Alec Wright-Horabito
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The MCC Administration has indicated that they intend to move the Campus Events office, a college business office, into the clubs and organizations hallway in Building 3 which will result in the displacement and ostracization of both the Global Union and the Monroe Doctrine offices. The impetus for this move is that Campus Events office space of near 500 square feet is inadequate for its number of staff which require at least 700 square feet of space to meet occupational codes. While no one disputes the necessity for additional space, there is much disagreement with regard to the planned displacement of the Global Union and Monroe Doctrine offices, as well as a perceived lack in transparency. According to both Global Union and the Monroe Doctrine personnel, "while their reasoning seems flawed, we are also distressed that a deliberate choice was made by Student Services to not speak with the groups impacted by this decision. The lack of transparency is disconcerting to us all."

While a space study was apparently completed in seeking an appropriate space for Campus Events, that study has not been shared with the student organizations, their respective advisors, nor the Office of Student Life and Leadership Development. Because of this, those aforementioned sought out other means to determine space within the Campus Center. Their research determined that the unoccupied former Testing Center has 1000 square feet of space. This space was subsequently approved by Student Services for the Office of Campus Events.

Female Veterans Gain Visibility in New Photography Exhibit

Jacob Schermerhorn
SENIOR WRITER

The opening ceremony for "I Am Not Invisible," a photography exhibit honoring the service of female veterans, occurred on Wednesday, September 25, and will remain displayed on the third floor of Lenny V Good Library at MCC indefinitely.

The exhibit features contemporary photographs of 27 female veterans presented side-by-side their basic training portraits or photographs of them in the field. A short biography of their deployment history is also included.

"We are not invisible," proclaimed veteran Katherine Quinones in her opening remarks, "We served as soldiers but we are mothers, we are wives, we are sisters, and we are daughters. We are not invisible."

Quinones, who was also known as "Mama Q" to her unit, is the CompeerCORPS Female Veteran of 2019 and 2018 graduate of MCC. Her hope is that visitors will realize that female veterans also served and sacrificed for their country.

"Discussions about veterans are very male dominated and women weren't allowed to be on the front lines. So sometimes we feel as if we are treated as accessory veterans." Quinones said.

Tracy LoTemple, the Women Veteran In take and Engagement Specialist for Com peerCORPS Rochester, agrees.

"I want [visitors] to come and see examples of that, women who were there, too, who stuck up and took the same oath and served on the field just as much as their male counterparts," LoTemple said. According to the US Defense Department, approximately 10 percent of the current veteran population are women.
Deja vu or the club office move

The prospective office move of Campus Events to the Student Clubs and Organizations hallway is not a new issue at MCC. In fact, the topic came up once before, just three years ago, which happens to be just over the student turnover rate. With this in mind, the Editorial Staff of the Monroe Doctrine has decided to rerun an article printed in 2016.

Club Offices Blindsided By Potential Office Move

JOSEPH QUILANO, FORMER EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Original Date of Publication: March 7th 2016
Monroe Doctrine, Vol. 63, Issue 10

With Campus Events becoming busier due to people outside of MCC wanting to host events on campus, the college administration needs to find more space for their office. An option that the administration has discussed is student run organization offices. In response, the Student Government Association (SGA) is passing around a petition for students to sign in opposition of the idea.

"This isn't a business model, this is an institution for education first and foremost... we [SGA] feel there are more fish in the sea and other offices that can be explored," said President Moore, in response to the administrations' discussion.

"Global Union and the Monroe Doctrine are some of the most intricate and some of the most visible clubs and organizations on campus... we're not interested in throwing a monkey wrench into the administration's plans to try and generate revenue," added Moore. "We strongly ask them to reconsider displacing club and organizations."

According to Dr. Holmes, relocating Campus Events "would be easier for individuals outside to find Campus Events." Currently, Campus Events is located in Building 3, Room 120.

Dr. Holmes stresses that this move is not "set in stone" and that no decision has been made to move these organizations. "No decision has been made," to move these organizations. "Getting students to join or find these clubs is another issue Dr. Holmes has pointed out. At MCC, most clubs and organizations who have offices are located in a wing in Building 3.

