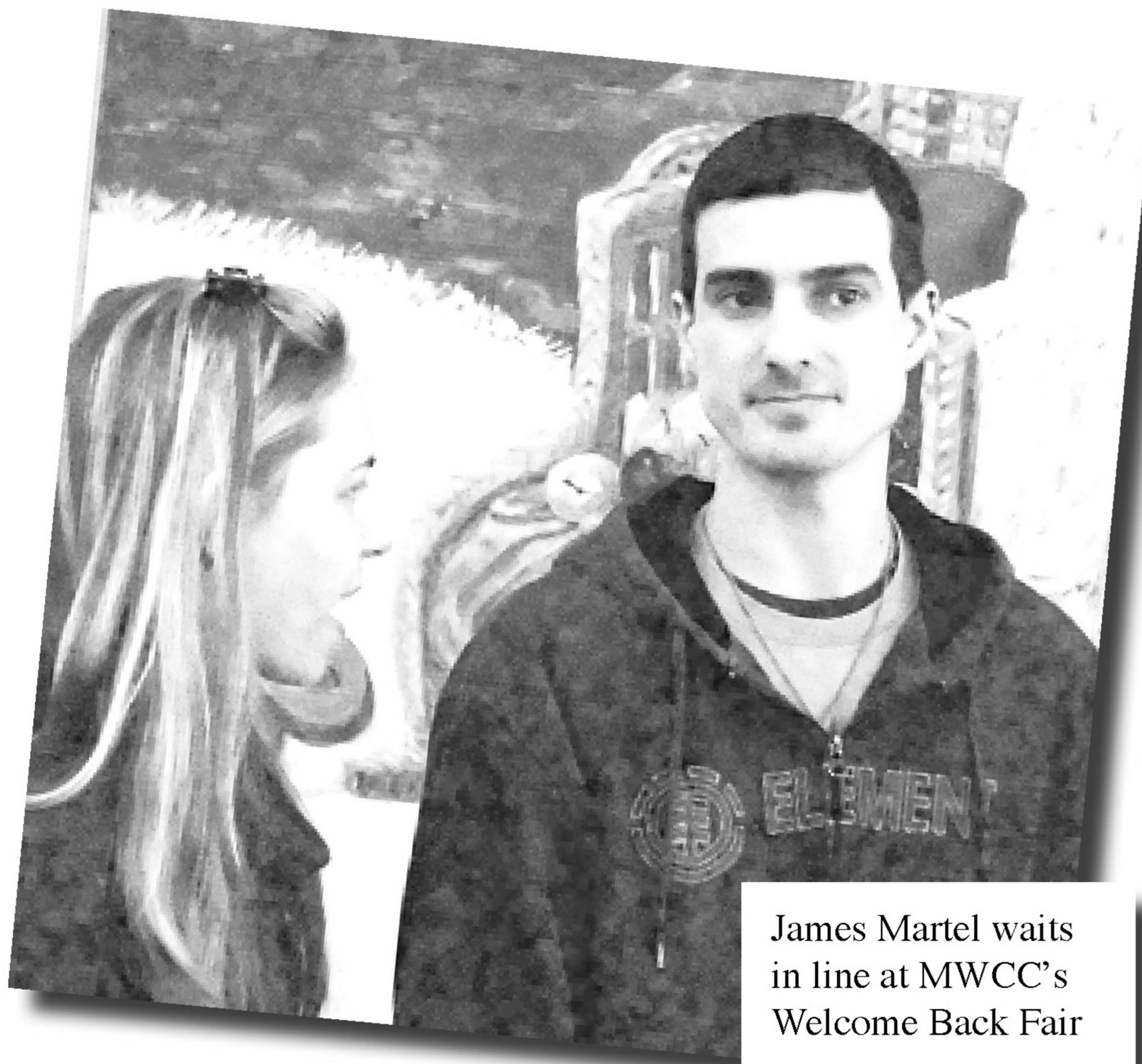
a photo album of student life activities this semester



