



THE OUTLOOK

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Facebook Settles Privacy Case with Federal Trade Commission

Ordered to Get User Consent for Some Changes to Privacy Settings, Subjected to 20 Years of Internal Audits

LAUREN GARCIA
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Facebook has recently settled a complaint made against them by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) regarding its unlawful sharing of personal user information with advertising companies without user consent.

The popular social media website, which claimed it would not share personal information with advertisers, nor with anyone else if their settings were adjusted as so, backed out of their agreement and made such information available to advertisers without permission first from its users. Facebook was also changing privacy settings of members without warning.

Laura Berger, Attorney for the FTC division of Privacy and Identity Protection said, "The issue with the allegations of conduct that [the FTC] alleged, Facebook engaged in is that Facebook promised users in several instances, highlighted in the complaint, promises users that it would not share our information with advertisers and it didn't keep those promises."

The agreement reached between the FTC and Facebook in late November is that user privacy will be regulated for the next 20 years. For every violation, the company will be charged \$16,000, according to Reuters.

"They are creating a position for a chief privacy officer and have to receive permission before sharing private user information," said Mary Harris, a specialist professor in the Department of Communication, of one of the steps Facebook is taking to carry out its part

of the agreement.

Despite this issue in regards to the networking website, its popularity has yet to wane. The site, which according to Reuters has more than 800 million users, continues to grow in popularity in spite of its scandals.

"Will people ever stop using

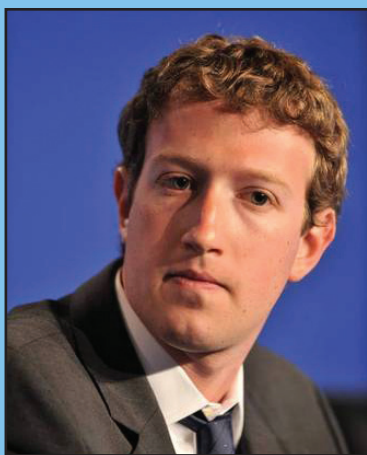


PHOTO COURTESY of mediastory.net

Co-owner of Facebook Mark Zuckerberg made a public statement that the company has "made a bunch of mistakes."

Facebook and other similar electronic mediums for social interaction, even if their privacy is on the line? At this point, I think we are so far into this phenomenon that it will just keep growing and growing and eventually the next new thing will come along. I do not think people are going to give up the convenience the site has to offer unless they have a terrible personal experience using the website," said Harris.

Nicole Vitale, senior, expressed her concern about how information can travel through Facebook.

"There's not much you can do, once your information is out there, it's out there. You can't take it back; you don't know where it goes."

Another controversial issue, brought up by Dr. Michael Phillips-Anderson, an assistant professor in Rhetoric and Political Communication, is whether the information posted on Facebook really belongs to the users.

"A lot of students still think that Facebook is private, and that the stuff you put up there isn't going to get out. Even with the privacy settings it still could," said Phillips-Anderson. "I think people are mistaken in thinking that they're Facebook's customers. Facebook's customers are advertisers. We're the product. We upload all the stuff and all of that stuff Facebook owns. Every picture, every post you ever made, even if you delete it, they keep it. People need to think about if it's worth it."

"It is really kind of interesting to think about," said Harris. "Facebook is a completely free service and most people who use it are willingly putting private information out there, potentially for the world to see. Most people who really care about privacy issues and avoiding advertisements choose not to use Facebook and other forms of social media."

In response to this issue, Berger pointed out, "If you have privacy settings in place to use on the Facebook site to protect your information, in other words, that restrict who has access to it, Facebook then cannot share that information beyond those privacy settings in any

Facebook continued on pg. 3

Preventing Bias and Harassment on Campus

BRIAN HALISKOE
STAFF WRITER

"It will be the practice of the University to report once every semester on situations that occurred on campus," said President Paul G. Gaffney II in his mass email to the University community last week. Due to University policies and State and Federal laws, The memo will be reported once every semester, to prevent campus harassment and hate crimes.

Gaffney's memo explained that "Monmouth University will not tolerate acts and expressions of disrespect or instances of interpersonal

violence, relationship abuse, and cultural intolerance." The memo also revealed that "during the spring semester there were two separate bias incidents reported regarding allegations of harassment, one verbal and one written, both toward sexual orientation. These matters have been investigated and have concluded at this time pending any further information that may be presented."

William McElrath, Director and Chief of MUPD supports President Gaffney's implementation of reporting crimes. "The benefit of reporting various bias and harassment type crimes every semester

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SwoopThat.com: A New Chapter for Textbooks

COLIN SARGENT
STAFF WRITER

With this semester coming to an end, students are looking for the best way to cash in on their used textbooks and get new ones for the spring. SwoopThat.com is an online service, now connected with over 2,100 colleges, and allows students to search the Internet for the cheapest prices for new, used, rental and digital textbooks.

Johnny Simkin, a recent graduate of Harvey Mudd College, came up with the idea while in school pursuing his degree. He knows firsthand the painful prices of college textbooks, and how many students face this.

"The whole idea was that buying textbooks was taking too much time, and too much money. On average, students spend \$900 per year on text-

books, and a lot of kids can't go to school because textbook prices are so high and keep rising. I wanted to automate the whole process, and bring textbook affordability to everyone," said Simkin.

Simkin has automated every bit of the process, down to a one-click checkout option allowing users to purchase all textbooks simultaneously. Users can also integrate shopping carts, which allows SwoopThat to build shopping carts on the merchant's web site.

"I'm a big fan of cheap books, but I don't think SwoopThat is accurate and the best choice for students."

MEGAN MCCLUSKEY
Textbook Manager of University Bookstore

The web site works similarly to the University bookstore's. Students can log on and begin by simply typing "Monmouth University." Once online, a student picks the semester they're looking for, which departments, and which sections. After entering your course schedule, the website will search multiple online vendors like Amazon

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News

Every wonder how those decorations come about in Wilson Hall every year?

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Entertainment

Musician Martin Sexton held a performance on campus last week.

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Learn how to follow the trend that doesn't go out of style: going green.

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How the University Decorates for the Holidays

TIFFANY MATTERA
STAFF WRITER

During the weeks of December, University staff and students alike admire the holiday decorations in Wilson Hall.

Before entering Wilson Hall, one is greeted by small reindeer next to the Annex and scarlet bows covering lanterns by the main doors.

Once inside, one witnesses garland and poinsettias lining the grand staircase, and 14 Christmas trees that all bear different decorations.

This year, complimenting the days leading up to the annual Holiday Ball, each Christmas tree emitted varying colors, some red, green and even a white one with peacocks bursting out. These trees were professionally decorated by Susan Musica, a retired designer who has been volunteering to dress up the trees for the past 20 years. These decorations were removed at the conclusion of the Holiday Ball, which is annually hosted by Special Events.

After December 5, the Department of Human Resources and the custodial staff redecorated the trees with blue orbs, snowmen, snowflakes and red apples, among other trinkets. “Everyone puts their own twist on it,” said Maria Ramos, Human Resources Coordinator. “Some ornaments are brought from home.”

These decorations were put up by three student workers in Human Resources as well as custodians, in preparation for the annual holiday employee gathering. This will be

held from 1:00 to 3:00 pm on Friday, December 16.

The holiday lights do not stop there, as other areas of campus are decorated as well. A wreath dons the underpass that connects the residential and academic sides of campus. Poles wrapped with blue and white lights don the pavement leading to Wilson Hall. The shrubs behind Wilson Hall also are lined with bright lights. These outdoor decorations were put up by Facilities Management over the course of three days.

The Rebecca Stafford Student Center also has its fair share of holiday decorations with a Christmas tree and Menorah in the windows above its main entrance. “We put up decorations every year with help from our student workers,” said Megan McGowan, Assistant Director of Student Activities. Moreover, many offices such as Residential Life and First-Year have gotten into the holiday spirit with small Christmas trees.

Students can see many of these decorations while walking the campus on their way to class and other activities. “The only thing that makes me feel like it’s not the holidays is the lack of snow,” said Tess La Fera, a sophomore. “Wilson is gorgeous and I love what they do with it every year.”

“Overall the decorations are very nice, but they should have decorated the outside a bit more,” said Anthony Morello, also a sophomore.

All decorations will remain in place until the end of winter break.



PHOTOS COURTESY of Joanna Zietara
Various Christmas trees adorn the halls, doorways and staircases of Wilson Hall in the days leading up to the holiday season.

Letter From the President

Dear Students and Colleagues:

You have had a great semester. You, and we, have overcome challenges. But forget the challenges for a moment; look back on the semester, look back on your year. Reflect on your substantial accomplishments. Every one of you has a long list of successes about which to be happy and proud.

Go off now into the holiday break by congratulating yourself. Enjoy your time with family and friends. We will rejoin each other in 2012, ready to move forward again.

Linda and I wish you all a joyous holiday season.

Paul G. Gaffney II
President



New Website Helps Students Find Affordable Textbooks

Books continued from pg. 1

for the book, and show you all the available prices.

This course-search technology has expanded to now support over 14.2 million students at over 2,500 universities, colleges, and private high schools nationwide.

“I only purchase my books through websites like these,” says senior Sloane Coran. “Half the time professors don’t even use the books, and at the end of the semester at the bookstore’s buyback, I’m lucky if I get back a quarter of what I originally spent. If I can save money, I’d rather go through an online bookstore.”

Another service that is offered on SwoopThat is the free student exchange, which provides a platform for students to buy and sell books with other students at their school. This gives students the option of dealing directly with one another on or off campus. Students can organize the meeting and exchange and not have to worry about paying for postage.

The filters for buying books work just as well in reverse. Instead of finding the cheapest book, a user can see how much a book can be sold for and who is willing to pay which price.

SwoopThat has been compared to Kayak, but for textbooks instead of travel packages. They are not selling the books, they are just providing the convenience and the information. In fact, the company runs solely on small commission made from each transaction, and gains no monetary benefit from the student exchange service.

“We wanted to provide a bookstore solution for students and a better service. Everyone, including myself, thinks of the bookstore as the enemy,” said Simkin. The truth is that bookstores only make a small profit, about 3.4 percent, from students’ purchases.”

“Another great thing we have is that we give the bookstores the option of making their own page on SwoopThat. Once they’re online, students will be able to see the online prices compared to in-store. They’ll be able to

sell directly to the students, and make more money. It’s a great win-win situation for everybody involved,” said Simkin.

Megan McCluskey, textbook manager for the University’s bookstore, doesn’t agree. She has been following the site for about six months now, and doesn’t think they’re a threat yet.

“Anything that can get cheap books for students, I’m a fan of,” says McCluskey. “My problem is that SwoopThat isn’t accurate. When you pick up your schedules on there, the custom books we get for classes won’t show up. It says no textbook required.”

“The way they went about their business was under the radar, and other schools that are just learning about them are actually filing claims to have their information removed from their site,” said McCluskey.

McCluskey thinks students will be confused because SwoopThat’s interface is so similar to the University’s bookstore’s website. “Like I said, I’m a big fan of cheap books, but I don’t think SwoopThat is accurate and the best choice for students.”

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DECEMBER 15**

1 PM – 5 PM

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ANACON, 2ND FL**


Door prizes

Games

snacks

Puppies!

massages



Fountain Gardens Residents Must Pay Fee to Stay During Break

JOANNA ZIETARA
CO-NEWS EDITOR

This winter break, the Fountain Gardens apartments will be empty unless students can afford to pay an extra \$278 charge associated with staying there during the month.

The University’s Office of Residential Life offers off-campus housing at three locations: Pier Village, the Diplomat Apartments and Fountain Gardens Apartments. All students living at University sponsored housing have the choice to remain in the apartment during the break. All students must submit a request form at the Office of Residential Life by December 15 if they wish to stay during break, but only Fountain Gardens students will be charged a fee for staying. Students are questioning why the charge is only applied to Fountain Gardens and upset that the charge is implemented.

“I think it is unfair that students have to pay a fee for staying in an apartment that they are already paying for in their tuition,” said Alex Fillimon, a senior living at Fountain Gardens. “I think there shouldn’t be a charge for staying in the complex during winter break.”

TJ Graham, a sophomore, said he was hoping to attain a seasonal job in the area and was planning to stay in Long Branch before finding out that there is a charge associated with staying.

“I think it is absolutely ridiculous. The apartments are not being used by anyone else during break anyway and we pay more money than it costs



PHOTO COURTESY of Joanna Zietara

University students who reside in the Fountain Gardens Apartments have to pay a \$278 fee if they wish to stay during winter break.

to live in a house,” Graham said. “We should be able to stay. I would have looked for a job if I had the choice, but I don’t because I can’t live in my apartment that I pay \$7,000 per year to live in.”

According to Eric Mochnacz, Area Coordinator for Off-Campus Housing, any student who decides to stay during winter break without paying the fee and filing a request form might be subjected to expulsion from the apartment complex.

The reason for the fee at Fountain Gardens is the type of lease that students agree to in order to reside at the apartment complex. According to Mochnacz, Fountain Gardens is the only University-sponsored off-campus housing complex out of the three others that has a semester-by-semester lease. The other two have a nine month lease from September through May.

The Fountain Gardens complex costs \$3,586 per semester; The Dip-

lomats cost \$7,588 for both semesters. The price difference between the two apartment complexes per school year is \$416.

“We always try to improve students’ experiences off campus but we also try to be fair,” said Jim Pillar, Associate Vice President of Student Services. “The Diplomats students are paying more for ultimately the same living conditions because it’s a yearly lease. Fountain Gardens is semester-by-semester so we cut that \$400 out of the payment.”

According to Mochnacz, the Office of Residential Life tries to keep the prices of off-campus housing affordable for students by giving them multiple options. “The price range between the three complexes allows students to make the choice that is best for them financially,” he said. “Part of the affordability of the Fountain Gardens lies in the fact that it is a semester-to-semester lease.”

Facebook’s Privacy Settings Will be Made More Secure

Facebook continued from pg. 1

significant way without getting your consent.”

Harris also brings to attention how some users do not know how to properly use privacy settings on social media websites. “Some users put perhaps too much information out there for the world to see. Facebook has broadened horizons and reached across the age barriers and became more advanced, with more active users, more user-targeted advertisements, and facial recognition software. So Facebook might not be as safe as people think, even when we set privacy standards,” said Harris.

Ed Christensen, Vice President for Information Management, said, “In many ways, we’re not socially or legally ready for this and this is a very common theme in technology,” he said. “Technology is introduced, the social system lags in terms of the way we handle that technology appropriate.”

According to Harris, advertisers use Facebook as a medium for selling their messages or products due to the ease of finding consumers based on the interests users place on their profiles. “It is not coincidence that the strip of ads on the right hand side of the Facebook window match the interests of the user; nothing is by accident in advertising. And whatever we choose to put on Facebook is not a secret either, even if we make our page private,” said Harris.

“I’m going to take a lot of information that I’ve had on Facebook off. I’ve linked a lot of profiles like YouTube, LinkedIn and Twitter, and if Facebook is going to give away information they can go through other sites and possibly get information that way,” said Brad Brown, junior.

Christensen added that Facebook was not taking the necessary steps to maintain its growing community. “This is not the best business for a social site that wants to encourage people to engage with each other.”

However, whether or not advertisers being aware of user interest should be seen as a bad thing or as a breach in privacy is debatable. Users place their interests and hobbies on their profile pages, so can having advertisements geared toward what they would like to see be such a terrible thing?

“I think this is one of the questions we need to think about. On the one hand, we all sit through commercials that have no relevance to us and that seems like a waste of time. So are we better off giving up some privacy if we’re going to have to encounter advertising anyway, or are we better off encountering advertising that is better suited to us? Such as with Amazon,” said Phillips-Anderson. “It’s not just a downside thing, but I think it’s good for us to know how they’re using our information so that we can choose which things to reveal.”

Harris does not believe Facebook to consist of only negative, scandalous issues. “Despite all the negative news out there surrounding Facebook, it has encouraged some good to happen. For instance, if a user has a question or needs an opinion, they can quickly post a status update and receive feedback from friends within minutes. You can message people and you can chat instantly. People use it to replace paper invitations, to share news quickly and effectively, and to keep in touch with people they may otherwise lose touch with. Overall, Facebook has helped people connect to each other quickly and virtually effortlessly,” said Harris.

Israeli Ambassador to Deliver Commencement Address

Winter Commencement Ceremony to be Held at the MAC on January 13

PRESS RELEASE

Ambassador of Israel to the United States Michael Oren will deliver the Commencement Address to Monmouth University graduates at its winter Commencement ceremony and receive an honorary degree on Friday, January 13 at 1:30 pm at the Multipurpose Activity Center (MAC). The University will award approximately 650 undergraduate and graduate degrees. Harry S. Pozyski, chairman and founder of The Citizens Campaign, also will receive an honorary degree during the ceremony.

Ambassador Oren is a graduate of Princeton University and Columbia University, and has received fellowships from the U.S. Departments of State and Defense, and from the British and Canadian governments. Formerly, he was the Lady Davis Fellow of Hebrew University, a Moshe Dayan Fellow at Tel-Aviv University, and the Distinguished Fellow at the Shalem Center in Jerusalem. He has been a visiting professor at Harvard, Yale and Georgetown. Ambassador Oren has written extensively for major newspapers and is author of the bestselling books, *Six Days of War: June 1967 and The Making of the Modern Middle East* and *Power, Faith, and Fantasy: America in the Middle East, 1776 to the Present*. Ambassador Oren was raised in New Jersey and moved to Israel in the 1970s. He acted as an Israeli Emissary to Jewish refuseniks in the Soviet Union, as an advisor to Israel’s delegation to the United Nations and as the government’s director of Inter-Religious Affairs.

Harry Pozyski is the chairman and founder of The Citizens Campaign, a non-partisan volunteer civic empowerment group that teaches citizens that they don’t need to be elected officials to get things done. Pozyski also has authored several model municipal reforms for use by citizen leaders who have won their adoption in over 150 cities and towns. He was the University’s Public Servant in Residence in 2007 and 2008. In 2004, he developed New Jersey’s anti-pay-to-play law, which has been heralded as the strongest in the nation and has served as a model for laws adopted in Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois and Philadelphia. Mr. Pozyski also is the author of *The Citizens’ Manual: Paths to Power for Regular Citizens*. Previously, Mr. Pozyski brought all sides together to pass New Jersey’s Open Public Records Act which gives citizens access to government information so that they can build solutions without waiting for their elected representatives to act. Mr. Pozyski is a 1969 graduate of Brown University and holds a law degree from Fordham Law School. In 1973, he founded a law firm specializing in growth planning and environmental law. In 1997, Mr. Pozyski and his wife Caroline founded what is now The Citizens Campaign.

CRIME BLOTTER

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

12/8/11 - 12:22 PM
PARKING LOT 15

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
AS SIMPLE ASSAULT

12/7/11 - 8:46 PM
PINWOOD HALL

PULA / STUDENT MISCONDUCT

12/10/11 - 8:52 PM
PINWOOD HALL

THEFT

12/10/11 - BETWEEN 10:00 & 11:55 PM
CEDAR HALL

PULA / STUDENT MISCONDUCT

12/11/11 - 3:37 AM
BIRCH HALL

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF

12/11/11 - 4:30 AM
BIRCH HALL

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DEPARTMENT HAS A NEW PHONE NUMBER

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EFFECTIVE JANUARY 17, 2012

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12/7-12/13

Students Get Hands-on Experience in Business Class

JOHN HAREN
STAFF WRITER

This fall, an elective class for the business major embarked on an endeavor that put classroom knowledge to use, and taught students critical lessons that can only be learned through hands-on experience.

The entrepreneurship class, taught by Professor John Buzza, started a company called Total Quality Management. Attracting both Corporate America and stay-at-home mothers, TQM offers 24/7 monitoring of trucking fleets, pampered pets and inquisitive children. The sophisticated software and contemporary technology provide innovative solutions that enhance productivity in the workplace and relieves unavoidable stress for families.

"By offering services to a wide array of clientele, TQM's appeal makes it an exciting young company that has a lot of opportunity," said Buzza, whose 2010 Center for Entrepreneurship at the University won the United States Association for Small Business Innovative Entrepreneurship Educational Course Award.

From a business standpoint, TQM offers companies more

productivity by saving on such expenses as time, gas and unnecessary vehicle wear-and-tear. "By tracking their employees, these companies become aware of sluggish drivers and meandering route salesman," Buzza said.

Some more examples where tracking can blow the whistle on sneaky employees would be with company cars used for pleasure, municipal workers enjoying hidden cul-de-sacs for beauty sleep, and delivery drivers stopping home for lunch and a Sports Center update.

For families, TQM offers peace-of-mind over children who tend to wander at unexpected times. "Being aware of a child's location can help at amusement parks, school trips and family vacations," Buzza said. With TQM software capability readily available on a parent's cell phone, sauntering children can be located within seconds, preventing any potential harm that

could occur.

