

AUTISM AWARENESS

Recognizing the disorder and the daily challenges it carries

Whitney Vickers

Editor-in-Chief

Facing challenges in social situations, engaging in repetitive behaviors and living with a language delay — these are some of the difficulties individuals with autism face, according to Dr. Mary Wells, professor of Psychology at Sinclair Community College.

Although, according to Nursing major Amber Esquivel-Wright, raising an autistic son has its own daily challenges as well.

"There is no rhyme or reason for kids who suffer from autism," she said. "It's a challenge. I think he really teaches me more than I would have ever been taught in a class, he's really opened my eyes to his thinking. [When living with] people with autism, you really have to get on their level."

Esquivel-Wright said autistic individuals are very smart, but have a hard time with social interactions.

"He can talk to you, he is high-functioning ... Looking at him, he is very normal looking, there are no physical signs of anything wrong with him," she said. "But the moment he starts to talk to you, you realize that there is something wrong, because he cannot coordinate a conversation back and forth."

She spends a lot of her time at doctor's appointments with her son, something she feels other s don't understand.

Autism continued on page 6



Andrew Fisher | Clarion Staff

Justin Angamarca-Chogollo, Amber Esquivel-Wright's seven-year-old son, was diagnosed with autism in February 2012.

Sinclair grants land for campus garden

Andrew Fisher

News Editor

Sinclair Community College has provided a piece of undeveloped land to the Green Machine, which the club plans to use as a campus garden as soon as this spring.

"It'll let us grow food, which we can then give back to the community," Jayne O'Zenko, vice president of the Green Machine Club, said.

Located off of Edwin C. Moses Boulevard next to the Dayton Cultural and RTA Transit Center, the land is currently used as a storage space for the city of Dayton. Although it's not directly located on campus, the area is a part of Sinclair's ongoing master plan.

"We plan on seeding as soon as this spring," O'Zenko said. "Primarily vegetables, peppers, tomatoes, rosemary, mint, eventually lettuce or cabbage."

Two-thirds of the plot is reserved for the Green Machine, with the remaining third reserved for Sinclair's Culinary Arts program, which will also grow produce on the property.

"We plan to donate a lot of what we grow on our two-thirds to local food banks," O'Zenko said. "Maybe eventually we can even provide some of what we grow to Sinclair and to the students."

The Green Machine has already begun composting on campus, but according to O'Zenko, the garden provides a great location to continue the project.

"We'd like to eventually have industrial sized spinning composters, and we're going to take the scraps from the Sinclair marketplace, which is already happening," she said.

The leftover waste from Sinclair's marketplace will eventually help provide the nutrient-rich soil needed to grow produce, which, according to O'Zenko, helps Sinclair while also supporting the club's goal of sustainability.

"What we really need is manpower," O'Zenko said. "We need people who are interested in growing food, who are interested in building things, even if they have no experience, anyone is welcome."

O'Zenko said anyone who wants to help can do so by getting involved in the Green Machine. The club will have a large presence and more information on the garden available at the Earth Day celebration, which takes place on campus April 21 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the basement of Building 8.

Garden continued on page 3

Black Men's Think Tank held at Sinclair



Danny McCallum | Clarion Staff

Bobby Beavers, coordinator for Minority Student Success, believes the Black Men's Think Tank is important because it discusses important topics for African-American males.

Jennifer Franer

Assistant Editor

The 14th Annual Black Men's Think Tank conference will highlight and address issues in education that are impacting African-American males.

The theme for this year is centered around the topic of "Reclaiming the Greatness of the Pyramid Builders."

"We hope to inspire these individuals that leave the conference to go into the community and take some action, and follow up on some of the things that they've learned and are taught during the particular conference," Bobby Beavers, coordinator for Minority Student Success said.

The main purpose of the conference is to bring African-American males together to present and discuss the impacts and contributions they have had throughout history in engineering, science, technology and mathematics.

On Friday April 11, the seventh annual youth conference for BMTT will be held in the basement of Building 8 in the stage area, where they will discuss science, technology, engineering and math, or STEM topics. Demonstrations by Sinclair professors Robert Gilbert, Bobby James, Sun Myong, Lorraine Kapka and members of the Wright Patterson Air Force and Boonshoft Museum will be present.

Think continued on page 3

Better Together promotes interfaith cooperation on campus

Andrew Fisher

News Editor

The Office of Service Learning and the Office of Campus Ministry are teaming up to sponsor "We Are Better Together," a day of interfaith recognition and celebration held at Sinclair Community College.

"The goal is to help people recognize we have more in common in our religious and spiritual backgrounds than what may divide us," David Bodary, coordinator for the Office of Service Learning, said.

The Better Together event is celebrated internationally on over 145

college campuses. According to the movement's website, the goal is for students to "organize their peers from different religious and non-religious backgrounds to take action on key social issues in their communities."

This year's event is concentrated around three goals, which, according to Interfaith Campus Minister Barbara Battin, are voicing, engagement and action.