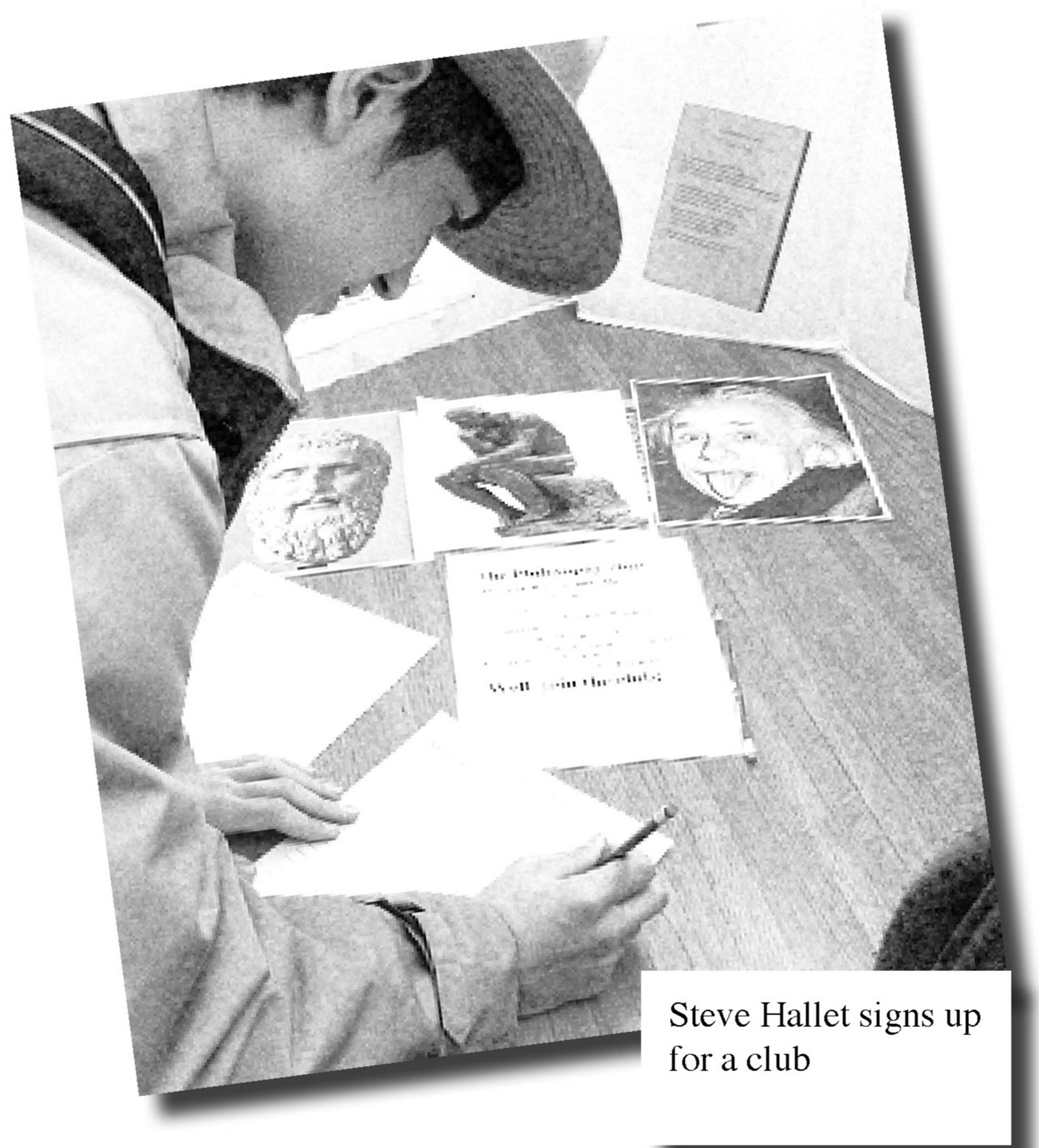
Kersten Coull, first semester student, poses for Student ID



Students enjoy ping-pong in The Lions Den



James Martel waits in line at MWCC's Welcome Back Fair



Steve Hallet signs up for a club



Art Club member at MWCC's Welcome Back Fair

Students pack Cafeteria for MWCC's Welcome Back Fair



International Club President Aaron Chatigny



Students show off custom made hats from MWCC's Welcome Back Fair.



