

Volume 1, Issue 2
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March 2010

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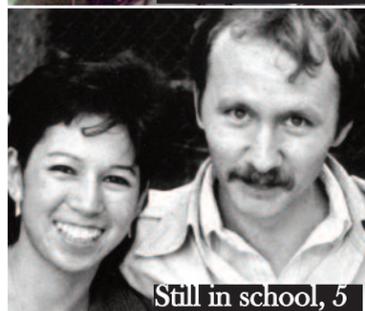
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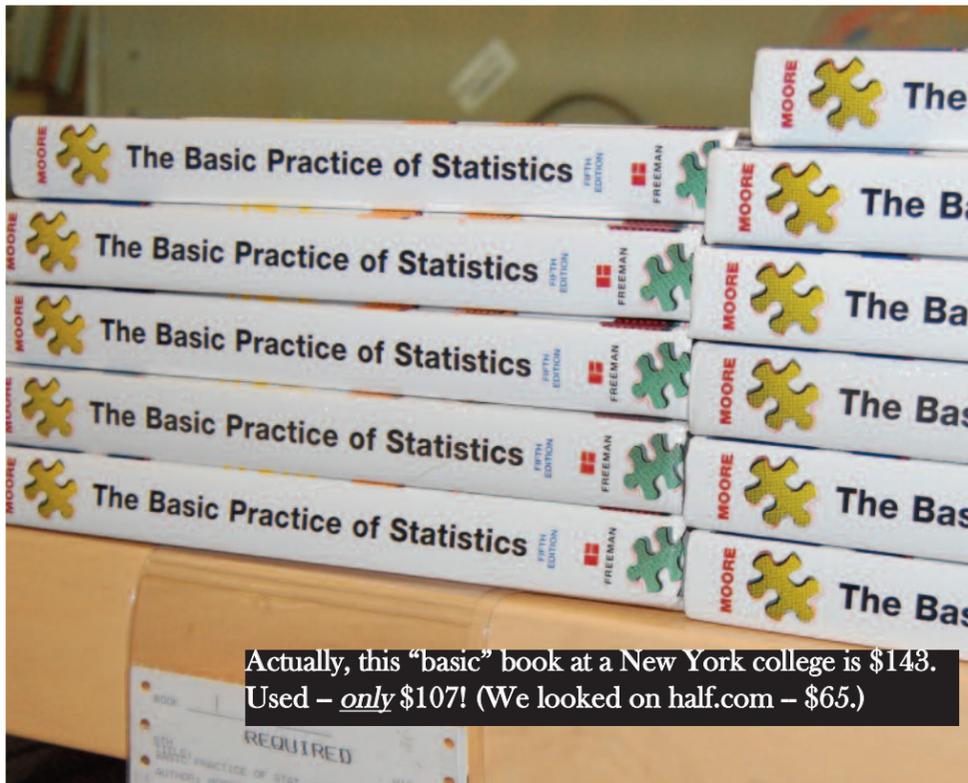
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\$150 for One Textbook? Why?

Laura LaVacca
Campus News

So your student loans are all sorted, tuition is covered for the semester and you have a meal plan all ready to be used. Then comes the first day of classes where you are presented with your laundry list of textbooks. Textbooks? Did they forget to tell you about the \$150 dollar book you would need for the class? Or how about the four \$50 dollar ones you need for your other class? Estimates of how much students spend on textbooks range from \$700 to \$1,100 annually. The market for new books is estimated at \$3.6 billion (Mui, Break on Textbooks Unlikely). According to a report by the Government Accountability Office, between 1986 and 2004, the price of textbooks nearly tripled. Textbooks are a huge part of the cost of college, yet no assistance is offered to help pay for them.

There is both a state and federal law designed to keep the cost of textbooks down. NY state and federal textbook laws state that any college "receiving money from the state shall work to identify ways to reduce student expenditures on course materials, thereby making college more affordable." Many students are not even aware of laws like these, so are colleges even upholding them? The directors of the bookstores at Nassau Community College, Queensborough Community College and Suffolk Community



Actually, this "basic" book at a New York college is \$143. Used - only \$107! (We looked on half.com - \$65.)

College did not return calls or e-mails about the subject.

Knowing that students are paying a lot for tuition and most likely tight on cash, why do professors choose the more expensive, newest editions of books when in many cases different editions or older ones will do? Professors were reluctant to comment on the controversy, with only one professor, Laura Caputo, being honest

enough to say that she "tells students where to go to get books for a better price." She admitted she suggests such sites as Amazon.com for cheaper books and shipping fees. A book on Amazon can be up to 50% off with other college sites promising 95% off list prices (campus-books.com). This issue strikes a passionate

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No more rockin' in the free world

David Marx
Campus News

Just as that which supposedly glitters isn't necessarily always gold, so too does the same apply to politics within the parameters of rock-'n'-roll.

It's one thing to sing about cars'n'girls'n'all the whipped creamed, frenzied delights they supposedly entail. It's quite another to sing about the Ballot Box Blues, especially amid today's climate of guns'n'poses'n'Sarah Palin's (ghastly) myopic morality. Reason being, in this day'n'beige age of uber-celebrity and misanthropic misfits, 'tis becoming increasingly harder to tell the difference between what ought to be politically acceptable and what ought not.

That Rush Limbaugh can purport to belong to humanity, whilst openly admitting he'd sooner Haitian earthquake victims be allowed to die - lest he be coerced into parting with yet more tax deductible dollars - is a mighty quintessential travesty of both justice and understanding. Clearly not in

his CD collection will one find a copy of Stevie Wonder's "Heaven Help Us All," in which Wonder emphatically states: "Heaven help the man who kicks the man who has to crawl."

Indeed.

Yet in the eyes of the less informed and the less inclined, many might consider Limbaugh's conduct acceptable and Wonder's words idealistic baloney. Thing is, who or what's gonna tip the balance?

Capitol Hill? Paris Hilton?

At the height of the Vietnam War, rock'n'roll was trashing hotel rooms whilst inexorably and belligerently banging on closed doors in support of their brothers in coked-up arms and combat. The Beatles, The Rolling Stones and Jimi Hendrix bequeathed the world with "Revolution," "Street Fighting Man" and "The Star Spangled Banner." The latter of which was an acute, anguish anchored, anti-solipsistic, guitar instrumental of pain drenched, elongated frustration. A frustration wrought by a government, more

concerned with the revoking of John Lennon's Green Card than with the daily death toll of American teenagers (both in Vietnam and the US itself).

At the vanguard of said frustration was Neil Young, whose bitterness and utter contempt was brought to bear in "Ohio" where he pointedly sang:

Tin soldiers and Nixon coming,

We're finally on our own

This summer I hear the drumming,

Four dead in Ohio

In and of itself, one cannot help but wonder whether such revolutionary rhetoric, and that espoused by the likes of Woody Guthrie ("This Land Is Your Land"), Pete Seeger ("We Shall Overcome") Bob Dylan ("Masters Of War," "Chimes Of Freedom," "Desolation Row"), Pete Townshend ("My Generation," "Won't Get Fooled Again"), John Lennon ("Working Class Hero," "Imagine"), Elvis Costello ("Shipbuilding," "Goon Squad," "Oliver's Army") and U2 (In The Name Of

Love," "Bullet The Blue Sky"), will ever again find a place amid the great influential pantheon of rock-'n'-roll.

For right NOW, who has the commitment and the courage to sing about the futility and ugliness of the War in Iraq? Or the War Against Terrorism? Or the War in Afghanistan?

Beyonce?

Justin Timberlake?

An assortment of death metal clinicians?

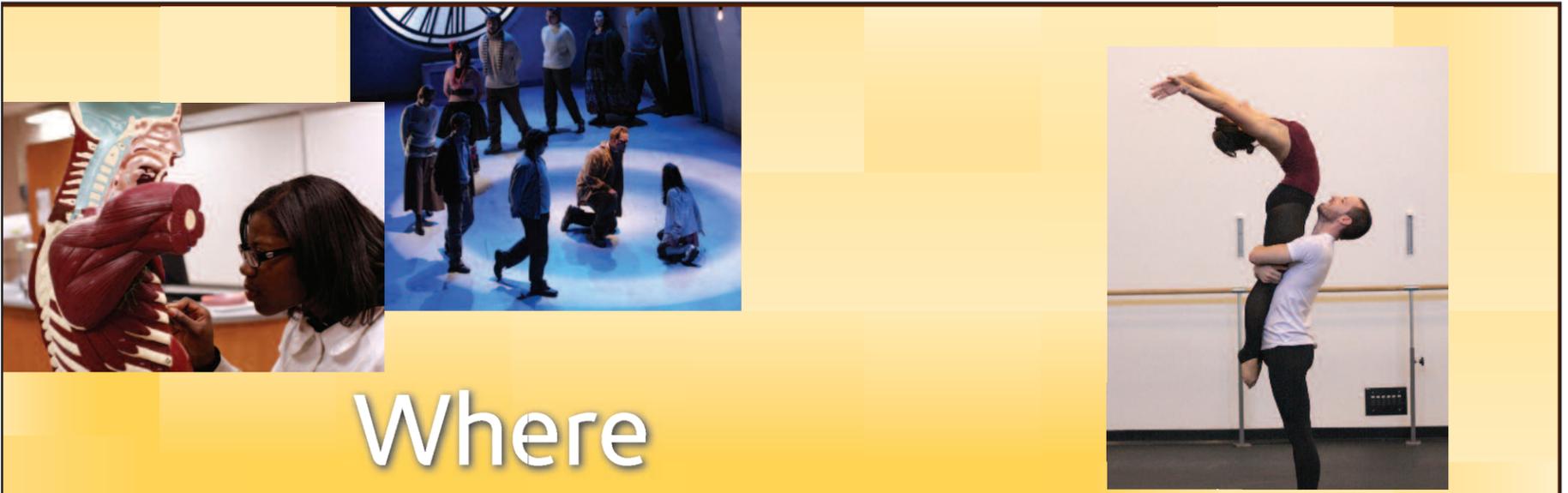
Herein lies the erstwhile, unforgivable behaviour of a junked up society, so high on celebrity'n'cleavage'n'all such other contagious distraction, that it's hardly surprising the likes of Beyonce and Justin Trousersnake have evolved unto being today's mystical messenger equivalents of The Clash.

Please forgive them Joe, for they know not what vacuous and vapid manure they bestow.

That said, the powers that be know all too well.

The huge corporations know

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Where Transfer Students Succeed



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Small Market Sports



Tough times means more adjuncts

Christine Barton
Campus News

“One of the biggest issues facing higher education today is the shift from full-time tenure-track faculty to a more non-permanent workforce-including adjuncts and graduate employees,” states Cynthia Garza spokesperson for American Federation of Teachers (AFT). She further explains that non-permanent employees are traditionally underpaid and under supported. The shift from permanent educational staff to adjunct professors is likely to become worse if budget cuts go through as planned.

