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When Facebook gets weird

May 2010

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Christine Barton *Campus News*

Facebook, since its birth six years ago, has

quickly crossed worldwide boundaries with just the click of a finger. It has become one of the most frequently used and well known social networking sites in existence.

Facebook was founded by Mark Zuckerberg with assistance from a few of his fellow Harvard computer science classmates as a project that was initially introduced in the Harvard community. It expanded quickly beyond the Harvard students to other colleges in the Boston area and from there took off to become somewhat of a worldwide phenomenon that expanded far beyond college campuses into the general community. Currently anyone who is age 13 or older can signup to get a Facebook account. The website is up to 400 million users across the globe.

In January of 2009, Complete.com did a study ranking the social media sites; Facebook took the lead as the most used site worldwide. From a user standpoint, issues seem to trend towards privacy and freedom of use. From the worldwide community, the issues seem to stem around controversial topics, offensive content and the potential for Facebook to become too much of an overwhelming influence, distracting people from other things such as work or personal commitments.

Over the years Facebook Inc. has seen their fair share of lawsuits and complaints that stemmed from a variety of different issues. With freedom of speech comes the threat of controversy; it is unavoidable by nature. The issues relating to Facebook networking ranged from violation of privacy to inappropriate con-



tent to promotion of controversial group forming, to name just a few. Regardless of the steps taken to appease the discontent, there is still a high level of controversy that surrounds the use of the site.

There are blocks on Facebook in many countries including Syria, China, Vietnam and Iran. These countries in particular have been very vocal about the displeasure around some of the content available on Facebook and have banned this accordingly. There are also many workplaces who have instituted policies on the use of social media on work time. Rachel Reuben is the Director of Web Community & Strategic Projects at the State University of New York at New Paltz and the founder of her own consulting firm, Rachael Reuben Consulting, LLC. In 2008 Reuben conducted a study about the Use of Social Media in Higher Education for Marketing and Communications. Her study offered some insights into how the higher education community may benefit from social media. She was able to get responses from 148 colleges and universities who offered information about their use of Facebook **continued on page 11**



Graduating? Good luck, kid.

Laura LaVacca Campus News

What am I going to do? How will I get a job? Are there even any jobs available? If these thoughts are running through your head, you aren't alone. Given the 2007 economic downturn, the usual job hunt has become more difficult and harder than ever before. The U.S. unemployment rate increased to 10.2% by October 2009 and the average hours per work week declined to 33, the lowest level since the government began collecting data in 1964 (http://data.bls.gov). Currently, the employment rate is 9.7% with many companies and businesses still laying off people and cutting budgets. The job market is practically nonexistent.

ing graduation? In New York alone, approximately 1.2 million people are enrolled in colleges and universities; this number does not even include those in graduate programs or professional schools (http://factfinder.census.gov). Consequently, students are feeling the about the market once I get out of school. In my line of work, you need to know people to get to the

top and having the economy like it

enough, Apazolgloue points out

another unfortunate occurrence in

If finding a job wasn't difficult

is doesn't help me much!"

ing with children.

"Personally, I think my knowing someone in the education field

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What does this mean for recent graduates and those approach-

<u>With job opportunities</u> <u>shrinking, you need</u> <u>Plans A, B and C</u>

stress of the job hunt, as prospects narrow and making ends meet has become the new trend.

Peter Apazogloue, 19, anstudent at Rutgers University, expressed similar anxieties, "As a broadcast journalism major, I definitely want to pursue a career in broadcasting, but I am nervous the job world — the need for one to have connections. Even the most qualified people oftentimes do not get the job because they don't "know somebody." This is often the case in the education world, where educators prefer a candidate they know and can validate as a person worthy of workgot me an interview. It's horrible to say, but it's true," an anonymous graduate student, 24, at Hofstra University, stated. Michael Anthony, an elementary school teacher and recent graduate of Adelphi University, also weighed in, "I see people in my building who are only here because they have connections — it's a shame that connections oftentimes comes before a qualified candidate."