Winter Safe Driving Tips

As the winter approaches we have to start thinking about driving in the inclement weather. Now is the time to winterize your motor vehicle. Check fluid levels, brakes, wiper blades, windshield washer fluid, snow tires, defroster, battery, etc... Stock your motor vehicle with the basic winter driving equipment: A scraper/brush, shovel, jumper cables/box, tow chain, bag of sand/cat litter for tire traction, road flares/reflectors, a blanket, heavy boots, warm clothing, and a flashlight with batteries.

Now that you have your supplies it is time to think about safe driving out on the roadways. Always clear snow and ice from all windows and lights before you leave. After clearing the snow and ice from your motor vehicle it is time to pay attention while driving in inclement weather. Use your brakes carefully,

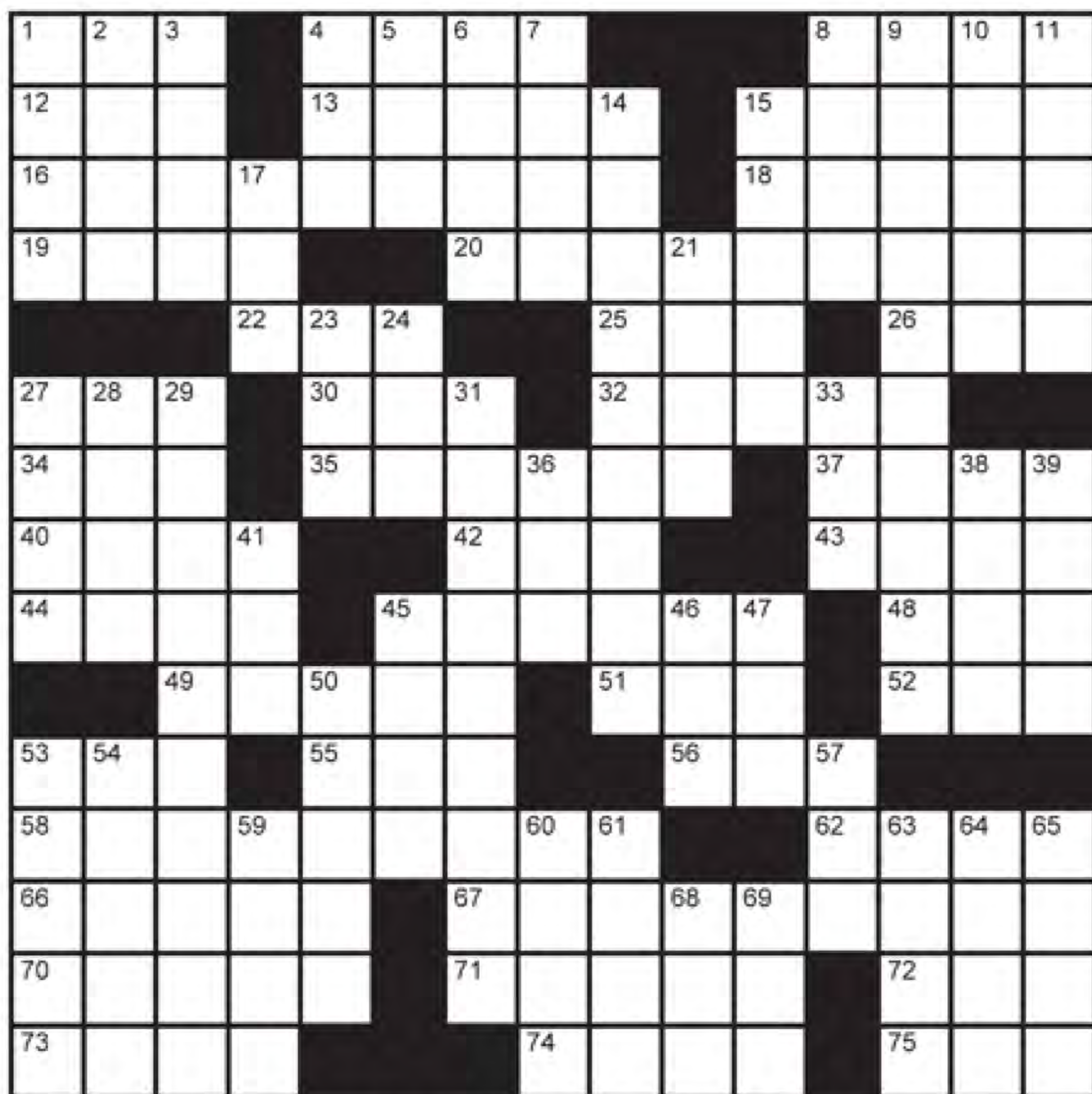
brake early because it takes more time and distance to stop in adverse conditions. Remember bridges freeze first, the surface on a bridge can be worse than the roadways. Remember the posted speed limits are for dry pavement so you might have to drive slower during bad weather.