In the fall of 2009, President Obama visited Hudson Valley Community College, one of the many community colleges in the state. He spoke to students and declared his support and appreciation for the many fine community colleges throughout the country. Affordability and quality have long been a trademark of community colleges. Community colleges have long provided a great service to the community and to the residents. Shortly after that speech, Governor Paterson announced his proposed budget cuts of \$56.7 million that would specifically impact community colleges. With enrollment counts doubling, available funds plummeting, and a lack of consistent teachers, the quality of the community college education is at risk of being compromised.

The higher education cuts are said to offer huge savings to fill in the state deficit. Cuts to SUNY senior colleges will offer savings of \$95 million and CUNY almost \$48 million. Proposed changes to Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) will save almost \$50 million. This will include a \$75 deduction to all TAP awards. The aid per full-time student enrolled is said to be reduced by \$285 per student generating a potential savings of almost \$55 million. Students attending community college will be receiving their high-priced education from more and more non-tenured professors if the staffing trend in higher education continues. The threat of compromised quality of education due to budget cuts is a concern of teachers and students alike.

The budget cuts have caused an outcry of concern across the educational community for a variety of reasons. The trend from full-time tenured professors to an increase in adjunct professors has raised an issue of apprehension for the future of education, specifically community colleges. This trend is thought to contribute to the risk of compromised educational standards. This is an issue that offers many perspectives.

The American Federation of Teachers (AFT) has initiated a cam-

paign to deal with the negative staffing trends in higher education. The initiative called FACE (Faculty and College Excellence) is a campaign that seeks to reverse harmful trends taking place on college campuses. Garza explains that contingent faculty and instructors make up almost 70% of the people teaching in national colleges and universities. Nearly half of all undergraduate public college courses are taught by contingent faculty. The campaign issued a report titled Reversing Course in 2009 which outlines the trends, the issues that cause them and a plan for action. According to their report; the goals of FACE are the following: to achieve full equality in compensation for contingent faculty members; to ensure that 75% of undergraduate classes are taught by full-time tenure and tenure-track faculty; and to open up opportunities for qualified contingent faculty to move into permanent positions as they become available. AFT’s report asks for a call to action.

The Call to Action by the AFT’s FACE campaign reflects their view on the need for immediate changes in the trend in higher education staffing. The report makes the following statement in support of their position: “Just as in other professional fields, full-time commitment and professional treatment results in more knowledgeable and better service to students and taxpayers. From doctors to lawyers to aerospace engineers, the public expects to be served by practitioners who are paid professional salaries and have the time and resources needed to do the job. Education is very labor intensive and requires a great deal of interaction with students in and out of the classroom. One probably would not want a doctor who had no medical assistance, no access to computers and no time to read the latest findings in medical journals. Yet, nearly two out of three new faculty hires today are placed in part-time/adjunct or contingent positions that may not pay a decent wage or offer much in the way of professional support.”

According to Garza, students and teachers alike are already seeing impacts of potential budget cuts. “We are already seeing the impact hitting colleges and universities, including lay-offs, cancelled classes, increased class size and higher tuition. These all impact the students, whether it’s having less one-on-one attention in a class that’s bursting at the seams in size or a student having to defer getting a diploma until they are able to take a required class that was cancelled.”

Higher education leaders such as New York State United Teachers (NYSUT) and the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) have been speaking out loudly in opposition to the proposed budget cuts and their

effect on the teaching trends. The trickle down effect they will have on staffing and quality could be detrimental. They claim the impact to higher education and, more specifically, the quality of it would be negatively impacted. It’s not the quantity or quality of individual non-tenured teachers that is in question but rather the quantity and quality that the lack of permanency has on the students. It is a fact

that consistency is a measure of success when it comes to learning. Having permanent professors that have a vested interest in the big picture naturally leads to better quality educational services. In no way is the trend or the fight against it a reflection on the quality or the preparedness of the adjunct or fill in professors, rather its about the need for consistency and continu-

ity that full-time permanent professors provides to the structure of the educational system.

It is estimated that in the school year ending 2009, SUNY had 464,981 students enrolled in courses. This number is an increase of about 25,000 enrollees since just the year prior. Higher

tenure track may be just as grim.

According to a recent report from NYSUT, it is estimated that adjunct faculty who work only as adjuncts typically earn only \$2,500 to \$3,000 per course. They frequently have to instruct multiple courses at multiple colleges to make ends meet, unless they have

other means of income. These instructors are not offered typical benefits such as unemployment or health insurance and are not guaranteed stable or consistent

work from semester to semester. There is a push for legislation that will assure benefits for those non-tenured employees. A lack of reasonable assurance of future employment for part time professors in turn affects the continuity and consistency in the educational systems, in turn affecting students.

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Contingent faculty, earning about \$2500-3000 per course, just don't have the means to provide consistency

Adjuncts are people, too

Darren Johnson
Publisher

When I got my first adjunct teaching gig, I was 26 and my wife got me a Zippo lighter with “Professor Johnson” engraved into it. I just found it the other day, under some old electrical tape and dead batteries in the junk drawer.

Fitting, in that the story above this one delves into how adjuncts are being used, some say exploited, by universities, and not much has changed in those 14 years since then.

The lighter was a nice gesture, even though, perhaps, it enabled a cigar habit I had at the time. And I’m 40 and still an adjunct; though, careerwise, I’m really so much more than that, and so are most adjuncts. The Chronicle of Higher Education’s web site has a load of facts – most adjuncts have great day jobs, are relatively happy with their teaching assignments (sans the pay), and have nearly the same percentage of terminal graduate degrees as their full-time counterparts.

Adjuncts are all that – and more.

My wife had been with me in college, when I first had the dream to be a full-time professor, so she got that lighter for me as a reminder that I still was on that path, even though I’d lost my way a bit between the ages of 22, college graduation, and that moment.

It seemed logical to her that, after adjuncting awhile, my brilliance would be understood and



I’d soon be teaching full-time. It never happened.

I did try for awhile to turn the part-time teaching gig (which has always been paired with a full-time writing job) into a full-time teaching job (meanwhile, I would then turn the writing into a freelance gig). Maybe I’d get tenure soon after. Then I could write whatever I wanted. The dream of every writer. Total freedom.

That was the allure. The idealism. But that freedom is all totally untrue, except, perhaps, at elite universities, and today I’m glad I’m not a full-timer. I get in. I get out. No politics. No 11 a.m. lunches with hot turkey and mashed potatoes, having to hear some borderline recluse who’s a friend of the department chair blather on and on. No salesmen trying to get me to use their \$79 textbook for an English class when Project Gutenberg is free. No end-

less committee meetings that quickly unravel – from talking locally to acting globally, and go nowhere. As an adjunct, it’s just me and the students.

But going back in time, the idea of being a full-time English professor seemed too good to be true. Though, when I was 18, I thought going to school for Writing was too good to be true. Just write for four years? Wow! (OK, and maybe pull a “C” in a few non-writing courses – fine.) People from my blue-collar upstate town thought I was crazy to do something as impractical as that, but it paid off. I’ve never been out of work as a writer – I often have to turn down gigs. American English just can’t be outsourced. Even the British can’t quite get it right, no offense to our writer David Marx! (Marx’s version of the language is

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Channeling Phil Collins

Nancy Muldoon
Campus News

After suffering a stroke ten years ago, my mother does not drive; in fact, in New York State it is illegal for anyone with a massive head injury to operate a motor vehicle.

Anyone who has driven through New York State lately knows full well that there are quite a number of people blatantly breaking that law, but as long as your brain can still spell the letters D-M-V on a check you can get a license here in the fine state of New York. But I digress, that's not what this essay is about.

Good citizen that I am, because my mother does not drive, yours truly Citizen Nancy drives her mom around town to run errands.

For some strange reason whenever my mother is in my car, she seems to think I know every single artist who sings whatever pop song happens to be playing on my car stereo. She will consistently ask me, "Nancy is this Phil Collins?" Thankfully, it almost never is, but I have to laugh out loud sometimes when I have to exclaim, "Are you kidding me? It's Gloria Estefan!"

It's comical because I realize my mother isn't playing with a full deck, but Phil Collins and Gloria Estefan aren't even the same genre of music not to mention the same gender and sound NOTHING alike.

Then there was the time I was driving her to her doctor appointment and she somehow transposed two groups and she asked me if the song playing on the radio was by the Spice Chicks. I said, "Do you mean the Spice Girls or Dixie Chicks?" I don't recall what song was playing on the radio, but it was neither the Spice Girls nor Dixie Chicks.

Most of the time I, smartly, turn the radio off or keep it down so low that my mother can't hear it so I don't have to play the "Who sings this song?" game with my mother, but I know that there will come a day when she is going to ask me for the millionth time if the song playing on the radio is by Phil Collins and one of these times I will be able to say, "Oh my God, it is Phil Collins!"

Sorting out the Governor's race

Danielle L. Sicari, Esq.
Campus News

Anything goes here in NY. The governor's race is no different. While the list of candidates may not be said to be final at the time of writing, so far, the list of those running covers a variety of backgrounds and career paths.

The most unlikely of candidates comes into the political arena through a back door of sorts - her affiliation with Former Governor Eliot Spitzer. "Manhattan Madam" **Kristin Davis** is running, with the help of one of the GOP's most fearsome strategists, one who worked for Nixon, Reagan and Bush. He's been prepping her for months; though he doesn't expect her to even obtain one million votes. One reason given for her running is to draw attention to the need for sentencing reform, to correct injustices in sentencing, such as her nearly four month stay on Riker's Island for her involvement with the former governor. (She was later acquitted.) While she first shared details of her qualifications at a **Libertarian Party** convention, she stresses her qualifications as mostly economic, having worked in the financial industry for ten years, and as vice president of a hedge fund, who went on to build multimillion dollar businesses from scratch, as she explained. Against taxation, she supports the legalization of prostitution and marijuana, for their ability to provide \$2.5 billion in revenue, a much needed budget gap closer, she says.

Some see her campaign as a method of distracting voters from voting Democrat. She also supports gay marriage and the views of the National Rifle Association. Campaign contributions have apparently been promised from a wide range of wealthy supporters, including rapper 50-cent, Northern California pot growers, and former clients from her days in prostitution, though each group's motive for supporting her may certainly vary from the genuine support to the hush money method. (NY DailyNews.com, 2/7/10)

Of course, the incumbent, David Paterson is out. Paterson's approval rating has plummeted during recent months, especially among CUNY and SUNY students. This is because his proposed budget cuts would negatively impact these students, who turn out in respectable numbers at the polls. (The Ticker, Baruch College 12/7/2009 "[Andrew] Cuomo leads the 2010 Governor Race"). Also scandals haven't

helped.