"The voice will come through our celebration in unity. We'll engage by awarding the True Blue Awards and the action will be through our service to the community," she said.

The True Blue awards will be given

during the event to students and faculty on campus who, according to Battin, "promote interfaith cooperation and unity on campus and in the community."

The service aspect of the event will take place at the Dayton International Peace Museum, where students are encouraged to offer feedback on several new exhibits.

"It's a great way for students to engage with the community," Bodary said. "And the museum is excited to get that feedback from the wide variety of faiths and cultures represented by our school."

Students are encouraged to wear

blue for the event, "to demonstrate our unity in interfaith dialogue and cooperation," Battin said.

The event will take place April 10, beginning at 11 a.m. in the Library Loggia. From noon to 1:30 p.m. informational videos and games will be in room L721 (under the library stairs). At 2 p.m. participants will meet at the Dayton International Peace Museum to preview several exhibits and offer feedback.

"We just want to bring attention to the idea that we are better together, that our different religious and spiritual traditions are better together," Bodary said.

For more information on the event, contact David Bodary at david.bodary@sinclair.edu, or Barbara Battin at barbara.battin@sinclair.edu.



Barbara Battin | Clarion Staff

Better Together day will be held on April 10 at 11 a.m. in the Library Loggia.

campuscalendar

April 8
Sinclair Talks:
Sinclair Grads, their success stories, and why it's important to complete your degree
Library Loggia, 11 a.m. to noon

April 8
Sinclair Talks:
Communication Skills
Building 2 Room 334, noon to 1 p.m.

April 8
Sinclair Talks:
Jump Start your Career in one minute
Building 12, South Atrium 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

April 8
Sinclair Men's Baseball vs. **Miami University - Hamilton Campus**
Athletes in Action, 5 to 8 p.m.

April 9
Career Exploration and Job Fair
Building 12 Great Hall, noon to 3 p.m.

April 9
Sinclair Talks:
So ... You wanna be a Teacher
Building 2 Room 334, noon to 1 p.m.

April 10
Sinclair Talks:
Black Representation in the Media
Library Loggia, noon to 2 p.m.

April 10
Sinclair Talks:
Big Read book discussion of Wild by Cheryl Strayed
Building 7 Room L21, 2 to 3:15 p.m.

April 11
Sinclair Talks:
Motivation for Success
Building 2 Room 334, noon to 1 p.m.

April 11
Sinclair Talks:
Big Read book discussion of Wild by Cheryl Strayed
Building 7 Room L21, 1 to 2 p.m.

April 14
Sinclair Talks:
Movie Series: Invisible War
Building 2 Room 334, 10 a.m. to noon

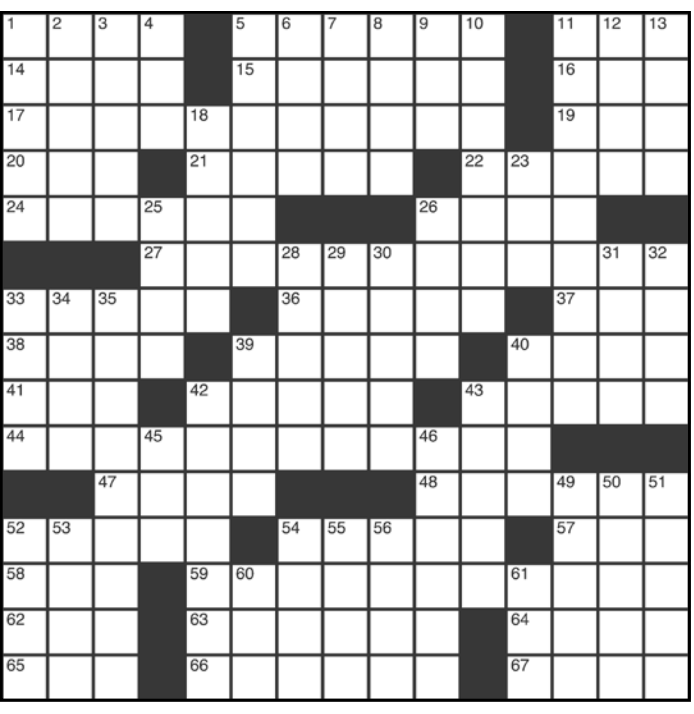
April 15
Sinclair Talks:
Stereotyping
Library Loggia, noon to 1 p.m.

campusphoto

Each week, the Clarion will feature a photo of students without identifying them. Keep your eye out for a Clarion photographer throughout this semester. It's up to our readers to figure out if they or someone they know has been spotted.