Another important thing to remember is do not get overconfident if you have a 4x4 motor vehicle. These motor vehicles may help you get going quicker but they do not help you stop any quicker. These vehicles tend to be heavier and may take longer to stop.

When it comes to winter driving be careful, stay alert, and slow down. Always wear your seatbelt and never drink and drive.

The Campus Police Department

Puzzles



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- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Across | 43 Thin Man character | Down | 31 Strikes a chord |
| 1 Quarrel | 44 Terrier type | 1 Foray | 33 Sea eagle |
| 4 Trudge | 45 Planted | 2 Leer | 36 Tending toward |
| 8 Annoy | 48 Negative | 3 Water source | 38 Masters, for short |
| 12 Mature | 49 Auto | 4 Oarlock | 39 Rational |
| 13 Unnatural | 51 Samuel's teacher | 5 Hawaiian garland | 41 Diocese |
| 15 Channel | 52 Compass pt. for short | 6 Grampuses | 45 Young salmon |
| 16 Confused | 53 ___ Lanka | 7 Selector switch | 46 Deer |
| 18 Presentation, for short | 55 Toward the mouth | 8 Head of hair | 47 Expire |
| 19 Wooded hollow | 56 Barrel (Prefix) | 9 Unwelcomed visits | 50 Thresholds |
| 20 Maligner | 58 Pay back phrase | 10 Bus proceeds | 53 Put at risk |
| 22 Faint | 62 Essayist | 11 Vegetation | 54 Kitchen utensil |
| 25 Insect | 66 Role player | 14 Expound | 57 Beryl, for one |
| 26 Country (Abbr.) | 67 College course | 15 Apple juice | 59 Dandies |
| 27 Seize | 70 Holds back | 17 Stale | 60 Playing cards |
| 30 High rocky hill | 71 Construct | 21 Film types, for short | 61 Carryall |
| 32 Fiends | 72 Fixed charge | 23 Common contraction | 63 Existence |
| 34 Crete mountain | 73 Blunders | 24 Cleaning tool | 64 Chilled |
| 35 Lances | 74 Mailed | 27 Insect eggs | 65 Cruising |
| 37 Rends | 75 Oceanic timetable inits. | 28 Aleut. island | 68 Religious woman |
| 40 Invoices | | 29 Kid controller, maybe | 69 Choose |
| 42 Watering hole | | | |

Free Income Tax Help For Students

Free basic income tax return preparation is available for taxpayers who have limited or moderate incomes at the following locations. Students: early filing of an income tax return and an application for federal financial aid is strongly encouraged:

Fitchburg Montachusett Opportunity Council

9 Prichard St., Fitchburg, MA

Tuesdays - 5:30 - 8 p.m.