Rick Lazio is a local **Republican** candidate, living here in Suffolk County, and having served in the Suffolk legislature from 1990 to 1993. Lazio is running on a platform of cutting taxes, reducing the size of government, and actually abolishing the very Senate in which he was once a member, serving four terms from 1993 through 2001, during which time he became Deputy Majority Whip and Assistant Majority Leader. He opposes single payer government run health care and amnesty for illegal immigrants, along with racial profiling. He supports merit pay for teachers, and offshore oil exploration to reduce this country's dependence on foreign oil. He supports civil unions but not marriage for same-sex couples, and public housing efforts for those below poverty, as well as an increase in minimum wage. He is also hoping to be on the **Conservative Party** line.

As of February 2010, Another Republican candidate is **Warren Redlich**, Guilderland Town Board member and attorney. He is also hoping to be on the Libertarian Party line. According to Wikipedia.com, his is a hard-right platform that would limit compensation of government employees to \$100,000 per year. An AP story of February 1, 2010, reprinted on Syracuse.com, explains Redlich sought to represent the views of "tea party" Republicans. They led high-profile protests last year against President Barack Obama's proposed health care reform. Redlich is an Internet entrepreneur, lawyer, Republican town councilman in Guilderland and former congressional candidate. He said politicians live in the "Albany bubble" of privilege, perks and high salaries funded by taxes, and that he wants to run on the Libertarian Party line in addition to seeking the Republican nomination. "I know a lot more people living in the holy-crap-we-don't-have-anything bubble," said Redlich, a small business operator. "I know what it means to meet a payroll." Redlich was a legal counsel in New York for Republican Rep. Ron Paul, who ran for the 2008 GOP presidential nomination on an anti-tax, anti-Iraq war platform.

Regardless of the number of candidates, the New York gubernatorial election of 2010 is poised to provide the public with a candidate passionate about their concerns and anxious to lead New York out of

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Book Review: "Love Lessons" - Poems of Alda Merini

David Marx
Campus News

Every now and then, poetry is capable of hitting the mark - more simply, accurately and succinctly - than anything else in the world. It can touch, heal, inspire, enquire, and what's more, understand, during periods of extreme pain, peril and anguish; which, if we really, really think about it, is what accounts for poetry's inexorable validity. So when something great comes along, it certainly lightens the load and brightens the day. It's simply wonderful, and as such, ought to be embraced with both open arms and an open heart.

Such is the case with *Love Lessons*, the selected poems of one of Italy's most beloved and important poets, Alda Merini. When I initially read the final four lines of 'Will I Be Alone,' my heart nigh skipped a beat:

*But until I shiver from the touch
Of your hand, since yesterday my initiation,
Every sign of life that presses me
Lies unshaped within your fixed meas-*

ures.

The immense beauty and honesty of these four lines (along with many others throughout the book) triggered a thought process that ensured I had to stop; and take stock of the wealth/depth of thought, I had just read. It's not everyday such enquiry makes one sit up and listen, and dig deep within themselves in search of an explanation. If indeed, there is one.

The same applies to "(As For Me, I Used To Be A Bird)" in its entirety:

*As for me, I used to be a bird
With a gentle white*

womb,

*Someone cut my
throat*

*Just for laughs,
I don't know.*

*As for me, I used to be
a great albatross*

*And whirled over the
seas.*

*Someone put an end
to my journey,
without any charity in*

the tone of it.

*But even stretched out on the ground
I sing for you now
my songs of love.*

I often wonder where we'd be without poetry. The mere fact that the above can even be written, bequeaths the repetition and mendacity of everyday life, with a glimmer of hope. A sort of sparkle.

Merini's poetry takes the reader on a journey from the ancient sylvan landscapes of Greek myth, to the perplexity/urbanity of Milan's Naviglio district. Along the way, a tragic understanding of prodigious suffering

is unveiled, along with a more than vibrant appreciation of life itself. Whether they relay the haunting tales of Orpheus and Othello, or the personal histories of Sylvia Plath (among other contemporaries), Merini's work reveals a complex and philosophical intuition of love and life - and all that one invariably discovers in between:

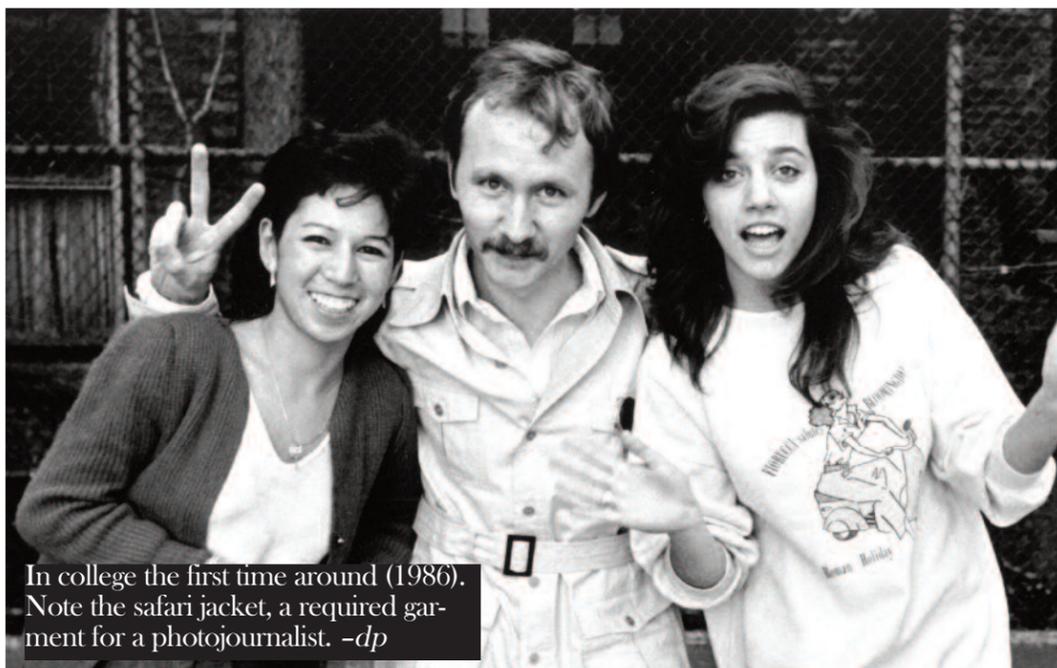
*I'll be an unfolding flower of consent
And then, finding a point of contact,
I'll let in a timid conscience [...]
(The Presence of Orpheus).*

Stunning. Beautiful. Imperative.

Have an opinion? Send it to us!



Contact ccn@twinforks.com.



In college the first time around (1986). Note the safari jacket, a required garment for a photojournalist. -dp

How I became a CC student at 45

Dave Paone
Campus News

I've been there, done that. And by "that" I mean college. I graduated high school at 18 years-old in June of 1982. Since I just loved photography (the old-fashioned kind, in a darkroom), I attended college the following September as a photojournalism major at an art school in New York City. I knew that photojournalism was a tough field, so I minored in art education as well – just in case. I took all the required education classes, clocked in 300 hours of student teaching and took the necessary National Teachers' Exam (or NTE) to obtain my certification.

In May of 1986, I graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts with Honors in photojournalism and received my art teacher certification, kindergarten through 12th grade.

I didn't go into photojournalism. I didn't go into education. I went into the movie business instead. Eventually I became an assistant cameraman and worked on such shoots as "Billy Joel Live at Yankee Stadium," "Law & Order," "New York News" (with Mary Tyler Moore), "Rear Window" (with Christopher Reeve) and a handful of other high-profile jobs. I also wrote several scripts in an attempt to start my own TV series. I moved to Burbank, California, and became "bi-coastal," living in my "bachelor pad" and back home on Long Island, depending where the work was.

While all of this sounds great, the sad truth is with the exception of "Law & Order," every TV series I was on was just awful and got cancelled. Jobs like "Billy Joel Live at Yankee Stadium" were for one day. My problems were compounded when my contacts in the industry dried up one by one. While NBC loved one of my scripts, a development executive said, "There's no way in hell this

will wind up on NBC. It's too intelligent."

Over the course of 10 years, I found myself deep in credit card debt and thousands of dollars in Dutch to my parents. It was time to give up the bachelor pad and move back home for good.

Here I was, over 40 years-old, and living with mommy and daddy again with no job and a whole lot of debt.

I applied for jobs upon jobs with no success. Three years went by and I was a full-fledged bum. My teacher certification expired in 1992, and no district would let me apply without it. As the months went on, I had a sneaking suspicion it was time for me to renew the thing somehow, leave the TV business behind and become a high school art teacher.

It cost \$100 for me to ask, but I found out from Albany exactly what I needed to re-up my certification. The NTE no longer counted; I had to take three new tests at \$88 each. I had to take two workshops at \$40 each. And I had to go back to college.

Back to college!? For what?

For one education class, one math class and one foreign language class. It seems neither math nor foreign language was necessary for a Bachelors in 1986. The education class was something new they added. I kept the list and told no one that I had asked Albany.

To complicate matters, in recent years my father started showing the signs of Alzheimer's disease. Then my mother, who was as sharp as at tack at age 86, was diagnosed with cancer.

Things went from bad to worse and before we knew it, my mother was at the end. As she lay on her deathbed, she told me she was forgiving my debt. I said I still have every intention of paying it back. However... what I really need is to go back to school. I told her I had contacted Albany, and I

knew what I needed to renew my certification. She said, "Go back to school. I'll pay for it." She died a few days later.

So this past August I enrolled at Adelphi University on Long Island for the one education class and at Nassau Community College for the math and foreign language classes. All three were for one semester.

My Spanish class at NCC began with a full roster but soon enough several students dropped, and I found myself the only boy in a class with about eight girls. We had a lot of laughs with this ratio as the subject. The odd thing for me was I was twice most everyone's age, although there was one girl who was married and a mother already.

My math class was another story. It was a full class and everyone was under 25, and I don't think there was one parent in there. The really funny part for me was the teacher looked about 17. (I later found out she was 29.)

At my first college, their claim to fame was the teachers were "working professionals." Very few of them had college degrees themselves. A few had a Bachelors and certainly no one had a Ph D. It was all very informal, and we called them by their first names.

All the students at NCC called the teachers "professor." One day in math class I called my teacher by her first name. This came as a bit of a surprise to her. She wasn't insulted, at least I don't think she was, but I was probably the first student to do so.

There was no way I was going to call her professor. I was already shaving when she was born. Plus I'm just not that formal. When I met Bob Hope I called him Bob. I call my dentist Steve.

My Spanish teacher had about two years on me. I wasn't going to call her professor, either.

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Marketing yourself at a personal interview

Prof. Jack K. Mandel
Nassau Community College

I believe that the "one-to-one" personal interview is the key to obtaining employment. The 2010 "summer interview season" is probably the most difficult in recent memory. It takes more than ever to land a job! Unfortunately, most college students lack the personal "marketing expertise" required to result in a successful interview. You need more than good grades to obtain a good job; you need a positive "mental" attitude, too.