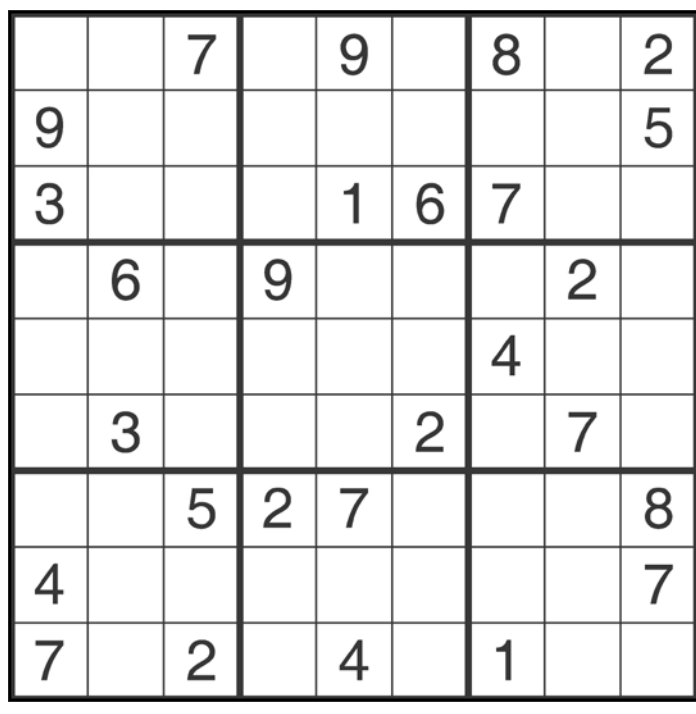


crosswordpuzzle



- ACROSS**
- 1 59-Across role in 27-Across
 - 5 Yenta
 - 11 Sneaky chuckle
 - 14 Fish found in a film
 - 15 Finger-shaped dessert
 - 16 __ pro nobis
 - 17 1978 film co-written by 59-Across
 - 19 Ross musical, with "The"
 - 20 Reached, as goals
 - 21 Zapped
 - 22 Sly
 - 24 Server's warning
 - 26 1997 Home Run Derby winner
 - 27 1984 film co-written and co-starring 59-Across
 - 33 "__ la vista, baby!"
 - 36 Stout sleuth, in more ways than one
 - 37 Drench
 - 38 Pacers, e.g.
 - 39 "That's enough!"
 - 40 "Smiling, petite ball of fire," to Philbin
 - 41 Not paleo-
 - 42 Arrive
 - 43 Assuages to the max
 - 44 1993 film co-written and directed by 59-Across
 - 47 Skye slope
 - 48 Medicinal syrup
 - 52 Pastoral poems
 - 54 5th Dimension vocalist Marilyn
 - 57 Horseplayer's hangout, for short
 - 58 Turkey
 - 59 This puzzle's honoree (1944-2014)
 - 62 Funny Philips
 - 63 "Lost" actress de Ravin
 - 64 Fade
 - 65 GI's address
 - 66 Bulletin board admins
 - 67 59-Across was its original head writer
- Down**
- 1 As a friend, to Fifi
 - 2 "The Balcony" playwright
 - 3 Neglects to mention
 - 4 2-Down, par exemple
 - 5 Italian dessert
 - 6 Protest singer Phil
 - 7 Gin fizz fruit
 - 8 King Faisal's brother
 - 9 "__ for Innocent": Grafton novel
 - 10 On the nose
 - 11 "Sup?"
 - 12 Scary-sounding lake
 - 13 Not clear
 - 18 Don Ho "Yo"
 - 23 Aardvark snack
 - 25 5'10" and 6'3": Abbr.
 - 26 Titmouse topper, perhaps
 - 28 Mown strip
 - 29 "Pagliacci" clown
 - 30 Showy jewelry
 - 31 Clue weapon
 - 32 Cruise ship conveniences
 - 33 Chill out
 - 34 AMA member?: Abbr.
 - 35 "Ruh-roh!" pooch
 - 39 Give up
 - 40 Comedic Martha
 - 42 Grinds in anger, maybe
 - 43 Flavor
 - 45 Modern address
 - 46 Some are light-emitting
 - 49 "Cathy," for one
 - 50 Skewed
 - 51 "The Amazing Race" network
 - 52 Flash, perhaps
 - 53 Get rid of
 - 54 3-D images
 - 55 USAF Academy home
 - 56 Swindle, in slang
 - 60 March girl
 - 61 Baby-viewing responses

sudokupuzzle



The objective of the game is to fill all the blank squares in a game with the correct numbers. There are three very simple constraints to follow. In a 9 by 9 square Sudoku game:

- Every row of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order.
- Every column of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order.
- Every 3 by 3 subsection of the 9 by 9 square must include all digits 1 through 9.

Every Sudoku game begins with some squares already filled in, and the difficulty of each game is due to how many squares are filled in. The more squares that are known, the easier it is to figure out which numbers go in the open squares. As you fill in squares correctly, options for the remaining squares are narrowed and it becomes easier to fill them in.