Saturdays - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

To schedule an appointment, contact the Montachusett Opportunity Council at (978) 343-5706.

Fitchburg Cleghorn Neighborhood Center

2-18 Fairmount St., Fitchburg, MA

Mondays - 10 a.m to 2 p.m

Wednesdays - 5 - 8 p.m.

To schedule an appointment, contact the Cleghorn Neighborhood Center at (978) 342-2069 x 200. Spanish speaking tax preparers are available.

Gardner Mount Wachusett Community College

444 Green St., Gardner, MA

Room 240

Thursdays - 2 - 6 p.m.

To schedule an appointment, contact Denise at (978) 630-9124 between 11am and 5pm weekdays.

Leominster Mount Wachusett Community College

100 Erdman Way, Leominster, MA

Fridays - noon to 6 p.m.

To schedule an appointment, contact the Montachusett Opportunity Council at (978) 343-5706.

This service is available to all income eligible people. Income eligibility is based upon an adjusted gross income in 2010 that is less than:

\$43,352 (\$48,362 married filing jointly) with three or more qualifying children

\$40,363 (\$45,373 married filing jointly) with two qualifying children

\$35,535 (\$40,545 married filing jointly) with one qualifying child

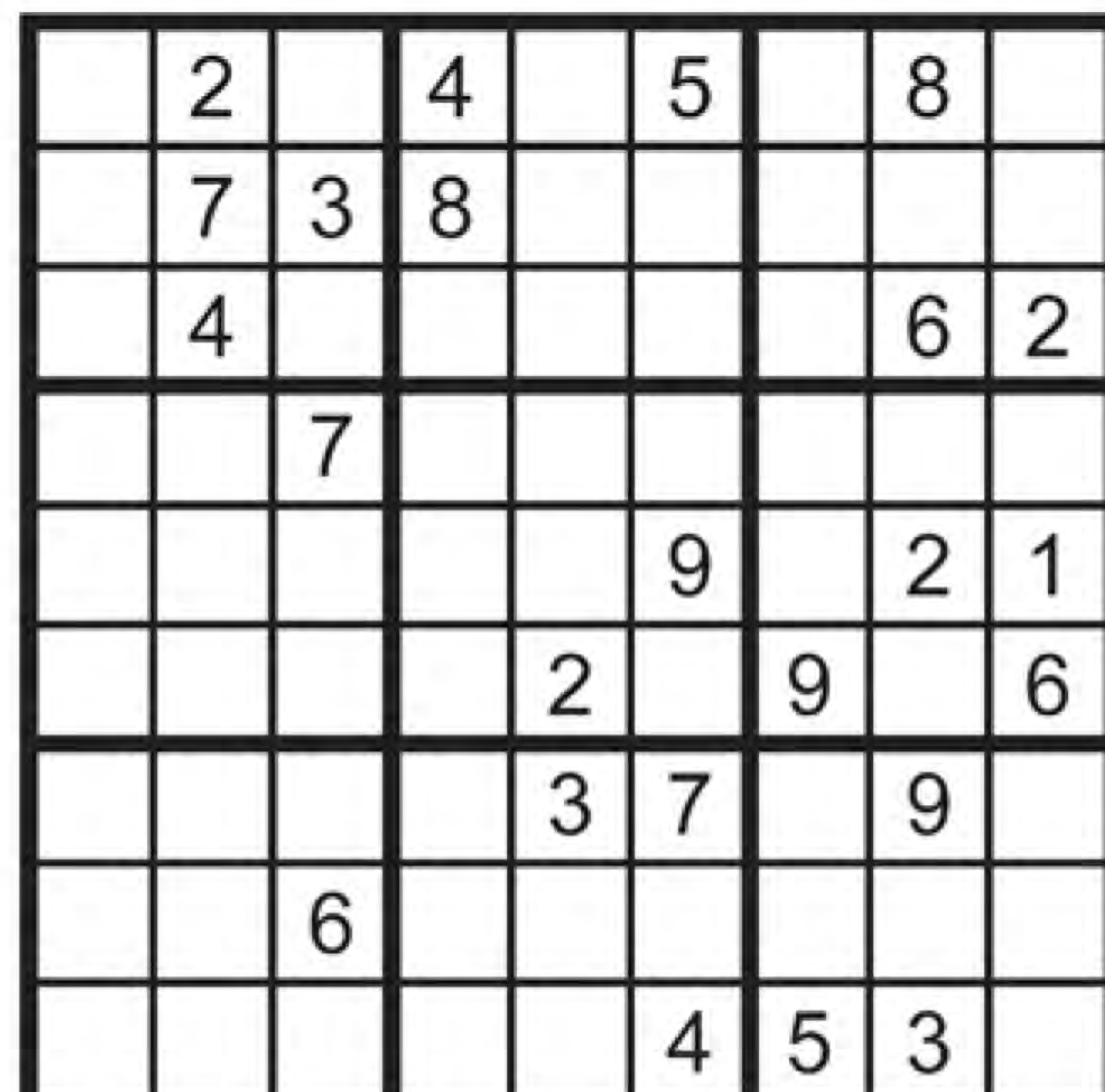
\$13,460 (\$18,470 married filing jointly) with no qualifying children