The interview process is not really as difficult as some make it out to be. The interview is nothing more than a learning experience for both the employer and potential employee. A company seeks the best possible candidate for a position and will often interview many people before hiring the right one. Sometimes a person is given a position because the "personal chemistry" between the two individuals who meet "clicks like clockwork."

You can help your odds by doing some research before the actual interview is held. If you are seeking employment with a large, publicly-held company, you should send for their annual report. Study it carefully. Read it and remember items that could be brought into your conversation. This will show your potential employer that you made the time to find out more about the company. It will make an impression and provide evidence of your enthusiasm and imagination. Remember, it's not enough to say you want to work for XYZ company – you have to show it. Use the Internet to learn more about the company you are interviewing with!

I always suggest that the job applicant prepare a personal history. You'll find that by doing so, you will be able to answer questions with clarity and sincerity.

Questions usually fall into the following categories:
Personal background
Education/employment history
Future aspirations/goals

Most job placement counselors agree that dress and overall appearance directly affect the ultimate outcome of your job interview. Dress conservatively.

During the actual interview, remember to let the recruiter set the pace and control the meeting. Follow his or her cues about where to sit and whether or not to shake hands. Always address the interviewer as Mr. or Ms. Smith, never by first name. Arrive 10 to 15 minutes before the arranged time to show that you are prompt about important meetings. Maintain eye contact as much as possible. Smile and be friendly.

Be careful for "trick" questions. For example, an interviewer I know always mentions that he looks for-

ward to his weekend so he "can sleep." If he then asks what you do on your weekends, what should you say? You sleep late, too? I would not advise to follow his lead. You might say that you get up early to take care of chores or exercise to stay in shape. Make your answers reflect what you really do, not what you think you should say. The fact is, he probably does not "sleep." He may want to see how ambitious or motivated you are when there is no one watching your every move.

One major firm uses the following question when they are seeking sales staff: If you were shipwrecked on a deserted island, what three things would you want to take with you? What would your answer be? Your answer might include a bible, food, water, clothes, a knife, a gun, etc. But the three best choices would be an ax (to cut down trees), a rope (to tie a raft together) and a compass (to find your way back to civilization). You have to be prepared for the unexpected. Sometimes, there will be two people in the room with you. One will be friendly and likeable; the other will "act" nasty, curt, and even hostile toward you for no apparent reason. This is a form of a "stress" interview to see how you react under pressure.

One final comment about what not to talk about during your first interview with a potential employer: Never talk of salary, never talk politics, never talk religion, and never offer to tell your favorite "joke."

Instead, be alert, professional, and confident that YOU are the best applicant for the position. If this positive attitude comes through, the job may be yours.



Prof. Jack K. Mandel is celebrating 32 years teaching at Nassau Community College in Garden City, NY. He is the recipient of the prestigious "Outstanding Teacher Award" conferred by the New York State Association of Two-Year Colleges. He is also a "Best of Long Island 2010" winner from Long Island Press.

adjuncts are people, too

(continued from page 3)

much more eloquent than ours, I should add, not to seem patronizing.)

It was in my early 20s when I started seeing some positive growth as a writer and wanted to keep it going. I had a novel about to be published. I started a literary magazine that lasted a few years. It was writing that I really liked to do. So, how to keep the dream alive?

I looked at my professors – this was at a small, private college – what a job! Teach a few classes a week, talk about craft, spend a few seconds here and there signing student advising sheets. These were older guys. I watched them closely. They maybe put in 20 hours of actual university-related work a week. And this was only fall and spring. Summers and much of the winter off!

The spare time? I could write, I imagined, even though the publication records of these professors were relatively abysmal, considering their ages and my expectations. I had youthful energy. I would be different. And it would be better than all the blue-collar jobs I had to do to pay for college.

And it's not like I'd be a hack in the classroom. I actually do have a talent for teaching. Fourteen years of student and peer reviews, even ratemyprofessors.com, are fine. Better than a large majority of full-timers. I relate to students because, despite my degrees, I am a student-of-the-earth at heart. The kind who would rather take a "C" to prove a point. The kind who, if I didn't get to read all of my books during the semester, would read them during the winter break and summer, just for closure. I didn't care about GPA, but real learning.

As a teacher, quality and truly knowing a subject are more important to me than knowing a few facts to sound smart on an essay test, and telling me what you think you want me to hear to get an "A." I've ruined a few 4.0s in my day. I've also given some A's to students who rarely get them. It's the work that matters. The integrity given to understand the subject. I want dedication.

I started taking graduate courses after college at a local public college, a hodge-podge of mostly writing and literature, but the program was just Liberal Studies. The local community college allowed Liberal Studies master's degrees for teaching purposes as long as one had a concentration in their subject. The dream was still alive – barely – but then I saw an ad for a job at a local newspaper. It was just for office management, but did offer some writing responsibilities.

Once in, I was like an uncontrollable writing weed, infiltrating every part of the paper. I did it all. Obituaries, calendar listings, community notes and a weekly feature story, along with the clerical work, which I was barely competent in. I worked with the editor to start an arts section – my bent at the time – and that section still exists to this day. A full-time position soon opened up. I was so there.

My graduate work suffered. The courses never coalesced into a degree. My GPA was shoddy from missing so many classes. It's hard to make classes when journalism stories break. They are always breaking. The year I won the New York Press Association's "Writer of the Year" was the year my wife got me the lighter. The year I

got my first adjunct teaching job (I had been teaching non-credit courses before then, though; "for practice," I used to tell myself).

The course was at a private college, the same one I'd attended as an undergraduate for writing, but was in the less academically challenging business division. The department chair was very pragmatic – he'd already made a decent nest egg for himself as a businessman and got into teaching midlife for more spiritual reasons – he didn't care about degrees. He just wanted someone who could teach a Writing With Computers course one night a week. That I only had a BA and a hodgepodge of 30-something graduate credits was fine. I could write, I could talk, I was good with computers (and that new-fangled Windows 95). That's all he needed. I answered the ad in a local paper and, moments after meeting him, the search was over. The pay was about \$2000 for that class. Of course, I'd keep my day job at the newspaper.

The college kept me on. Sometimes I had two courses. Eventually I did get a very good graduate degree – a Master of Fine Arts from that college; it's a well-regarded program (they hired all new professors for it, many with national names). Considered a terminal degree, I started getting paid at the Ph.D. level, \$3000/course at a local community college where I also found work. Some semesters, between the two schools, I would teach three courses – about the same as a full-time professor at a four-year school – while also having a serious day job. And my wife and I had a baby.

Adding all the incomes together, it got to the point where it would be hard for me to become a full-time, entry-level professor. I'd have to quit the day job, and the adjuncting – for less overall income. Would that be fair for my family? Sometimes the dream has to be adapted.

Besides, my writing career was going fine – 1400 or so bylines in local, regional, even international papers, lots of pressroom war stories few journalism professors have, and, once my daughter was born, I also started writing press releases and other mass communications for universities. Thousands of those pieces of writing, too.

But it's not like I didn't try to be a full-time professor. There were problems. Many.

Upstate, the pays were abysmally low for full-time teaching jobs. And what would I do for side income? Freelance for newspapers up there that pay, at best, half as much? Say I took a job but soon after had a disagreement with an administrator at SUNY Middle-of-Nowhere and felt like I had to go? Where would I go? The nearest college that was hiring could be hours away. At least downstate, there's a college seemingly every few blocks.

I did go for a couple of interviews up there. Used to a faster pace, I don't think I fit in when it came to the meet-and-greets. I talk fast but also choose words carefully. It's a combination that doesn't convey warmth.

Nothing I can do about that.

Also, my idealism was waning. My test lectures I gave at SUNY Middle-of-Nowhere did talk about the struggles of print journalism, and how, sometimes, in newsrooms, compromises need to be made in various regards – how advertising affects editorial coverage, for example, or how stories may be downplayed by a beat reporter as not to harm the longterm health of his relationship with government; a necessary evil.

Of course that's antithetical to what's taught by many journalism instructors, who either never worked in a real newsroom or their experiences go back to the linotype days. At my local community college, I found that these type professors were being hired over me when it came to full-time positions, even though they had lesser degrees and the equivalent of a handful of articles published in local shopper papers.

But they teach the *ideal* of writing, while I've gotten lost in the big compromise of being practical. I've lost something.

Downstate, I only applied for full-time teaching positions at the community college where I adjuncted. The starting pay, about \$60,000, was more than for the four-year schools. It was doable financially, perhaps. But not attainable.

At first, I thought I'd be a shoo-in for a full-time job. I knew the college, knew the students, had a fine record in the field, nice faculty evaluations, didn't really rock the boat. But I'd never get an interview, even though it was in the union contract that I was supposed to; and I applied correctly, made followup emails to department chairs, and so on. I talked to other adjuncts, and eventually became a union rep – my story was common.

Adjuncts simply weren't hired for full-time jobs. A union grievance officer (who happened to be a full-time professor) said there was no use complaining; it's hard to prove if one is being discriminated against when applying for a full-time position. Most

The argument ultimately is, why promote an adjunct to full-time when you can get the milk for (practically) free?

people who do complain end up getting courtesy interviews – a façade and a waste of time for everyone. And it's impossible to prove an interview is a courtesy interview.

The main reason adjuncts don't get promoted to full-time: Well, we are adjuncts, search committees reason – if they were really good, *if they were like us*, they wouldn't need to adjunct. Their genius would have been recognized already. That, and why hire a person for \$60,000 when you can keep him at \$2000-3500/course and no benefits? That adjunct will still be there when someone from Middle-of-Nowhere comes to town to interview.

That adjunct will still take the courses that full-time faculty won't – nights, weekends, 6 a.m. (I find it funny that it's the full-timers who get first dibs on the online courses and swipe them all up – I mean, they have an office on campus; how much more aloof can

they be to have to teach an online course?)

The argument ultimately is, why promote an adjunct to full-time when you can get the milk for (practically) free?

We're typecasted. The adjunct is perceived as a scab or, worse, a hack. If I do apply for a full-time faculty position again some day, I may take the adjuncting off the resume or downplay it to just a line or two. I mean, 14 years of it – 60 three-credit courses – probably makes a search committee guffaw uncontrollably. "What a loser!"

That said, a community college campus I adjunct for has about 1300 adjuncts and 500 full-time faculty. Perhaps we all should just meet in a dark alley and see who's left standing. Or we adjuncts should separate and form our own union. But none of us have time to do that. We're all working! (And, *The Chronicle* affirms, we're happy as adjuncts.)

But I find the people who matter – the students – don't really care if a professor is full-time or not. At the commuter schools in my area, it's not like the students stick around, let alone hang with the professors to any large degree other than in class. So not having a personal office on campus is no big deal.