The small device that can be either clipped on a child's pants or worn as a bracelet would have the mechanism for sending a signal to the cellphone or computer. TQM's website shows these fashionable color bracelets along with startling statistics that highlight the im-

edge of business and marketing together and decipher which strategies and techniques would best propel their company forward. In doing this, students were able to obtain real-life experience through business interaction while being guided by a seasoned entrepreneur, Professor Buzza.

"I wanted my students to get the best experience in the business world," Buzza said, "and as a result, they have learned skills that they can take with them the rest of their lives."

Steve DeCarlo, a senior, is one of the students who has gained those skills and learned invaluable lessons in his involvement with TQM.

"I have gained a stronger sense of determination because of this class, and as a result, have improved my work ethic tremendously," said DeCarlo. "The pragmatic approach to starting a business is encapsulated in this

course, and the experience has taught me fundamentals that will be critical to finding success in the future."

Some of those fundamentals include establishing a network, marketing the product, and initiating a solid rapport with potential customers. "A lot of extra effort is put forth by the students after class to ensure that progress is being made with the company," DeCarlo said.

Students are in contact with companies in the U.S., Europe and Asia to familiarize their product with those markets, and hopefully create business once an LLC is established.

In hearing about the growth and future potential of TQM, senior, Emily Curry, complimented the students involved. "I think it's fantastic that they have the opportunity to apply their knowledge of business in an environment that is similar to what it will be like in the business world," said Curry. "Their success should give them confidence in doing great things after graduation."

To learn more about the services offered by Total Quality Management and Tracking INC, visit tqmtracking@gmail.com.

"The pragmatic approach to starting a business is encapsulated in this course, and the experience has taught me fundamentals that will be critical to finding success in the future."

STEVEN DECARLO
Senior Business Mayor

portance of using child locating equipment in today's unpredictable world.

K-9's can also sport a collar that holds the device, assuring owners a quick retrieval of their squirrel-chasing terrier.

But before arriving at this promising juncture in the company's early start, students had to collectively pool their knowl-

\$33.08 Thanksgiving Drive Raises \$1,543.28

PRESS RELEASE

As a way to kick off the holiday season, members of the First Year Service Project (FYSP) facilitated the second annual \$33.08 monetary donation drive. First year students determined that it would take approximately \$33.08 in order to buy a Thanksgiving meal with all of the essentials: a turkey, potatoes, green beans, stuffing, etc.

When starting the drive, the group of first year students set a goal of raising \$500, which would feed around 15 families. However, with the support of campus offices, faculty, staff, students, organizations, and the First Year Seminar courses, the FYSP was able to raise \$1,543.28, which is equivalent to feeding around 50 families.

Once the money was raised, the FYSP administrators and student coordinators purchased canned goods and Thanksgiving related food which was taken to Long Branch Middle School, which runs annual holiday food drives that benefit local families. The FYSP was also given the opportunity to assist specific families which were found through the Office of Service Learning and Community Programs here on campus. Any funds that were

not used will be put towards hunger related holiday drives in the area.

The FYSP would like to thank everyone who participated in this year's \$33.08 drive. First year

students recognize that without the constant support of their peers, faculty, and staff, their objective to help local families during the holidays could not be fulfilled.



PHOTO COURTESY of Susan Damaschke

Student Coordinators (from left: Ryan Murphy, Shannen Wilson and Rachel Garduce) who work with the First Year Service Project shopping for Thanksgiving food with the fundraised money.

Memo to Prevent Crime and Harassment

Crime continued from pg. 1

is to clearly show any trends that may be taking place on campus. Crimes of this sort often indicate the need for education and training on a wide variety of topics including cultural diversity and respect for all members of the campus community," McElrath said.

"There is really nothing a victim can do to prevent harassment. To suggest a victim can somehow prevent harassment suggests that the victim may be doing something wrong. This is never the case in a bias or harassment type incident. I believe the best way to prevent bias and harassment type incidents are to educate the campus community on tolerance; and to arrest and prosecute those who violate the laws in regard to these matters," McElrath added.

Furthermore, McElrath commented on what MUPD is doing to increase protection on campus. The University Police are always working on new ways to improve campus safety whether it is through technology, education or deployment of personnel. Recent improvements to campus safety include surveillance cameras, card access systems and education in crime prevention.

"In light of the Penn State in-

cident, the University recently conducted an educational session on the need and responsibility to immediately report all campus crimes to the proper authorities," McElrath said.

Julian R. Williams, Director of Affirmative Action & Human Relations, also reviewed the Memo and feels that "generally, the campus is very safe." He said the benefit to reporting once every semester is that we are "raising campus awareness on these issues, and providing encouragement for people to report these incidents." He advises that students should report any incident of harassment or hate crime, and stresses the fact that the University cannot respond if they do not know what's going on. "And by not reporting an incident, you can leave it open to happen to someone else," Williams said.

Gaffney concluded, "Monmouth University values the diversity of our campus and is committed to sustaining an environment which is based on the principles of respect of self and others." Moreover, he asks that everyone review the Human Relations Philosophy Statement, Discrimination/Sexual Harassment Policy, Bias/Hate Related Incidents/Crimes Policy, and the Clery Act which can all be found on the attached email.

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Occupying Off-Campus Housing During Breaks

THE OUTLOOK STAFF OPINION

College life is nothing without dormitories and off-campus housing where students learn a great deal about independence. However, when coming close to the end of the semester, such freedom can feel like it is ending. While it stands to reason that some students are excited to go back home, other may have different reasons to stay and want to remain in their housing through the break until the following semester begins.

For the most part, this situation is geared more toward those living in off-campus housing than dormitories. Although there are some dormitories that have kitchens, those who live in off-campus housing, students are given more amenities, in addition to having a form of transportation. With dorms, it means more work for the University police to make sure everything is safe and sound at a time that's generally void of students. If you have the accommodations to allow living off-campus and choosing to remain there, why should students have to depart?

For some students, this means taking a leave of absence from any employment they might have while on campus. If they are working at a store in the mall or a local business to earn money for classes, book, etc., then it could put a dent on their plans. In other words, this would mean leaving one job and searching for another for only a few weeks. Staying in the area would allow students to keep working and then use that money for tuition, etc.

This financial issue is a key factor in allowing off-campus University sponsored housing to stay open for students when semesters are over. Today, it would be an understatement to say money is tight for everyone except the one percent. Therefore, if students travel far and wide

to come to the University to study from places like Florida, California, or Nebraska to name a few, should they really have to spend more money to go back home only to leave a couple of weeks later? The University could maybe offer a price break here for students that live far away to pay a certain price for living during the year and then pay a smaller dividend during breaks. Who knows? This could be cheaper than having to buy a plane ticket back.

Keeping off-campus housing open for students during breaks should also be considered for international students that are not only acquiring an education at the campus but getting a taste of American culture. This could allow them the chance to explore what the US has to offer that couldn't be viewed while studying. However, this also ties with the previous reasoning that maybe it is easier to just stay on campus until classes begin than to venture back home and return at a later date.

Then again, for some, living in off-campus housing keeps them in a warm, safe place. If students don't really have a place to return home, then staying in these houses can be extremely helpful. It gives them the home they might not have where they came from and help set forth a plan for their own home in the future.

Of course, this isn't to say that the University doesn't offer its students the opportunity to stay in their off-campus housing during breaks. All one has to do is get permission to remain in their housing when the semester is done. However, so many individuals might be submitting claims to stay during breaks that some get chosen over others. So, while it is difficult to leave, this isn't to say that the University doesn't allow people the chance to have a sojourn in the area while classes are done. It can feel like playing the lot-

tery with request to stay, not knowing if you'll hit the jackpot or have to try again. Still, the fact that this is present for students shows that there are ways to work around issues with housing.

Then again, sometimes, going the extra mile might mean paying a couple more dollars. For off-campus housing like Fountain Gardens, students can pay more to be allowed residency in the area during breaks between semesters, however, here it feels like a commitment than a desire. It is like saying that you'll see how things go instead of I'm willing to stay here. This goes for dormitories as well. According to the Office of Residential Life Guidebook 2010-2011, "Students staying during the break period are subject to an additional housing fee, which will be applied to their student account. A supplemental housing contract must also be signed by students staying during any break period."

However, one also can't rule out the issue of insurance and students. Having students stay in housing off-campus might be sound with their own living utilities but it could cost more to make sure everything is running for them. Who's to say that this wouldn't increase paying for housing even more than before?

Overall, we aren't saying that everyone wants to say on campus during breaks. There are definitely many out there reading this who can't wait to go home, sleep in their own beds, and get a nice helping of home-cooked meals. These are a few reasons why students should have the opportunity to live in off-campus housing when they aren't writing term papers or studying textbooks. Although the University does work with students who choose to stay on campus during breaks, maybe more can be done for those who want to partake in off-campus housing dur-



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BECOME A FAN



Stop Procrastinating... Starting Tomorrow

NANA BONSU
STAFF WRITER

It is 11:45 pm and you are sitting at your computer furiously typing away. To the outside world, you are a dedicated student staying up late to get your work done and should be commended. However, what they do not know is that you are on page two of your seven page term paper that accounts for 40 percent of your final grade and needs to be dropboxed by midnight. Procrastination. We all do it. But why?

If there is one thing most college students know well, it is the act of procrastination. "I'll start studying for the exam when I get back from work." "I'm going to get some lunch, and when I get back I really am going to get started on that pile of homework on my desk." My personal favorite is, "I'll work on my paper after my power nap, that way, I am more refreshed."

Everyone procrastinates sometimes, even college professors. "Your papers will be graded by tomorrow." "I'll have the grades posted on e-campus by tonight." "I don't have a handout so I'll send out an email with instructions for the assignment."

Although procrastination is a normal part of life, it is important to realize when it becomes a major problem. According to psychologytoday.com, "20 percent of people are true procrastinators who consistently avoid difficult tasks and deliberately look for distraction." People who often wait until the last minute to do things tell themselves that they perform better under pressure, but waiting to do things only increases the chance for mistakes.

Procrastination can be a difficult habit to break. People who are accus-

tomed to waiting until the day before a paper is due before they start writing, or mailing an RSVP card one week before the event, even though they have had the invitation for sev-

things that work for them, and for some, procrastination is a method that has carried them throughout life. Not to say that it is right or wrong, but how can we stop a habit that is part

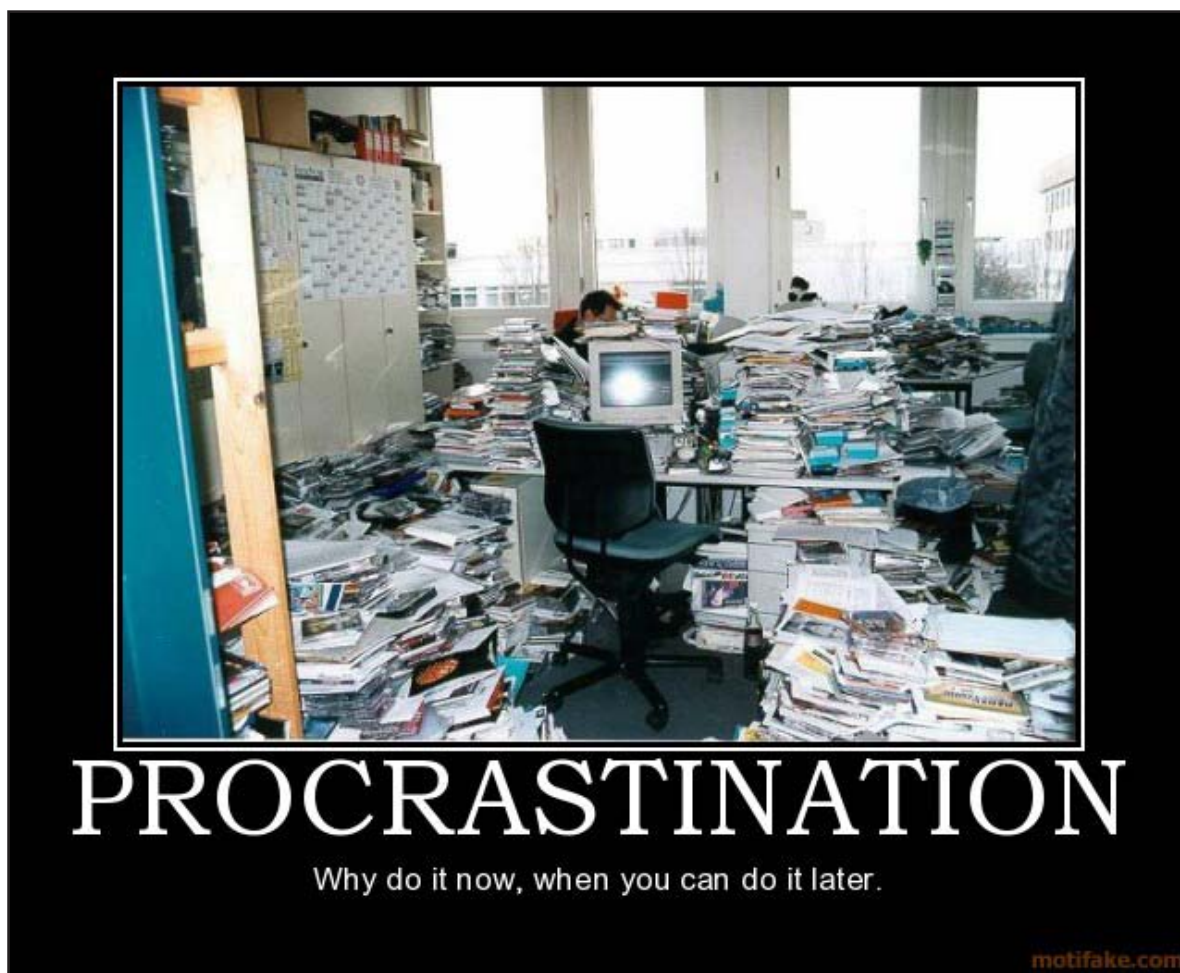
considered as procrastination? It is impossible to perform three tasks at once, so there must be prioritization. For some, waiting until the last minute to complete an assignment does

is the fact that people sometimes need to be in the right mood to do things. If you have a five page paper to write about a topic that was not of your choosing, you may not be in the mood to write it as soon as it is assigned. Sometimes, it takes a while for people to feel inspired before they start working on things. This method may not work for everyone, but to each his own.

On the other hand, for those who procrastinate and still get nothing done, there are ways to change. Gradual change is the best for true procrastinators to evolve. Because they are used to always doing things very late, it will be an adjustment to completely alter their system. Making use of a daily planner can help with putting things in order. If you list that you are going to do things on a certain day, stick to your schedule and actually do things on that day. Also, when it comes to school work, the best way to complete a large task is to do a little at a time. Start by writing one page per day, leaving enough time for revision, instead of waiting until the night before it is due to start working on a paper.

Although we all do it, procrastination is not the right route for everyone. Some people can manage high pressure levels and others fall apart when placed on extreme stress. The most important thing to note is how your system has been working for you up until this point in life. If you procrastinate but are able to get things done with a certain level of quality that makes you proud, keep doing what you are doing.

However, if you are a true procrastinator who only earns C's on assignments because you rush through them, maybe it is time to change the way you do things.



Procrastination can really make or break some of us, and yet it's a habit we just can't break.

eral weeks, are settled in their ways, and it can tough to change, but is change really necessary?

Everyone has systems of doing

of human nature? With so much to do and so little time to do it, people are constantly putting off one task for another, but why should that be

not faze them.

Another concept people do not take into consideration when casting judgment toward procrastinators,

Look Before You Eat

CHRISTINA HARTEL
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Think you know what you're eating? According to the USDA, in 2009, 93 percent of soy, 93 percent of cotton, and 86 percent of corn grown in the U.S. were GMOs, "genetically modified organisms." GMOs are organisms that have been created through techniques of biotechnology (also called genetic engineering, or GE).

This relatively new science allows DNA from one species to be injected into another species in a laboratory, creating combinations of plant, animal, bacteria, and viral

genes that do not occur in nature or through traditional crossbreeding methods. Surprised? Incredible isn't it?

"Pesticide companies develop genetically engineered food crops by combining deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) from plants, animals, bacteria and viruses, to contain or resist pesticide, which results in more pesticides sold and sprayed," says Michael Hansen, Chief Scientist of Consumers Union. "Genetically engineered foods contain untested novel foreign compounds that can be detrimental to our health."

American consumers deserve

the choice whether they want to eat GMOs. In 30 other countries around the world, including Australia, Japan, and all of the countries in the European Union, there are significant restrictions or outright bans on the production of GMOs because they are not proven to be safe.

In the US on the other hand, the FDA approved commercial production of GMOs based on studies conducted by the companies who created them and profit from their sale.

Robert Brackett, the Director for the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition at the Food and Drug Administration stated in a

testimony before the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry that FDA is confident that the bioengineered foods in the United States market today are as safe as their conventional counterparts. The FDA has found no evidence to indicate that DNA inserted into plants using bioengineering presents food safety problems.

The FDA does not require labeling to indicate whether a food or food ingredient is a bioengineered product. It also does not require labeling to indicate which conventional breeding technique was used in developing a food plant. According to an ABC News Poll, 93 per-

cent of Americans say the federal government should require labels on food saying whether it's been genetically modified or not.

Surely the use of GMOs will continue, but we have a right to know what's in our food. At least if it has a label we can choose to buy it or not. Currently we're in the dark. Awareness might make a difference next time you find yourself in a grocery store.

Look for non-GMO labeled foods and buy organic products when you can.

Visit justlabelit.org/takeaction if you want to sign the petition to tell the FDA to label our food.

All Good Things Come in Pairs

MARA MCINERNEY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I believe that twins share a bond deeper than any other relationship in this world.

The entire experience of being a twin has promoted wonder, curiosity and what seemed like an obnoxious question - "do you like having a twin?" The truth is, I don't know what it is like to not have one, as this is the only life I have known. My unique circumstance has helped me live an interesting life.

Some people seem offended by the statement that "twins" are the closest of any set of siblings and often attempt to get defensive. I have heard statements that are endearing, such as "me and my sibling are only 13 months apart, we are just like twins." This is not accurate in my opinion. Actually for us, we have other siblings that are "close to our age" and from a first-hand experience, I can state that the bond is in no way, shape or form "the same!"

How can anything be compared

with sharing the womb with someone for nine months? Being born minutes apart and having someone the same exact age as

you, sharing every significant moment together for the rest of your life; how can this be compared with siblings who are months apart? Through photographs and memory enhancement from the stories told by my parents, the sharing started as soon as we came home. We were placed in a cradle together, where we are told that we used to steal each other's pacifiers, cried, slept

and ate at the same time. Rituals that "singleton siblings" do not get experience together, that we did - were our baptism, commu-

through it all. That is just special in its own right.

As fraternal twins, our differences are not what separated

he was not a "princess boy" - we merely just wanted to do everything together.

Not only did my twin and I experience activities and every significant moment together, but also every obstacle as well; the chaos of puberty, relationship disappointments, and losses. These obstacles served as a learning experience and guided us through the period of time where one discovers who they are and what they want for themselves.

I know I can count on him for anything. Of course as in any relationship, we have our disagreements and our ups and downs but I know that we will always love each other with everything we are. I am fully aware that in time me and my twin will form new families and new relationships, but no matter what, the bond I have with my twin will never leave me. He will always be a special part of me. I believe that twins share a bond deeper than any other relationship in this world because I am in it!



PHOTO COURTESY of Mara McInerney

Twins are believed to share a unique bond like no other siblings.

nion, confirmation, birthdays, graduations, getting a drivers license; this person is by your side

baseball and basketball and he took ice-skating and gymnastic lessons. I was not a tomboy and

Only One More Year

ANDREA DOOLEY
STAFF WRITER

The end of the world seems to be as insignificant as a trending topic on Twitter these days. Any crazy person can get on the news and alert the public that the end is near, and then he or she is made a mockery of when life and time is still in existence.

The 2009 John Cusack flick “2012” may have struck some fear into the hearts and minds of the non-believers. It made \$166.1 million in the box office, but Hollywood produced blockbusters are merely for entertainment purposes, and not many people want to take them seriously.

However, according to the Mayan calendar, the world will end on December 21, 2012. But even still, you can’t be too sure how credible the Mayans are. They couldn’t even predict their own extinction.

Ironically, Nostradamus, the famous French apothecary who lived during the 1500s, also predicted that the world would end in December of the year 2012.

For me, it is chilling that Nostradamus is credited with predicting many of the world’s major events, hundreds of years before they occurred. In his writings, he seems to have predicted the death of Princess Diana, the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, and the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center.

What if the predictions were real? What if in just one year from now, a mere 365 days, the world came to a devastating end? What if

you knew it was going to happen? How would you live your last year on Earth?

Rapper Mase released a song in 1997 entitled “24 Hours to Live,” which asked the unfathomable question, “If you had 24 hours to live, just think, where would you go, what would you do?”