When you come to your appointment, persons (and spouses) must bring the following:

- Proof of identity;
- Copies of ALL W-2, 1098, and 1099 forms;
- Social Security (SSN) or Individual Tax ID Numbers (ITIN) for all individuals to be listed on the return;
- Child care providers' identification number;
- Taxpayers' banking information (voided check and/or savings deposit slip) for refund deposits;



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



Hard to Believe

by Jeffery Boudreau

According to a Gallup poll published on February 11 2009, just before Charles Darwin's birthday, only 39% of Americans believe in Evolution. So how do you teach a class that more than half of the people in the country do not believe in? Some people do not like math or English courses, but it would be hard to find someone who does not believe in them.

Heather Conn teaches the course here at the Mount. Evolution can be a controversial topic for some, but Conn said that it is good for people to "learn the other side of the story." She is not afraid to engage with people who do not believe in evolution, encouraging those who disbelieve to send her links and bring in material to present their side of the story.

Naysayers of evolution say that evolution is just a theory, but a theory "is an idea or hypothesis that has been repeatedly supported by scientific studies/experiments." Conn presents that which has been proven

by science and does not make connections that can not be backed up with facts. In the same way she looks at anyone's information they bring to refute to it.

Sean Ryder, alumni of the Mount who took the class last semester said, "Professor Conn was well-versed in the subject matter, the labs were informative, and the assignments were clear and simple. The real world examples that were used were very helpful in understanding the concepts of the course." One of Conn's favorite parts of the course is that she makes the labs for the class, instead of trying to work with a lab book that does not exactly fit the course.

Along with the normal class time and labs the class takes field trips to places like the New England Aquarium and to the Harvard Museum of Natural History. Conn said, "I think it is important for students to try to connect what they are learning in class with the world around them. Biogeology is a course about the evolution of organisms so what better way to reinforce that than to go on field trips to see

common factor in many of the Four Loko related incidences in the headlines. He believes quarter kegs and barrels should also be banned because they contain large quantities of alcohol that were meant to be distributed in bars, not sold in liquor stores. But to effectively combat binge drinking, said Kraskauskas, "The key is parent-child communication."

Four Loko

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and approved Four Loko as a safe drink dropped the ball.

Kraskouskas said the State should ban more than just Four Loko in order to combat the problem of binge drinking, a

President's Letter

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variety of services and programs offered through our new Veterans Success Center, which will enhance the college's ability to provide academic, co-curricular and personal support. The center, made possible through a U.S. Department of Education grant, will provide resources for academic and personal support for the men and women who courageously served our country, or continue to serve, and will serve as a national model.

