February 2012

## EMVCC The Student Voice

Pick up Safe Winter Driving Habits

The Civility Project

## **SOPA Explained**

Take a Look Back in Time

The Skeletons in Newt's Closet

Auditions for
A Mid Summer's Night
Dream
This Friday(2/17/12)
At 4pm
In IT 225

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## **Drive Carefully, New York!**

#### Mackenzie Weber

Every season brings its own unique weather with it. In the winter, western New York State is pounded with snow and freezing winds. Winter is the most dangerous time to drive in New York because of snow, ice, wind, and freezing temperatures. Driving can even be deadly if you're not careful, or if you are inexperienced at driving in the winter. Here are a few tips on how to stay safe on wintery roads.

There are several specific road conditions that every driver should be aware of. Roads that have been plowed but are still covered in a layer of packed snow are very slippery. Turning or braking too quickly can cause your car to swerve, skid, or drift. You should drive extra-slowly on these types of roads. If your car does slip the road, pumping the brake pedal gently will help bring the car to a better stop. Be especially careful when you are stopping at an intersection, so your vehicle doesn't slide into the middle of it. This can cause multiple vehicles to crash.

Another hazard is black ice. Black ice is a layer of thin, clear ice on a road that is very slippery and very hard to see. It can be hidden between patches of water on a winter road. Black ice is more common along the road the colder it gets, especially on roads that have not been covered in salt or other snow-melting mixes. Since black ice is hard to detect with the naked eye, a driver must always be prepared for slippery roads in the winter, even when they seem to be clear. Risks of driving on black ice are similar to those of driving on packed snow. You can reduce your risk of slipping on

black ice by driving, turning, and braking slowly.

If you find yourself in a situation where your vehicle will crash no matter what you do, shift into neutral, stop accelerating, and try to aim for a snow bank or a bush. Following these steps will help you come to a gentler stop, hopefully landing in something soft to minimize impact.

There are several ways to determine road conditions before you even get into your car. The American National Weather Service uses radio and television broadcasts to distribute winter weather advisories and warnings to the public, so you can make a more informed decision about whether you want to drive or

not, and, if so, what driving techniques you should use. A winter weather advisory is used when the area expects fair amounts of snow, freezing rain, or sleet, but the conditions do not meet the criteria for emergency measures.

A winter storm warning is used when conditions are much more severe, and there is a significant storm coming up within the next 24 hours. If there is a storm warning, you should seriously consider cancelling your travel plans and stay inside. If you are away from home when a warning is issued, you might plan to spend the night wherever you are to avoid the storm.

Preparing your vehicle for winter is just as important as using the proper safe driving techniques. You can equip your car with antifreeze and winter tires to make driving easier. You should bring an ice scraper or brush, to get ice and snow off the windshield before you drive. You should bring a blanket along in the car, in case temperatures get very low. You should also consider other emergency supplies, such as a first aid kit, nonperishable food, and a flashlight. Avoid driving at night as much as possible, and make sure you have a charged cell phone with you. If you find yourself in an emergency situation during the winter, call 911 as soon as you can and stay near your car.

Of course, the best way to avoid accidents during the winter is to leave earlier, so you have the time to drive slowly and carefully instead of hurrying and possibly speeding and making impulsive decisions on the road. Be careful and take your time; it could save



#### SOPA: Why We Dodged the Bullet

#### Christopher Broedel

In the battle between Net neutrality advocates and advocates for Hollywood, consumers have always stood to lose some privacy and choice in which websites they browse. But never before have such drastic measures been taken to stop you from downloading and streaming music and videos. The recently-defeated congressional Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA)—as well as its cousin, the senatorial Protect Intellectual Property Act (PIPA)—took an approach that some Net neutralists called "down-right Draconian." That's no exaggeration.

Imagine servers and other computers on the Internet as being a series of buildings—houses, businesses, you name it. Let's also say that each resident in a building has at least one phone number. These phone numbers represent IP addresses—a string of numbers used to differentiate one computer from another on the Net.