Sudoku Tips: Start by looking for numbers that occur frequently in the initial puzzle. For example, say you have a lot of 5's in the initial puzzle. Look for the 3x3 box where there is no 5. Look for 5's in other rows and columns that can help you eliminate where the 5 might go in that box. If there is a 5 in column's 1 and 2, then there can't be a 5 anywhere else in either of those columns. You know then that whatever leftmost 3x3 box that is missing a 5 must have it go in column 3. If you can eliminate all the possibilities in that box except for 1 square, you've got it down!

Comics impact American culture

Jennifer Franer
Assistant Editor

Since the 1930s, comic books have been taking on issues ranging from political, historical and interpersonal, writing about them in a way that is relatable to readers.

A sociology class titled Comic Books and American Culture was available for students to enroll during the start of spring semester, but because of low enrollment, the class was cancelled. However, Craig This, an instructor in the Sociology department, said he has been teaching the class since 2010 and it is a fun alternative for students.

"I think courses like comic books, music, science fiction and literature give us a different way to view our world than the usual courses," he said in an email interview. "The comic book course enables us to examine and review our culture through a different lens and see the world differently."

This said comic books have had a lasting effect on American culture because of how the characters and stories relate to interpersonal issues.

"Like any piece of fiction, comic books give us characters and situations that while we are detached from them, [we] also see ourselves in them," he said. "I think another way that we can view comic books is through Sociologist Erving Goffman's dramaturgical analysis and his hypothesis that we each have a public persona and a private persona."

He also said comics are able to tap into a historical perspective of America, in the sense that we are all immigrants wanting to search for a better world.

"From the early days of comic strips in newspapers, started by William Randolph Hearst, the colored panels with action and little words were a

way to sell newspapers to non-English speaking immigrants," he said. "Superman and Wonder Woman are both immigrants to this country, who gave up their identities to become 'American.'"

He added that characters in comic books just want to fit in — they want to hide their superheroes, their differences, so they can fit in — just like immigrants," he said. "However, it is their differences that are their strengths and what this country needs, and what makes us better because of it."

This has published three essays regarding comic books. The first titled, "Cap Lives and So Do the Nazi's," in Nazisploitation: The Nazi Image in Low-Brow Cinema and Culture, was about the role of the superhero after the attacks on Sept. 11. The second, titled "The Iconic History of the Incredible Hulk," in Icons of American Comic Books was about the history of the Incredible Hulk in American culture and how he can be seen as a metaphor for the Cold War, the evils of nuclear power, bipolar personalities and alcoholism. The third, "Containing Wonder Woman: Frederic Wertham's Struggle against the Amazon Princess" in Ages of Wonder Woman, showed the struggle of women in the post-World War II America.

"Comic books have come a long way since the 1930s when comic books were nothing more than a collection of previous Sunday comic strips collectively printed in a booklet," he said. "Comic books these days tackle all kinds of social and political issues."

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the Clarion

Established: March 15, 1977

'The Clarion' is published as a designated public forum for the students of Sinclair Community College by a student staff every Tuesday during the regular academic year, and once in July during the summer.

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'The Clarion' is distributed free to the faculty, staff and students of Sinclair Community College each Tuesday.

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BMTT held on campus

Think continued from front

Some of the demonstrations by Sinclair faculty will include a lesson on how to develop polymers with different molecules, which are used to develop cell phones, and an energy bike demonstration to give students a chance to see how much electricity they are able to generate while on the bike, among others.

A presentation about reverse engineering processes will also be held, where students will learn how to brainstorm, build, revise, test, sketch and design a particular task, according to Beavers.

During this presentation, students will build a working pneumatic power rocket with scissors, straws and construction paper.

“There has been so much reported about the need for us to have a more diverse workforce in the STEM area about the number of mi-

norities in the STEM fields,” Beavers said. “We decided that we wanted to promote the area of STEM as being ones that our youth need to begin to consider.”

An average of 300 to 350 students attend the conference each year and 20 schools are invited.

“They are going to be having some fun,” he said. “And doing some hands-on kind of things.”

At the conference on Saturday, April 12, individuals of all races and religions are welcome to talk about the influences African-American males have had on history and invention.

“We are talking about the concepts, values, principles, attitudes and behaviors which have shaped our country today,” he said. “Talking about all the inventions we were part of and all the patents that black Americans have contributed.”

Beavers said he feels honored to be a part of the BMTT conference because it has helped him to expand and realize the different issues that affect African-Americans.

“It has given me the opportunity to help others make some differences in their community,” he said. “It’s very exhilarating to see how we all come together and to help make this a success.”

The Youth Conference on Friday will be held in Building 12 in the conferences rooms. A free breakfast will be served starting at 8:30, with a free lunch to follow, along with entertainment. On Saturday, registration will start at 8:30, with the conference set to start around 9:30 to 10 a.m. For more information, contact Bobby Beavers at (937) 512-3032 or bobby.beavers@sinclair.edu.

Green machine planting garden

Garden continued from front

“We want people to drive by the garden and look and see that the space is being used. We want to promote Sinclair’s commitment to sustainability, because there is a presence of

sustainability here on campus, but it’s underdeveloped and there’s a lot of room growth,” O’Zenko said. “This is definitely part of that growing process.”