MWCC has also started the Rx program to provide additional support to students who are majoring in nursing, practical nursing, dental hygiene, physical therapist assistant, complementary health care, medical assisting and general studies allied health programs. Funded through the U.S. Department of Education, this new program is similar to the successful Visions program on campus in providing tutoring, academic advising, supplemental coursework, financial aid advising, and financial and economic literacy education.

MWCC also was one of just 48 institu-

tions nationally selected to receive a competitive Title III grant from the U.S. Department of Education, which will provide funding to launch the ASPIRE program. This initiative will include curriculum redesign and restructuring to more fully incorporate 21st century success skills into first-year courses, and will enhance advising and student services to help all students succeed.

College often can be a challenging, yet rewarding experience for students. If you encounter obstacles that seem insurmountable, I urge you to tap into the many resources that are available to you on campus, including free tutoring, counseling and advising, as well as open communication with your professors and advisors.

As the American architect Frank Lloyd Wright once said, "I know the price of success: dedication, hard work, and an unremitting devotion to the things you want to see happen."

That is an appropriate motto for all of us at MWCC, as we enter this new era of renewal.

Work for the Mount Observer

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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Your future starts here.

What's Happening Around Campus

Spring 2011 Leadership for Life program- a series of seven short presentations on topics that will help you feel more comfortable and be successful at MWCC. Workshops are held: Feb. 1 & 15, Mar. 1, 15 & 22, April 5 and 12. With the exception of Alternative Spring Break on March 15 off campus and Yoga in the Fitness Ctr. on April 5, workshops are held from 12:30 to 1:30 pm in the Murphy Conference Room. To pre-register: Contact the student life office at studentlife@mwcc.mass, 978-630-9133 or stop by room 151.

Student photo IDs will be taken in room 149 on the Gardner campus on Feb. 8 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Photo IDS will be taken on the Leominster Campus on February 1 & 2 from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and from 4 to 6 p.m.

Student Government Association: Nomination papers to run for a seat on the Student Government Association (SGA) are now available in the Student Life office, room 151. Completed nomination papers must be submitted by Tues., Feb. 8. SGA elections will take place: Feb. 15 & 16. SGA meetings will take place: Feb. 7, 24, March 7, 21, April 4, 19, and May 2 in the Murphy Conference room at 12:30 pm - meetings are open to all.

Wed., February 2 & Thurs., February 10

CATS Meeting (Campus Activities Team for Students) — at 12:30 pm in Room W11. Join in planning and running activities for MWCC students (i.e. Mardi Gras Karaoke/Dance, Valentine's Chocolate Sampler etc.). Open to all. For more information, contact the Student Life office at studentlife@mwcc.mass, 978-630-9133 or stop by room 151. Open to all MWCC students.

Tues., February 8

Flutist Galen — In celebration of Black History Month, Flutist Galen will be performing 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in the South cafeteria. Sponsored by the Student Life office.

Wed., February 9

Black History Month Panel: 12:30-1:30 p.m. - North Café. Panel discussion moderated by Dr. Vincent M. Bates, Dean of Liberal Arts, Math, Education and Developmental Studies.

Black History Month — Is it still as relevant today as when it began? Is the need for a separate observance of Blacks in History no longer relevant in the 21st century? Does the observance promote and perpetuate racism and separatism between and among races? Please join Dr. Bates and panelists as they discuss this important topic. Sponsored by the Student Life office and the School of Liberal Arts, Math, Education and Developmental Studies.

Mon., February 14

Valentine's Day Celebration - Chocolate Sampler — free samples of chocolate desserts, 12:30 – 1:30 pm (or while supplies last), South Cafeteria. Sponsored by the Student Life office and CATS.

Wed., February 16

Movie, *The Great Debaters* — 12:30 p.m. North Cafeteria. This drama is based on the true story of Mel Tolson, a professor at Wiley College who inspired his students to form the school's first debate team. This group of kids was the first African American team to ever go up against Harvard and defeated the famed debate team in the national championships. This event is open to all. This movie is held in celebration of Black History Month. Sponsored by the Student Life office.