"If you walk upstairs into the Marketplace and you say to students, 'can you tell me where the clubs and organizations are housed on campus?' I would dare say that so many of our students don't even know where offices are," Dr. Holmes stresses that this move is not "set in stone" and that "No decision has been made," to move these organizations.

In response, the Student Government Association (SGA) is passing around a petition for students to sign in opposition of the idea. "We've only done one other group before, and that was MCC's first [graduating] class. We've known there are even more families out there with many MCC alumni amongst them," Shaw said. "When this family was nominated, we ended up deciding this is the year we'll try doing a family." All inductees must meet three major requirements including business or professional achievements, past or present service to MCC, and service to the Rochester community. Nominations may come from anywhere as long as the individual displays these qualities.

"Even [students], I'm sure they know someone who went to MCC who made a difference in their lives and have gone on to do wonderful things for their careers or for the community. I don't think I've ever had a student as a nominator, I think it would be awesome if I did," Shaw said.

Ultimately, the Alumni Hall of Fame is constructed with the hope of inspiration for students. By displaying these unique and exemplary figures, it shows that success after MCC is achievable.
square feet of space. 300 more than Campus Events needs; that the Testing Center would need little modification to ac­ commodate Campus Events as it already includes two private offices as well as a large open space and that, because it was a computer lab, network connec­ tions already exist. Conversely, the combined Monroe Doctrine and Global Union space equals 1016 square feet, just a mere 16 square feet more than the Testing Center, which calls to question the space advantange of removing two existing stu­ dent groups from the clubs and organizations hallway to move a corporate entity in.

Aside from the obvious placement of the Monroe Doc­ trine and Global Union among the other student groups in the club hallway, the Monroe Doctrine's location was a con­ scious, purposeful choice because of its need to accept deliveries and the technolog­ ical infrastructure required to be a corporate entity that allows for remote tech sup­ port—something that would be difficult and costly to achieve if the student groups were moved elsewhere. The Monroe Doctrine was also strategically­ ally placed near WMCC so that the two media groups could collaborate, which mirrors the trend in both student media and mass media for joint operations. To move the Monroe Doctrine would delib­ erately contradict this trend and ostracize the group from the other student clubs and orga­ nizations. The move for Global Union would also result in the loss of the symbolic relation­ ship that has been created with both the Monroe Doctrine and WMCC, as well as the loss of their custom mural depicting inclusivity. To these groups, the sense of community that has developed between the organi­ zations will be undermined and eroded because of the physical distance that will be placed between them; which would be particularly detrimental for the two student media groups, which have collaborated in the past, and for international stu­ dents who have struggled to establish a sense of home and belonging in a new country.

Furthermore, there is con­ cern among the students that one space—the current Cam­ pus Events office—which was initially identified by Student Services as a potential new office for one of the groups. Howev­ er, according to the research conducted by those involved, the space is inadequate for the Monroe Doctrine and Global Union offices for the use of Campus Events would also require extensive and costly modifications. With this in mind, the proposed move does not seem logical nor fiscally irresponsible when there is an obvious alternative. It would destroy the Monroe Doctrines sense of community, and likely lead to animosity and bitterness for all three groups. WMCC Executive Director of Student Services Holmes, who is primarily responsible for, so a January move would be most problematic. A January move would also prohibit the train­ ing and production activities that typically take place at that time. To the students, it seems that the space is adequate for their needs and will not cause them to be unhappy with their proposed new space away from all the other student groups; and Cam­ pus Events will not be happy living next door to WMCC—a situation that will likely cause continued friction and resent­ ment because they do not share the same objectives and/or ex­ pectations for "appropriate" behavior.

WMCC, Global Union, and the Monroe Doctrine have sent their concerns to Vice President of Student Services Holmes, who replied that he and his colleagues will review the concerns and provide a future response. In the meantime, the student groups have also launched a petition driven cam­ paign in the hope that it will bring forth reconsideration on part of the Administration.

The Monroe Doctrine is a student publication. For ethical and legal reasons the advisor does not practice prior review.

Sign the Petition!

Petitions to fight the displacement of student organizations can be found in the Office of Student Life and Leadership Development, 3-126.

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Circulation
3000 copies on four campuses.