(As an aside, I think the faculty members who matter most – full- or part-time – are the ones who also advise an academic club. They do work hands-on, outside the classroom with students, in a more direct and personal way. That's God's work, to use an expression.)

I have real stories, from the field, that are useful for budding writers. How my day went at my day job is often of interest to my night journalism students. I have real-world, personal examples.

And my child doesn't care that I teach as a scab. The teaching is something she's proud of and can easily explain to her friends. All of her friends have teachers. They relate. Children who love you don't care about what the pay stub says.

My non-faculty colleagues all think it's cool, too, to have a side gig like adjuncting. I often get asked by people who don't need the extra money how they can get a similar part-time job. They have the desire to pass on what they have learned – in the real world. They know the real world is different than what their textbook once said.

Then there's my wife. And, while the inscription of "Professor Johnson" ended up being a fairy tale, in reality, she actually is proud that I do work in education, helping students looking to better themselves.

But she rolls her eyes whenever I mention going into teaching full-time and giving up my current full-time writing job.

"How much of a pay cut would that mean?" she says; rhetorically, really.

She has lately become my voice of reason.

Write for us!



Contact ccn@twinforks.com.



Upcoming New Movies: Depp, Aniston and ... Miley?

Laura Tucker
Arts Writer

Johnny Depp is back this month with what seems like it's headed to be another blockbuster. He stars as The Mad Hatter in an updated version of "Alice In Wonderland." Directed by Tim Burton, who has worked with him before on "Ed Wood" and "Edward Scissorhands," the 3D film takes on a certain visual experience, as most of Burton's film's do. Alice (Mia Wasikowska) returns to Wonderland and encounters the White Rabbit, Tweedledee and Tweedledum, the Cheshire Cat, and others, as the film combines the two Lewis Carroll stories "Alice's Adventures In Wonderland" and "Through the Looking-Glass." Rated PG for fantasy action/violence and a smoking caterpillar, the film also stars Anne Hathaway, Helena Bonham Carter, and Crispin Glover, and makes its debut March 5.

Another veteran director, Antoine Fuqua ("Training Day"), offers up "Brooklyn's Finest," starring Richard Gere, Ethan Hawke, Don Cheadle, and Wesley Snipes. With New York City police officer Eddie Dugan (Gere) one week away from retiring to his fishing cabin in Connecticut, he takes part in a massive drug operation, along with two fellow officers, Sal Procida (Hawke), who will stop at nothing to provide a better life for his large family, and Clarence "Tango" Butler (Cheadle), who has been undercover so long, he now sympathizes more with the criminals. The film is rated R for bloody violence, strong sexuality, nudity, drug content, and pervasive language, and premieres March 5.

We get even more action as Matt Damon once again teams with director Paul Greengrass who he teamed with on "The Bourne Supremacy," "The Bourne Ultimatum," "and United 93." In "Green Zone," Greengrass and Damon look to continue their success together as Damon stars as Chief Warrant Officer Roy Miller who has been dispatched in the earlier days of the Iraqi War to the middle eastern country's desert to find weapons of mass destruction. Instead, he and his team find an elaborate coverup. Greg Kinnear costars in this movie that's rated R for violence and language and drops March 12.

The young women out there will be happy to know Robert Pattinson is appearing in another film, and this time he's not a vampire. He stars as a young man who doesn't have the best relationship with his father

(Pierce Brosnan), since a tragedy hit their family. He doesn't think anyone will ever understand his situation until he meets Ally (Emilie de Ravin) and begins to fall in love with her. The new relationship seems to be exactly what he needs, until secrets are revealed that could tear them apart. "Remember Me" is rated PG-13 for violence, sexual content, language, and smoking, and premieres March 12.

Jennifer Aniston and Gerard Butler star in the new romantic comedy "The Bounty Hunter" and are rumored to have not kept their relationship strictly professional. Take that, Brad. Aniston stars as a woman who has skipped bail, and it's up to Butler, a bounty hunter, who also happens to be her ex-husband, to bring her in. Also starring Jason Sudelkis, Dorian Missick, Joel Marsh Garland, and Christine Baranski, this film is rated PG-13 for sexual content which includes suggestive comments, language, and some violence, and drops March 19.

This next movie is a completely frightening thought. Medical technology has taken us to a point in the film where our organs can be replaced by mechanical organs. While that sounds great, if the customers don't pay their bill, the company that sells them, called The Union, sends repo men to take them back, and they have no concern for your pain threshold. Jude Law stars as one of the repo men who has a cardiac failure while on the job, then gets fitted with one of The Union's hearts. Because of this, he can't do his job, and without a job, can't make the payments, meaning his former partner (Forest Whitaker) is charged with getting it back. "Repo Men" is rated R for strong bloody violence, grisly images, language, and some sexuality/nudity, and appears in theaters beginning March 19.

Miley Cyrus makes her dramatic debut here, meaning the first time she has nothing to do with her alter ego Hannah Montana. Based on a best-selling novel by Nicholas Sparks ("The Notebook"), "The Last Song" is about a young boy and teenaged girl (Bobby Coleman, Cyrus) who get sent by their mom (Kelly Preston) to spend the summer with their father (Greg Kinnear) who they don't see often. While his son doesn't seem to mind the change in plans, his daughter definitely does, and he tries everything he can to reconnect with her again. This film is rated PG for thematic material, some violence, sensuality, and mild language, and makes its debut March 31.

New DVDs have end in sight

Laura Tucker
Arts Writer

If the end of the world is coming in 2012, they better get the DVD released now so that we can watch it before it all ends, right? Everyone's waiting for that day to come, either because they know it truly is doomsday, or because they want to prove everyone else wrong. John Cusack stars in "2012" which provides one scenario of what might happen that day. It's being released on March 2nd, along with the long anticipated film version of Maurice Sendak's "Where the Wild Things Are." Some might say this Spike Jonze-directed film could be just as imaginary as the theories behind 2012.

Michael Moore takes a look at our sagging economy like no other documentarian can in "Capitalism: A Love Story," being released March 9th. He asks the story of what Americans pay for their love of capitalism, as those that once looked forward to the American dream now feel like they're living a nightmare instead, living paycheck to paycheck, at best, as 14,000 jobs are being lost every day. Another ironically-named film is being released on the same day, "Precious." This film is based on the novel "Push" by Sapphire, and stars Gabourey "Gabby" Sidibe and Mariah Carey. This girl has been abused in every way imaginable, making it a hard, but almost necessary, watch, which explains its Academy Award nominations.

In need of some fun, the next week will see the release of "Did You Hear About the Morgans?," a romantic comedy. Sarah Jessica Parker and Hugh Grant star as a couple about to divorce who are forced into witness protection together, staying with an older couple in law enforcement (Sam Elliott and Mary Steenburgen). March 20 will have young fans out in force as "The Twilight Saga: New Moon" will be released, as well as "Twilight In Forks: The Saga of the Real Town." The latter is a documentary about the town of Forks that has now been made famous by the Twilight movies. See if you can spot any vampires. They're being marketed both together and separately.

March 23rd we'll have another Oscar-nominated film out, as "The Blind Side" will make its DVD debut. This inspiring true story of a homeless high school football player taken in by a family that doesn't know him, but just wants to help him achieve his dreams, stars Sandra Bullock and Tim McGraw. Also on this day, "The Men Who Stare at Goats" will be released on DVD. This film stars George Clooney, Jeff Bridges, Ewan McGregor, and Kevin Spacey, and this one is hard to tell if it's a true story or not. They warn us it's more true than we might think, but seems hard to believe, as we watch the government create a secret military that controls things with their minds as a way of fighting without violence.

On the last day of the month, "Sherlock Holmes" will be released. This unites both a classic story of the famous Arthur Conan Doyle-created detective, as well as one of the best young, troubled actors of his time, Robert Downey, Jr. in the title role. Jude Law stars as his partner Watson. This Guy Ritchie-directed film finds Holmes with an all new nemesis, trying to stop a deadly plot that could destroy the entire country.

Poetry Corner

George Held
Sag Harbor, NY

Around Long Island
(after Gertrude Stein)

Around Long Island
there is water there

there is water there
around long island

I have been there and
on the water around there

around long island where
there is water there

Like a Prong

Long island is long
like a prong

It juts into the sea
long like a prong

Brawny fishermen
on Long Island

row long boats
along the shore

drawn by a longing
to seine-haul for prawn

on long drawn-out days
along the shore

of Long Island
the island long

that juts out like a prong

CAMPUS NEWS

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"Be Good Johnny Weir"



"Celebrity Apprentice"

More adjuncts

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Community colleges are already laying the groundwork in preparation for cuts to their educational funding. Colleges have cut extra services, increased classroom size and are coming up with creative ways to generate income. School bookstores and cafeterias on some campuses throughout the state are farming out their services to outside vendors to cut the costs associated with running and staffing these services. Campus faculty have also noted that textbooks are being marked up, which prevents students from being able to afford them. It's difficult to enroll in overfilled classes meaning it takes longer to graduate. Teachers may prefer a full-time position but accept a part-time one because that's the only option out there for them.

Bunker Hill Community College (BHCC) in Boston, Mass., is ranked by Community College Week, as in the top 50 fastest growing two-year colleges. This information was issued in a press release on March 12th. Many community colleges across the nation, including BHCC, are facing increased enrollment. According to the release; "From fall 2000 to the current semester, Spring 2010, the Colleges enrollment grew from 6,386 to more than 11,500, an increase of 80 percent." BHCC has taken measures to meet the demands of increased enrollment. They have hired new faculty, increased the number of tutors, expanded academic support and began a bus shuttle service. Additionally, midnight and late night courses were added to the class schedules in an effort to meet the demand of increased enrollment.

Similarly, Hope International University in Fullerton, Calif., announces its goal to meet the changing needs of college students with a plan to establish five new colleges. The two schools currently within the university will become five different distinct colleges. This will allow the ability to add new programs, enhance existing programs and introduce online learning opportunities. The traditional model of learning and teaching is changing and colleges and universities must be prepared and equip to meet those changing needs going forward. This adjustment often means hiring adjunct professors in an effort to meet the changing course offerings unique class schedules, and the overall profile of learning.

Colyn Fiendel a senior at Purchase College in New York will be graduating in May with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre Design Technology with a concentration in Stage Management. He states, "I might have an interesting position because I went to a conservatory and got my BFA. One of the large selling points of my program was most of the faculty are adjunct pro-

fessors that teach once a week, because they are working professionals in the business. I think there is a huge difference in learning from an adjunct professor. In my field specifically, learning from someone currently working is a huge advantage in who you meet and know. The drawback of course is wishing they had more free time to actually work with us."

Despite the controversy over adjunct vs. full time and the budget cuts that prevent the option for tenure-track professions, many students appreciate the value that adjunct professors bring to the classroom. "Especially now that I am working in the Broadway community and I already have a reputation, I see how small this world really is, so the fact that I have been slowly involved during my college experience because of my professors helped a lot. It prevented me from moving to New York at 25 and starting from scratch," states Feindel. The argument about adjunct vs. full time has never been about the quality of the teaching but rather the continuity that a full-time teaching staff provides to the college and the students.