Tues., February 22

Mardi Gras Mask Making — Stop by the South Cafeteria to make a mask for the Mardi Gras Carnival event taking place March 3. Sponsored by the Student Life office and CATS.

Thurs., March 3

Mardi Gras Carnival — Karaoke 6–8 p.m.; Dance 8-10 p.m., South Cafeteria. \$100 door prize awarded hourly. Costume prizes: \$100, \$70, & \$30 (costumes optional). Snacks and beverages provided. Free admittance for MWCC students, faculty & staff and their one guest. Sponsored by the Student Life office and student clubs and organizations.

"Survivor" Winner Announced at TAM

Theatre at the Mount's (TAM) January 22 production of *Survivor, the Musical*, named Rob Houle as "Sole Survivor." Houle, from Westminster, competed against 19 other performers. Singing, dancing, acting, puzzles and trivia were all part of the competition.

Other members of the cast included Joyce Baldwin, Angie Beauvais, Chuck Berube, Ryann Brown, Ethan Caouette, Katrina Caouette, Kyle Carlson, Nicole Cou-

ture, Julian Fox, Francis Freel, Darlene Gaudet, Taylor Lawton, Debbie Moylan, Hillary Minicucci, David Prescott, Tim Recko, Tyler Simahk, Jeri Warren and Chelsea Young.

Survivor, the Musical raised funds for new lighting equipment for the Theatre at the Mount stage and a Pass-the-Hat challenge also netted in excess of \$1500 for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.

Puzzle answers from page 3

6	2	9	4	7	5	1	8	3
1	7	3	8	6	2	4	5	9
5	4	8	3	9	1	7	6	2
2	9	7	1	8	6	3	4	5
3	6	5	7	4	9	8	2	1
8	1	4	5	2	3	9	7	6
4	5	1	2	3	7	6	9	8
7	3	6	9	5	8	2	1	4
9	8	2	6	1	4	5	3	7

ROW	PL	OD				M	I	F	F							
AGE	E	E	R	I	E		C	A	N	A	L					
I	L	L	O	G	I	C	A	L		I	N	T	R	O		
D	E	L				S	L	A	N	D	E	R	E	R		
			D	I	M		B	E	E		U	S	A			
N	A	B				T	O	R		O	G	R	E	S		
I	D	A				S	P	E	A	R	S		R	I	P	S
T	A	B	S			S	P	A			N	O	R	A		
S	K	Y	E			P	O	T	T	E		N	O	N		
			S	E	D	A	N		E	L	I		S	S	E	
S	R	I		O	R	A			K	E	G					
T	I	T	F	O	R	T	A	T			E	L	I	A		
A	C	T	O	R		E	C	O	N	O	M	I	C	S		
K	E	E	P	S		S	E	T	U	P		F	E	E		
E	R	R	S			S	E	N	T		E	D	A			

Wikipedia: Reliable or Unreliable Source?

by *Stephanie Gale*

Wikipedia has been a rising controversial topic here at MWCC: should it be a reliable source for papers? Many staff and faculty members say that Wikipedia is an unreliable site that should not be credited as a source by any student.

Wikipedia is known as The Free Online Encyclopedia that any one can edit. "Don't be afraid to edit" is the phrase used in Wikipedia's own home page. "You can help Wikipedia by expanding it" is the written text on the bottom of any stub Wikipedia page. Any individual can easily make changes, and their identities can be concealed with a registered IP address, regardless of their credibility.

Our own librarian, Heidi McCann, had a few words to say about Wikipedia and how one can identify a credible source. "There are three things to check," McCann said. First, "Who wrote it? What makes this person reliable?" Second, "How old is the source?" Third, "Where is the information from?"

McCann suggests other ways of gaining valuable information for written papers. "Using the library resources can be more efficient, because all the articles in the databases are creditable. Plus, they give MLA format for a works cited page."

Work for the Mount Observer

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.