Publication Information
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MONROE DOCTRINE — 3

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The Monroe Doctrine is a student publication. For ethical and legal reasons the advisor does not practice prior review.
EDITORIAL

Not Our Office

The administrative attack upon student space is beyond just an issue of occupational code violations, it is a calculated move meant to achieve a previously conceived end.

The end goal for the Administration has long been to move the Campus Events office into the Clubs and Organizations hallway, which is why this is just now again coming up. Due to the student turnover rate, the Administration thought that it could achieve its goal to move the Monroe Doctrine and Global Union out because there are no longer any students left from when they originally tried it in 2016. Further, it is also notable that the Campus Events office is not the only space on the Campus that is not currently up to code with regard to occupational requirements, yet nothing is being done about those spaces.

In any case, our office is not moving—not today, not ever.

SGA Resolution

to Prevent the Involuntary Displacement of Monroe Doctrine and Global Union

Whereas, the MCC administration has instigated a plan to move the Campus Events office into the current club rooms of Monroe Doctrine and Global Union; and

Whereas, said clubs have voiced sincere and reasonable concerns about the move, and their opposition to it; and

Whereas, while the SGA recognizes that Campus Events absolutely has to move, we do not see compelling evidence that they have to move into the club area; and

Whereas, there are no compelling reasons to relocate an office which carries out administrative/business functions into space intentionally dedicated to students and clubs; and

Whereas, there have been many alternative locations for Campus Events to move to that have not been thoroughly explored; therefore be it

Resolved, that the SGA hereby officially supports the clubs in their desire to stay in their club rooms, and opposes the proposed move of Campus Events into the club rooms specifically.

SGA Senate Approved Nov 5, 2019

IN MY OPINION: The Secrets I Know

ALEC WIGHT-MORABITO
EDITOR IN CHIEF

It is time for the students of MCC to finally know the truth about the educational institution that we attend—good of MCC— and more importantly, how it is run by a totalitarian and repressive regime. The MCC Administration, as well as the Board of Trustees, can assure you, doesn't care in the least about the students it allegedly "serves," nor about the people it employs. With this in mind, let me outline the highlights of just some of the administrative misconduct that has occurred over the past two years.

The ulcer-inducing environment that has long plagued MCC leaders is foremost the product of misinformation, fear of retribution, and plainly malevolent behavior, all perpetuated by the arrogance of the Administration, and the blind-eye of the Board of Trustees. In my two years serving as an executive board member of the Student Government Association (SGA), finishing my term as SGA President in the Spring of 2019, I have personally endured the retributive action that befalls any and all who dare speak out against the actions of the Administration that directly violate the sanctity of the foundational principles of Shared Governance. Shared Governance is an extremely simple concept and a requirement of all SUNY institutions: those affected by decisions ought to have a say in the making of those decisions. This is exactly why we have groups such as the SGA and the Faculty Senate; groups meant to advocate on the behalf of those they are elected to represent in decision making processes. However, this is not the actuality at MCC. Instead of promoting integrity, excellence, inclusiveness, empowerment, collaboration, and stewardship (the values listed in MCC's Strategic Plan) the Administration has only promoted an atmosphere of intimidation and misinformation. Where should I begin? I could tell you about how the Administration originally planned to charge each student $150 per semester for intramurals, and then repeatedly lied about it to the SGA and other governing officials. Or, shall I divulge how the Administration tampered with the Spring 2019 election in an effort to influence the students' findings doesn't exist. And these are just a few off the top of my head; the tip of the iceberg as it were.

If I could, I would send to every single student at this institution the thousands of pages of documents I have to support these claims. While this is not a point of pride for me, in fact, it is undoubtedly a gargantuan disappointment, I know, more than any other student at this school, the true reality of what occurs behind the scenes tooches the dictatorships in which we all reside. I would love to hold forums and conferences to inform and answer questions regarding the atrocities and scandals that most of our community has no idea occurred. Oh! The secrets I know.

I had hope once, that I could help make MCC a better place— a place where the voices of the People were actually heard and valued—what a moron I must have been. How does one compromise or work with those that spin the truth with such ease? That was a question I could not answer, and I incontrovertibly paid the price.