Listening to the song and the witty responses of DMX, and at the time “Puff Daddy,” I began to ask myself a similar question. What would I do if I had only one year left to live? Where would I go? The thought is a scary one to say the least. In one year I would be just a few months out of college, and barely 22-years-old.

Having one year left to do all the things I would want to do throughout my lifetime seems impossible, but if it came down to it, my bucket

list would contain the most life changing of experiences. I want to see the world.

In this life we are living now, we take everything for granted, and I am no exception. In college, we are

bubble. I would want to see the way people live in other parts of the world. I would want to experience waking up early everyday not by the sound of my cell phone alarm, but instead by the sound of nature and thriving life.

I want to go everywhere, and see everything; from the Amazon in South America, to the penguins in Antarctica. I want to walk the Great Wall of China, and swim along the Great Barrier Reef. There are so many amazing things this world has to offer, and we tend to ignore that because of everything else that takes priority in our lives.

I don’t want to worry about money or the material things that have become so important but in the long run have no meaning. I want to live simply, like we were meant to. I want to value who I am, not what

I have.

I don’t want to be consumed by technology. I want to be consumed by the beauty of nature and amazed at the natural wonders of the world. I want to see things without googling them. I want to live care-free, without a worry or moment of anxiousness.

I want to forget about Facebook, and Twitter, and e-mail. I don’t want to send texts or receive texts. The only form of social networking I want to engage in is with the people who surround me.

If a time limit was put on my days left, I could not imagine filling even a single minute with man-made technologies that we have become so dependent on. I believe there is so much more to life.

I want to help people, in whatever way I can. So many are less fortunate but embrace life for what it is. I would like to lend a helping hand to people who work hard for little in return. I would like to take a walk in someone else’s shoes, and I would like to change someone’s life.

It’s a strange thought, “the end of the world.” We don’t know how or when it’s going to happen. It could be next year, or a million years from now. I suppose since we don’t know, and we more than likely won’t know, we should live everyday like it’s to be our last. For me, it is more important to see and experience than it is to tweet and text. Live life for what it really is, and not what technological advances and the obsession with money have made it become.



The Mayan calendar is supposed to end in 2012, but just because the calendar ends does not mean the world has to end with it.

Happy Christmahanakwanzika!

NINA INCORVAIA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Let’s face it, the holiday season is upon us. There is no more putting it off. Everywhere we turn from Wilson Hall to the dorm’s decorations, the holidays are thrust into our faces. Perhaps the most obvious sign of the holidays is the television specials we all know and love.

There are the “25 days of Christmas” on ABC Family, “A Christmas Story” on every channel at least once, and the “Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree Lighting.” Now hang on a minute, what do all these television specials have in common? They are all solely about the Christmas holiday. Not once do you find a Hanukkah television show (besides the one-time “Rugrats” Hanukkah special that aired 15 years ago) or a Kwanza special aired on national television. In our lifetimes, national television has only aired one children’s holiday special that had nothing to do with the most commonly celebrated holiday during this season, Christmas.

Why does the world neglect the fact that Christmas is not the only holiday occurring this time of year? Does the United States not pride itself in its cultural diversity? The lack of media and representation of the other holidays featured during the Christmas season has posed a problem for years. However, the United States government is trying to take small steps towards diversifying the holiday season.

Since the 1980’s, the United States

government has continuously tried to limit the media from using references solely towards Christmas during the holiday season. To support the separation of church and state, public mentions of Christmas trees are now called “holiday trees” instead. The government also attempted to censor the New York City public school system by replacing the word “Christmas” in classic festive songs and banning nativity scenes

by Christmas. Wilson Hall is clearly decorated in strict regards solely towards this holiday. Whether they are called holiday trees or not, the abundance of trees in the most historic building on campus, Wilson Hall, is a symbol of Christmas whether we like it or not. Though the University clearly represents Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa decorations are harder to find than a needle in a haystack. Emily Halpern, junior and member of Alpha Xi Delta sorority states, “Being Jewish, I do appreciate the Menorah the University has in the Student Center and also the Hanukkah decorations in the windows in McAllan Hall, but I feel that in this day and age, our world is entirely Christmas oriented. Unfortunately, us in the minority just have to accept that fact.” Halpern is right in her theory about this day and age, but will there ever be a way to diversify the holidays?

This change in the holidays may never come to the United States due to the staple television specials that air each year and the music that will forever be associated with Christmas. Though a complete change will not happen, us at the University can influence others to make an effort to make small changes to represent other holidays. An individual can simply change their “Merry Christmas” to “Happy Holidays” to help support holiday diversity. This small change will not only show maturity as an individual but it can also show that you have compassion and consideration for the melting-pot we call home. We can be the change.



Wilson Hall is decorated every year for the holidays.

from lobbies. These were only a few of the proactive steps that the government has taken to encourage diversity, but people still continue to promote their own holidays above all others.

I am sure walking around this holiday season you have noticed the trend of Christmas decoration everywhere you go. Even on our beloved campus, we are overpowered

H2O h No

MICHELLE POTERALA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Imagine having to worry everyday if you and your family were going to die from dehydration. Imagine having to drink from a contaminated river because you did not have access to safe drinking water. This is a reality for billions of people today.

For most of us, this would be pretty difficult to picture but that is because we live in a developed country with an abundance of available clean drinking water.

Developed nations such as the United States often take for granted the fact that we have clean accessible water at our fingertips.

the article “Walking on the Tightrope” by Mingqian Li.

China is currently facing major water issues as well. 300 of China’s largest cities are considered to be short of water, according to the article “Asian Affairs: An American Review” by Todd Hofstedt.

This article also states that China has less than seven percent of the world’s freshwater yet it accounts for 20 percent of the world’s total population. This uneven equation creates the dilemma of not enough clean water for China.

Ironically, the world’s most impoverished people have to pay the most for clean water, while the world’s most affluent pay next to

This system does provide clean water to those in developing nations however it over charges and takes advantage of the vulnerable people that have the world’s absolute lowest income to begin with.

The thought of not being able to have safe water to drink has not ever occurred to most of us. If only every person in this world was this lucky.

Roughly 3.4 million people lose their lives from firsthand consumption of unsafe water or diseases infected by organisms living in polluted water.

Each year nearly 2.2 million die of diarrhea, 17,000 from intestinal worms, 1.1 million from malaria and 15,000 from fever. This is especially common in the developing nations because there is a large abundance of impoverished people that greatly rely on biodiversity.

Therefore, they endure the consequences more greatly than those in developed regions according to

nothing for sanitary water.

According to a study done in 2006 conducted by the United Nations’ Human Development Report found that over one billion people are negated the right to sanitary water and 2.6 billion do not have the access to sufficient clean water. A controversial response to help aide the developing nations is the privatization of water.

This system does provide clean water to those in developing nations however it over charges and takes advantage of the vulnerable people that have the world’s absolute lowest income to begin with.

Water is a natural renewable resource that is vital to every human being’s life. No one should be denied this.

Wherever You Go, Go With All Your Heart

SANDRA MEOLA
POLITICS EDITOR

Here's where politics gets a little mushy, gushy, and cliché. Who knew, right? The first thing Professor Morano taught me on the first day of Intro to Journalism was, "journalists are story tellers"... so here's mine:

I first came to college afraid of change, terrified to leave the nest that made high school so comfortable. After a summer filled with anxiety, I met the girl I would share the majority of my college memories with. Back then Gina Columbus didn't have a Facebook yet, so naturally I thought she would be a complete weirdo and/or stare at me while I sleep. Thank goodness I was wrong.

The first week of classes, Gina wasted no time at all and had her first news story. Freshman year passed quickly and my studious roommate became a part of the best friend tri-pod along with my fellow Hawthorne High-Schooler, Ajda Dotday.

Sophomore year, I was coerced by Gina into copyediting for *The Outlook*. I've always loved writing but thought that it was pointless for me to become heavily involved when journalism isn't even my major. "It's funny how things work out" should be my life motto or something because the following semester I was thrown into the position of Entertainment Editor. I had absolutely no idea what I was doing and would cheat with my word spacing in InDesign all the time.

After a semester of covering random art shows and drag queen performances, I was dubbed Politics Editor at the beginning of my junior year; the same semester Gina became Editor-in-Chief. I became passionate about the section and urged others to care about the social issues I cared about so enthusiastically. People probably thought I was a nutcase.

Now, three and a half years after first walking into the office, I'm looking back at how much I've grown as a student and a person and realizing that my involvement on staff had a whole lot to do with it. The staff soon became a family. The office became a home. (Sandy became our mother away from home.)

I can't effectively thank every single person that has helped me over the years because there are too many to mention, but I'll try my best.

First of all, a huge thank you to my parents for always encouraging me to be the best I could be. I hope I've proven that all the money you spent on my tuition didn't go to waste. It was a good run.

Gina, I'm so glad we went through this together. You're an amazing Editor-in-Chief and an even better friend. I remember we hung up your first article in

our Elmwood dorm room and being so inspired and proud of you. I'm even more proud of you today. Thank you for always being there for me and dealing with my strange sleeping habits. We've been through a whole lot together from hiding you from napkin throwing man in Phoenix, frolicking in the snow, playing ding-dong-ditch, hyperventilating during my first plane ride, and walking the Hollywood Walk of Fame, to four years of chocolate molten lava cakes and awkward present times and going pumpkin picking and not even picking out a pumpkin. This paper would not be as awesome as it is today if it wasn't for you. All your hard work, numerous late-nighters, pinching Brett, and excessive drinking (of stress tea) really paid off. I'm not saying goodbye to you because I know we'll be friends until we're crazy old ladies.

Brett, I could write a whole book documenting our lives over the past three years we've known each other. I remember the first day I met you thinking how you seemed like such a sweet, innocent freshman. That was short lived. I would have never thought that I would be the one taking care of you on your 21st birthday. From all the jokes and heart-to-hearts we've had, I wouldn't have it any other way. You are by far one of the funniest people I've ever met and I'm so thankful to call you one of my best friends. You're a huge reason why the staff is as close as we are today. Although wildly inappropriate, you always know how to make everyone laugh (except Jenna). I'll miss you so much but I have full confidence that you will thrive next year.

Anthony aka Formal Date aka Pending Husband, I know you're the most upset that I won't be returning next semester. I'm going to miss seeing your face throughout the day, with your feet up and a paper in your hand when I come into the office. Remember that time in public policy...anyway.

Joanna, I'll never forget our special night in Los Angeles! When I think of you, a lot comes to mind: making a human pyramid during the blackout and working the Open House together freshman year, running out of a party and hiding for a solid half hour when a cop car was nowhere in sight, being escorted into Level Three in L.A., counting down the New Year together, and trekking through the woods in Ray's backyard. You really are an amazing person and I know you're going to be so successful. Don't forget about New Jersey!

Jenna, you're a rock star. I still have to come over for your cooking. Have fun with Brett and Nick next year! Ha.

Matt, thanks for always giving me story ideas. You're the only one on staff who likes watching the news as much as I do. Don't

be too stressed next year! You're great at what you do.

Amanda, Chris Netta, and Martyna- an overwhelming thank you for being the BEST grad assistants, mentors, and friends.

Nick, in the short time I've known you, all I can say is you've grown on me. Whenever I think of the Grinch, I'll think of you ;).

Jackie, you've taken on not only one section, but two this semester and have done an amazing job in the short amount of time you've been here so far. Keep up the good work!

Kelly and Matt, you two are fantastic and huge assets to the paper. Thanks for making us such a better paper.

A special thanks to Frank aka Cupcake for throwing me into an editor position when I had no idea what I wanted to do. You've given me the most valuable advice I ever could have received.

Sandy, thank you so much for always keeping the office in line and always being there for us for when we needed you. You really are appreciated so much by all of us.

Evelyn, you're the best and so wise when it comes to relationship advice, especially your bus stop theory!

Professor Morano, thanks for the great story suggestions and always being so helpful. You got the ball rolling for me and I'm glad I ran with it. Without you, I wouldn't know how to pretend to be a communication major.

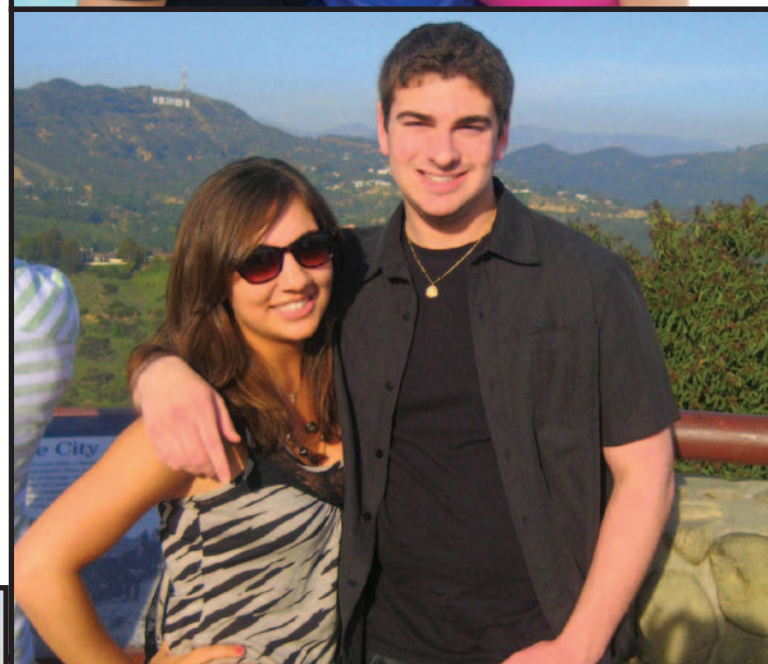
Ray, thank you for your comic relief and peppiness on slow days.

Finally, thank you to everyone who has read and enjoyed the section.

Being a part of *The Outlook* staff wasn't just something I was putting time into to add to my resume. It became a second home, a group of friends, and a safe haven to expand my experience of not only politics and journalism, but also how to work with people. I consider the experience a luckily rare one.

It's safe to say that I wholeheartedly enjoyed these past four years. I really don't think I would have changed a thing. I found my niche. From starting out as a shy and awkward freshman, I stepped out of my comfort zone and joined a sorority filled with some of the most amazing girls I know, completed an internship that influenced me towards my career path, and studied abroad in Italy, allowing me to find a passion so strong, I didn't know I had the capability of feeling.

And of course, I joined *The Outlook*, a place where you can hear the same jokes a million times and still can't help but laugh. So here's to the past. But more importantly here's to us and our futures. Chris, I now leave the pages of politics in your hands. Be the best you can be. Love you all. Tootles.



The Resurrection of Newt Gingrich

DEREK DELUCA
STAFF WRITER

News of Newt Gingrich has been exploding over the past few months. Gingrich was a major force in American politics in the 80s and 90s. He was the architect of the Republican Revolution in 1994 that jolted the Republican party to power in both houses of Congress.

Now he is now running for the Republican nomination for President of the United States, currently head-to-head with Mitt Romney.

In 1974, Gingrich made his first bid for political office as the Republican candidate in Georgia's sixth congressional district, which stretched from the suburbs of Atlanta to the Alabama state line.

He nearly defeated 20-year incumbent Democrat Jack Flynt, losing by only 2,770 votes. He tried again in 1976, losing again by 5,100 votes. The third time, Gingrich defeated Flynt by nine points. Flynt decided to retire instead of facing Gingrich again.

However, most University students know Gingrich as the former Speaker of the House. His accomplishments while in office include welfare reform, balancing the federal budget, taxpayer relief, the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995, and the

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, among many other pieces of legislation.

Gingrich and his supporters pushed for passage of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act, which was intended to reconstruct the welfare system.

The act gave state governments more autonomy over welfare delivery, while also reducing the federal government's responsibilities. It instituted the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families program, which placed time limits on welfare assistance and replaced the longstanding Aid to Families with Dependent Children program.

Other changes to the welfare system included stricter conditions for food stamp eligibility, reductions in immigrant welfare assistance, and recipient work requirements.

Gingrich also led the charge to balance the federal budget. The plan included a total of \$152 billion in Republican sponsored tax cuts over five years. Other major parts of the spending plan called for \$115 billion to be saved through a restructuring of Medicare, \$24 billion set aside to extend health insurance to children of the working poor, tax credits for college tuition, and a \$2 billion welfare-to-work jobs initiative.

During Gingrich's tenure as Speaker, the United States federal government shut down for the longest period in American history. The government shut down of 1995 and 1996 was the result of conflicts between President Clinton and the Congress over funding for Medicare, education, the environment, and public health. Clinton vetoed the spending bill the Republican-controlled Congress sent him.

Eighty-four ethics charges were filed against Speaker Gingrich during his term, including claiming tax-exempt status for a college course run for political purposes. Following an investigation by the House Ethics Committee, Gingrich was sanctioned \$300,000.

Back to the positive side, Gingrich has started and managed several very successful companies including Gingrich Group, Gingrich Productions, the Center for Health Transformation, and Gingrich Communications.

In order to attract the youth vote, Newt Gingrich has pioneered social media among the Republican candidates. Currently Gingrich has over 1.3 million followers on Twitter. His nearest rivals, Mitt Romney and Herman Cain, have roughly 170,000 each, followed by Michele Bachmann with 114,000, Rick Perry with 104,000 and Ron Paul with 78,000.



PHOTO COURTESY of inquisitr.com
Newt Gingrich, former Speaker of the House, is now head-to-head with Mitt Romney for the GOP Presidential nomination.

Dr. Kenneth Mitchell of the Political Science Department said, "I suspect neither candidate [Gingrich or Romney] polls well with young voters. Neither offers an attractive message to young voters. Among Republican Party primary voters, young voters tend to support Ron Paul. Thus I am not sure social media presents an advantage for Newt or Mitt, although

it no doubt aids Paul's campaign." According to CNN, former President Clinton recently described Gingrich as, "creative, flexible, and brimming over with new ideas." Clinton said, "I think he's doing well just because he's thinking, and people are hungry for ideas that make some sense. He's being rewarded for thinking."

Political Debate: Electoral System or Popular Vote?

Here students debate political issues of the week. Side 1 students make their initial argument followed by side 2 in which they respond to their opponent.

Side 1: The Electoral System Should Remain the Same

SAM MAYNARD
STAFF WRITER

Throughout the history of the United States, national elections have been decided by a "winner-take-all" system that requires candidates to hold an absolute majority of each state's electoral votes. This system has been essential in American elections in securing the representation of each state and region of the country. It also gives elections a structured and organized way of counting and collecting votes, rather than having a massive count on a national level that could easily become a problem to count accurately. The electoral college is an important component of our national electoral system because it strikes a crucial balance of power between states. Each state is represented similarly to the way they are represented in the House and Senate, with the amount of electors totaling to the amount of Representatives and Senators, 538 (plus three for Washington, D.C.). If

our system were to change, it would damage the voting rights of American citizens, as well as the rights of each state, and ruin the efficient balance of power that was brought about with the abolishment of the Articles of Confederation.

On the surface, a national-popular vote is seemingly an increase in the democratic principles that America was founded on. However, as it is examined more closely, representation would be limited to very high-populated areas of the country like the coasts.

Because each candidate must collect electoral votes from all 50 states, campaign resources must be utilized to garner support from a wide variety of voters. This expands voting and campaign issues to things that all regions of the country find important. If candidates focus on larger states like California or New York, they will obviously focus on issues that affect those citizens to win popularity in states that will benefit them on a national level. As a representa-

tive democracy that holds the rights of states so sacred, it would be a violation of the constitution to adopt a system that would compromise state and individual voting rights in such a negative way.

The rights of states have been emphasized since the drafting of the US constitution. The electoral college protects the rights of states when it comes to elections. Along with giving unfair representation to highly populated regions of the country, it could give an advantage to large individual states. Since the system bases its representation on the provisions set for legislative representation, it has proven to be a logical way to provide each state with a fair say. Without this method of representation, larger states could potentially have more votes based on their populations. This was one of the biggest problems found in the Articles of Confederation that was addressed by the framers in our constitution. Just because Texas is a larger state and may have a higher population

than a state like Nebraska, does not mean it should have a disproportional amount of electoral representation. The Electoral College is a safeguard against tyranny of the majority (or minority) in choosing the elected officials that lead or nation.

The collection and counting of votes would also become a problem under a national-popular vote. As was the case in the 2000 election between candidates Gore and Bush, the state of Florida conducted a recount of votes. If this were the case on a national level, it would raise serious questions as to how this sort of recount would be done. Also, vote-counters would be burdened with a much higher amount of votes that could lead to an increased risk of human error affecting the counting process. The current electoral system is much more efficient because each state is responsible for its own votes. The electoral voters are the able to submit their votes for whichever candidate they choose based on the representation they hold. A

national-popular vote would put serious strains on the electoral system, and possibly make it more difficult for votes to be counted accurately and efficiently.

The electoral college may seem to be an institution obstructing true democracy, but in reality it protects citizens and states from abuses that would most likely plague a national-popular voting system. It guarantees that candidates will address issues important to all American citizens, not just the ones in New York or California.