For more information on

the Green Machine or on the future campus garden, contact club advisor Robert Gilbert at Robert.gilbert@my.sinclair.edu, or Jayne O’Zenko at Jayne.ozenko@my.sinclair.edu.

Sinclair to host Spring Fling event

Gabrielle Sharp

Reporter

Student Government is hosting its Spring Fling on April 15 in the basement of Building 8, starting at 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

The event will be holding open mic sessions for various talents, ping-pong competitions, along with clubs and career service information.

This year, there will also

be a jukebox playing in the basement area during the event. For 25 cents, attendees can pick any song they’d like to hear. All the proceeds will go to the S3 campaign (students support Sinclair).

“The main goal for the Spring Fling is to get students to relax around the end of the semester and to explore the possibilities of Sinclair,” Frank Browning, President of Student Government said.

This event is meant to allow students to get more involved in various clubs around campus, and create stronger communication between other students.

“You never know who you are going to meet,” Browning said. “It’s always fun and there is always something going on.”

Spring Fling will be held in the basement of Building 8 on April 15 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.



Graduating Student Art Show



Daniel McCallum | Clarion Staff

The graduating student art show gives Art majors an opportunity to show case the work they have created within their time at Sinclair. It will be held on the fourth floor of Buiding 13.

Caitlyn Nehr
Reporter

Sinclair Community College will host the graduating student art show April 14 through May 1.

According to Gallery Coordinator Pat McClelland, the exhibit is the culmination of the portfolio developing class.

“It’s a seminar of professionalism,” he said. “The students decide on what pieces of art to display.”

McClelland said the exhibit will be very diverse and reflect many different art styles, including paintings, drawings, photography, sculpture and ceramics.

“This particular show is going to be more a big collaboration of a bunch of student work — it will be really different from an individual show,” Virgil Clark, a Fine Art major said. “It’s a great chance to see art”.

There will be 20 seniors represented in the Graduating student Art Show. The art show will feature the senior’s best work and will be a reflection of the student’s time here at Sinclair, according to McClelland.

Fine Art major Alexandra Massullo said the goal when submitting pieces to present in the art show is demonstrating your evolution as an artist.

“You select the pieces that

you really gravitate towards,” Massullo said. “I’m doing large-scale drawings — they all have a common theme, which is controversy [and] challenging the status quo. I target certain issues that are personal to me and bring them to light.”

Fine Art major Whitney Manfreda said her art varies between paintings and drawings, where she is able to show small details.

“My work [is] mixed, I do painting and drawings — it is everyday objects but more focused on the surface,” she said. “I bring out the small details that people may overlook — they are mostly based on organic forms of food.”

Clark said his art is centered around abstract oil painting.

“I’m doing these abstract oil paintings that find the line between realism and abstraction,” Clark said. “Most of them are based off of realism then I abstract the subject matter”.

The student reception will take place on May 1. The event is free and will have appetizers available in the art gallery. A jazz band will also be playing during the reception.

The gallery is located in Building 13 and will be open Monday through Thursday at 8 a.m. until 8 p.m., Friday 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., and Saturday 8 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Psychology offers insight into relationships

Whitney Vickers
Editor-in-Chief

Last week, the Traditional Values Club hosted an event titled “How to Avoid Falling for a Jerk or Jerkette,” in which the Director of Marriage Works Ohio, Greg Shutte, presented information regarding successful relationships.

In conjunction with the event, the Clarion spoke with Anne Soltysiak, a professor of Psychology at Sinclair Community College about the psychology of relationships.

“Probably a lot of attraction has to do with things people have experienced before, cognitively and emotionally,” she said. “You may get turned off by dark-haired men because the last boyfriend you had really hurt you, so you may have other things you find attractive. That’s conditioning and it potentially plays a role.”

Several factors are involved in finding another individual attractive, such as cultural, social and environmental factors, she said

“The thing about humans that makes us harder to study than rats is that we’re so complex and there are so many factors, [such as] cultural factors and the role that social things play in attraction,” she said. “It certainly has to do with biology and experience — prob-

ably environment. There are some environments that are more conducive to finding someone to be attractive or not, while there are other environments who focus on something else and you wouldn’t think of that. Your own personal memory and experiences take over and neurobiology is going to certainly play a role. From there, it’s about the learning aspect of the relationship.”