In a matter of weeks, my part in this tale will end. It is now up to you. It is up to you to learn, to advocate, and to fight! I implore you, don't let your power die with me. I was just one, you are many. You have so much more power than you know, and it was my dream to help you all recognize it. Don't let that dream go to waste. Don't let my efforts on your behalf be in vain. Reclaim your power and your ownership of our school, before it's too late. Unite! Go out and conquer the institution that is rightfully yours, and demand nothing less!
Slowly but surely, new side effects of vaping have been discovered in the last few years since it first came out. Everyday, vaping is becoming more and more popular for schools regarding how they should deal with the students that vape. Vaping is also a problem for consumers because of the lack of research into its effects, the newly developed flavors targeting young adults and teens, and vaping's addictive nature in general.

There has not been much research done on what vaping can do to someone; however, it has been linked to heart problems, respiratory failure, and many other ailments that can be deadly. Moreover, vaping can also cause serious injuries to those that do, or even worse, to people who breathe such deadly chemical vapor due to second-hand exposure.

Vaping companies are creating new flavors that we can use for our vapes with the intention to attract more customers and therefore make more revenue. Some of the newly released flavors that are already very popular are Bubblegum, Peppermint, Coffee, Lemon, and Cinnamon. Prices are rising for vapes of this product and due to the products selling at an exponential rate because people are not fully aware of the risks that vaping can bring to the human body and to the people around the user. Although these flavors are becoming more popular there will be a federal ban on flavored vapes in the near future. People don't realize that vaping can be an addiction that they cannot get rid of. Many people assume that vaping is safer than cigarettes, but they fail to consider the amount of nicotine in the product. According to TruthInVape.org, one Juul pod contains an entire cigarette pack worth of nicotine. With many young people using e-cigarette products not knowing they are vaping nicotine, it adds to the concern of people entering addictions they were not expecting. Therefore, one should avoid the temptation of second-hand exposure before committing yourself to vaping.

While vaping certainly carries a health risk, people are too quick to accept it as an absolute evil without considering the entire picture. With Reuters reporting 11 million people using e-cigarettes in the United States, this subject deserves to be considered rather than condemned. Specifically, the benefits of vaping can extend to helping smokers quit using traditional cigarettes and have already created a burgeoning infant industry.

It is well documented that tobacco cigarettes are one of the most addictive substances still in this modern day. According to the Center for Disease Control, tobacco use can lead to health problems like lung cancer, heart disease, and asthma. It is the largest cause of preventable death with over seven million smokers worldwide. Vaping with e-cigarettes can limit those numbers by helping smokers quit. A 2019 New England Journal of Medicine study found e-cigarettes were doubly effective helping smokers quit compared to other replacements such as nicotine patches or gum. The study randomized two groups of smokers into ones that used e-cigarettes and ones that used traditional nicotine replacements. The study found that the e-cigarette group had a 1-year abstinence rate of 18% compared to 9.9% in the traditional replacement group. With that type of effectiveness, vaping should be taken seriously as a quitting mechanism. Vaping companies have also already helped the economy by creating a small but growing infant industry for e-cigarettes. The vaping industry is responsible for tens of thousands of jobs with both manufacturers and distributors just for the vaping device. Limiting or banning vaping would take these jobs and their associated economic growth from the US economy. Ironically, a ban on vaping containing such as the one recently proposed by President Trump would only serve to end small businesses instead of the big industries. (For the record, many of the bigger companies such as Juul are owned by tobacco companies.) A 2019 proposed vaping sale ban was passed in San Francisco high school students obtained it from a vape store; the remaining 86% found it from the internet. Rather than harming or limiting this industry, we should instead be celebrating this small business success story. The benefits of vaping illustrated here should cause you to step back and consider if it is entirely evil. By helping smokers quit a dangerous habit and supporting US jobs, vaping does have some benefits. Vaping should not be villainized without considering the potential good it can achieve.
LIFESTYLES

COLLABORATION BETWEEN
MELINA LESTER AND CHYANN KLAHS

LIFE IS HARD; SUICIDE NOT THE ANSWER

Mental illness is a condition that affects a person's thinking, feeling, or mood. If unaddressed, mental illness can lead to someone trying to commit suicide. The fact of the matter is that many people say it. "I'm gonna kill myself," taking it as its just a joke or not even realizing that they said it. Suicide is thrown in the air as if it were something at all.