It also maintains the essential balance of power between states that ensures equal representation in the electoral process. Our system also streamlines the collection of votes and provides protection from human error by keeping the amount of votes proportional and specific to each state. When all of these factors are examined, it becomes clear that our national electoral system is a vehicle in which democracy is preserved, not tarnished.

Side 2: The Electoral System Should be Abolished

DAN ROMAN
STAFF WRITER

One vote. One value. It is a simple concept which has been fought over for generations by those seeking for a fair and balanced election system. The United States of America bases its most beloved principles on democratic values. So, why does our country still have an electoral system that unfairly gives more value to voters in smaller states over bigger states?

For example, Alaska, Delaware, Washington D.C., North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont and Wyoming combined have six million less people than Florida; however they both have the same amount of electoral votes. Therefore, one person's vote from those seven states would count the same as three people's votes from

Florida.

Do people in Wyoming know something that Floridians don't? The basis of the entire system was for people in less populated areas to have proper representation within government.

The argument could be made however that if the electoral system was to be abolished and replaced with a direct popular vote, then candidates would have to appeal to a broader electorate.

Currently, a Presidential candidate could become our commander-in-Chief by only winning the 11 biggest states. In a direct election scenario, every voter's interests would have to be fulfilled. Candidates would travel across the entire country speaking to voters and learning more about our country. Another argument for the electoral system is that it enhances the interests of

the minority. This is missing the entire point of a political system. The interests of the majority need to be taken into consideration before the minority. A President may enact policies benefitting the 600,000 people in Wyoming, but why does it have to be at the expense of the more than 13 million people living in New York City?

Politically, the electoral system generally benefits the Republican party.

The smaller states in which voters have more value are typically those which are won by the Republican candidate.

In 2000, Republican George Bush won the presidency over Democrat Al Gore. Gore got more votes than George Bush did. More people in America wanted Gore but he was not elected. This is a major flaw in our society. Who is to say that because a per-

son moves to a more populated area their vote becomes less valuable? This is saying that certain places in America are more important than others. This should not become a partisan issue it should become an issue of fairness and equality. This becomes a partisan issue because Republicans do not want to give up the unfair advantage they have over their opponents.

Having a direct election presidential system gets rid of the countless hours calculating numbers and values that each state is given.

Also you wouldn't have to worry about all the money and resources that go into allocating electoral votes to each state.

A basic one vote, one value system also could be more easily instituted. Instead of voting for electors who in turn vote for

the corresponding candidate, you would have everyone voting directly for a candidate, and we would never again have a situation as we did in Florida in 2000 where the electoral votes they had was needed to decide who was to become our next President.

If a direct election system was in use, Gore would have become the 43rd President of the United States, and there would have been no court cases, or months of uncertainty that surrounded the nation.

Abolish the electoral system and replace it with a direct-election where one person's vote equals one value.

The vote of a hard working single mother in Florida would be the same as the rancher in Wyoming. It would be democratic, it would be easier to institute, and most importantly it would be fair.



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If you were stranded on a deserted island, what two items would you want with you?

COMPILED BY: JACKLYN KOUFATI



*Ben
freshman*

"A compass and a chart."



*Liz
sophomore*

"An iPhone and a boat."



*Megan
sophomore*

"A blanket and a water bottle."



*Melissa
freshman*

"Another person to keep me company and my cell phone."



*Mike
sophomore*

"A cell phone and an airplane."



*Brianna
sophomore*

"Shoes and a cell phone."



*Kelly Rose
sophomore*

"My dog and a lighter."



*Dion
junior*

"Food and water."



*Kimberly
sophomore*

"A match and a map."



*Megan
junior*

"A friend and my cell phone."

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**DESPERATE
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...still desperate for a cure

How to See the World Before 65

JENNA INTERSIMONE
SENIOR EDITOR

In my closet, you will not find a sparkly Juicy Couture handbag or chic dresses by Michael Kors. You won't find leather Coach wallets or Gucci sunglasses. But instead, you might find some piles of maps, an old purple suitcase, and some postcards.

This is because I would much rather spend my hard-earned cash on trips to Rome, London, Paris, the Bahamas, or Oslo than on a pile of fabric from the Monmouth Mall. Unfortunately, when traveling, I'm still on a student's budget, also known as the budget of someone who asks for \$10 of gas at the Exxon on Second Avenue.

Even with an \$8.25 hourly wage, it is still possible to see the world while you're still young enough to enjoy it. That is, if you know when to save and when to scrape as you go about planning your next big excursion.

If you're planning a big trip across the pond, a travel agent is a great tool and starting point that many wrongly see as a silly luxury. According to "When Using a Travel Agent Might Be a Good Idea" from preferredconsumer.com, "While they may use many of the same web sites as the ordinary consumer when planning a trip, they do have the added advantage of having access to the latest sale and promotional information."

Travel agents generally have a cache of upgrades and other perks at their disposal that they can offer to their clients. This is especially true if you are a repeat customer. And, many of these perks are not advertised or available to those booking their trip via the Internet."

Budgettravel.com suggests mak-

ing sure you book an agent that is certified by the American Association of Travel Agents and is one who works close to you so you can meet face-to-face rather than over the web. This is also helpful when the time comes for your next trip: you want your travel agent to be your friend and want to help you get the best deals down the line.

well that I go to her without any ideas at all and she recommends me to destinations she knows I would like that I never would have thought of on my own."

Also, you have to figure out what's worth the extra buck when traveling and what you can save on. You shouldn't be taking taxis unless you absolutely have to. Always

in comparison it would cost \$2.50 by subway. And, if you can, walk to that museum a few blocks down instead of getting a ride at all. When walking two miles through 102 degree weather in Madrid, Spain, my friend Fiona and I found a cozy Spanish restaurant that we never would have found otherwise.

Another thing that you can save

to mention time-efficient) to give yourself your own tour. "Frommer's New York City 2012" guidebook, consistently given five stars by Amazon.com users, cost about \$15, while the price of an "All New York Tours" guided walking tour is about \$100 per person. Who wants to be led around like a bunch of third-graders anyway?

Everybody likes getting new stuff. Everyone likes funny t-shirts, cheap jewelry, and cheesy magnets... right? You'll be doing your wallet, and your friends, a favor if you scrimp on the lame souvenirs and send out some handwritten postcards with what you've been up to instead, even if you're only gone for a few days. Postcards are much more friendly and personal than yet another shot glass.

Postcards will cost under five dollars for quite a few, while souvenirs will cost more than \$10 per item and they will take up space, and possibly break, in your bag when it's time to journey back home.

Donna Roth, frequent recipient of my own postcards, said, "Getting postcards makes me smile and laugh and they're something nice to look back on as the years pass, while souvenirs tend to be kind of useless and just collect dust in our house."

Sometimes when looking forward, going on trips and seeing what the world has to offer can seem like an impossible dream in the face of tuition, rent, and bills.

However, if you do a little research before you embark with your travel agent and think outside the box in order to score some great deals, you'll have much more to show for your summer than a pile of tank tops in the closet.



PHOTO COURTESY of Jenna Intersimone

The city of Madrid is a place that not many people will be able to experience in their lifetime.

Anthony Salvatore, who has been using the same travel agent for the last 10 years, said, "My travel agent, Debbie, has gotten to know me so

search out the bus and subway stops when you hit a new city. It cost \$28 to get from New York Penn Station to LaGuardia Airport, when

on is city tours. How many times have you sat through a boring, unenthusiastic tour by a kid about your age? It's much more fun (not

Don't Stress Over the Little Things

MARA MCINERNEY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Remaining calm in a stressful situation is a task many people find difficult to master. For the past four years, I have been a full-time student who has maintained a high enough GPA to fulfill the standards of the requirement to keep my scholarship while juggling a part-time job. Engaging in stressful situations has unfortunately become a hobby for me - from exams or important presentations to my overall performance at work. Eventually, I thoroughly started to enjoy the challenge of utilizing the skills I learned to obtain a successful outcome - almost like battling in combat and winning.

Tall, short, skinny, plump, male, female, stress does not discriminate against anyone! It is very important to be aware of some of the key techniques that can help you remain "triple C" cool, calm and collected, in overwhelming times.

For the past couple of years, I have been an employee of Capital Moving and Storage Co, Inc., a corporate moving and storage company that offers office relocation and corporate relocations. Currently, they are the top corporate moving and storage company in New York City, NY. Literally, I had to "work my way up the ladder" through some extremely "stressful" situations!

For example, I did everything from personal assistant to secretary to having my own cubicle where I organized warehouse inventory sheets

that reflected updated lot allocations, provided billing services to customers and consulted with sales representatives for making competitive bids on projects due to operating expenses. These are just some of the difficult tasks that I had to overcome, but remaining calm helped me achieve my goals.

I am in my final semester of college and recently received a huge promotion to my newest position at work, where I work directly with clientele (something which is very nerve rack-

"Stress is basically a disconnection from Earth, a forgetting of the breath. Stress is an ignorant state. It believes that everything is an emergency. Nothing is that important. Just lie down."

NATALIE GOLDBERG
Author and Artist of Zen

ing). There was not always a light at the end of the tunnel. I had to learn a thing or two. Always attempting to remain calm has been my saving grace.

According to the article "Quick Stress Relief: Fast and Effective Ways to Rapidly Reduce Stress," the first thing you should do is learn how to recognize stress by observing your muscles and insides.

Ask yourself, are my muscles tight or sore? Is my stomach tight or sore? Are my hands clenched? These are some strong indicators that you are starting to feel "stressed out."

From this point, one technique that has always worked for me is observing my breath by breathing deeply.

According to Dr. Nauert, "When we are busy, stressed, worried, anxious, and suffering from guilt, we tend to breathe shallow breaths, using only the top 20 percent of our lung capacity. That means your brain and body are getting 20 percent of the oxygen they should be getting. If you have a lot going on and what you need is energy, endurance and clear thinking, one of the simplest ways to help yourself is to get 100 percent of the oxygen your body needs."

While working directly with clientele, one problem you may face is a disappointed client. Things in life do not always run smoothly. When a client is screaming at me because a million dollar portrait did not arrive on time - before panicking, I again utilize the basic skills I learned to remain calm.

Other helpful suggestions include accepting the situation, putting a solution in motion, getting comfortable, learning to say "no," stopping everything, looking at the big picture and focusing on the most important tasks first. I would highly recommend putting these stress-relief tips to use because the truth of the matter is - you and only you can be determined to develop a positive mental attitude every day.

Like Natalie Goldberg an author and artist of Zen said, "Stress is basically a disconnection from earth, a forgetting of the breath. Stress is an ignorant state. It believes that everything is an emergency. Nothing is that important. Just lie down."

Keeping Cool in the Cold

CASEY REIDY
STAFF WRITER

With another semester approaching its close so quickly here at the University, it can be hard to believe that we are already in the month of December. Many times students can even still walk to class without a jacket. However, it is inevitable that the time will come where students must pack up the flip-flops and tank tops and bundle up for the windy, rainy, and possibly snowy days that lay ahead.

Located in a climate that varies vastly day-to-day, it can be difficult to decide what students need here at the University in terms of a winter wardrobe. Winter clothes also tend to be bulky, which can become an issue especially in the dorms where storage and closet space is limited. Yet in spite of this, there are numerous tips students can take to make sure that they are not only warm in the winter but that they also look good while doing it.

"Layering is a great way to make use of clothes already in your closet. I usually always wear a tank or t-shirt under my sweaters for extra warmth," said Jessie Sinai, senior. "It's also convenient for classes in the chance that the rooms are too warm for jackets and sweaters!"

Another senior, Amy Rodriguez, said her winter must have item is her rain boots. "My biggest mistake freshman year was not bringing rain boots to school. I found out how quickly they were a necessity here within a few weeks. Once campus gets snow covered I just put on some thick socks and toss on my rain boots. They're a life saver!"

My Colleges and Careers, a website that provides advice from professionals on colleges, careers, and degrees,

also gives a list of their tips for campus dress in winter. Along with layering and boots, they recommend making sure to cover your head. "Since we lose 10 percent of our body heat by leaving our heads exposed, wear a hat, beanie, or knit uber headband to trap the heat in," they suggest. Scarves are also mentioned as a great way to keep our necks warm and protected from the wind.

Jessica Gordon, junior, says her winter wardrobe must have is leggings, tunics, and Ugg boots. "Uggs have been around for such a long time now that almost every girl seems to have a pair. They're comfortable and warm, and paired with a tunic and some leggings, students can look put together and still feel season appropriate." My Colleges and Careers also listed leggings on their top six ways to dress fashionably on campus in the winter. "While leggings all on their own may not be uber-warm, layering them underneath your jeans can give you an extra buffer against the cold," My Colleges and Careers said.

In terms of color, trends can already be seen throughout shops and department stores. "All of the bright summer palettes are off the shelves. Everywhere I shop I'm seeing dark, warm and rich colors," says senior Laura Ledman. *Vogue* magazine agrees, saying this winter's wardrobe will be filled with jewel tones. "Amethyst, sapphire, emerald, ruby, garnet and citrine- these hues have the power to make you feel rich and sophisticated," according to *vogue.co.uk*.

So don't be discouraged by the thought of having to look like a marshmallow while traveling to class in the bitter winter. Through incorporating these campus necessities into your closets and taking the time to layer and accessorize, every student can look fashionable and keep warm.

Inexpensive Gift Ideas for the Holidays

JILLIAN BENANTI
STAFF WRITER

It is that time of the year again, the holiday season. Whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, or Kwanza, it's the time of the year when you start to feel all warm and fuzzy inside. The houses are all lit up with holiday cheer, the radio starts playing holiday music, and your favorite holiday movies begin to play on television. Although this time of year is celebrated and cheerful, it can also be a very stressful time for some people. You have to start thinking about what gifts you are going to give to your loved-ones and how much of a dent this is going to put in your pocket.

Being a college student means a lot of things; you study hard and play hard, but for the majority most of us are broke. The phrase "broke college student" was coined for a reason. This time of year can be extra stressful because you want to get your family and friends great presents, but you don't exactly have the means of doing so and no one wants to come off looking cheap. What many of you don't know is that there are so many different and inexpensive gift ideas that work for everyone and won't burn a hole in your wallet.

Let's start with your parents. All parents love to show off their children. So a great idea for your mom or dad would be to take a picture of you and your siblings, print it out and put it in a nice frame. Run to Target or Wal-Mart and purchase a picture frame. According to walmart.com, you

can get a standard size frame for as cheap as \$12. This gift could potentially cost you less than \$20 and it's a gift that shows mean-

an inexpensive version of getting them a gift card for a dinner at a fancy restaurant. It is also more personal. You get to spend qual-

for. For your brother, if he is into sports, anything sports related would be perfect. For example, if his favorite team is the Yankees,

back around \$20-\$30. Sisters can be harder. Senior Kara Donnelly explains, "I am making my sister a collage of pictures of us and our family members. I am going to put it in a nice frame so she can hang it up on her wall. Also, every year my sisters and I go out to a nice dinner then split the check three ways, it relieves the stress of having to shop for one another."

A Broadway show is an awesome idea for a present for your significant other. Treat your girlfriend or boyfriend to a night in New York City. This may seem like an expensive gift but websites like broadwaybox.com offer discount prices on many popular shows. If this still seems like something out of your price range, look at off-Broadway productions. The tickets are much less expensive and you still get the feel of seeing a great production.

Last but not least, shopping for a gift for your friend can be very easy. Getting him or her their favorite movie or cd can be inexpensive but still shows that you had them in mind while shopping. Senior Alana Silva says, "My best friend and I always buy each other gag gifts. Last year we bought each other matching onesies that only cost about \$20 each, and this year personalized t-shirts that we found on a website that are only about \$10 each."

No matter who you are buying for it shouldn't matter how much you spend on that person, just make sure the gift comes from the heart. Keep these tips in mind, and happy shopping!



PHOTO COURTESY of promologos.com

Buying gifts can get a little overwhelming during the holidays, but there are still ways to save money and get great presents!

ing and lasts a lifetime. Another great gift idea for your parents is a home cooked meal. How many times have your parents cooked you dinner? Wouldn't it be nice to switch it up for once? This is

ity time with your parents rather than sending them out to eat. What mom wouldn't love that?

Buying gifts for your siblings can be a little difficult depending on the person you are buying

a new hat, t-shirt, or sweatshirt is a great idea. According to barne-sandnoble.com, there are hundreds of inexpensive books on the history of sports or a specific sports team that will only set you

When Will the Bullying End?

MARA MCINERNEY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

"Being bullied? Just act less gay, advise teachers." This was the headline of a recent article in the *London Evening Standard*.

This headline leaves one to question, what is our society is coming to? Is it not okay to be different? Is expressing yourself as you are, frowned upon because it might alienate you from your peers?

Teachers are supposed to advocate for their students, lend guidance and are looked upon as mentors.

Schools are supposed to be a place that honors diversity and the unique quality that encompasses each child.

According to the article, "School children bullied over their sexuality are being advised by teachers to act less gay," and given the advice "to wear their hair differently" as teachers felt they were making themselves a target for bullies.

Intrigued, I decided to read on and when I was finished with the article –something interesting started to happen- my mind started to change. Surprising, I started debating to myself, is this right? Is this wrong?

What the hell am I thinking? Of course it is wrong! But is it?

On one hand, I feel as though these teachers were completely out of line, by a lack of sensitivity to the issues that homosexual adolescents face.

On the other hand, I realized that their intentions were right because they wanted to have in place interventions that would help the student avoid being bullied. Obviously, these teachers need much training in this area.

The article referenced that, "Teachers received very little training at college around bullying and most would welcome additional support and guidance."

According to the Equalities and Human Rights Commission, "two thirds of lesbian, gay and transgender students had suffered bullying, and 17 percent had received death threats."

At the conclusion of this article, several ethical dilemmas arose. If society starts to impose ideas that the way one dresses, acts, speaks and gestures will predispose them as a target, then I feel that our fundamental freedoms will be infringed upon.

I automatically recalled stories in the news that cited that when a woman was raped, a police officer stated that it might have been because of the provocative clothing she was wearing. Was it his ignorant assumption that "she was asking for it?"

Additionally, I have observed friends who lived in poor areas who were bullied because they had designer bags.

I observed classmates being bullied because their shoes were not of the latest trend.

Bullying issues are rampant in schools.

Schools need to devise programs that would sensitize and train teachers how to recognize and prevent bullying. Students need training on how to protect themselves and ask for an adult's guidance if, they are a target.

Overall, offering education around the issue of bullying will be beneficial because it will open ones frame of reference and universally make everyone much more mindful.

Eat Less Meat, Help the Planet

THE ENVIRONMENTAL MAGAZINE
MCT CAMPUS WIRE

Our meat consumption habits take a serious toll on the environment. According to the Environmental Working Group (EWG), the production, processing and distribution of meat requires huge outlays of pesticides, fertilizer, fuel, feed and water while releasing greenhouse gases, manure and a range of toxic chemicals into our air and water.

A lifecycle analysis conducted by EWG that took into account the production and distribution of 20 common agricultural products found that red meat such as beef and lamb is responsible for 10 to 40 times as many greenhouse gas emissions as common vegetables and grains.

Livestock are typically fed corn, soybean meal and other grains which have to first be grown using large amounts of fertilizer, fuel, pesticides, water and land. EWG estimates that growing livestock feed in the U.S. alone requires 167 million pounds of pesticides and 17 billion pounds of nitrogen fertilizer each year across some 149 million acres of cropland.

The process generates copious amounts of nitrous oxide, a greenhouse gas 300 times more potent than carbon dioxide, while the output of methane, another

potent greenhouse gas, from cattle is estimated to generate some 20 percent of overall U.S. methane emissions.

"If all the grain currently fed to livestock in the United States were consumed directly by people, the number of people who could be fed would be nearly 800 million," reports ecologist David Pimentel of Cornell University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

He adds that the seven billion livestock in the U.S. consume five times as much grain as is con-

stock are contained in tight quarters can produce as much sewage waste as a small city, according to the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC).

Further, the widespread use of antibiotics to keep livestock healthy on those overcrowded CAFOs has led to the development of antibiotic-resistant strains of bacteria that threaten human health and the environment in their own right.

Eating too much meat is no good for our health, with overindulgence linked to increasing rates of heart disease, cancer and obesity.

Worldwide, between 1971 and 2010, production of meat tripled to around 600 billion pounds while global population grew by 81 percent, meaning that we are eating a lot more meat than our grandparents.

Researchers extrapolate that global meat production will double by 2050 to about 1.2 trillion pounds a year, putting further pressure on the environment and human health.

For those who can't give up meat fully, cutting back goes a long way toward helping the environment, as does choosing meat and dairy products from organic, pasture-raised, grass-fed animals.

"Ultimately, we need better policies and stronger regulations to reduce the environmental impacts of livestock production," says EWG's Kari Hammerschlag.



PHOTO COURTESY of thedailygreen.com

Eating too much meat can be bad for your health and ultimately the environment too.

sumed directly by the entire U.S. population.