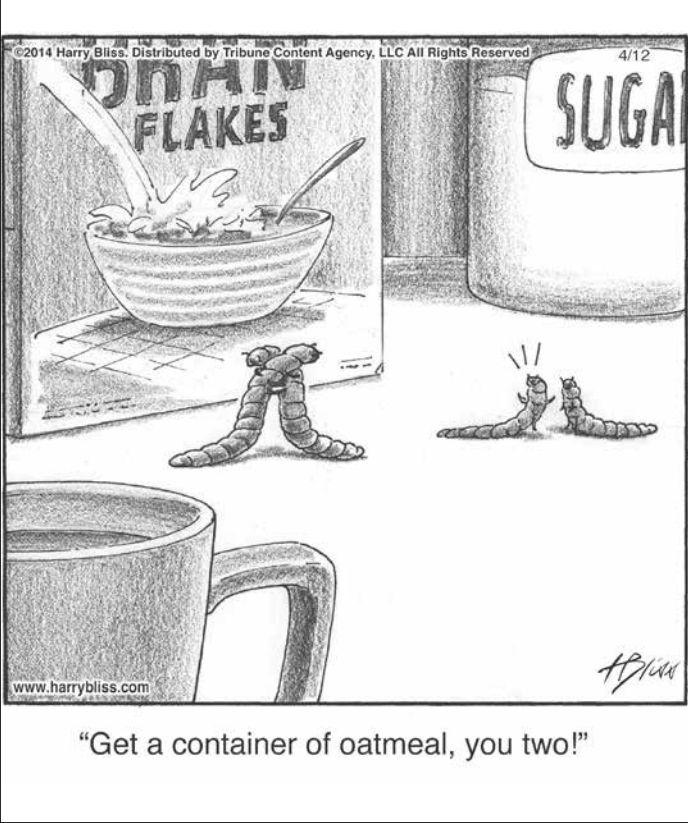
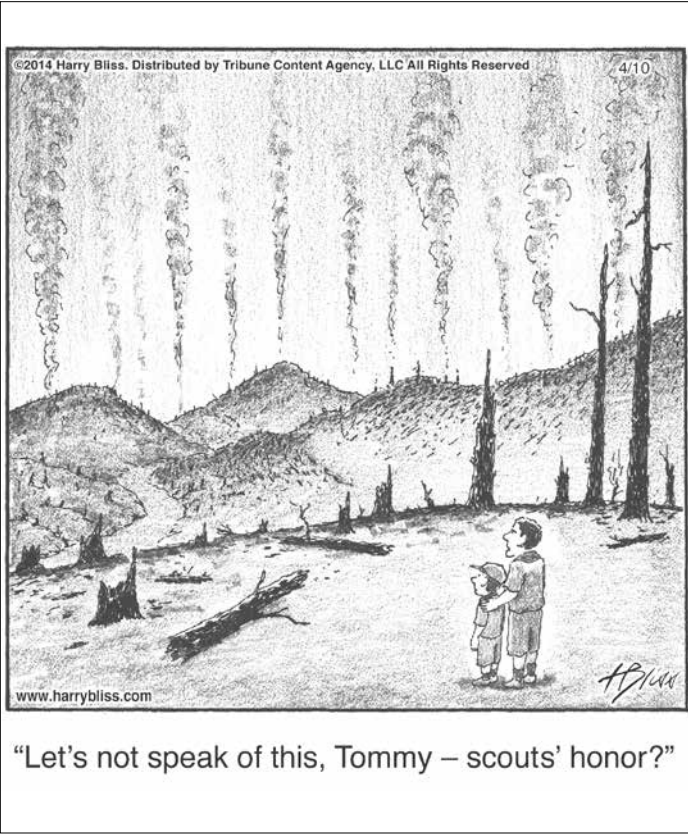
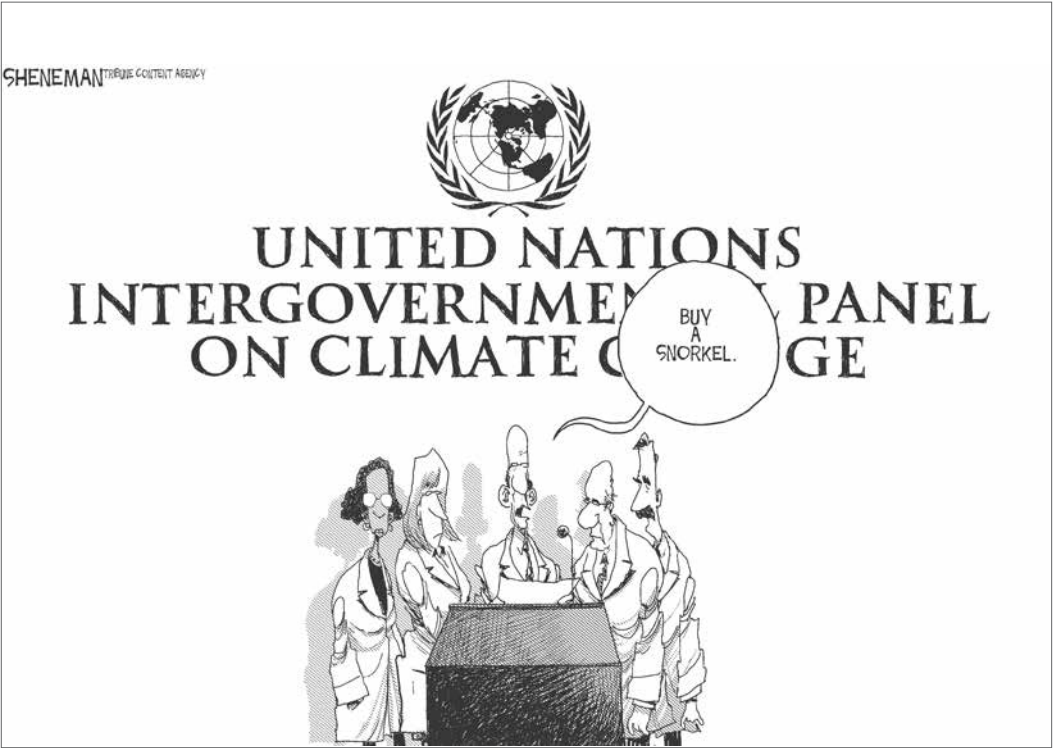
At the beginning of a relationship, the brain may fire off responses similar to taking drugs. However, it fades over time.