More so, many people are struggling with their mental illness, feeling as though there is no one there to help them, or they have grown up and have always had a built-in belief that it's not okay to ask for help. The fact of the matter is that more mental health awareness needs to be promoted regarding how to take a healthy approach to handle such difficult situations. As MCC Counseling Center staff member, Morgan Kemnell explained, "there is no one reason why someone struggles, there are usually multiple factors coming together." Some of these struggles may include but are not limited to, trauma, housing issues, financial struggles, family problems at home, stressed about school," McKen

The MCC’s Counseling Center offers a variety of widespread support. "It means nothing if those in need of support in dealing with their individual struggles, specifically in mental health. MCC's Counseling Center website is the place to find all of those resources and to find the needed support that will help get students on the road to a more healthy pathway to their future. MCC has a vision for all students relating to their mental health. The message is to help students with the factors of emotional, psychological, and developmental support as each individual makes their way through the years they attend the institution. One of the resources available on their website is the "Mental Health Emergency" tab, which gives the contact information for the Brighton & Downtown Campus Counseling Centers, and for Public Safety. This particular resource also offers the contact information for outside organizations within the Rochester area, such as the National Suicide Hotline, which is available 24/7. To contact the hotline, call 1-800-273-8255. Additionally, there is also the "Mental Health Association - Find Wellness" which is a non-profit organization that was started in 1932. The organization takes presence in three counties: Ontario, Livingston, and Monroe; and focuses lasting mental wellness in the community through a diverse spectrum of education- ing, networking, service referrals, and individual assistance to those seeking to find—and maintain—wellness.

When any one person is going through a difficult time, it is often that that individual feels as though they need to do things themselves. With that said, MCC has offered a variety of "Self Help" tools, which can also be found within the Counseling Center's website. For example, there is the "Online Screening Tools" option which provides a link where students, faculty, and staff can gain access to mental health screening assessments. These tests are focused on depression, anxiety, bipolar, and eating disorders, as well as addiction. This section also provides the Suicide and Depression Prevention Guidebook. This gives students the ability to recognize warning signs of depression and suicide for themselves, and others.

Unfortunately, suicide is the eighth leading cause of death in the United States. Data has shown that 30-70% of people with a mental health are at greater risk to attempt suicide. The latest numbers suggest that 20,000 Americans will at least attempt suicide every year, while 30,000 of those people will be successful in their attempts. Further, this is compounded by the fact that women with mental disorders are 80 times more likely to attempt suicide, while men, and those over the age of 45 are 200 times more likely.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Veteran's Appreciation Week November 11-15, 2019

Monday, November 11: Veterans Day. MCC Will be Closed

Tuesday, November 12: Veteran's Day Ceremony 12:12-3:00pm at the Veterans Memorial

Wednesday, November 13: Veteran's Resource Fair 11am-2pm

Thursday, November 14: STARS Session 1 – Military Culture & STARS Session 2 – Transition to Civilian and Academic Culture 1pm-2pm

PRISM Mental Health Center (1-108)

Presented by Eric Wheeler

Friday, November 15: ADV 123 Workshop: Navigating Military Education Benefits 12pm-1pm, Building 3-116

Presented by Lori Bartho

BRIDGES TO BETTER LIVING

Phi Theta Kappa Honors In Action is partnering with the Office of Student Life and Leadership Development, Cove, the Hospitality Department, and several external organizations in the implementation of a workshop series called Bridges to Better Living.

Tuesday, November 12: Vegan Friends Virtual Eating Class Presenter: Angela Douglass 12:45 - 2:00 pm Building 3-125

Tuesday, November 19:Discussions: Sexual Reproductive Health Presenter: Jennifer Quick, Metro Council for Teen Potential 11:30-1:00pm Cove 3-125

Wednesday, November 20: American Foundation for Suicide Prevention: It's Real: College Students and Mental Health Presenter: Missy Stohl 12 - 12:50 PM Forum 3-130

Tuesday, December 3: 211/LifeLine Services’ Resources Goodwill and Lifeline Volunteer Services Presenter: Lori Wellam, Goodwill and Lifeline 11:30 - 1:30 PM Cove 3-125

Writing research paper? Here's a help is a way

Research Paper Calculator creates timeline of process to completion

NEENAH PARNELL
ASSOCIATE WRITER

With midterms and finals coming up, the Research Paper Calculator is a great resource to help students in writing their assignments. To get to the Research Paper Calculator, go to your myMCC Homenpage> Library> MCC Libraries Website> Resources> Tools> the Research Paper Calculator.