In real life, we'd use a phone book to match a name to a phone number. The Internet has its own "phone books," which we call DNS servers. The DNS servers that you use to browse the web are typically maintained by your Internet Service Provider.

When you go to Facebook, you type "www.facebook.com" into your browser's address bar. But computers don't understand this as a valid attempt to communicate over the Internet. So, the Web address is sent to a DNS server, which compares the Web address against a table of IP addresses. (Facebook's IP address is 69.171.228.14, by the way.) The match is made, and your computer is automatically redirected to Facebook.

This is basically how the Internet works: Lots of computers communicate with each other using IP addresses. Web addresses were developed so that people could go to a website by typing in a simple domain name instead of a long, complex IP address.

Protocols have been developed that ensure DNS server security. For the most part, typing in a Web address is like looking up your best friend in the phone book. The number listed is guaranteed to get you in touch with the party you're trying to reach. But imagine calling the house of your best friend and instead getting a message from the RIAA that your friend's phone number is no longer available because he was violating copyright law. You look in the phone book, and notice that a slew of numbers have been replaced with the same number you just dialed. The RIAA has rewritten the phone book with fake numbers.

That's SOPA in a nutshell. If an Internet Service Provider received a complaint from a copyright holder (like the RIAA or MPAA) about alleged violations on a site, that site's Web address would get linked to a fake IP address. Ever created a YouTube video where you're dancing to your favorite song and then shared it on Facebook? Under SOPA, YouTube and Facebook would be held liable, and deleted from every DNS server in the US. No warnings or court hearings. Just gone!

Fortunately, both bills were permanently shelved by the government. But the war against Internet freedom isn't over. H.R. 1981, or the "Protect Children from Internet Pornographers Act" sounds like a good idea: Protect kids on the Internet from pedophiles. But the bill would require that all Internet providers keep detailed records about what *all* their users do on the Internet. A provision in the bill also allows for the gathered data to be used by copyright holders to prosecute potential infringers.

You may also have heard of the Anti-Counterfeit Trade Agreement (ACTA). ACTA is an international treaty which does not directly threaten Internet privacy or fair use of copyrighted works in the US, although online file sharing is another story entirely. Because of vague wording in the treaty, use of file sharing services could be elevated from a civil infraction to a criminal felony.

President Obama signed ACTA under the guise that it was a "non-binding executive agreement." In other words, the US isn't obligated to follow any part of the treaty it doesn't like. But that doesn't mean that international copyright holders see it that way, and could insist that the U.S. adopt practices contrary to our Constitution's privacy laws in the interest of foreign relations.

What can you do to protect your freedom? Contact your Senate and Congressional representatives. (In Utica: Senator Chuck Schumer or Congressman Richard Hanna, for example.) Tell them that you oppose legislation like H.R. 1981 and international treaties like ACTA that put copyrights ahead of Internet freedom.

I also encourage you to join the Black March, an open event hosted by the Internet group "Anonymous." Joining up is simple: For the entire month of March, don't go to movies or concerts. In fact, don't purchase movies or music at all. And don't download any copyrighted material—no iTunes, no file sharing. It may sound boring, but the message to Hollywood is clear: We do not need you, and we will not support you if you continue to threaten our fundamental rights!

# Student Congress Bulletin What Is Civility?

#### John Coleman

That is the question that the college has been trying to answer since the civility forum last spring. Recently, the students of the college have formed a new club, simply called Civility, to not only answer that question, but to find and implement solutions to the issues surrounding civility.

The members of Civility would like to issue a challenge to the students of this college: Follow the Golden Rule; do unto others as you would have them do unto you. You can start that today with a few small and simple changes. Be kind and courteous to all, hold the door for the person behind you, smile and say hello to acknowledge even the most distant friendships.

To know if you have met the challenge look back at your day and ask, "Did I make someone's day just a little bit better?"