President John Derry of Hope International University states, "It is to this changing environment that Hope International University is responding as we make these strategic adjustments in our delivery model. We are committed to remaining true to our Mission and Core Values while embracing innovation with excellence. We have been investing significant resources over the past several years in anticipation of this exciting opportunity to continue preparing outstanding leaders to serve in our communities, schools, businesses and churches." It is possible that the shift from full-time tenure-track to adjunct faculty is meeting the needs of a changing face of educational demands.

Governor Paterson proposed a 2010-2011 executive budget that outlines cuts across every area of the state budget; education is not excluded. In fact, this proposal calls for aid to SUNY senior colleges and CUNY resulting in a \$143 million in savings on a state fiscal year basis. What will this mean for the future of tenure-track employees? Clearly the future is uncertain.

With a need that is increasing and resources decreasing, educational institutions are faced with less than ideal options out of desperation. The reality suggests that the increase in adjunct professors will continue to be on the rise, in part due to budget cuts.

Community colleges continue to be highly vulnerable to the risks associated with changing trends and limited resources.

Back to Reality for March TV

Laura Tucker
Arts Writer

With the Winter Olympics now wrapped up for another four years, we'll return to a full schedule on our televisions. NBC wasn't the only network that put their shows on a short hiatus. CBS put most of its schedule, other than reality TV, on hold, and Fox, ABC, and CW seemed to pick and choose what they chose to still air. We're not totally leaving the Olympics behind, though, as Sundance Channel will continue to air "Be Good Johnny Weir," its reality series following the figure skater on his journey to Vancouver in 2010. While a medal has eluded him for his second Olympics in a row, he left every-

thing he had out on that ice. The series returns on March 1st at 10:30 PM.

Reality TV figures prominently in the series that are returning this month. "Dancing With the Stars" will return to ABC on March 22 at 7 PM. While the celebrities haven't been announced yet, cohost Samantha Harris has announced that she will not be returning. Also without a current cast list is the return of "Celebrity Rehab Presents: Sober House." The "Celebrity Rehab With Dr. Drew" spinoff makes it's return to VH1 March 11th at 10 PM, and let's just hope we see some of the current cast of Celebrity Rehab, such as Tom Sizemore, back to continue treatment.

Donald Trump brings his "Celebrity Apprentice" back to NBC on March 14th at 9 PM. Fighting to become Trump's top celebrity in the boardroom will be Maria Kanelis, Sinbad, Goldberg, Brett Michaels, Summer Sanders, Curtis Stone, Carol Leifer, Holly Robinson Peete, Michael Johnson, Rod Blagojevich, Darryl Strawberry, Sharon Osbourne, Cyndi Lauper, and Plate. Everyone knows the former governor of Illinois can play dirty, and I'm guessing Sharon will be matching him on that one. Premiering two hours before will be "Minute to Win It," a new game show hosted by Guy Fieri. Contestants will face challenges using household items that must be completed in sixty

continued on next page

Why'd Rock stop speaking out?

continued from page 1

all too well, that it's far, far easier to deal with Britney carping on about how hard her life is, than it is to deal with the likes of Steve Earl singing about hypocrisy and greed in "Rich Man's War":

Jimmy joined the army 'cause he had no place to go

There ain't nobody hirin' 'round here since all the jobs went down to Mexico

Reckoned that he'd learn himself a trade maybe see the world

Move to the city someday and marry a black haired girl

Somebody somewhere had another plan

Now he's got a rifle in his hand

Rollin' into Baghdad wonderin' how he got this far

Just another poor boy off to fight a rich man's war

Unlike the Parisian students of sixty-eight, there's no way the powerful with the chequebooks are ever going to barter at the barricades with such gung-ho, socialist s(l) inging, country artists as Steve Earl. This explains why he, along with (the possible exception of) Bruce Springsteen - who in "Badlands" sang: "Poor man want to be rich/rich man want to be king/And a king isn't satisfied/till he rules everything" - appear to be the ONLY artists left, telling it as it sincerely ought to be told.

Makes you think.

Aren't there any young bucks out there, armed with nothing other than a guitar, three chords and the truth?

Obviously not.

It is thus hardly startling; that the likes of Limbaugh and the equally vile Pat Robertson, can so readily subscribe to an ideology of blatant bellicose. There's no one new around to remind them of their folly. No one that is, who's prepared to jump on a table, shake their Eddie Cochran induced arse, and from the bottom of their heart to the top of their lungs: SCREAM THE TRUTH.

That's right folks; rock'n'roll (like Times Square) appears to have devolved into nothing other but a sterile commodity akin to milk, MasterCard and Madonna. And anyone who tells you otherwise, is either a) lying, b) deluded, or c) Simon Cowell. Even Roger Daltrey, who once sang: "We'll be fighting in the streets/With our children at our feet/And the morals that they worship will be gone," now resides amid the trajectory of The Who's former dogma. This was substantiated when the band performed during the intermission of this year's Super Bowl at the Sun Life Stadium in Miami.

So who fundamentally cares if a bunch of strangers in Port-au-Prince continue to needlessly perish amid the aftermath of Haiti's earthquake? At the end of the day, what really matters is the fact that Mariah Carey lent her more than obsequious self to the overtly saccharine rendition of REM's "Everybody Hurts."

A beautiful song, normally associated with pathos and power, but which has now, as a result of its sticky showbiz, feel good factor, been reduced to trite and inane, disposable, candy cancer.

Respect.

Who needs scripted TV?

continued from previous page

seconds. They'll move through ten challenges apiece, with increasing difficulty, trying to win the million dollar prize.

Not waiting around for Trump and doing it on her own is Kirstie Alley with "Kirstie Alley's Big Life" premiering March 21st at 10 PM on A&E. The show will chronicle the actress' life as she works on her weight loss program and tries to raise her two teenaged kids as a single mom. Another celebrity with a new show is Lisa Kudrow who will premiere "Who Do You Think You Are?" at 8 PM on March 5th. The actress best known for her stint as Phoebe on "Friends" executive produces this show that looks at the family history of celebrities. Her ancestry will be shown, as well as that of Matthew Broderick, Sarah Jessica Parker, Spike Lee, Susan Sarandon, Brooke Shields, and Emmitt Smith. Simi-

larly, "First Love, Second Chance" will reunite couples from across the globe. They'll get back together to reminisce and discuss possibly reuniting. It will premiere March 10th at 10 PM on TVLand.

Moving away from non-scripted TV, HBO will premiere a ten part mini-series, "The Pacific," on March 14. With an impressive list of executive producers in Tom Hanks, Steven Spielberg, and Gary Goetzman, the mini-series will follow the real life stories of three Marines during WWII, based on stories from three different books and interviews. Matching the intensity will be the new episodes of "Southland." This series started out on NBC and was dropped, only to be picked up by TNT. The cable channel has been re-airing the episodes previously seen on NBC, and beginning March 2, will show the episodes that were already filmed, but never aired.

On Stage at LaGuardia CC

Percy Alban
Photographer



LaGuardia Performing Art Center hosted The Margin Theater on February 5th with "Camino Real." See more of Percy Alban's work: <http://www.lightstalkers.org/percyalban>.



Community College Campus News | March 1, 2010

Taking it on the chin, Leno comes in as underdog

Laura Tucker
Arts Writer

The biggest drama on TV this winter wasn't happening on our small screens, but behind the scenes. NBC has proved to be more fickle than a teenage girl. A year ago they publicly forced Jay Leno out of his longtime role as "The Tonight Show," despite the fact he'd always led in the ratings. They wanted to bring in the new, fresh blood of Conan O'Brien. Leno may have a full head of white hair, but he wasn't ready for retirement, so NBC awarded him the consolation gift of a nightly 10 PM time slot show, in much the same format of "The Tonight Show."

After seven months of "The Tonight Show" under O'Brien's leadership, and five months of Leno in primetime, neither was doing well. NBC tried to keep the same personnel, yet put Leno back where they knew his audience wanted him. They offered him the 11:30 time slot back, but only for a half hour, and told O'Brien he'd had to move his show back a half hour. O'Brien decided to quit, rather than accept the demotion, and Leno was given "The Tonight Show" back, just as he'd left it a year ago.

Everything's been on hold with the Olympics airing on NBC, but where do we stand once that's over? Starting March 1st, Jay Leno will be back at the helm of "The Tonight Show With Jay Leno," back where the public is most accepting of him. However, what remains in question is how the public will accept him after this very public battle that clearly had no winners. Conan O'Brien isn't staying out of the public eye, though, as he waits out the sabbatical forced on him with his buyout from NBC. He's planning a series of live theatrical shows.

NBC wasted no time in filling up that 10 PM hour in its primetime slot. It's turning to one of its proven franchises to fill up two nights on the schedule. "Law & Order" will fill the Monday night slot, and "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit" will fill the Wednesday night slot. The granddaddy of the franchise has been around for awhile as the longest-running crime series and second-longest-running drama series, and is now in its 20th season, returning on March 1st. "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit," known simply as "SVU" to fans, has been around half as long, but packs the same punch. It makes its return on March 3rd. NBC is planting another of its longtime series, newsmagazine "Dateline NBC," for the time slot on Friday nights. The series will air two hour-long shows starting at 9 PM beginning on March 5th.

Tuesday nights NBC will feature one of its newer programs, "Parenthood." Originally this family drama was to make its big debut last fall, but was delayed by co-star Maura Tierney's health issues. With Tierney finding a lump in her breast, NBC delayed the show, and once it was confirmed that it was indeed cancer and she would need treatment, she left the show to focus on her health and was replaced by Lauren Graham. The series, premiering March 2nd, is a reimagining of the 1989 film that had starred Steve Martin. In addition to Graham, it stars Craig T. Nelson, Bonnie Bedelia, Dax Shepard, and Peter Krause. Ron Howard serves as an executive producer.

Thursday nights will feature the heavily promoted "The Marriage Ref." Jerry Seinfeld comes back to network TV on March 4th with this series, serving as producer. He describes the series as "a comedy about situations in reality." When last seen on regular network TV, Seinfeld was starring in his self-titled sitcom based loosely on his life as a comedian and bachelor. Now married, his current series will focus on disagreements between real-life couples. The audience will listen to both sides, then declare a winner. Comedian Tom Papa will serve as the ref. Helping the audience decide the victor will be a rotating panel of celebrities.