After inputting the start and due dates, the Research Paper Calculator will generate a timeline of various steps to assist in making the assignment more manageable by breaking it down into parts, along with providing helpful resources for each step. For example, if a research paper is due on November 30th, it will list when the draft should be completed, edited, and then revised, so that students can have an awesome paper ready by the assignment deadline. More so, students should use the Research Paper Calculator, as it helps relieve the overwhelming stress of having to put an entire assignment together. Instead, students merely have to complete a set of manageable steps, which can substantially lighten stress relating to the assignment.

Additionally, there is also a Speech/Oral Presentation Calculator available to students. The Speech/Oral Presentation Calculator can be found using the same steps required to find the Research Paper Calculator.

Have a research question? Ask a Librarian at https://libguides.monroecc.edu/ask

ThinkingStorm resource on Blackboard offers reviews of papers online tutoring

NEENAH PARNELL
ASSOCIATE WRITER

The academic assistance program, ThinkingStorm, gives students access to help on any subject on demand. As such, students should consider using ThinkingStorm because of all the different features it has to offer. To get to ThinkingStorm, a student must go to their myMCC Homenpage> Student Tab> Virtual Campus Online Tutoring. ThinkingStorm has a menu with different options: Drop In Tutoring, Writing Center Tutoring, Reserve an Appointment, and Start Online Appointment.

The Drop-In Tutoring option connects students with a ThinkingStorm tutor for help with Math, Science, or Statistics, with no appointment required. This can be especially helpful for students when stuck trying to solve or understand a mathematical problem or concept.

The Writing Center Tutoring option allows students to upload papers and send them to a tutoring editor who will get back to the student within a day or so. The tutors review assignments, fix errors, and give suggestions for improvement. To receive the essay back, the Reserve an Appointment option lets students schedule a session by appointment with a ThinkingStorm tutor for any subject. While the Start Online Appointment option connects students with a ThinkingStorm tutor for previously scheduled appointments, or to connect with a student with a live tutor, if available.
Zombieland Doubletap is Searching for Brains

JACOB SCHERMERHORN
SENIOR WRITER

When Zombieland premiered in 2009, it was a different time for film. Avatar had surpassed Titanic at the box office with over two billion dollars. Joker director Todd Phillips was still the guy who directed the first Hangover movie. Kate Winslet became the VSIP director to win an Oscar for The Hurt Locker, and Jesse Eisenberg starred in not one, but two movies with the antecedent of “I...” (Anyone remember Adventurland?) The most recent prominent zombie movie back then was 2004’s Shaun of the Dead, another comedy poking fun at horror tropes just like 2009’s Zombieland. Ten years later, in 2019, things have changed.

Eisenberg’s Zombieland Doubletap character Columbus acknowledges the huge gap in time between his character and the characters from the first movie, the gun-toting macho-man Tallahassee (Woody Harrelson), no-nonsense buzzkill Wichita (Emma Stone), and her now late “teenagerin” sister Little Rock (Abigail Breslin). What follows is the kind of expected road trip movie to Graceland with the requisite goofy hijinks and zombie killing action. These two survivors are brief road-tripping, or a mid-credits scene with a favorite celebrity killing zombies, are what make Zombieland Doubletap is not interested in their stories. In the first Zombieland, Tallahassee achieved true three dimensionality when Columbus discovered that his friend was not grieving for a dead puppy, but a dead son. Tallahassee wasn’t just a loud and violent redneck, he was a hurt and mourning father. Too bad Madison, Nevada and Berkeley are not given the same chance to be real people.