Our meat consumption habits also cause other environmental problems.

A 2009 study found that four-fifths of the deforestation across the Amazon rainforest could be linked to cattle ranching and the water pollution from factory farms (also called concentrated animal feeding operations or CAFOs).

Whereby pigs and other live-

'Season's Greetings' Rang Through Wilson Hall

DAN STE. MARIE
STAFF WRITER

The Music and Theatre Arts Department presented "Season's Greetings," their annual holiday concert, on December 8 on the decorated Grand Staircase in Wilson Hall.

"Season's Greetings" was a collection of songs performed by students such as the Chamber Singers and Concert Chorus under the direction of David Tripold, chair, associate professor of Music and Theatre Arts, and the Chamber Orchestra directed by Michael Gillette, specialist professor of Music and Theatre Arts.

The night also featured The Harmonic Joules, the University's Glee Club and The Exultation Ringers of the Colts Neck Reformed Church.

Tripold said the "concert is a special collaboration of music directors and students who assemble a program of seasonal music to be presented each year in the magnificent setting of Wilson Hall."

Family members, friends and students filled the first floor of Wilson Hall with some onlookers peering down from the balcony.

The night started with bass soloist Brendan Moore graciously singing the J.S. Bach piece "Grosser Herr und starker Konig" from Christmas Oratorio with plenty of slurs to make a smooth legato.

Moore was followed by mezzo soprano Jasmine Walker taking center stage and tenor as well as piano accompanist Justin Sanford performing a slow R&B rendition of "I'll Be Home for Christmas." After Walker belted out the final note, the crowd was left roaring.

"[Walker] did such a great job with the song," said Jaclyn Kaminski, a resident of Howell. "It was an awesome way to start the



PHOTO COURTESY of Jim Reme

The University Concert Chorus performed "Gloria" and "Mary, Go Tell It" at the annual "Season's Greetings" holiday concert. Their act was one of many musical performances at the seasonal event.

concert and my favorite part of the night."

The University Chamber Singers then took the floor to perform "See, Amid the Winter Snow," accompanied only by a piano and conducted by Moore. Then Tripold conducted the singers in a very uplifting and fun version "Deck the Hall" and "Jingle Bells" with plenty of calls and responds between the female and male vocalists, which lead to a great buildup as they dashed through the song.

Professor/violinist Gillette and student/violinist Jaclyn Ruggiero played some elegant pieces together as they sprinkled the air with some classical music. Gillette explained during pieces that the violins are playing at varying speeds to not confuse audience members as one plays more swiftly than the other.

Gillette then conducted the Chamber Orchestra in two splendid pieces, "Prelude to Die Meistersinger" by Richard Wagner and "Overture and Hornpipe" from the Water Music Suite written by George Frideric Handel.

Gillette held his violin and joined in at times as the orchestra played through their grand tones that resonated from the ceiling. Plenty of dissonant tones created a foggy walk through the park to come out a field of falling snow.

After an intermission, the audience was welcomed back by The Harmonic Joules, led by Glee Club president Walker, with a fun version of "Baby, It's Cold Outside." A male vocalist wearing a fedora and singing with style took the lead as two bodyguards tried to keep away other female vocalists from getting their hands on him.

The Harmonic Joules then did an acapella version of "Carol of the Bells."

"The Harmonic Joules were my favorite performers of the night," said Dave Leiman, a resident of Aberdeen and family friend of one of the students performing. "The way they did 'Baby It's Cold Outside' was something I've never heard before, and they seemed to have a lot of fun with it."

The University Concert Chorus then took the staircase, dressed in their navy blue robes under the direction of Tripold and accompanied on piano by his wife, Maggie. The chorus's sweet voices filled the halls of Wilson as they graciously went through dynamics in "Gloria" and "Mary, Go Tell It!" with a gospel swing tone that shows their heavenly talent.

There was a little break for a

pleasant solo by cantor singer Ross Bernstein as he sang in Hebrew while he lit a different candle until the Menorah was fully lit, performing "Lighting the Menorah," "Blessing of the Candles," and "Ma'oz Tsur."

While the Menorah shined bright through the rest of the evening performance, violinist Ruggiero came out to accompany the choir in "Hanukkah Flame," a very moving piece that put the audience in the cold wintery night.

Tripold said this year's performance was "magical" for him.

"Everyone outdid themselves, reaching levels our artistic expression that I had not been previously heard," said Tripold. "I was especially moved by Ross Bernstein's lighting of the Hanukkah menorah and his brilliant cantoring."

The Exultation Ringers of The Colts Neck Reformed Church under the direction of Maggie, took center stage with giant bells, big shiny ones commonly used to gather donations for the Salvation Army and small ones that still resonate beautifully. They performed three songs that were euphoric and soothing like "For Unto Us a Child is Born" by George Handel that were also exciting to watch as the Ringers shook and drummed on their bells.

For the grand finale, the Concert Chorus joined the Exultation Ringers in "Noel Festival" featuring traditional French and English Noel carols and a traditional African folksong. When they came together, it was sweet music to the audience's ears as the crowd gave a standing ovation with a roaring applause.

"This was our 13th holiday concert in Wilson Hall. In general I would say we get better each year," David said. "Our audiences have grown to capacity crowds."

Five Off-Broadway Shows That Are on the Money

JENNA M. DORSI
STAFF WRITER

When living so close to New York City, it's easy to take advantage of all the great theater at your disposal on the Great White Way. That is unless you're a struggling college student because then it's a bit more difficult. While "Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark" and "Book of Mormon" might be the toast of Broadway, tickets can come at a steep price.

Off-Broadway plays, on the other hand, are a little more affordable. Shows here are generally no different in quality except they just perform in a smaller theater. Every show likes to play to a packed house, and you can usually find discounts online or at the box office for these performances.

Most often these venues have a very generous price reduction for students, so always make sure to bring your I.D. to the ticket window.

With winter break approaching, some theatrical entertainment could be just the thing to enjoy, especially if you have a little extra holiday cash in your pocket. In case you've never considered Off-Broadway theater before, *The Outlook* has your guide for five shows that are worth seeing.

1. "Love, Loss, and What I Wore"

"Love Loss, and What I Wore" is the equivalent of the best kind of "chick flick" and was even writ-

ten by Nora Ephron of *When Harry Met Sally* and *Sleepless in Seattle* fame.

The play features a rotating cast of actresses who speak in the voices of several women, and use observational humor to explore romance and hardship. This often involves relating the incident to a particle piece of clothing or a fashion fad that has significance to a character.

The show is funny and heartwarming, and would be great for a girl's night or date night (as any boyfriend who's ever been dragged shopping would be sure to relate to the stories).

2. "Rent"

Jonathan Larson's rock opera returned to the stage this past year after a three-year hiatus when it ended its Broadway run. Now, although the sets have been reimagined, it is the same beloved musical as always.

A retelling of Puccini's "La Boheme," "Rent" follows the lives of struggling artists in 1990s New York who are also dealing with the HIV/AIDS crisis.

If you were a fan during the show's original 12 year run, it will be great to revisit this classic. Even if you weren't, it is a show every theater fan should see.

3. "Avenue Q"

The puppet musical also enjoyed a popular run on Broadway before relocating to Off-Broadway. After

closing, it immediately came to the New World Stages, where it's continued to entertain for two years now.

"Avenue Q," which is like a raunchy "Sesame Street" or much funnier "Crank Yankers," features young-adult puppets and their human counterparts trying to become responsible grownups in New York.

With songs such as "What do you do with a B.A. in English?," college kids will certainly be able to relate to the humor here when they visit "Avenue Q."

4. "Voca People"

Pitched as, "'Glee' meets 'Blue Man Group,'" if you throw in some *E.T.*, this is an entirely accurate description of this musical romp.

"Voca People" is a show about a group of painted-white aliens who crash land a few blocks away from Times Square. The cast is incredibly talented and perform acappella songs and sound effects. The more they sing the more fuel they earn to power their ship to get back home. The aliens dazzle with songs from Bach and Madonna to doo wop and 90's dance jams. Furthermore, in "Voca People," audience members often get pulled onstage while the actors also go into the stands to dance with the crowd.

Although it can be a little

kitschy at times, it's impossible not to have some fun.

5. "Gazillion Bubble Show"

Never has a production's title been more accurate. As soon as "Gazillion Bubble Show" begins, what can only be described as a gazillion bubbles engulfs the theater.

One single performer on stage uses a variety of methods to make different kinds of bubbles. Some stick together, some light up, some are filled with smoke, and some

can as big as your dorm room. Don't think that they stay on stage, though, as all these bubbles drift into the crowd (and are really fun to pop). There's also a spectacular light show with lasers that will leave you in awe.

Additionally, "Gazillion" is the only show with the "adorable factor"—as the performer frequently picks children to come up on stage and assist.

This is one of the most fun and exciting shows anyone can see and will leave you feeling like a little kid again.



PHOTO COURTESY of clemmonsdewing.com

Listen to aliens who crashed land on Earth repower their ship through song in the Off-Broadway show, "Voca People," playing at Westside Theater. It is one of the Off-Broadway shows to see over break.

Fans Enjoyed “A Winter Night” with Martin Sexton’s Music

NICOLE MASSABROOK
STAFF WRITER

Musician Martin Sexton filled Pollak Theatre with his bluesy folk rock this past Friday night, December 9. His set, entitled “A Winter Night,” was a low-key affair that featured Sexton and his guitar.

The Boston native has been a recording artist for the better part of 20 years now with nine full-length albums and an EP due out in January.

Sexton greeted the audience when he first arrived with, “Good evening, brothers and sisters,” and right away the audience could feel his hippie vibe.

However, Sexton didn’t say much else. He’d just go from playing one song after another, often without stopping to say anything about these numbers.

Sexton usually didn’t even introduce his songs, and the closest thing to an introduction was before one song when he said, “I try hard not to suck, and it’s off a record that I think doesn’t suck.” The song did not suck, but it kind of sucks that I have no idea what song it was.

Anyone who wasn’t a Sexton fan might have felt a little out of place, which might explain the various concert goers who left at different points in the performance.

Though judging by the small audience (probably less than 10 rows filled), the audience was mostly Sexton fans. The uproar that was heard every time a song finished was shockingly loud, as was the screaming when Sexton would begin a new tune.

In between starting and finishing songs, though, hardly a sound was made. The audience seemed to just watch in awe as Sexton

performed. I could even hear the woman seated behind me whispering the lyrics along with Sexton.

The small audience allowed for Sexton to really hear his fans, though. At one point Sexton said, “Gets to that point in the show where I just don’t know what to play.” Fans started shouting songs and he played some of their requests.

Sexton’s voice is eerily similar to that of Dave Matthews, so it really isn’t surprising to hear that he spent much of this year as the opening act for the Dave Matthews Band. His music is a little bit jazz, some blues and a lot of

“[The encore] was like a great meal where they say ‘nah, we’ll skip dessert,’ but they give you just a taste. It was great.”

JEFF COHEN
Attendee

folk rock.

Sexton incorporated beat boxing into his music, too, which was sort of odd but he managed to make it work.

He also included scatting, the use of nonsense syllables in songs, which didn’t work quite as well. It just seemed really strange and sometimes made it sound like he was in pain. Sexton also doesn’t really announce when he sings, which sometimes makes it a little hard to understand the lyrics.

It was a bit of a relief when Sexton covered Buffalo Springfield’s

“Stop Children What’s That Sound” because all of his originals were starting to sound the same.

Surprisingly, Sexton’s opening act was much more appealing. Chris Trapper is a charismatic folk rocker and Buffalo, NY native. His songs, like Sexton’s, all tell a story.

Yet, unlike Sexton, he would preface all of his songs with a funny anecdote. Trapper played a song that got him a Grammy nomination and was on the soundtrack of *August Rush*. He played another tune called “Here All Along,” the recorded version of which features Rob Thomas of Matchbox Twenty. The one love song Trapper played caused many couples in the audience to become affectionate.

Most concert goers seemed very pleased with the performance. Meg McCourt of Wenonah, NJ has been a fan of Sexton for about five years now and has gone to many of his shows. McCourt said, “I think his voice is just amazing, beautiful. He tells a story [in his songs].”

Kathy Damato of Bradley Beach really enjoyed Sexton’s voice as well. “I just think the different variations in the way he sings are great.”

Sexton even had fans plan a birthday trip to New Jersey from

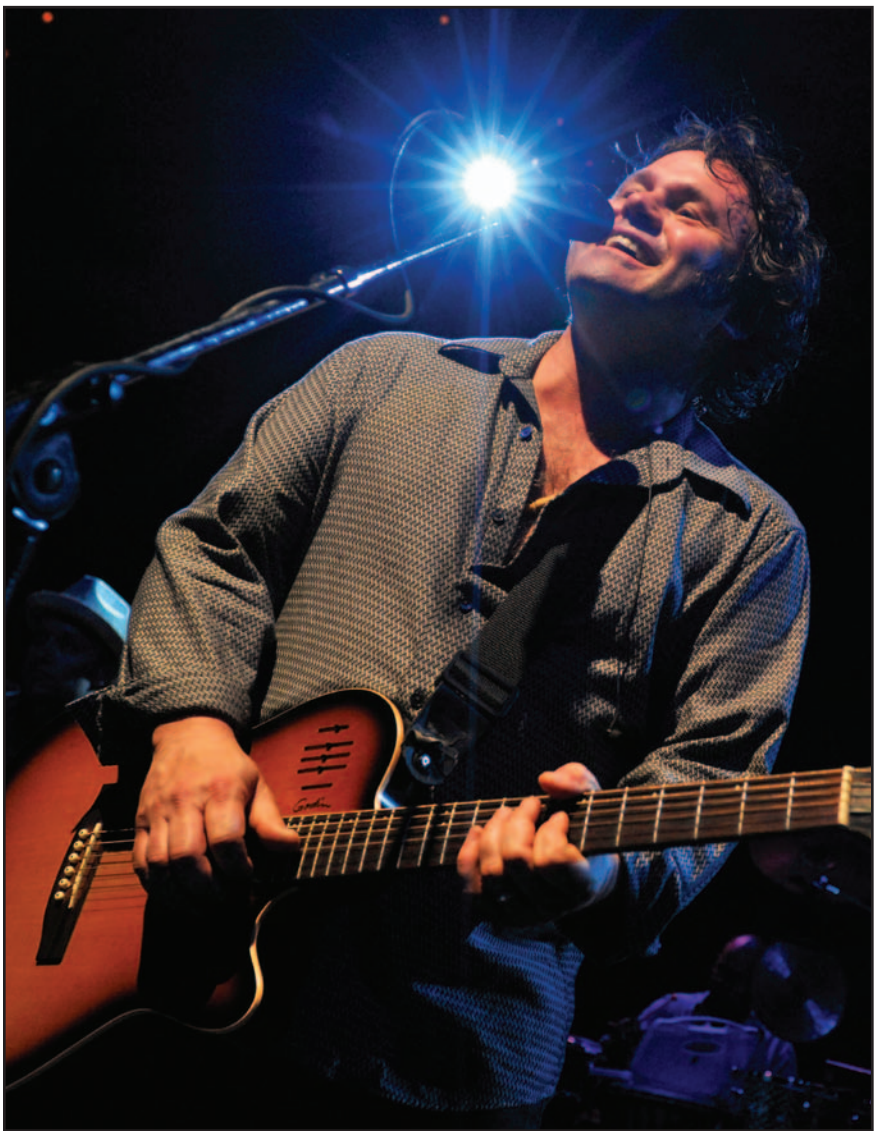


PHOTO COURTESY of theatrewithin.org
Martin Sexton played his guitar and sang a number of songs when he performed at Pollak Theatre on December 9. His show was titled “A Winter Night.”

Florida around this concert. Jeff Cohen brought his wife Arlene to the concert as a birthday surprise.

Cohen said that he enjoyed Sexton’s encore, when he played

“Blue Christmas” and “Amazing Grace,” the most. “[The encore] was like a great meal where they say ‘nah, we’ll skip desert,’ but they give you just a taste. It was great,” Cohen said.

Foo Fighters Win Battle for Top 2011 Album

BRETT BODNER
MANAGING EDITOR

Well, 2011 has been quite the year from a musical standpoint. There have been numerous new bands that have broken into the mainstream, successful bands who have continued their success, and old bands that have made valiant returns.

Considering there are only a few weeks left in 2011, now would be a good time to list what I believe to be the top five albums of the year.

1. Foo Fighters – *Wasting Light*.

Hands down the best album of the year and I do not believe any other album this year will be able to top it. *Wasting Light* was easily the bands best release since *The Colour and Shape*, which was released back in 1997.

The band went back to their old rock roots, releasing great hard rock songs like “Bridge’s Burning,” “Rope, Walk,” and “These Days.” The Foo Fighters also had an old friend help contribute on the album with former Nirvana bassist Krist Novaselic collaborating with the group on “I Should Have Known.” It was nice to see him and Dave Grohl back together again.

It’s very hard to find a song that is not listenable on this record, which is why it is easily the number one album of 2011.

2. Blink-182 – *Neighbors*.

After a six-year hiatus,



PHOTO COURTESY of planet-loud.com
The Foo Fighters’ *Wasting Light* was a return back to their solid rock sound that hasn’t been heard since the mid-90’s. It stands as the best album of the year.

Blink-182 finally returned to the music scene and released their highly anticipated album *Neighbors* this past September.

The idea behind the name of the album was that all three members (Mark Hoppus, Tom DeLonge, and Travis Barker) had all taken their talents to different areas of the music world since they were last together for an album back in

2003.

The album does not disappoint, as there are several strong tracks such as “Up All Night,” “After Midnight,” “Ghosts on the Dance Floor,” “Snake-charmer,” and more. You’ve got to listen to the album with an open mind though.

This album is far from the old pop-punk Blink-182, but to see

how they’ve grown musically, I would have to say that most who listen will be very satisfied.

3. The Wonder Years – *Suburbia I’ve Given You All, Now I Am Nothing*.

Arguably one of the best lesser known bands around, the pop-punk band The Wonder Years is so close to breaking through and making it big.

Dan “Soupy” Campbell writes deep lyrics that any person can relate to, especially on a college level. Songs include themes like leaving home, starting over, and dealing with an overall theme of growing up. With songs like “Came Out Swinging,” “Local Man Ruins Everything,” “Don’t Let Me Cave In,” and “Coffee Eyes,” The Wonder Years have that talent to become mainstream.

New Found Glory, Blink-182, and Sum 41 were all pop-punk bands who have had mainstream success, and with this album, The Wonder Years could be taking strides to get on that level.

4. Jay-Z and Kanye West – *Watch The Throne*.

To add a little diversity to my top five albums, I figured now would be a good time to mention

one of the best rap releases of the year. How can this album not be good, when it combines the talents of two of the best rappers around today in Jay-Z and Kanye West.

The two complement each other terrifically and it makes for quite the listening experience. Some notable tracks to listen to off the album are “Otis” (which has a guest track from Otis Redding), “Ni**as in Paris,” “Gotta Have it,” and “Illest Motherf**er Alive.”

5. Drake – *Take Care*.

In one of the most anticipated releases of the year, Drake released his second studio album, *Take Care*, on November 15.

The album has already had much success with radio hits like “Headlines” and “Make Me Proud,” which features Nicki Minaj. It’s only a matter of time before more songs off this album become hits. “We’ll Be Fine,” “The Motto” (feat. Lil Wayne), and a slow song featuring Rihanna called “Take Care” are tunes that have great promise and top 40 radio station play written all over them.

Drake definitely took a step forward in his career and *Take Care* makes for a great listen, no matter what kind of music you are into.

As 2012 slowly approaches, one can only expect there to be even more great new music released in the new year. Time will tell, but for now we say farewell to 2011 and enjoy what is currently playing.

Just the Winter Blues... or Something More?

The Symptoms and Treatment of Seasonal Affective Disorder

MICHELLE CALLAS
STAFF WRITER

As cold weather closes in, the winter chill blankets the campus. With less hours of sunshine and more indoor activities, some people are prone to the winter blues. Not everyone who experiences the blues can come out of it so easily. In some cases, depression can last all season long.

Seasonal affective disorder (SAD) is a depression that occurs at the same time every year. It can zap your energy and cause significant mood changes, according to Thomas McCarthy, psychological counselor at the University.

SAD has several symptoms similar to depression but there are a few that make it distinctly different. Everyone experiences a random depressive mood differently, McCarthy said. A person's appetite can either increase or decrease and sleep patterns can be affected by too much sleep or sleeplessness. "For seasonal affective disorder, it seems there is an increased sleep, especially during the day, and an increased appetite rather than a decreased appetite."

Other symptoms of SAD include depression, hopelessness, anxiety, loss of energy, social withdrawal, oversleeping and loss of interest, according to the

Mayo Clinic.

McCarthy said these symptoms are also common with depression since they can occur at any time of the year. It is the seasonal pattern of SAD that contributes to the diagnosis. To establish this pattern, a client would seek help for depression on more than one occasion at the same time each year. After a minimum of two years, a diagnosis of SAD is possible as long as the depression is limited to one season and not experienced during the rest of the year.