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Small Market Sports

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Book Review: 'Death of Bunny Munro'

David Marx
Campus News

On the Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds album "The Lyre of Orpheus," there's a song called "Babe, You Turn Me On," during which the lyrically coruscate Cave sings: "Now, the nightingale sings to you/And raises up the ante/I put one hand on your round ripe heart/And the other down your panties." In an inextricable manner, these lines may well have been the kernel of this top-notch novel "The Death of Bunny Munro," during which said protagonist thinks of very little else other than a vortex of vaginas, and the invariably vitriolic pursuit thereof: "As he negotiates the late-afternoon traffic, Bunny [...] is almost blown out of the driver's seat by a blizzard of imagined pussy, glittering and sleek and expensive and coming at him from every direction - Jordan's, Kate Moss's, Naomi Cambell's, Kylie Minogue's, Beyonce's and, of course, Avril Lavigne's - but spinning up through all of that, in an annulus of tiny handcuffs and resting on a cartoon cloud of Chanel, comes the humble vagina of the police constable, number PV388."

Top stuff, eh? Or, should you find yourself clutching for the nearest Bible in search of Cliff Richard and redemption - not to be confused with Keith Richards and an erection - then maybe not. This second novel by Cave - his first, "And The Ass Saw the Angel," has just been re-issued through Penguin - is without doubt, a mighty enthralling and compulsive read; but it'll probably trigger a plethora of mother-in-laws (along with the entire county of Surrey) into re-subscribing to Politically Correct Monthly. For as shameless and blameless as these two hundred and seventy-eight pages of high-octane'n'candy-coded, sexual prowess and psychosis are, they're as equally icosahedronic.

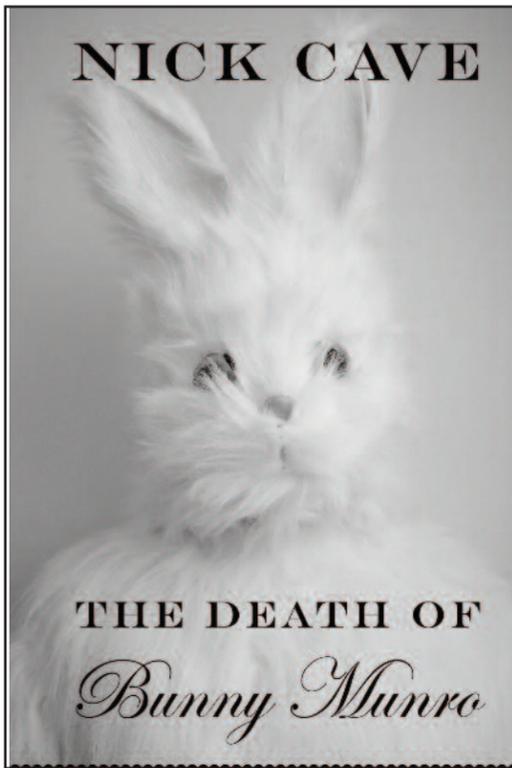
And tender.

And loving.

And dark.

"The Death of Bunny Munro," like of much of Cave's work, substantiates the invariable and sometimes uncontrollable darkness that

lurks just beneath the surface of normality - whatever normality is. Such as the darkness contained within the acknowledged inevitability of death ("his yellow, deathbed fingers clawing the air like a rack of tiny, mangled antlers"), or the trajectory of one man's pursuit of redemption ("The applause, like an inverted roar, is sucked from the room and there is a whirlwind of confusion and all the furious light bulbs of recognition ignite at the same time. Then follows a howl of outrage that breaks across Bunny with



such force that he is propelled backward and almost knocked off his feet"), or the wanton denial of death, even once it looms large ("He pictures his father, momentarily, as a medical skeleton sitting in an ancient leather armchair, tubercular lungs sucking at white powdery ribs, fag in hand, snarling into the telephone. The image terrifies

him and he squeezes shut his eyes but the dread skull of his father continues to dance before his eyes. I'll try him again some other time - he thinks").

Anchored alongside the above are huge dollops of Cave's humanity and humor, which, like both the man and life itself, are an intrinsic and valuable respite from the everyday tedium (anguish and pain) of inexorable existence. In "Part One/Cocksman," Cave writes: "He finds the Adult Channel and a televised phone-in sex line and he allows an East European girl named Evana, who has a tight, hot, wet pussy and the bedside manner of a mallet or something, to coax Bunny through the most forlorn wank, he thinks, in the history of the world;" whilst in "Part Three/Deadman," he bequeaths the reader with: "Mrs. Bonnie England [...] a prime stomach-churner with the proportions and sex appeal of a Portakabin."

A cross between Franz Kafka and Peter Kaye, "The Death of Bunny Munro" is an exceptionally, thought provoking and delightful read. So here's hoping it doesn't take the author another ten years to release his third novel.

Poetry Corner Karen Schulte Central Islip, NY

PSALM: THE ARBORETUM IN OCTOBER

There is a path here I have walked before
with those whom I have loved in years past
now alone I walk in quiet solitude to see the Egret
move beyond the marsh, a ripple in the grass before me
between low banks, past netted leaves scattered on grey waters
in footsteps falling on gravel, before words come to interrupt the breeze
I contemplate the rise of shoreline, the tireless change of seasons
the movement of color and form, of warmth and freezing cold
of you in the shape of the trees, the shadows stretching on the ground drifting
toward the Great Lawn's Green, I walk from entrance to exit and back again
in time enough to watch the sky flare above the reeds
where the River and the Great South Bay meet
the Sun shows it four o' clock face before it slips below
the slate grey sky and splits the narrow horizon in half.

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The 45-year-old cc student

continued from page 5

Perhaps this is somewhat rude of me, but I'm very informal and I hate it when someone calls me "mister." (Mr. Paone is my father.)

Although I never pursued photojournalism, I continued to shoot pictures when I found an interesting subject. NCC presented a couple. On a few occasions, after Spanish class, I asked some of my classmates to stay to have portraits taken. I wasn't exactly sure what finished product I was looking for, but if they were willing to give it a go, and they were, then I may get something decent. I'm pleased to say I may have a few new pictures to add to my portfolio.

While all of this sounds rather painless – how bad can three classes for one semester be? – I was very worried about the math class. I'm an artist! What do we know about math?

I took Logic and Set Theory because it sounded the easiest of all the classes listed. It wasn't so easy. At least not for me. The class was twice a week, and we had homework after each class. I was finding it all too confusing and Heather (the professor) recommended I go to the Math Success Center the school has.

I found myself there at least twice a week. I was surrounded by math geeks (the tutors who worked there) as well as other students just as confused as I was. Believe it or not, I found this room and the people in it a major sense of comfort and support. Thanks to the tutors, I was able to keep up with my homework, and I received full credit for the assignments. Without them I would have given up.

Heather was extremely fair with the grades. I still can't believe it, but I ended with class with a B. Silvina, my Spanish teacher, was also very fair and I wound up with a B in her class, too. And for the record, I received an A minus in the education class at Adelphi.

I've completed all the requirements to renew my certification, and I'm awaiting it from Albany. The first time around it came in the mail but now it's on line. (In 1986, there was no such word as "Internet.")

I'm still in contact with one of the girls from Spanish class as well as one of the math tutors. I was also

able to meet the curator of the school's art gallery and I applied for an exhibit. I attended a reception last month. It looks like my association with NCC may last a lot longer than the one semester I was a student there.

I guess it only goes to show that life can send you places you never thought you'd go. And if one of those places is a community college, then that's a pretty good thing.

Dave Paone tells his whole story in his autobiography, Mickey Rooney Was Right, to be published by Author House this month. He can be found at www.DavidPaone.com and dpthec@yahoo.com.

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Governor's Race: It's everyone vs. Cuomo, but he's not talking

continued from page 4

its current situation.

Democratic Suffolk County legislator **Steve Levy** has formally announced he is raising money and considering a run for governor as well, and that he would be willing to run on a Republican line, which many had considered would be his best bet, and most likely, based on his conservative views on topics such as illegal immigration.

The New Year started without an announced Democratic candidate in the 2010 race for governor. Cuomo, is keeping mum on his plans. He is arguably the most popular New York politician at the moment, having served three years thus far as Attorney General. During that time, he has cracked down on sexual predators online, investigated illegal kickbacks to the state pension fund administrators, and railed against abuses in the nation's student loan programs. He has already raised significant funds, though a formal declaration of candidacy has not been made as of early January. Declarations can be made into April. Independent candidates have through mid-August to collect petition signatures.

"Enough is enough", said Cuomo recently, announcing developments in the

pension fund probe. "It's about restoring trust in government. It's about restoring the taxpayer's trust."

But the son of former Governor Mario Cuomo, while widely believed to want the job his father once held, has been circumspect about his future plans, saying repeatedly throughout the year that he currently plans to seek reelection as Attorney General. Steve Greenberg, with Siena College Research Institute, thinks Cuomo not making any statements about his plans for saving the state fiscally is helping him, by not already alienating voters, while candidate Lazio feels it hurts him, by showing his unwillingness to tackle the most significant topic on voters minds.

"What I'm working on today is just doing the best job I an as Attorney General," said Cuomo, in a typical answer that Cuomo gives when pressed about his future plans.

In recent statewide election cycles, major party candidates have announced their intentions to run, at least eleven months before Election Day. But New York will entered March 2010 without a major Democrat declaring. Republican candidate Rick Lazio made a formal announcement in September, and has campaigned actively.

Experts say this year is different.

Cuomo, or any announced candidate, especially one perceived as a front runner, would have to answer questions about how to solve the state's budget problems, and get drawn in to a quagmire where there are no clear political winners. Cuomo could conceivably wait until after the state budget, which is due in April, is decided. Party conventions are not likely to be held until late May or early June.

"Andrew Cuomo is staying above the fiscal fray, and the longer he can do that, the more it benefits him," said Greenberg. "Right now, voters are not clamoring for him to make a decision."

Cuomo seems to realize that expressing political ambitions too early would not be helpful, if he indeed decides to run for governor. According to Doug Muzzio, a professor in CUNY Baruch's School of Public Affairs, "In a sense, bidding on a race that doesn't exist yet is tough," said Muzzio. "If it becomes a two-person race, I'd bet on Cuomo."

This is drawing ire from Republican Lazio, who according to The Associated Press, is heavily criticizing Cuomo for everything: "Rather than provide the kind of inspired leadership the state is hungry for, he locked himself in his office and watched as Albany burned ... You can't lead from a foxhole."

Cuomo's spokesman Richard Bamberger responded, and reiterated that the attorney general is still concentrating on his current job.

"While the Conservative Party politicians have started their campaigns, the attorney general is focused on his public service representing the people of the State by fighting corruption and greed on Wall Street and rooting out waste and abuse in government."

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--Jonathan Richman

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Friday Night 'Bites': Empty stands common

Zack Pumerantz
Campus News

The locker room is quiet, whispering of prayers the only noise. As you sit up from your pre-game prayer, you feel the adrenaline being injected through your veins. This is everything you've dreamed of all your life, everything you prepared for. As the team converges to a unit, a march begins. You run out to the court with fervor. As you turn to look at the fans screaming and chanting, your limbs succumb to a numb feeling.