“You don’t stay in that crazy love stage forever. Over a period of time, you tend to have much lower neurobiological responses to the person you’re with,” she said. “Things can get boring, things get taken for granted, and that’s natural because you can’t stay in a high state of arousal forever — that’s not a bad thing ... it’s easy and so comfortable. That’s what makes long-term relationships valuable and good for people — if they can find that. It’s companionship after a while, less of that crazy roller coaster ride thing.”

She said we might go for certain people because of attachment models, which are formed when we are young.

Psychology continued on page 6

editorialcartoons



Save the whales, 2014

Los Angeles Times (MCT)

It was well known for many years that Japan's "scientific whaling" program was a sham, designed to get around the international moratorium on hunting whales. Almost no research on the animals came from Japanese scientists; instead, whale meat kept showing up in restaurants and school lunches. Finally, Australia, a whaling country until 1978 and now an avid opponent, called Japan's bluff over the hundreds of whales it killed each year in the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary surrounding Antarctica.

This week, the United Nations International Court of Justice sided with Aus-

tralia, officially declaring Japan's hunt ineligible for the scientific exemption from the moratorium. Japan has said it will abide by the court's decision. It could do so by ending all whaling, or by funding real research, or by whaling outside the sanctuary.

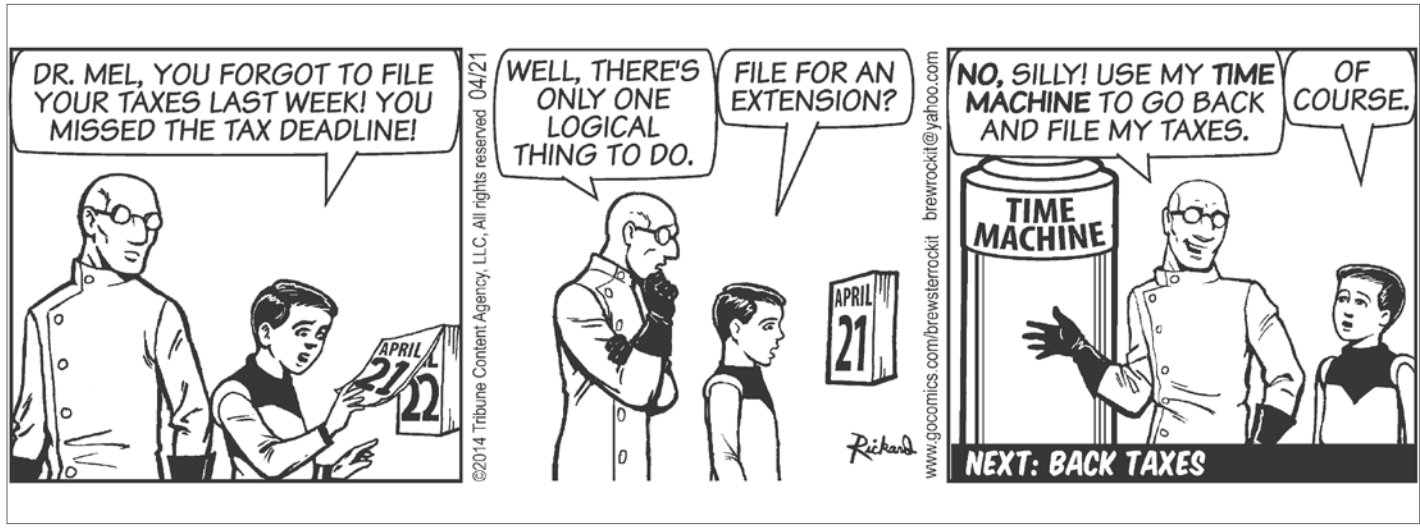
But whaling is an expensive relic of Japan's past that does the nation little good now. The government heavily subsidizes whale capture, at the behest of a very small but influential group of older citizens who are trying to keep the tradition of whale meat consumption alive and who have resisted, out of national pride, global efforts to restrict the practice. But their efforts are failing. Younger generations of Japanese are not interested in eating whale.