"The difference between [SAD] and the winter blues is that usually it affects their functioning to a certain extent wheth-

er it be socially, occupationally, or school," McCarthy said. "If you're not getting enjoyment out of things you would normally enjoy, or withdrawing from friends and your mood has significantly changed, you should probably go talk to someone."

Although the winter blues may seem common, SAD is not. In McCarthy's five years of working at the University, he has only seen four cases that were diagnosed as SAD. "The majority of depressive incidences that I see is really a depressive episode rather than SAD," McCarthy said. "It does happen, you do see it, but in my experience here it's more rare than some of the other disorders."

There is no known cause of SAD but the biological clock, serotonin levels, and melatonin levels may contribute to depression symptoms, according to the Mayo Clinic. The change in sunlight hours can affect a person's sleep pattern, add to depression, and affect serotonin, a brain chemical that controls the mood. The hormone melatonin, which can be imbalanced due to seasonal changes, also affects sleep patterns and mood.

McCarthy recommends taking long walks to expose yourself to more sunlight in the winter months. He also said exercise can help and one should not isolate from friends and family regardless of the urge to do so. Doing these things on your own can help improve mood and functioning.

There are several ways to treat SAD including medication, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) and light therapy. "Medication in conjunction with CBT is effective," McCarthy said. The best way to fight the depression is to start treatment early as winter approaches. If medication is used, the treatment should begin in October because it can take

four to six weeks to become effective.

Light therapy can improve depression in severe cases, although the lights can be expensive. Lights that mimic the sunrise are sometimes appropriate. They emit UV light similar to tanning beds. Some people may feel improved moods after using tanning beds for this reason.

Even though feeling depressed can be a struggle, SAD does not last. "At the end of winter as you're moving into spring, with or without treatment, the symptoms start to subside anyway," McCarthy said. With a clinical depression, the symptoms do not improve with the seasonal changes.

SAD is more common in women than men and can begin during the teen and early adult years. McCarthy said there can also be a genetic component. Finding exact statistics of how many people are affected proved difficult. McCarthy estimates that about two percent of people suffer from SAD and five percent are affected by clinical depression.

According to the Mayo Clinic, winter is not the only season when people can be affected by SAD. Cases can also occur during the summer months, although some of the symptoms may vary. Symptoms of summer SAD include anxiety, trouble sleeping, irritability, agitation, weight loss, poor appetite, and an increased sex drive.

The University's counseling services offer help to students suffering from depression. SAD occurs in the winter when students are home on break, but their office will help find a referral near a student's home so that treatment can continue.

Students can contact counseling services by phone, walk-in, or email at mucounseling@monmouth.edu.



Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) has symptoms that include increased fatigue, especially during the day, and an increased appetite.

PHOTO COURTESY of cnn.com

Personal Loss Will Set You Free

Life is Short, Live Spontaneously While You Still Can

COLIN SARGENT
STAFF WRITER

I was raised very differently from most kids my age and many kids being raised today.

I came from a small, close-knit family, with working parents who hired nannies, and enforced structure. I was raised Protestant, went to church on Sundays, and went to a Catholic high school.

Then, when I was eight-years-old, my mother was diagnosed with breast cancer. For nine years following, I watched my mother struggle, conquer, and then struggle again with the disease.

When I was 17-years-old, my mother finally lost her battle with cancer. At the time, I was a senior in high school, struggling with graduating, finding a college, figuring out who I was, and who I was going to become. Her death left a gaping hole in my life.

I began doing things, good and bad alike, to take away the pain and make me happy, if only for even the slightest moment. I was struggling, learning to contend with difficulties, trying to figure out what was going on.

An event like this makes you question almost everything. Why me? Why my family? What happens now? Even before my

mother's death, I questioned most things, especially religion and values. I still do today.

No, I am not an Atheist, I am not without morals, but I do not believe in much. I lost faith in people after my mother's death because it brought out the worst in people, friends and family alike. I lost faith in spirituality because it did not heal the wounds and it did not bring me comfort in my time of need.

It is eight years after her death, and I am still searching for things to believe in. What I believe in, and have found the most comfort in, is my personal freedom. A freedom which my mother's death helped me to achieve.

I live frivolously now because I know I will not be able to afford it when I am finished with college. I go on vacations now because I know won't have the time when I am working and starting a family.

How many people my age can say they have been to Mardi Gras in New Orleans, run a half-marathon, went sky diving, and survived the DayGlow Paint Party/Concert within six months? I'm going to guess and say not

many.

It sounds cliché, but my mother's death taught me that life is short, and her will to live has been the driving force behind all

my personal choices throughout my life.

Be spontaneous, and go sky-diving. Book a trip to Las Vegas, get a VIP table, and have

some fun. Get lost in the Bourbon Street crowd of Mardi Gras.

No matter what you do, live to live, because you never know when your chances will end.



PHOTO COURTESY of Colin Sargent

Mardi Gras is one of the many things that Colin Sargent has set out to experience in his motto to live frivolously while he still can.

The Unknown Territories of Black Holes

Scientific Discovery Proves That We Have Much to Learn

SHAHARYAR AHMAD
SCIENCE EDITOR

Recently, astronomers have reported the discovery of some of the biggest black holes found in the universe. One of these gargantuan behemoths, NGC 4889, observed from the Hubble Space Telescope, has a mass of about 21 million times more than that of our sun and is distanced at an incredible 336 million light-years (about two million trillion miles) away, according to the *New York Times*. The results of their work can shed some major light on black holes and their formation, no pun intended.

Scott Suter, junior biochemistry major, said, “It’s amazing how the universe can be analyzed on a grand and atomic scale, and yet we have no clue what it’s trying to explain to us. These giant black holes are awe-inspiring and bewildering. It just goes to show that we don’t have a clue as to what’s next.”

To better understand what black holes are, imagine a massive star that is about nine to 20 times the mass of the sun. When this star finally matures, the remnant core is about three times the mass of the star. If that remnant, when it stops fusing and stops having an outward pressure, has enough density, it will cause a supernova and release a sublime shockwave throughout the rest of the universe. The star will then condense into what is known as a neutron star.

Stars that are the size of the sun will collapse into white dwarfs, which are roughly the size of Earth. The pressure that prevents these from collapsing further is known as the electron degeneracy pressure, where their atoms are being squeezed to the center so much that the electrons actually create a cushion, preventing the atoms from being squeezed any further.

However, if the pressure gets large enough, the magnitude of force per unit area reaches a level so high that it actually overcomes the electron degeneracy pressure, causing the white dwarf to become a neutron star, now held by an inner neutron degeneracy pressure that prevents it from collapsing further.

What is especially unintuitive is that a neutron star actually has a higher mass than a white dwarf

according to NASA. A teaspoon of this material composing a neutron star would weigh about five billion tons on Earth.

Certain stars 20 times more massive than the sun should have a remnant that is three to four times more massive than the sun. These stars, it turns out, are so large that even the neutron degeneracy pressure will not be enough to keep their mass from imploding any further such that they could attain an even greater

theory of general relativity as they would exhibit infinite curvature in space-time, according to the *New York Times*.

Dr. Bradley Ingebrethsen, chemistry and physics professor, said, “One of the many things Einstein’s theory predicted that were too much of an abstraction, we are now finding out are true. I wonder what else he has for us.”

The reason the boundary of a black hole is hard to define is that there is some point in space

As the black hole continually devours neighboring stars which get trapped by the singularity’s gravity, their masses get squeezed more and more in increasingly smaller volumes where the particles accelerate faster and faster reaching unbelievable temperatures.

The black holes mentioned above are categorized as stellar black holes, as they form from collapsing stars. These are child’s play compared to the

of galaxies.

“The fact that such enormous objects have only just recently been discovered,” said Sam Broadbent, sophomore chemistry major, “truly shows how little we know about our universe. I am sure that there will be many more awe inspiring discoveries to come in time.”

Interestingly, there don’t appear to be any black holes between stellar and supermassive black holes. So the obvious question arises, if all black holes formed from collapsing stars, why don’t we see anything in between?

One explanation of this behavior states that supermassive black holes formed shortly after the big bang following the beginning of the universe.

Black holes require an intensely dense amount of mass in a very small volume so that the gravitational pull of its particles will pull them in close and closer to overcome their electron, neutron, and quark degeneracy pressures to eventually collapse into what we think is an infinitely dense single point.

At the big bang, since the universe was smaller, all the matter was in a much denser space. At that point in time, the universe was relatively uniform so there was no reason for black holes to exist as the gravitational force was consistent throughout.

Theoretical physicists suggest that shortly following the Big Bang however, slight quantum fluctuations introduced an element of non-uniformity that caused an inward force in areas of higher densities that pulled mass from areas of lower densities, forming, according to NASA, primordial black holes.

Even though the portrait this hypothesis paints of the true function of black holes is far from complete, it does provide a reason to show how the primordial universe may have catalyzed the synthesis of supermassive black holes such as NGC 4889.

Shivam Patel, a sophomore biology major, feels that “the discovery of the biggest black hole thus far marks a huge achievement in science at this time. As we learn more and more about the cosmos, we might be able to discover intelligent life on other planets.”



PHOTO COURTESY of universetoday.com

Black hole NGC 4889 has a mass of about 21 million times more than that of our sun and is distanced at 336 million light years.

“quark degeneracy pressure” at these insane densities.

As the star continues to collapse, it eventually reaches a point of infinite mass density where all the original mass of the star has been imploded to a single infinitely small point known as a black hole.

This point of so-called “infinite mass density” is a singularity, a region where all our math and physics equations break down and do not give defined answers. Even Albert Einstein considered black holes amongst his “weirdest” predictions in his

where no matter how much energy an object has, it will not be able to escape the gravitational influence of the black hole.

That boundary, called the event horizon, is essentially a sphere around that singularity where anything closer or within it has to end up in the singularity.

Since not even light can escape the awesome magnitude of the gravitational force about that singularity, black holes appear black as they do not emit any type of electromagnetic radiation from themselves.

second class of black holes: supermassive black holes. If the word “super” isn’t big enough, these monsters are on the order of 100,000’s to billions of solar masses.

As black holes ingest everything with an angular velocity that is too slow to escape their gravitational pull, certain masses that have just the right angular velocity can actually avoid being sucked in. These will eventually orbit the black hole around this “accretion disk,” a behavior that has led physicists to the notion of black holes to be the forerunners

What’s Really in Your Cereal?

The Use of Genetically Modified Organisms in Our Food

CHRISTINA HARTEL
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Think you know what you’re eating? According to the United States Department of Agriculture, in 2009, 93 percent of soy, 93 percent of cotton, and 86 percent of corn grown in the U.S. were GMOs.

GMOs, or “genetically modified organisms,” are organisms that have been created through techniques of biotechnology, also called genetic engineering (GE).

This relatively new science allows DNA from one species to be injected into another species in a laboratory, creating combinations of plant, animal, bacteria, and viral genes that do not occur in nature or through traditional crossbreeding methods. Incredible, isn’t it?

“Pesticide companies develop GE food crops by combining DNA from plants, animals, bacteria and viruses, to contain or resist pesticide, which results in more pesticides sold and

the choice whether they want to eat GMOs. In 30 other countries around the world, including Australia, Japan, and all of the countries in the European Union, there are significant restrictions

GMOs based on studies conducted by the companies who created them and profited from their sale.

Many health-conscious shoppers find the lack of rigorous, independent, scientific examination

In 30 other countries around the world, including Australia, Japan, and all of the countries in the European Union, there are significant restrictions or outright bans on the production of GMOs because they are not proven safe.

sprayed,” said Michael Hansen, Chief Scientist of Consumers Union. “Genetically engineered foods contain untested novel foreign compounds that can be detrimental to our health.”

American consumers deserve

or outright bans on the production of GMOs, because they are not proven safe.

In the United States, on the other hand, the United States Food and Drug Administration approved commercial production of

on the impact of consuming GM foods to be cause for concern, according to the Non-GMO project.

Robert Brackett, Director of Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition at the Food and Drug Administration stated in

his testimony before the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, that the FDA is confident that the bioengineered foods on the United States market today are as safe as their conventional counterparts.

The FDA has found no evidence to indicate that DNA inserted into plants using bioengineering presents food safety problems.

The FDA does not require labeling to indicate whether a food or food ingredient is a bioengineered product, just as it does not require labeling to indicate which conventional breeding technique was used in developing a food plant.

According to an *ABC News* Poll, 93 percent of Americans said the federal government should require labels on food saying whether it’s been genetically modified, or “bio-engineered.”

You Too, Can Save the Planet

Easy Ways to Live Green

NANA BONSU
STAFF WRITER

Now inhabited by nearly seven billion people, the planet is constantly facing human activity that negatively contributes to the environment. However, there are plenty of ways people can become more environmentally aware and do more to better sustain the planet.

According to improving-healthandenergy.com, the term “green living” refers to “any actions or activity that results in a positive impact on the environment so that the planet can continue to support future generations.” In order to live green, people simply need to make better choices in their daily lives, such as “choosing paper instead of plastic grocery bags, recycling newspapers and soda cans, driving a fuel efficient car, or eating organically grown food.”

Dr. Kenneth Stunkel, Professor of history and co-author of *Economic Super Powers and the Environment: The United States, the Soviet Union, and Japan*, said, “Being environmentally conscious is a matter of understanding the fact that I’m a biological organism dependent for my well-being on natural systems, such as fresh water, fertile soil, a healthy atmosphere, and other living creatures.”

He said that green living is important because, “When natural systems are degraded, such as water being polluted, soils failing to support crops, or oceans being acidified or overfished, hundreds of species that hold the ecology of environments together become extinct and my own life and its prospects are diminished.”

In an effort to better preserve the planet and the environment, there are many simple things that people can do every day which require little to no effort. For example, earthtrends.org suggests activities as simple as turning off the water while brushing one’s

teeth, running the dishwasher and washing machine only when full, and repairing leaky faucets. Water is vital to the survival of both people and ecosystems, making conservation a top priority for those who endorse green living. For example, one drip of water from a leaky faucet per second wastes 20 gallons of water per day.

Energy conservation is also important. From the type of light

quarter of the energy of an ordinary light bulb and lasting eight to 12 times longer.”

Stunkel said, “We must be aware and informed of the impact humans and modern industrial civilization are inflicting on nature; we consume too much, produce too much waste, destroy whole ecosystems with development, and assume that physical growth can go on indefinitely without grave consequences.”

recycled, including batteries, ink cartridges, and cell phones.

“Recycling should be required by law wherever and however it can be done,” Stunkel said. “Recycling must be accompanied by more energy efficient production, durable products, and reduced consumption.”

People should also re-evaluate the types of houseware and kitchenware products they use. “Avoid using throw-away prod-

to the high rates of pollution in China. Also, with over one billion cars globally, automobiles have been a contributing factor to the ever increasing rate of atmospheric pollution.

“Most people do not know what it means to pump carbon dioxide and ammonia into the atmosphere,” said Stunkel. “With 2.5 billion of the world’s seven billion people, India and China still use chemicals that eat away at the ozone layer that protects us from harmful radiation for air conditioners and refrigerators.”

From a population of one billion in 1820 to seven billion in 2011 and a projected nine billion within the next few decades, the earth only faces continued long term effects of human activity that is in unhealthy for the environment.

However, people can do more for the well-being of the planet if they take the time to educate themselves on what it is they can do in their everyday lives to be a positive influence on their environment. It does not take require much time, money, or effort, but it instead requires a concern for what is best for the sustainability of the planet.

“Overwhelming human demands on nature account for the decline of all major ecosystems, reduction of other life forms, harmful chemicals everywhere, melting of arctic ice, climate change due to the carbon dioxide content of the atmosphere, the decline of many oceanic fisheries to the point of distinction, the spread of deserts, and more,” Stunkel added.

“People have children without asking themselves what kind of world that child will be obliged to live in. Without a proper world with sustainable resources, there can be no tolerable human life; physical, intellectual, spiritual, or otherwise. Consider the fantasies of those who dream of colonizing the moon or Mars when we can’t even assure the health of our own planet.”



PHOTO COURTESY of nationalgeographic.com

Recycling and conserving will help to save beautiful natural wonders around the world for future generations to come.

bulbs people buy to the way they insulate their homes, much can be done in an effort to save energy. Minute tasks such as changing the type of light bulb one uses or unplugging unused electronics or appliances can save a lot of energy per year. According to earthtrends.org, despite the higher cost, “compact fluorescent bulbs save people money in the long run by using only one

He said, “Most people have no idea what natural systems make their food possible or how much fresh water is left on the planet or where it comes from.”

People are also encouraged to recycle. Earthtrends.org estimates that the average person produces over four pounds of garbage every day, despite the fact that nearly 50 percent of everyday, ordinary garbage can be

ucts such as paper napkins, plastic silverware, and paper plates,” earthtrends.org recommends. “One should store food in reusable containers instead of using plastic bags, aluminum foil, or plastic wrap.”

Industrialization has also had a major impact on the sustainability of the planet. The Chinese rely heavily on coal, a highly polluting fossil fuel, which contributes

Need Some Career Advising? Visit Jeff Mass

Former University Graduate Works as Job Placement Coordinator

JENNIFER DWIGGINS
STAFF WRITER

It is always a success when University students find a job that they love, and then come back to the University to share their knowledge with current students. This is the case for Jeff Mass, the Job Placement Coordinator for Career Services.

Mass graduated from the University in 2004 with a degree in Business Administration. After graduating, Mass worked as a recruitment consultant for Telcordia Technologies in Piscataway, NJ. He stayed there for a year before moving on to be executive recruiter for Snelling Staffing Services in New York City. After four years of employment, he came back to the University, and has been working here for almost two years.

“Both jobs entailed full life cycle recruiting for various hiring managers,” said Mass. This means that he worked with every aspect in the hiring process, from reviewing resumes to placing people into positions within the company.

As the Job Placement Coordinator for Career Services, Mass counsels students individually in regards

to their careers. This could include choosing a major, creating a resume, techniques for finding jobs or getting an internship, interview preparation, and graduate school planning.

He also helps out with events related to Career Services, such as career days or networking programs.

Mass is able to interact with both students and alumni on a daily basis. There are many people who utilize Career Services, and for a good reason. “It’s very fulfilling when students take the time to write you a personalized email about how they landed a full-time, part-time, or internship position after that first initial appointment,” said Mass.

Unfortunately, the economy is not in the best condition for placing people in new jobs. “Given this bleak economy,” says Mass, “it’s frustrating when you can’t find everyone a job.” Even though there is a “bleak” outlook for graduates in their job searches, an article written for *The Chicago Tribune* by Alejandro Cancino reports that it is best to jump into your field right out of college rather than settle for a lesser job. She said, “The longer college graduates go without working in their field, the harder it is to land interviews for

jobs where they would use their degree.” Career services can help place students in jobs that are related to their major and that give them experience in the line of work in which they majored.

Mass would not change anything in the process that got him back working at the University. He praises the academic programs at the University, saying that they are “top notch.”

As not just an employee, but an alumnus, Mass has nothing but good things to say about his former university and current employer. “The school has a great curriculum and the professors are always willing to help.” Mass said that the only thing that could possibly change for the better would be to add a Starbucks on campus. “I think the students and staff would love it!” he said.

Mass will be the advisor for a new University club, The Jersey Shore Association for Human Resources. Mass said that the club is geared to students who want a career in human resources.

He is also enrolled in the Masters program here at the University. He plans on getting his masters in Corporate and Public Communication.



PHOTO COURTESY of Jeff Mass

Jeff Mass works in Career Services, which can help place students in jobs related to their major.



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Business Fraternity Welcomed to Campus

Alpha Kappa Psi Successfully Passes Fraternal Exam

ALEXIS ORLACCHIO
STAFF WRITER

To become chartered, officially recognized as a social organization on campus, fraternities and sororities need a minimum of 40 members to pass the fraternal exam and complete the interview process conducted by nationals. The University welcomed the Psi Iota pledge class of the Alpha Kappa Psi Business Fraternity on Saturday, December 3.

The members of Alpha Kappa Psi successfully passed the fraternal exam on Saturday, November 26. The interviews took place on Saturday, December 3 in the Club Dining Room, next to Magill Commons, from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Forty-four members of Alpha Kappa Psi took the exam, and all 44 members passed. All but one pledge member was inducted into the fraternity because they missed the induction ceremony.

Alpha Kappa Psi is a co-ed business fraternity, but students of any major are allowed to join. Since Alpha Kappa Psi is not a social fraternity, there are some members of Alpha Kappa Psi who are also involved in other social fraternities and sororities.

“What we will be looking for in the upcoming semester in pledges are people who are well rounded, and can contribute to our fraternity and what we have built,” said Christian Klein, Alpha Kappa Psi Junior. “It was a seven month long process bringing this fraternity to the Univer-

sity,” said Klein. Alpha Kappa Psi is the world’s largest business fraternity and is described as a charitable and educational foundation and aims at bettering the community.