In high school crowds were colossal, inhabited by stereotypical "soccer moms" and athletically obsessed fathers. Every football game you were surrounded by hungry fans, willing to rip the limbs from every opponent to get a win. Every basketball game was full of rowdy students and enthusiastic parents. "At high school games we were a raucous crowd, making fun of players and getting kicked out, it was a great time," says Matthew Braunstein, a junior at the University at Albany and an avid basketball fan since high school. "It really propelled our team."

The teams thrived off of that energy and every game was an event. While you shined as a basketball player, you weren't good enough to get a scholarship at any school, just opportunities to walk-on. It's unfortunate that your mother and father cannot afford to send you away to school. That is when community college is discussed.

After enrolling at Nassau Community College, only ten minutes from your hometown of East Meadow, you arrive at the basketball tryouts. Dominating the tryout, you make the team, nervous excitement upon you as you realize the talent around you. The lowest ranked basketball programs, community colleges have a parallel in their academics and athletics. Community colleges reside at the bottom of the food chain. Why has this occurred? Why do fans avoid community college games?

The answer is simple. The games are no longer an event, a family gathering, and a chance to see the neighbors and strike up conversation. The sport has become business, albeit low income and small-time. Community college games are exciting, albeit shoddy, with displays of passionate determination. Yet they fail to interact with the community and have the games become events for the school. Schools with much larger tuitions and much stronger teams have fan attendance that surpasses community colleges 100-fold. While it was a championship game, nothing diminishes the 93,293 fans that made it to the 2009 Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California. It seems it is a record when more than 100 people decide to make appearances at a community col-

lege more than once.

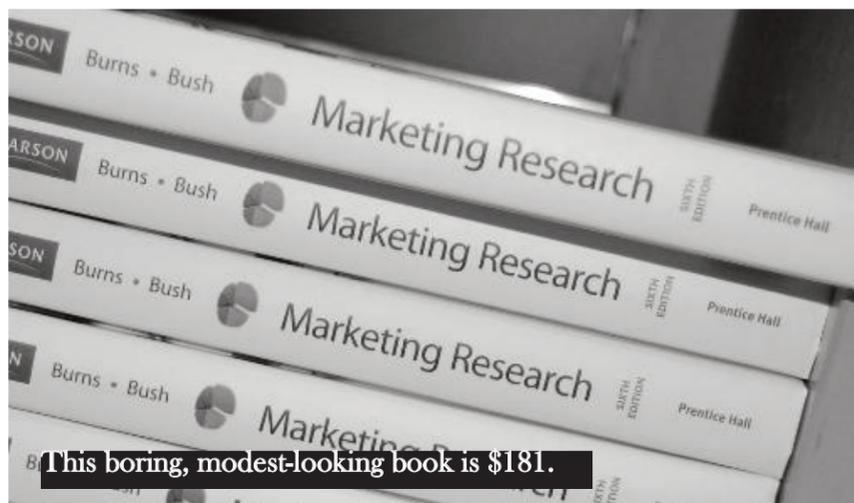
The transition from high school to college is unique because of the adjustment an athlete must make to keep pace with older players. Without top talent and fans, how can a team thrive, let alone have desire? These athletes that attend big high schools are suited for a gargantuan fan-base and experience culture shock when they see the lack of fans to fill the seats. "It is an emotional factor, it affects their drive and will to step it up for the crowd," says Brian Miller, a third-year student at Nassau Community College. "I have seen many games and especially remember high school, where fans went crazy and weren't afraid to let loose." Community college teams around the United States are thirsting for fans and need support.

Call it a cry for help, or a brief report regarding current news. Liberalists listen up. It is time change occurred. While community colleges lack the funding and drive to promote games, the surrounding communities don't lack creativity. Someone needs to take the community on their shoulders to start the process, if only at first. Create flyers, hang posters, promote on hats and backpacks, along with other such items.

The problem begins with attitude. Most people see community college as another high school, clearly similar in academia, but subtly analogous in sports. "It's just not the same event, the excitement is drained from the field," says George Saide, a first year student at Schenectady County Community College in upstate New York. "It was once a family thing to do, a time for the family and the community."

These teams are desperate for fans, the same fans they embraced in high school only one year ago. What is the solution to the problem? How can community colleges persuade students and the rest of the commune to attend their games? As coaches ubiquitously preach to their players, teamwork is the answer. It seems the only way the problem can be solved is with leaders taking the community through tough times and persuading them to support the teams.

Ed Krass gets the picture, "My proposal is to integrate rock and blues music and to shorten the dual match format. The new 'Rock 'n' Roll College Tennis Dual Format' becomes an entertainment event for both the college campus and community." In his discussion of college tennis on the Intercollegiate Tennis Association website, he provides a solution to the attendance problem. To increase attendance, one must create entertainment, an event. Simple it seems. Only time will tell. You hope for a future with screaming fans and rowdy, drunken mascots. Don't hold your breath.



This boring, modest-looking book is \$181.

Why pay retail when it comes to college textbooks?

continued from page 1

chord with many students. One student residing in Nassau County, Matt Monk, told me that it was "ridiculous because the editions are always the same year to year. Why do they have to order the newest when I can get the older one cheaper?" Eric Sherman, student at SUNY Suffolk, pointed out the unfairness of having to "blow all that cash on books to be used once. I spend about \$500 a semester. It's unfair!" Another student, who wished to remain anonymous, called it "absurd" and offered that "textbooks should really be part of tuition."

Monk also suggested that there should be some sort of "grant program to help pay for books." He also raised another point—the little amount of money a student receives when selling a book back: "What the textbook is worth when you sell it back vs. what you paid for it is unfair." The consensus seems to be that textbooks should become part of college tuition—or at the very least a program should be offered to help with the costs.

There are few colleges and universities that offer scholarships that include textbook money. Students who qualify must have extremely low income, along with few other factors making the eligibility very slim for most students. National scholarships include the "College Bookstores of America Schol-

arship," which awards five scholarships in the amount of \$200 given annually and the "Helping Hands Book Scholarship Program" where 50 one-time awards of \$100 - \$1,000 are awarded each year (collegescholarships.org). While these scholarships are helpful, such a limited number is available.

There are other options out there, thanks to websites like chegg.com where students can rent textbooks for a fraction of the cost of a new book. There is also the college library available as an option. Are these more cost-effective options being utilized? Jen Marx, a student at SUNY Suffolk, suggested that "Professors should also be a little more sympathetic to the fact that books are very expensive. They want us to have them immediately, have our own copies, as opposed to taking out from the library or renting, to write in. They have to realize that this can't always happen."

With website like googlebooks.com, and gadgets like the Kindle, physical textbooks could cease to exist. It's possible that one day every student will be required to carry a Kindle and download books instead of having to buy the large, expensive ones. This could potentially reduce textbook costs. However, until this happens professors need to be sympathetic to students low on cash and colleges need to continually work toward remedying the situation.



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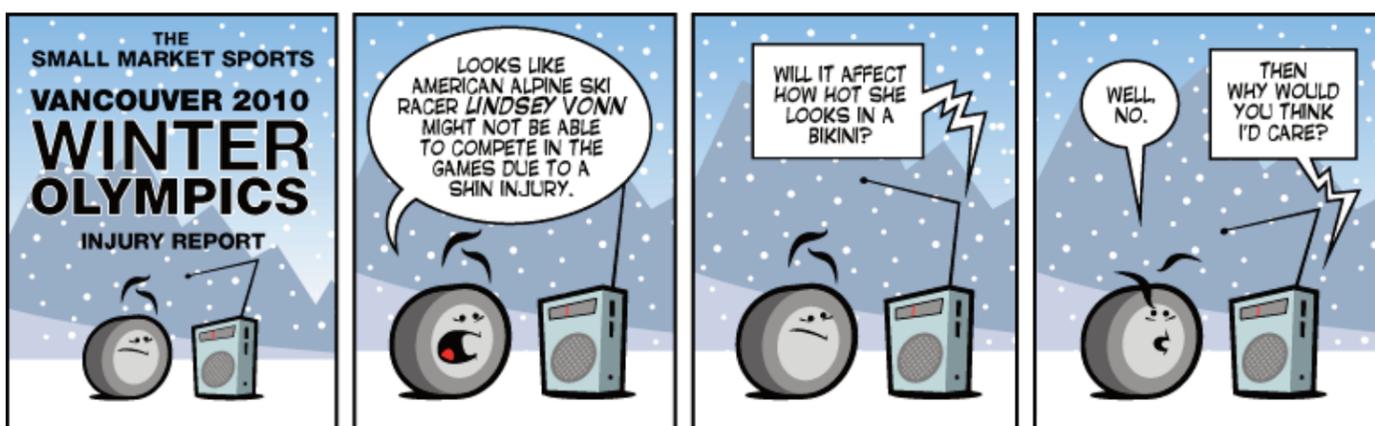
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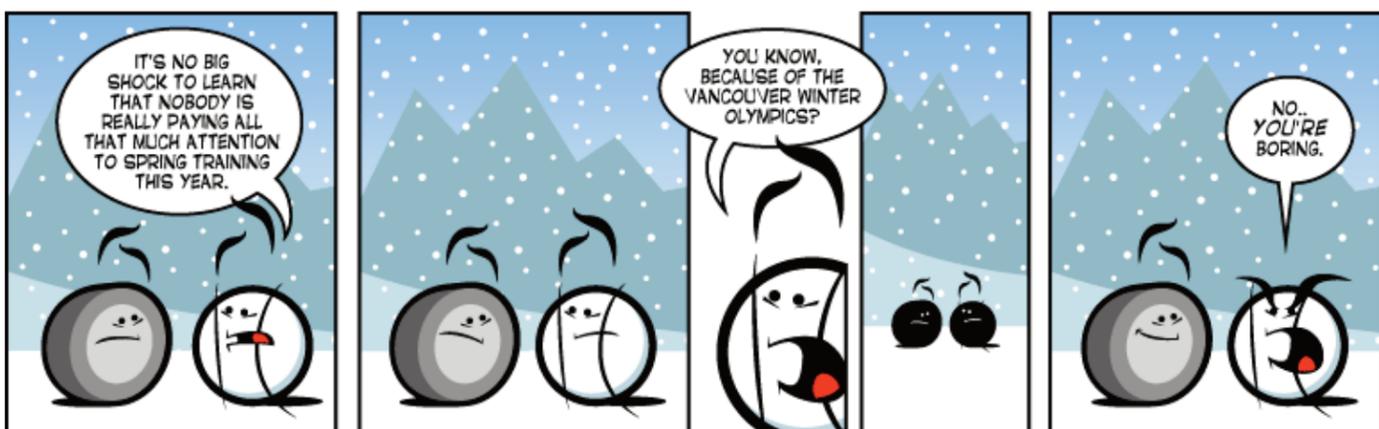
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