Finally, if you want to help put the "community" back in "community college," drop me a line at <a href="mailto:csleys28@student.mvcc.edu">csleys28@student.mvcc.edu</a>, and let's change the world with random acts of kindness.

Sincerest thanks to the members of Civility.



Photo courtesy of "Oh Shit...She's Awake."

To know if you have met the challenge, look back at your day and ask,

The VP of marketing is seeking a marketing and promotion crew.

If you are creative and motivated, come to AB

102

All Student Congress meetings will be held in IT 225 for the rest of the semester unless otherwise noted.

## **Student Congress Bulletin**

# Civility Hall

What's Civility mean to you? We all have personal experiences both positive and negative - with civility, as well as our own opinions about what the word "civility" really means and expectations of what it means to treat people or to be treated civilly.

Take this opportunity to express those experiences and opinions ... Go ahead and write something or

draw something ...

Bashful? Place your story in the "Share Box" and we may post it anonymously for you.

As long as the "share" isn't malicious it will be left up for all to see.



The Civility Hall is located next to ACH 116 on the way to the Book Store.



## This Week in History

#### Shelby Byrd

One of the fun aspects of studying history is picking up random facts that are obscure or interesting. Throughout history, lots of exciting and interesting events occurred between January 22nd and January 28th. These are just a few of our favorites!

In 1759, the famous Scottish poet Robert Burns was born on the 25th of January. He wrote over 500 poems in his lifetime, and is remembered for his free, spontaneous, honest, intense style.

In the American Old West, year 1848, the first bits of gold were discovered at Sutter's Creek on January 24th. This discovery sparked a migration to the state of California called the Gold Rush. "Miner fortyniners" came from all over the world to take a chance at striking it rich, creating boom-towns and helping to establish the American West.

This week in 1936, Cleveland was being terrorized by a serial killer called the Cleveland Torso Murderer, or Mad Butcher. He is remembered for killing people by decapitation or fatal damage to the torso. He was never truly identified.

On January 27th, 1965, the Ford Mustang Shelby GT350 was born. Every 1965 factory model was painted Wimbledon White with blue rocker stripes, but owners and dealers liked to add LeMans stripes, too. Fewer than 550 models were made, and less than 30 of them came with the extreme GT350R racecar package.

In the sports world, Hulk Hogan defeated Iron Shelk on January 23rd 1984. Even today, Hulk Hogan is a celebrity, and an icon of macho toughness and unique style.

On January 28th, 1986, The United States Space Shuttle *Challenger* exploded during its seventh mission as it exited Earth's atmosphere, killing the seven astronauts onboard. The explosion was probably caused by a faulty O-ring, used to seal up parts of the shuttle

On January 22, 2008, the famous actor Heath Ledger died from an accidental prescription drug overdose at age 28. The role that brought him the greatest acclaim—and the one that he may very well be remembered for—was the Joker in "The Dark Knight."

Still hungry for history? For more interesting facts, go to <a href="http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history">http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history</a>.

#### Do It

#### Kitty Tanner

I am currently in my third semester here at MV, and it still bothers me a lot of the time to listen to other students complain about their classes, teachers etc.. I've heard things like, "I don't like this class. I'm just going to drop it." or, "This class is a waste of my time! I'm going to change my major so I don't have to take it." Then there's my personal favorite, "I hate my teacher, I'm going to transfer so I don't have to take this class with them!"

Sadly, every one of these quotes is real.

This being said I have some advice for you all. Deal with it. I can forgive and understand if a course wasn't what you thought it would be, you went one day and realized it so you dropped it. Things like that happen all the time, especially to new students. However, if you're not new, why bother? Most of the courses students drop turn out to be something they need. You don't like it? Get over it; you'll get the credit just the same if you stay with the course.

People come to collage and choose a major because they want to do something in a chosen field. Why would you waste time changing your major for one class? It's fine if you don't like all of your classes, very few students do.