“We don’t know exactly what

Bracelets were sold for two dollars and all the profits went to a local soup kitchen, Soup D’Shore located in Long Branch. The sale raised \$1,229 and the soup kitchen was able to use the money to buy food for Thanksgiving.

the company Venuing, taught the fraternity about the New York mercantile exchange. Alpha Kappa Psi also held a resume-writing workshop. “We want kids to know that we are a good group of people with many different personalities and we all have a common goal of helping out the community and being involved on campus,” said Yuliano.

On Monday, December 12, the fraternity voted on President, Vice President of Membership, Vice President of Finance, Vice President of Programming, Vice President of Communication and Alumni Secretary and Historian in the club dining room.

The voting session was closed to everyone but the brothers of the fraternity and the alumni.

“Besides the hard work of the Executive Board, I would also like to thank President Gaffney, and members of the administration, especially Tyler Havens, in his Greek Life position, for the support and encouragement given to the chapter during the process,” said Professor Gorman, advisor of Alpha Kappa Psi.

“As one of their faculty advisors during the process, I have been very proud of the commitment by the members of the organization as the process advanced to its recent culmination,” said Gorman.

“They are a fine example of what Greek life can do for students.”



PHOTO COURTESY of Alexis Orlacchio

Forty-four members of Alpha Kappa Psi took the fraternal exam on November 26 and all 44 passed.

pledging entails because our situation was unique. We had to complete a lot of requirements before we could get our charter,” said Louis Yuliano, Alpha Kappa Psi Junior. Among the requirements, Alpha Kappa Psi needed to hold one social event, two professional events, and one philanthropy event. Alpha Kappa Psi did two bracelet sales.

ing. The manager of Bubbakoo’s Burritos in Eatontown let Alpha Kappa Psi sell the remaining 500 bracelets at the restaurant on Friday, December 9. Flyers were given out to customers and 15 percent of their bill went to Soup D’Shore. Alpha Kappa Psi has also done volunteer work for Ronald McDonald House. Guest speaker Ira Eckstein, founder of

Club and Greek Announcements

Running Club

Happy Holidays to all members of the great new Running Club on campus as well as to the entire cross country and track & field team.

Put the time in to ace those finals, but make time to sleep well, eat well and work out. You will feel better and function much better if you do.

All the best, Coach Joe Compagni

Outdoors Club

The Outdoors Club would like to wish everyone a fun and safe winter break.

Make sure not to let the cold weather discourage you from getting outside and having some fun!

Trips for the spring semester will be discussed after break.

Happy Holidays and good luck on finals.

Alpha Xi Delta

The sister’s of Alpha Xi Delta would like to wish everyone good luck on their finals as well as a safe and fun winter break.

Happy Holidays!

Economics and Finance Club

The Economics and Finance Club will be meeting every Wednesday at 2:30 pm in Bey Hall, room 231.

Students can check out our website for further information as well as our calendar of events at muefc.wordpress.com.

Catholic Centre

Sunday Mass

(last Mass of semester 12/18)

7 PM in Wilson Chapel

Daily Mass

(last Daily Mass of semester 12/13)

Tuesdays & Wednesdays at 12 PM in Wilson Chapel

Eucharistic Adoration

(ends 12/15)

Thursdays at 12 PM in Wilson Chapel

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(angel gifts due)

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Fund“raise” the Roof

Social Work Classes Bring Fundraising Events to Campus

ASHLEY CORREIA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER
MARA MCINERNEY
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The University communication and sociology students are required as part of their separate curriculums, to take Small Group Communication also known as SO-320-50/ CO-320-50. These classes focus on developing and understanding skills necessary for successful communication in groups.

To foster practical use of techniques learned, the class must form groups and facilitate a group service project in which they are required to work with an existing organization to create on campus fundraising events.

The SO-320-50/CO-320-50 as a whole had three different groups, all of which chose to link up with local food banks and organizations in order to organize their own unique can and food collection efforts.

The Monmouth University Food Drivers, worked with the Monmouth and Ocean County Food Bank, which is located in Neptune, NJ. As part of their efforts to give back to the community they organized an on campus collection which they called a “Can Scram.” This “Can Scram” consisted of going dorm-to-dorm, door-to-door and asking for donations from students.

Although students were informed ahead of time of the groups intended visit through e-mail, social media and on-campus advertising, there was still an element of surprise. This element of surprise proved to be beneficial as students did not hesitate to hand over their Easy Mac, Ramen Noodles, and Chef Boyardee. According to group member Kelly O’Grady, “We were very surprised by the overall outcome and donations of the students; we surpassed our goal to have 400 cans donated by far, and are ecstatic!”

Group members also went to local food stores and asked for any donations and contributions to help their cause. Of the dozen

stores they visited, only two Shop Rites were generous enough to help the cause.

The groups demonstrated an array of creativity in developing unique ideas for different ways to get University students involved. Another group in the class came up with the idea “Cupcakes for Cans.”

This involved taking donations in the form of money or non-perishable items, in exchange for red-velvet, chocolate, or vanilla mini cupcakes. Throughout the course of several days, they strategically planted themselves in the Student Center, where they knew there would be a lot of traffic, and exchanged the cupcakes for contributions.

More heartwarming than their pint-sized cupcakes was their involvement with the soup kitchen, Meal at Noon, located in Long Branch, and developed by Louis Armour. This volunteer organization has been giving back to the public for 15 years by providing hot lunches from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm every Saturday. They also distribute bag lunches every Wednesday, free of charge. All employees at the organization are volunteers.

Milliann Abrams is a senior psychology major and member of this group. She works directly with this organization by providing whatever type of assistance she can. Abrams believes that, “University students are very fortunate, so it’s good to get the chance to give back to people who need it.”

The Food Fighters derived their name from the band the Foo Fighters, and this name speaks for itself.

They came up with the idea to host a silent auction and donate the proceeds to The Food Bank of Monmouth and Ocean Counties. They used their knack for community outreach to get several companies to donate items for the auction which included,



PHOTO COURTESY of Nick Hodgins

Boxes are set up in Plangere to collect gently worn coats for underprivileged children for the holidays.

a Pandora bracelet, a gift certificate to Pinche restaurant in New York City, and a gift certificate to Joe’s, a local pizzeria. The auction was held on November 21 and 22 in the Student Center.

According to group member Maria Sciandra, “the experience was very rewarding and important to me because we were helping others during the holiday season.”

According to Dr. Mary Swigonski, an associate Professor for the School of Social Work and a licensed clinical social worker, “Giving back to the community and lending a hand are always good things for human beings of all ages to engage in, be they students, parents, faculty or other persons. Empathy, altruism, compassion and community engagement are the bedrock of humane civil society.”

Dr. Swignoski also provided suggestions of ways to encourage and motivate students to be more active and participate by stating, “When human beings

share a deep sense of empathy with each other, when we recognize the interdependence of all living creatures, then we more graciously reach out to support and help each other. Empathy and compassion inspire working together, not as an artificially required giving back, but as an organic flow of acting from the heart to do what we can. So, I would suggest that we all pause more regularly, notice how all of humanity is connected within the same web of life, and practice living in ways that respect our interdependence, empathy, and compassion. Let those guide our actions -- all of us, not just students, all of us, and the world will be a much safer, kinder, happier place.”

The University nurtures a garden that donates tons of vegetables to needy families all around Monmouth County. Robin Mama, a professor and Dean of the School of Social Work, and Representative to the IFSW at the United Nations, stated, “It

is very beneficial for students to get involved in events and activities on campus. They meet new people and learn about issues and topics they might not have known anything about before. This can lead them to get more involved or to take on a special project themselves.” She went on to further assert the importance volunteering and getting involved adding, “Always look for opportunities to get involved or to volunteer. Volunteering does not take a lot of effort and it does not always take a lot of time but it provides so much to the project that you are volunteering for. The Community Garden for example, relies on volunteers a great deal. When students came to help clean up the garden during the Big Event, they really helped us get a great start on getting the garden prepared for the winter season. That one day of volunteering meant a great deal to the gardeners who are involved in taking care of the Community Garden,” she said.

LAMP for Haiti

Please Support the LAMP for Haiti Organization

PRESS RELEASE

Many people realize that the citizens of Haiti are suffering after the earthquake struck the country just under two years ago, but not many people realize how bad the situation was before the earthquake, and still is, and how they can help. LAMP for Haiti is an organization whose sole objective is to help the people of Haiti obtain a better quality of life.

LAMP for Haiti operates primarily in the slum of Cité de Soleil located in the Port au Prince metropolitan area. Cité de Soleil is regarded by many as one of the poorest and most dangerous places in the western hemisphere, and that is fitting seeing as how Haiti is the poorest country in the western hemisphere. The average person in Haiti lives on a single dollar a day, and the people of Cité de Soleil are lucky if they can come close to that. There is little law and order in the slum as armed gangs fight for control over the city, often leaving innocent people in the crossfire. Disease is also rampant in the slum, with STIs and TB and malaria taking the lives of many. The city’s situation was not made any better when the magnitude 7.0 earthquake hit the impoverished country on January 12, 2010. Government relief has been slow to reach the city, however, leaving non-governmental organizations (NGOs), like LAMP, to help the aid the slum of 300,000 people.

LAMP helps the people of Haiti in many ways. Recently LAMP has helped treat the cholera outbreak that hit Haiti in 2010, and through their efforts they have brought in a Reverse Osmosis (RO) machine that purifies the contaminated water that caused the outbreak. The organization also runs a medical clinic that is staffed by six paid Haitian LAMP team members who treat 700 patients a month. At the clinic they treat many diseases that are common in Cité de Soleil such as TB, malaria, STIs, diarrheal and respiratory illness, and they also provide HIV and syphilis tests and treatment for minor injuries. All of this is free of charge.

The organization is not limited just helping the health of the people of Cité de Soleil, they also work as humanitarians too. They have partnered with a neighboring school and through donations they made it possible for children to attend that school and receive a daily meal for a year for just \$220, and prior to the elections in 2010 they provided “election education” to the citizens of the slum so that the citizens could make a more mindful decision as to who they voted for. The LAMP organization looks to solve any problem within their power and prevent that problem from occurring again.

LAMP for Haiti is an apolitical, nonsectarian humanitarian organization, founded in 2006 by Thomas Griffin, Esq. and James Morgan, MD. It is a non-profit, Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) whose sole purpose is to help reduce poverty in Haiti, in particular Cité de Soleil. In pursuit of this mission, the Lamp provides basic health care, investigates allegations of human right abuses, and provides educational and humanitarian aid. One can support the organization by making donations at www.lampforhaiti.org.

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Comic Books Celebrate the Holiday Season

MATTHEW FISHER
COMICS EDITOR

Believe it or not, even comic books like to get into the holiday spirit. From short stories to reinventions of familiar tales, comic book creators work hard to bring season greetings to fans. One of the first holiday specials to look at is “Marvel Holiday Special 2011.” Now this isn’t the first time Marvel has produced a special one-shot of stories set around Christmas time. Characters from Spider-Man, the Hulk, and the X-Men have been featured in these tales, fighting trouble while preparing for the holidays.

According to spider-fan.org, “In the early 90’s, Marvel started running a ‘Marvel Holiday Special,’ featuring a few Christmassy...type stories. That ran out of steam after a half-dozen issues, but they started up again in 2004 and have carried on ever since.”

In addition to print publication, “Marvel Holiday Special 2011” was also offered to fans online as a four-part series through Marvel Digital Comics Unlimited.

In “Marvel Holiday Special 2011,” one of the stories involves Wolverine playing hockey (issue #1). Another has Spider-Man in pursuit of a criminal on Christmas (issue #2) while the Thing has his holiday meal interrupted by super-powered trouble (issue #4). These stories are a nice break from the heavy melodrama present throughout the year.

While Marvel is busy having fun with their special, things are a bit more serious at DC Comics. Their holiday book in the spotlight this year is “Batman: Noel” by superstar artist Lee Bermejo (who was also written about in last week’s column regarding “Lex Luthor: Man of Steel” and “Joker”). Unlike his previous works, in this original graphic novel Bermejo takes up duties as both writer and artist.

“Batman: Noel” places the Caped Crusader in Ebenezer Scrooge’s

shoes from Charles Dickens’s “A Christmas Carol,” as Batman confronts his past, present, and future around Christmas time. Along the way, spirits in the form of characters like Superman and Catwoman visit Batman to discuss his life as Gotham’s crime fighter.

While talking to comicbookresources.com about “Batman: Noel,” Bermejo explained why “A Christmas Carol” could easily be placed in Batman’s world and how this interpretation is unique.

He said, “I think everybody’s familiar with ‘A Christmas Carol’ at this point, but the great thing about that – and I think the reason for that – is that thematically it’s got something universal. I thought

DC’s holiday book for 2011, it isn’t the only time they’ve published a book centering on and/or celebrating holidays. Just like the “Marvel Holiday Special” one-shots, DC has printed stories featuring heroes like Superman and Wonder Woman in the “DC Universe Holiday Special” series.

While there isn’t one this year, “DC Universe Holiday Special 2010” featured a Thanksgiving story with Superman and even a Hanukkah tale with bounty hunter Jonah Hex searching for the person that murdered a rabbi. Unlike Marvel, DC’s specials tend to cover all holidays around this time of year rather than just the major December festivals.

The last comic book to discuss is Bongo Comics’ “The Simpsons Winter Wingding” #6. It’s an annual book that comes out around November/December to celebrate winter and the holidays.

This isn’t the only “Simpsons” book that celebrates seasons or holidays as Bongo also publishes a summer annual (“The Simpsons Summer Shindig”) and a Halloween special like the TV show (“Bart Simpson’s Treehouse of Horror”).

According to a synopsis on tfaw.com, stories in the new “Simpsons Winter Wingding” include “Bart makes an important archaeological discovery when he finds a frozen caveman in Lake Springfield. And after a mail-order mix-up, Homer’s Christmas gifts to the family get delivered to different residences throughout Springfield - with surprising results!”

The site also mentions a story featuring Grandpa Simpson telling another of his wacky stories and Bart shoveling snow to make money.

Overall, “Simpsons” fans can rest assured this lovable yet goofy family will keep them laughing page after page.

While movies and TV produce new holiday stories yearly, these comics show that there are just as many exciting and fun tales to be read dealing with heroes or animated families.

Happy Holidays, everyone!



PHOTO COURTESY OF COMICSCONTINUUM.COM

Ever wonder what “A Christmas Carol” would be like if it starred Batman? Well, that’s what writer/artist Lee Bermejo explores in his original graphic novel, “Batman: Noel.”

that it would be interesting to play with those classic ideas but use DC characters. And I think it’s important to note too that this isn’t an adaptation...It’s its own story that mirrors the structure of ‘A Christmas Carol,’ and you have a narrator that’s telling you the story of ‘A Christmas Carol’ almost as if he was telling it to someone else.”

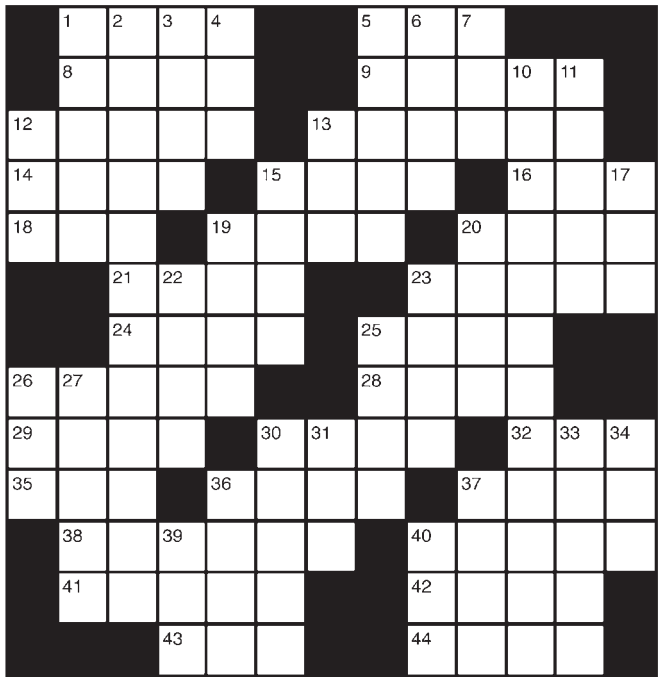
Although “Batman: Noel” is



CAPOZZOLA

THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

12/11/11

ACROSS

- 1 Mayberry's sheriff
- 5 Daniel ___ Kim
- 8 "Daddy Day ___"; movie for Eddie Murphy and Anjelica Huston
- 9 Actress Rene ___
- 12 ___ off; chases away
- 13 Ted of "Cheers"
- 14 Employee who is not permanent, for short
- 15 "True ___"; Western movie for Matt Damon and Jeff Bridges
- 16 Evergreen tree
- 18 Fraternity letter
- 19 "___ Mom"; MTV reality series
- 20 "The ___ King"; hit animated film
- 21 Max ___ Jr., of "The Beverly Hillbillies"
- 23 "___ Hope"; old daytime serial
- 24 Otherwise
- 25 Media mogul ___ Griffin
- 26 Paquin and Belknap
- 28 "___ dead people"; Cole's line in "The Sixth Sense"
- 29 Capital of old West Germany
- 30 Board in a bench

- 32 Emerson's monogram
- 35 Olympic runner Sebastian ___
- 36 "Flip ___ House"
- 37 Frankenstein's assistant
- 38 Actress Meryl
- 40 ___ up; refuses to say more
- 41 Piano piece
- 42 "I'm a Celebrity...Get Me Out of ___"
- 43 Uncanny sense, for short
- 44 Tehran's nation

DOWN

- 1 Prolonged pains
- 2 Role on "Private Practice"
- 3 "Operation Dumbo ___"; movie for Danny Glover and Denis Leary
- 4 "Say ___ to the Dress"
- 5 Hole in the bottom of a sink
- 6 Em or Bee
- 7 Curvy mountain road
- 10 Actress on "Modern Family"
- 11 "The ___ Field"; movie for John Savage and James Woods
- 12 Fuel additive known as "The Racer's Edge"
- 13 Rap artist Dr. ___
- 15 Actor Richard ___
- 17 Many hosp. employees
- 19 Actress Harper
- 20 Stringed instrument of old
- 22 Actor Alda
- 23 Take a nap
- 25 Farrow and Kirshner
- 26 Diane Sawyer's employer
- 27 Lasso's loop
- 30 Little Bo Peep's charges
- 31 Cold sore spot, often
- 33 "Designing ___"
- 34 Trauma centers, for short
- 36 Koppel and Knight
- 37 Robert of "The Sopranos"
- 39 Actress McClanahan
- 40 Actor ___ McBride

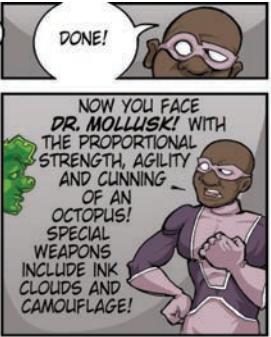
Solution to Last Week's Puzzle



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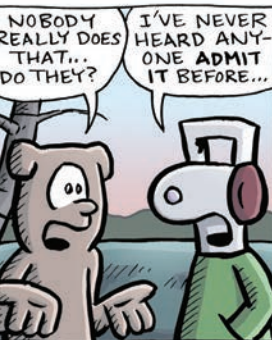
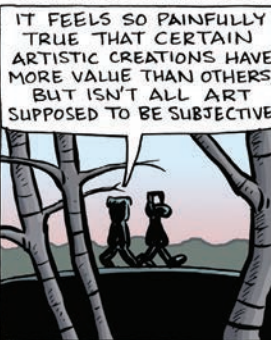
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Calamities of Nature by Tony Piro



Men’s Basketball Team Wins Home Opener Over Fordham

ED MORLOCK
ASSOCIATE SPORTS EDITOR

After starting the season 0-8, the Hawks have put together a two-game winning streak. They defeated Navy on the road and Fordham at home for Head Coach King Rice’s first game at the MAC.

“I’m really proud of my kids. I’ve been telling them that this was going get very fun at some point during the season. I did not know when it would be,” said Rice. “But if you look at the kids out on the court, you can tell that they are having a good time. You can tell they had fun tonight. They worked their tails off but they had fun playing basketball.”

Hawks’ guard Jesse Steele has energized the team in the two

percent.

Navy was led by forward J.J. Avila. Avila scored 14 points and added five assists in 33 minutes on the floor. Worth Smith, Jordan Brickman, and Jordan Sugars joined him in scoring in double figures.

The Hawks put together a strong team effort Saturday night against Fordham. There was a good crowd at the MAC, and the team didn’t disappoint. The Hawks jumped out to an early double-digit lead and never looked back.

“The energy in the building was crazy, the crowd just pumped us up,” said Steele. “We just came out and punched them in the face, we just kept going.”