However, putting aside character development, this movie shines when it dips into the zany and bizarre. One-note characters who require no humanizing development are Albuquerque (Luke Wilson) and Flagstaff (Thomas Middleditch). These two survivors are bright right spots as bizarro world alternates for Tallahassee and Columbus. It’s a treat to see these four skilled actors butt heads passively aggressively as they stare into a funhouse mirror. Perhaps because he’s already been at it for years on Silicon Valley, Middleditch is doing especially great work with a spot-on Eisenberg impression. Moments like those, or a random takedown of the concept of Uber while road-tripping, or a mid-credits scene with a favorite celebrity killing zombies, are what make Zombieland Doubletap worth it. As Columbus’ rule 32 states: “Enjoy the little things.”

Faculty have a choice to Voluntarily Separate from College Incentive program may result in senior faculty leaving the college

JAKKEA KILPATICR
STAFF WRITER

Eligible faculty and staff at MCC have until November 12th, 2019 to accept the Voluntary Separation Incentive Program (VSIP) authorized by the Board of Trustees in an effort to reduce college expenses. Incentive sessions will continue to be held until the day of the deadline at the Downtown and Brighton campuses. Faculty and staff can acquire further details regarding times and locations for these sessions from the Human Resources department.

“They are just open sessions where our Human Resource team,” said Clayton Jones, the Assistant to the President, who further explained that, “Some of the colleges’ general counsel, our lawyers, are there to talk and answer questions.”

In an effort to reduce a board of Trustees reach its fiscal goal, the VSIP seeks to better align the numbers of both full-time faculty and non-teaching professional staff to the current student enrollment. As a limiting threshold set for the VSIP, once the deadline or the limit is met, the program will no longer be offered and is unlikely to happen again for a long time.

However, there is no way to gauge the success of the program, and it is one way the College has chosen to address MCC’s declining enrollment. “When an organization is dealing with a change in the number of people that it serves, ” as Bethany Gizzi, President of the Faculty Association, expressed, “we do have to reassess whether we are an appropriately sized population in terms of the number of employees. It makes sense to look at that. However, I do not think that getting rid of a large number of faculty and people who work directly with students is going to be in students’ best interest.”

Jones agreed that having enough faculty and staff to support the students to the fullest extent is important. This brings another problem to be tackled: improving enrollment at MCC. With enrollment being down, and the number of faculty and staff remaining the same, a VSIP is not a solution. While the VSIP “is not designed to satisfy everybody because that’s impossible,” as Jones highlights, “this can help you [eligable faculty and staff] sunset into retirement.” According to Jones, those nearing retirement “would probably have to sit down with HR and go over the matrix.” The matrix will help determine who is qualified to participate in the program.

The VSIP is not for the civil staff, but for teaching faculty and professional staff: “Counselors, advisors, directors, librarians, technical assistants. They are all professional staff covered by the union,” Gizzi clarified.

Since being introduced, some amendments have been made thanks to the efforts of the Union. One of those changes included insurance. “If you’re going to keep your health insurance benefits under this program, you have to have qualified for them already through your years of service by working at the college - they won’t just appear. You have to have already gotten them,” Jones explained.

Both Jones and Gizzi emphasized that the choice rests with the employees alone. “It’s up to the employee,” Jones noted, continuing that the Administration “wants[s] to capture as many people as possible.”

“I am not encouraging nor discouraging my members,” Gizzi explained, “I am encouraging everyone to really look at it closely and make sure that it fits their own individual needs and circumstances.”

As Jones summarized: “We have to put it out there in a way that really does essentially one thing: make it clear that the decision to apply for this is the employee.”
Veterans voice concerns to Gillibrand at MCC in town hall meeting

JACOB SCHERMERHORN 
SENIOR WRITER

New York Senator Kirsten Gillibrand met with constituents at a community town-hall-style meeting at Monroe Community College Forum on October 7. The meeting focused on veterans’ issues such as private military contractors and the opioid crisis.

Gillibrand, who is a decade long member of the Senate, wore a shirt with the number 22, which is from a now-contentious 2013 Veterans Affairs study which estimated the number of veterans suicides each day. Borden stressed the importance of these meetings and their ability to “add humanity back to the conversation about veterans.”

“I want to share some of the obstacles I and others have been running into,” Borden said, “even though the veterans in this area are very well served, they’re still struggling.”

Private contractors show “corruption runs deep.”

Veteran and MCC Student Veteran Club President, Charles Ward was concerned about the economic impact of private military contractors such as Blackwater and KBR. Private military contractors were first used extensively in the Iraq War to provide security, interro-