You don't like your teacher? Complain all you want, no one said that you had to be here. Allow me to point out that other collages look poorly on a person whose reason for transferring was, "I didn't like my teacher, but I needed the class so I came here."

#### **Newt Gingrich: The Skeletons in His Closet**

... the next time you're asked

where you stand. I want to hear

what YOU believe in, not your

party.

Chad Pritchard

She isn't young enough or pretty enough to be the President's wife. And besides, she has cancer."

- Newt, on his first wife.

Today, I'm going to shed some light on Newt Gingrich and what's buried in his closet. Welcome to a segment I'd like to call "A Taste of Evil."

Newt Gingrich won the South Carolina primary and this honestly surprised me. In my honest opinion, I don't think he's fit to even run for president. This isn't because of how he looks, or acts, but because of what

he says. The quote at the beginning of the article is just a small taste of what he really has to say.

Anne Manning, a staffer who was working with Newt Gingrich while he was still married to his first wife.

said, "We had oral sex. He prefers that *modus operandi* because then he can say, 'I never slept with her." During the interview, Anne Manning goes on to say that he's a sexual deviant and a hypocrite, preaching about the sanctity of marriage and family values. Gingrich doesn't deny the affairs and has even admitted to them, but no one seems to notice — or even care.

Let me give you an example. During the Southern Republican Presidential Debate, CNN's John King asked "She [his current wife] says you asked her, sir, to enter into an open marriage. Would you like to take some time to respond to that?"

Gingrich's response? "No, but I will."

He goes on to say "I think the destructive, vicious, negative nature of much of the news media makes it harder to govern this country, harder to attract decent

people to run for public office. And I am appalled that you would begin a presidential debate on a topic like that."

After the applause, the debate continued on the topic wasn't touched again. This bothers me. This sounds like a perfectly reasonable question and everyone just let it skitter right by, like a cockroach you don't want visitors to see.

This man is running for president of the United States and by doing that, he says he's fit to govern and lead us. If that's true, I'd like to know if a potential presidential candidate is having any extra-curricular activities that may impact his ability to lead us. Many people claim what he does is his own business, but when he's representing an entire people, we can't let this stuff go by. The saddest thing is that many of us don't even know about this or what's going on with any other politician. Politics today are done behind closed doors in front of everyone and we can all see it, we

just don't notice it. But everything about these people who are running for president or congress or senate is right there on the internet.

So people? Do me a favor. Take some time and do a little research

before you dedicate yourself to a candidate this election. Don't let a single sentence or hollow promise sway you. The skeletons in their closet are knocking and want to be found.

Until next time, this is The Devil's Advocate. Look for my next article, where I take a look at the democratic candidate for president, Randall Terry and in my closing statement, I give you my opinion about Obama.

Closing Statement: Alright friends, let's get something straight. I'm not a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, Whig, Luddite, or whatever you want to use to label me. I am me; my own person with my own opinions, morals, and guidelines. I'm writing this in an attempt to get you to sway to my logic. I don't know how many times I've heard someone claim "I'm

a Republican" or "I'm a Democrat" when I ask them where they stand in politics. You are not JUST a Republican or JUST a Democrat. You're a person, so stop saying otherwise. you're Leave these childish labels behind and the next time you're asked where you stand. I want to hear what YOU believe in, not your party.



## Family Values

Using daughters from your first wife to convince everyone that your second wife is lying about your third wife.

## By Stu-

# The Student



By Kitty Tanner



#### **Credits**

Mildred Treis, Advisor
William Clark, President
Mackenzie Weber
Kitty Tanner
Christopher Broedel
Omar Gould

#### **Contact Us**

Do you have something you want to write about or a club or event that you want to advertise?

Please don't hesitate to get in touch!
We are across the hall from ACC 222,
and are normally open during school hours. We
have club meetings on Tuesdays at 12:30. Or, you
can contact us at Studentvoice@mvcc.edu.