This week, several Icelandic legislators proposed a study of how much whaling contributed to their nation's economy, and whether the benefits outweighed losses in tourism and international standing. Iceland catches fewer than 200 whales a year, but most of those are endangered fin whales. Norway also kills hundreds of whales each year, under a loophole known as the legal objection, which means it simply refuses to comply with the moratorium.

Ironically, the International Whaling Commission, which first imposed the moratorium, could help end the big whale hunts by amending its rules to allow more whaling. Its current restrictions are based more on political negotiation, such as

its exception for indigenous peoples with long histories of whale hunting, than on science. A more scientific approach would make clear distinctions, for instance, between the hunting of endangered species and those with healthy populations.

The commission's aim should be to sustain whale species worldwide rather than to pass moral judgment on nations where hunting whales might be just as acceptable as hunting deer is in the United States. Science-based catch limits on whales, with an absolute moratorium on the killing of endangered species, would work better with such nations as Japan and Norway than a flat moratorium with leviathan-sized loopholes.



puzzlesolutions

CROSSWORD

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the Clarion

encourages feedback

Letters to the editor may be submitted to the Clarion in Building 8 Room 027 or by email, clarion@sinclair.edu. Submissions might be edited for space.

No anonymous submissions will be accepted. All submissions must include author's name and phone number. The Clarion reserves the right to edit all letters. Deadline is Monday at noon for the following Tuesday publication. There will be no exceptions to this policy.

Submission does not guarantee publication. Space availability determines publication. When space is limited, articles may be filed for publication at a later date.

the Clarion
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April recognized as autism awareness month Psychology and relationships

Autism continued from front

“Most of my time is involved with him,” she said. “We go to therapy at Children’s every week, and doctor appointments every week. We basically live at Children’s, and that’s what people don’t understand — it really takes your whole life ... To see where he was two years ago and to see him today is just astounding, but he’s got a long road ahead of him.”

Esquivel-Wright feels unless people are personally touched by autism in some way, it is an easy issue to overlook. She didn’t become an advocate for autism awareness until February 2012, when her son was diagnosed.

“Being in healthcare, you hear about it, you hear these terms, you hear different causes — but until you’re really affected by it, you really don’t know,” she said. “You don’t really do the research on your own.”

According to autismspeaks.org,

one in 68 children are diagnosed with autism. Wells said there could be various reasons behind that number, which could be environmental factors, or more available clinicians with the ability to detect the disorder.

“People need to start asking why, what is it? Why are we having so many kids affected by it?” Esquivel-Wright said. “There’s going to be more kids this year diagnosed with autism than there will be cancer or aids, and that’s scary.”

Esquivel-Wright hopes to start a club on campus for individuals affected by autism. In one of her classes alone, there are three other individuals who live with a family member diagnosed with autism. She hopes to raise awareness and understanding for the disorder throughout the community.

“People need to step back and understand that just because somebody

may seem absolutely fine, doesn’t mean they are,” she said. “The awareness isn’t big here, the funding isn’t big here, the people to help you isn’t big here, and we’re trying to shine a light in Dayton because autism doesn’t pick and choose who it wants to affect.”

Next month, Autism Speaks will host a walk advocating autism awareness. It will take place on May 17 at Coney Island. Esquivel-Wright said after the walk is completed, they open up the park for attendees to ride the roller coasters. For more information, visit walkknowforautismspeaks.org.

“I wouldn’t change my kid for the life of me,” she said. “Because he has made me see things so differently, and I think that’s the thing — let them touch your heart, let them show you what they see through their eyes, because it’s completely different.”

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“You will unconsciously respond to things in another person that evoke those same responses that you had when you were a child,” she said.

Soltysiak said the three attachment styles consist of being avoidant, anxious or secure.

According to her, those with avoidant styles may respond negatively to clingy partners and may seem distant. Those with anxious styles may seem clingy in relationships. Those with secure attachment styles are okay being alone and together.

Soltysiak pointed out that no matter what attachment style an individual may possess, the brain can always change and people can train themselves to have a different attachment style.

“A lot of those early experiences shape how we feel and how we respond to the world,” she said. “That’s an important thing to remember as

parents, you have so much of that responsibility and you have to try to give your kids the best, most healthy start you can in terms of emotional relationships because they will be repeating some of it, and probably even in physical features. We respond to the things we’ve loved for so long.”

As far as maintaining a healthy relationship, Soltysiak said it takes work.

“It’s like tending to a garden. You don’t just throw some seeds out there and let things happen the way they will, because it may go badly,” she said. “To me, the most successful relationships I’ve had have been well-tended relationships. By well-tended, I mean spending time with that person, giving that person your full attention. Often in long-term relationships, we take that for granted and stop focusing and listening — you have to listen, and it has to go both ways.”