Five Hawks scored in double figures in the game. Myers Keitt,



PHOTO COURTESY of MU Photography

Freshman Austin Tillotson drives to the net in the Hawks 80-65 victory over FORDHAM on Saturday night. Tillotson had a season high 12 points in the game, and he was one of five Hawks in double figures.

“But if you look at the kids out on the court, you can tell that they are having a good time. You can tell they had fun tonight. They worked their tails off but they had fun playing basketball.”

KING RICE
Head Coach

wins. Against Navy, the junior guard from Milford, New Jersey scored 20 points and played all but four minutes of the game. In the following game, Steele led the Blue and White with 18 points and six assists.

MU defeated Navy 69-67. Along with Steele’s strong performance, Mike Myers Keitt and Ed Waite each scored in double digits, both scoring 10 points. As a team, Monmouth shot 58 percent from the field in this contest, compared to Navy’s 47.1

Waite, Dion Nesmith and Austin Tillotson joined Steele in that category.

Tillotson was a spark off the bench against Fordham. The freshman guard from York, Pennsylvania flew down the court for a few left-handed layups that he made look easy, bringing the crowd to its feet. He scored 12 points in only 13 minutes of play.

“Throughout the beginning of the season, it’s been a big transition from high school. The speed, the size. Now that we’re

playing teams that we can really, really compete with, not saying we can’t compete with those big teams, but now my confidence has really escalated,” said Tillotson. “I know deep down that I can play with anyone in the country, so I go out there with confidence every single time.”

Will Campbell played a large role in this game that won’t be noticed on the stat sheet. The senior guard from Willingboro, New Jersey played an aggressive style of defense, never letting the Fordham point guard get com-

fortable. Campbell only played 15 minutes in the game, but he disrupted the opponent’s offense and didn’t allow them to set up their plays. He also contributed four rebounds and three assists.

Chris Gaston tallied a double-double for Fordham. He scored 21 points, shooting 39% from the field. He also grabbed 10 rebounds in 38 minutes of play. Marvin Dominique and Brian Smith also scored in double figures.

Fordham fell to 4-4 on the season after the loss to Monmouth.

The Blue and White still find themselves tied for last in the Northeast Conference (NEC). After two games against NEC opponents, MU is winless. The team will not have a chance to improve their conference record until they host Mount St. Mary’s on January 5.

The next home game for the Hawks is Thursday, December 22 against Rider.

In the mean time, the Hawks will travel to Piscataway, NJ to take on Rutgers at the Rutgers Athletic Center.

Women’s Basketball Team Defeats St. Peters 73-64

MAGGIE ZELINKA
STAFF WRITER

The women’s basketball team defeated the St. Peter’s College Peahens this past Saturday at the Multipurpose Activity Center (MAC) with a final score of 73-64. The women went into the game with a 2-6 record, following a 82-69 loss to St. Francis (Pa.) last Monday night, while St. Peter’s was sporting a 0-6 record for the 2011 season.

The women were led by junior forward Abby Martin and senior guard Alexis Canady. Martin contributed 21 points in the women’s win while Canady posted 17 points in the win. The two contributed 38 points in the team’s total 73 points.

For the entire first half, the competition was pretty much level. St. Peter’s scored the first basket but after that, the Hawks’ quickly put their name on the board.

MU scored the next seven points ending with a three-pointer from Canady. The Hawks’ lead did not last long; the Peahens were able to tie the game up at an even 22-22 with 7:33 left on the scoreboard in the first half.

The two teams were idle for the next two minutes until MU’s senior forward, Gena Broadus, was able to make a basket pull-

ing the Hawks ahead 24-22. The Hawks went on to create a four-point lead. The Peahens came back and made the game an even 26-26 with 2:55 left to play in the first half. Monmouth scored the next five points bringing the game to 31-26. The Peahens then scored four points securing a one point deficit as the buzzer rang. As the teams were walking off the court, the half time score was 31-30 Monmouth.

“Although the game was close after the first half, we had all the confidence. We were working hard for the entire game and knew that would pay off; we knew that we were the better team,” freshmen Danica Dragicevic claimed.

The second half began quickly with Monmouth’s junior guard, Gabby Singer, shooting a basket within the first 11 seconds of play. Throughout the second half, the game was a consistent back and forth battle between the two colleges.

MU would score, but then St. Peter’s would score right after that. It was not until there was 16:36 left to play when Monmouth began pull away from the Peahens in a big way. With the score 39-38, Martin was able to shoot for two bringing the Hawks to a 41-38 advantage.

The scoring continued with

Canady scoring two and then she sank a three-pointer for the Hawks increasing their lead to 46-38.

Junior guard Carly Thibault led the Hawks to their first 10 point lead of the game at 14:41 by sinking both of her free throws. St. Peter’s made the next four points bringing the score to 48-42 as Monmouth was still in the lead. Within the next three minutes, the game became 50-49 in the Hawks favor. The women were able to create distance and by the five minute mark, they were leading 63-55.

With 2:25 left, the Hawks were up by ten points with the score at 67-57. Although the team knew they would most likely win, they continued to play hard in attempt to increase the point gap. As the game was winding down with only 26 seconds left to play, Monmouth was still in the lead 71-59.

The Peahens continued to be aggressive and they were able to make a three pointer at the 14 second mark. When the game ended, the scoreboard read 73 Hawks and 64 Peahens.

Marking a notch in their win column, the women currently hold a 3-7 record and will face Winthrop this upcoming Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. in the MAC.

THE OUTLOOK’S WEEKLY NFL PICKS

Week Fifteen

Jets vs. Eagles

Giants vs. Redskins

49ers vs. Steelers

Ravens vs. Chargers

Patriots vs. Broncos

Lions vs. Raiders

Falcons vs. Jaguars

Cowboys vs. Buccs

Now featuring guest picks!

Brett	Dan	Ed	Vice President Nagy
(6-2 Last Wk) (60-28 Overall)	(6-2 Last Wk) (52-36 Overall)	(7-1 Last Wk) (57-31 Overall)	Last weeks guest picker: Nicole Levy (8-0 Last Wk)

Getting to Know the Ice Hawks

DARIA DELUCCIA
STAFF WRITER

Even though the Ice Hawks are not on the athletics' page like most of the other Hawk teams, does not mean that they are not an equal part of University's athletics program.

Because many University's and colleges in this area do not have a hockey team, club teams are set up offering the same rules and high expectations as any other sport. After not seeing much information regarding the University's hockey team, I felt they deserved a fair shot to be recognized just as equally as any other team.

The teams 25 game season is off to a rocky start so far. With a 5-11 record in the Mid-Atlantic Collegiate Hockey Association they are remaining hopeful for the rest of the season. After being on the team for a few years already, senior captains Patrick Lynch and Sean Rohan described how much they enjoyed being a part of the team for those years.

With a new coach, a new locker room, and new jerseys, the University's Ice Hawks say they are only looking up for the future of the team. Their new coach Steven Rittenger previously coached The Wildcats junior team in the Easter Junior Hockey League. "He's awesome," described freshman assistant captain Kyle McKenna. "He's slowly but surely turning the program around."

The tight knit team of 24 players compare themselves as being just as close with one another as a band of fraternity brothers would be. Just one example of the teams' closeness is portrayed through their annual winter flag football game. The team is divided into two teams after the two captains, Lynch and Rohan, conduct a draft. This event is something that brings the team closer together after working hard the entire season.

If the relationship that the three players I interviewed was any indication of what the whole was like together, then it is quite obvious they truly are like a brotherhood. With nothing but positive things to say about each other, Lynch described his fellow teammate and co-captain as the "heart of the team," and as the "playmaker."

As each player gave me an insight to what their team is like, neither of them was shy or hesitant to boast about their fellow players achievements and abilities. McKenna, or "Mickey" as his teammates call him, was awarded with player of the week this season. He is also the leading goal scorer for the team, with ten goals. Lynch is the second leading goal scorer for the team, with seven goals.

After talking with the three players, it was apparent that they had such a strong passion for the game.

Lynch, who first started playing at the age of four, joked that he went from learning how to walk right into learning how to skate as a child. Playing as the center or left wing, he got into hockey through the encouragement of his father who played in the America Hockey League. After spending some time playing in the junior league, he was recruited to play for the Ice Hawks. Rohan, whose position is also left wing, started playing hockey at the age of five. With the influence of his older brothers playing hockey, he too hit the ice at a young age. McKenna, who was always a fan of hockey, did not start playing until he was ten years old. He too played in the junior league before becoming apart of the University's team.

With a few more games left in the season, hockey fans and Hawk followers are encouraged to take a trip out to the Jersey Shore Arena located in Wall, NJ to support the Ice Hawks.



PHOTO COURTESY of muicehawks.com

Kyle Brown looks for the puck in the Ice Hawks match-up against Temple.



PHOTO COURTESY of muicehawks.com

Goalie Anthony Tabbacchino stops a shot against the Rider offense back in September.

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Men and Women’s Track Team Post Strong Finishes at Lehigh

GAVIN MAZZAGLIA
STAFF WRITER

The men’s and women’s track and field teams put up solid finishes at the “Fast Times Before Finals” Invitational at Rauch Field House at Lehigh University. The meet was a promotional race and did not count towards their overall record.

“We had a lot of strong performances in every event area. The next step is to keep training hard so that we continue to improve into 2012,” said Head Coach Joe Compagni.

The women’s team was highlighted by Laura Williams, who was an All-American last season. She took first place in the 200 meter dash as she crossed the finish line at 25.77. She also came in first place in the 400

meter dash, finishing in 58.52. Colleen Rutecki finished in fifth place overall in the 200 meter dash with a finish of 26.86. She also finished in first place in the 500 meter dash with a time of 1:19.02. Rachael Watkins finished in second overall in the 400 meter dash with a time of 59.34.

Teammates Rachael Aliotta and Tilah Young each qualified for the ECAC Championships. Aliotta finished in first place for shot put with a distance of 46’1.5.” Young came in second overall for the weight throw with a throw of 55’11.”

Katie Frye finished in first place in the 60 meter hurdles with a time of 9.06. She also finished in first in the long jump, with a distance of 18’6.75.” In the 60 meter dash, Lachelle Wallace

finished in second overall with a time of 7.89. In the triple jump, Kim Price took first place with a mark of 36’6.25.”

For the men’s team, Vince Elardo once again exhibited his dominance. He claimed first place in the weight throw with a distance of 58’11.25”. He also came in first place for shot put, with a mark of 56’11.25”. Shane Carle finished in third overall for shot put with a mark of 51’8.25”.

In the triple jump, Josh Mann and Nick Waltman finished in second and third overall, respectively. Mann cleared 45’3.75.” and Waltman cleared 45’2.5.” In the high jump, Jake Bartlett finished in third with a mark of 6’4.25.”

Tom Jeffers came in second for the second straight meet in

the pole vault with a mark of 14’1.25.” In the long jump, Stevenson Cajuste came in third with a mark of 21’7.75.”

Geoff Navarro came in second place in the 200 meter dash with a time of 22.93 and he came in third in the 60 meter dash with a finish of 7.04. Chris Rutherford came in third in the 400 meter dash, posting a time of 55.02.

Dan Ramirez finished in second place in the 800 meter run with a time of 2:00.41. In the mile run, Ford Palmer claimed first place with a finish of 4:23.39. Palmer, along with Joe DiBianca, Bayaan Oluyadi, and Jon Marques finished in second place for the 4 by 400 meter run, finishing in a time of 3:26.82.

In other track news, last week Vincent Elardo and Kate Frye earned Northeast Conference

Field and Rookie of the Week honors. Both were instrumental in the teams season opener against Wagner in the 3rd Annual MAC Classic.

Elardo placed first in the shot put and weight throw, while Frye finished in first in the long jump, second in the 60-meter hurdles, and was part of the winning 4x400 meter relay team. The event was Frye’s first ever as a member of the MU track and field team.

The men’s and women’s teams will be on break for the next couple weeks but they will still be practicing. The team will be looking to add to their 1-0 record in their next meet is January 6-7 at the Rutgers Invitational, followed by a meet at West Point to face Navy, Rider, and Lehigh.

NEC Sits Down With Dr. McNeil

PRESS RELEASE

The NEC has the great distinction of calling one of the most distinguished and decorated women in college athletics one of our own. After being involved in college sports as an athlete, coach and administrator, Dr. Marilyn McNeil, Vice President and Athletic Director at Monmouth University has seen Title IX through a unique lenses. Following an interview with McNeil here are nine moments that have defined her illustrious career.

I: The Choice: McNeil can distinctly remember the moment when she knew she wanted to live a life devoted to athletics: the seventh grade.

McNeil credits this interest in sports and athletics to a very strong group of female coaches. “I was a major competitor very early on,” McNeil recounted, “I loved it right from the very beginning.”

II: Growing up in Sports: McNeil went on to play basketball, field hockey and volleyball at the University of Calgary while earning a bachelor’s degree in physical education. In addition to her college playing days McNeil had a stint on the Canadian National Championship Curling Team. She then furthered her education by earning her master’s degree in physical education from McGill.

III: Coaching in Calgary: Following a successful college athletic career at Calgary McNeil transitioned from student athlete to coach at her hometown University. Coaching the women’s basketball team from the dregs of the league to near the top, McNeil was responsible for the resurgence of a women’s basketball program but was in need of more support from the administration. “I don’t want equality, but I want the sense that you believe in what I’m doing,” was her request to the institution after discovering that the men’s coach was paid considerably more than she was. But no action was taking by the university. In that moment McNeil really felt she saw one of the first real struggles for Title IX taking place.

IV: Border Crossing: After being disappointed by the steps taken, or lack thereof, at Calgary, McNeil headed to America to coach Basketball at Cal Poly with high hopes, “I came down thinking I had gone to the Mecca,” she recounted, “It was right after Title IX, it was 1979 and I thought ‘Wow, I’m just going to have all these opportunities.’”

But unfortunately that wasn’t the case.

“I’ve never been so disappointed,” McNeil stated recalling the way that she and the program were treated.

One of the first encounters she had with the Cal Poly staff members left a lasting impression, “I remember walking down the hall with head of

physical education at the time and he said, ‘You know Marilyn, you are the first [female] full time coach that Cal Poly has ever hired and there are not very many people that are happy about that.’ Despite the wall that she was up against, McNeil continued to fight.

V: Little Victories: In addition to the less than warm welcome she received McNeil faced adversity in the form of second-rate practice times, poor gym facilities and was forced to share an office with the Men’s Golf Coach in the main gym, far away from the location of her own teams practice facility. “My office-mate would always pick up the phone and say ‘Men’s Gym!’ and I would look at him and say, ‘Come on it’s not the Men’s Gym, it’s the Main Gym.’ We had this argument for a year, but at the end of it I felt vindicated because he started to pick up the phone and say, ‘Main Gym,’ and I felt like I had won a little victory.”

VI: A Move East: McNeil knew she could no longer continue coaching after she was able to begin to see things from the point of view of an administrator, “I believe coaches should have tunnel vision and see their sport at the exclusivity of all others. That drives athletic directors nuts because they don’t have a broad vision, but if they’re going to be successful they need to have a narrow vision.” So when McNeil could see the broader issues she knew that her next stop would be in administration. She spent the next ten years being an assistant and associate athletic director as well as a senior women administrator watching three athletic directors come and go. “After the third one came in I thought, ‘I know how to do this.’” With a vision and the desire to see it come to fruition, she uprooted her family, a 13 year daughter and nine year old son and a “husband who loved California,” to the Jersey shore to take the position of Athletic Director at Monmouth.

VII: Life of A Hawk: McNeil draws on experiences throughout her career when working with her coaches and staff at Monmouth, providing equal opportunities to both her male and female coaches. “I work so hard to have our women have the same opportunities. The same way I try to have women coaching our women’s teams because I know how influenced I was by strong women, and I think those role model issue are so important.”

McNeil is immensely proud of the strength exhibited by her female coaches and athletes at Monmouth, but knows that she cannot let these same women forget where they came from and what is left to be achieved, “I feel like we’re in a great place here at Monmouth but I can’t let them for-



PHOTO COURTESY of Jim Reme
Dr. Marilyn McNeil has been an instrumental part of the NEC and Monmouth Athletics.

get that there is much more work to do, a lot of them come in thinking ‘that’s the way it is.’ I don’t want them to dwell in the history but I need them to understand that there is so much more work to be done.”

VIII: A stunning Resume: In addition to holding the title of Athletic Director and Vice President of Monmouth University, she has served on the Division I NCAA Committee on Women’s Athletics and the Management Council as well as held the office of President for National Association of Collegiate Women Athletic Administrators (NACWAA), the same committee that named her 2001 Division I-AA Administrator of the Year. Currently she holds a post on the Division I NCAA Women’s Basketball Committee and most notably holds the office of President for the FCS Athletic Directors Association. McNeil was also named Canadian Coach of the Year during her stint with University of Calgary basketball team and was an SWA and Athletic Director at Cal Poly.

IX: Room to Grow: “It’s been a long, long fight,” McNeil stated of her life in athletics, “Some unearned reputations of being not a very nice woman because you stood up for up for what you believed in and it was against what the main core of thought was.” In a further reflection of her career McNeil comments on the reputation she has gained for being firm, “I would look back on my career I don’t think I would change anything, I don’t think I could ever be softer and I’m told all the time that I’m a little hard edged but what I came through and what I experienced and my lack of opportunities where I think so many women could have thrived a lot of women walk away bitter and unhappy and ill-treated that I think what we still have to fight this fight and it’s not over.”



Monstrous Right-Hand Puts NCAA in Shambles, Again

DAN GUNDERMAN
STAFF WRITER

In another embarrassing week for NCAA sports, the true imperfections of some top notch programs were again revealed. After one of the most brutal brawls in recent history, the Xavier-Cincinnati only heightened. With only seconds left in a game dominated by the number eight team in the country; Xavier, Cincinnati player Yancy Gates threw a monstrous punch at Xavier big man Kenny Frease. As the benches cleared, coaches peeled their players away and refs struggled to separate the athletes, an embarrassing moment for the NCAA played out.

It all started before the game, as Cincinnati players called out Tu Holloway, arguably Xavier’s best player. Statements were made regarding the fact that Holloway would not even start had he been a part of the Cincinnati basketball program. Lashing out, Xavier responded with repeated attacks at the Cincinnati bench throughout the game. Taunting the BearCats, the Xavier players were noted to have cursed at the bench and coaching staff. Cincinnati coach Mick Cronin has stated that he repeatedly asked the referees to end the situation, but to no avail.

Just as time was expiring, the punches began flying. Yancy Gates struck Frease so hard that he fell to the ground bleeding. As Frease hit the floor, Gates’ teammate Cheikh Mbojy stomped on his head. After that it was a violent frenzy. BearCat athletes were striking Xavier athletes who were retaliating as well. The rest of the game; about five seconds, had to be called off.

After the game, Mick Cronin angrily stated that he would not stand for such madness within his own program and noted to have physically removed the jerseys from his own players. Also saying he was reviewing who would even be on the team anymore, he lashed out, extremely frustrated. He said that he hoped his school president would not ask him to resign and emotionally made his case.

He sure talked-the-talk for the Cincinnati program, who immediately tried to do “crisis control” to clean its image. But this “talk” lasted barely a day as the Cincinnati program announced its suspensions and Xavier followed suit. The results of these suspensions are quite embarrassing, as Cincinnati, who were the clear-cut perpetrators to start the “assault,” were given lenient suspensions by the conferences who continue to look out for TV appeal instead of true justice.

Gates, who was ready to take a jab at any and every Musketeer player, only got suspended six games for his hit. As Pat Forde says, “If I was a Cincinnati alum, I wouldn’t want to see him wear a school uniform again. If I were a Cincinnati prosecutor I’d be filing assault charges.” But the program wants its scorer back, and only sidelined him for a few games. Mbojy, who threw the kick, was only suspended six games as well. Octavius Ellis was suspended for six games and Ge’Lawn Guyn got one for his actions.

Seeing the lenient suspensions Cincinnati was handed, Xavier followed suit, suspending Dez Wells and Landed Amos for four games. Mark Lyons was suspended for two and Tu Holloway, the center of attention, was suspended only one. Holloway, who made a clown out of himself in his postgame interview, embarrassed his school, his coach and the NCAA with his statements of claiming to have a locker-room full of “gangsters” who were out to “zip-em-up.” For his idiotic actions, the star was only sidelined for one game.

This brawl, turned PR tactic, turned charade, is a clear-cut reason as to show how weak the NCAA is. Had I been the commissioner, or an executive of the Big East and Atlantic-10 conferences, I would hand out harsh penalties for those involved in such a horrific stunt.

To even wear their program’s jersey after that embarrassment should be considered luck for the players, who put their scholarships on the line and showed how some of them do not even deserve to be fully compensated via scholarship. Had I been Cronin, I would resign before coaching these players again, and had I kept my job, I’d surely be out recruiting a different cast of characters.



Also in Sports:

Women's basketball knocks
off St. Peter's 73 - 64.

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After losing the first eight games of the season, the men's basketball team has won two straight games, including their home opener against Fordham.

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