Education is a popular job market in New York, where teachers salaries begin in the high \$40,000s and can go upward of \$100,000. Lisa Calder, 20, a student at Hofstra University, enrolled in the Psychology program hoping to become a school psychologist. **continued on page 8**







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SMALL MARKET SPORTS by Bill Charbonneau MARK MCGWIRE DWIGHT GOODEN ALEX RODRIGUEZ TEXAS RANGERS ADMITTED TO USING AND HERE WAS INTERVIEWED BY GOT BUSTED FOR MANAGER RON WASHINGTON I THOUGHT YOU STEROIDS THE FBI ABOUT HIS TESTED POSITIVE FOR DRIVING UNDER ONLY HAD TO BE ON INVOLVEMENT WITH A THE INFLUENCE COCAINE USE. DRUGS TO WATCH CANADIAN DOCTOR WHO BASEBALL IS FACING DRUG CHARGES Ċ www.smallmarketsports.com ©2010 Bill Charbonneau.

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Sick of Albany cutting your funding? Be prepared to get on the bus!

Darren Johnson Campus News

Big buses ambled onto campus at 4:30 a.m. Their lights cutting through an aura of fog. The big machines idled, a soft roar floating over the rolling hills of the bucolic 82acre campus, toward the dorms. The engines waited, calling.

Then over the hills came a few students.

more. Altogether 70 of them got up to make the trek from the East End of Long Island to Albany for Advocacy Day

on April 27. A couple of weeks prior, these students at SUNY's newest campus, Stony Brook Southampton, were told - via a story leaked to Newsday that their campus was going to be essentially shut down by its huge parent university, Stony Brook, and they decided they weren't going to take it.

They quickly mobilized. And how they did it could be a lesson for your public college as the state budget crisis and the governor's attack on education continues.

One of the buses was sponsored by the United University Professions, the union that represents faculty and mid-level administration (the latter of which I am a member, though for how much longer is uncertain. The ultimate deadline for shutting down most of the campus is August 31). The other bus was paid for by the students, through their activity fees and voted upon by the campus Board of Finance.

The students also got media savvy - and quick. Southampton is a school devoted to ecological sustainability. On the Atlantic and in an area where the rich and famous live. it's also a home to marine science and writing programs. With 500 students with specialities in advocacy

ated hit 20,000 fans in two weeks.

Stony Brook Southampton is only in its third year of existence, thus the small student body so far, but these students managed to get themselves everywhere seemingly. They held a march and sit-in at the main campus. They descended on a feel-good speech by SUNY Chancellor

About 70 students Nancy Zimpher <u>got up at 4:30 a.m. –</u> at Old West-Then a few and you may benefit bury and de-

> manded answers - stealing any good press she would have gotten from the event that day.

And in Albany, they networked with key legislators with the help of the union. Seven students there seemed like 7000 in the quiet halls where the assemblymen and senators work. (I really think a school under fire like Southampton (your school could be next) could make an impression sending just 20 students. Just use sports team vans for the ride. Advocacy days are every Tuesday when the legislature is in session. Call your union's Albany branch to help out or make the appointments yourself by calling the 518 numbers listed for your area reps.)

The Southampton students not only met Long Island assemblypeople like Fred Thiele (a third-party member and Southampton alum from when the campus was owned by LIU and a huge backer of the campus), Dean Murray (R) and Ginny Fields (D), but also legendary higher education bigwigs including Senator Ken LaValle (R) and Assemblywoman Deborah Glick (D). LaValle used to chair the higher ed committee in the Senate, and probably will again, soon, as the GOP is expected to take back power there this fall, and Glick heads the assembly's higher ed committee. She also is a friend of former Stony Brook President Shirley Strum Kenny, who founded and nurtured the



Southampton campus.

And it seems the advocacy is working. Not only are the newspapers on the students' side, as well as the Southampton community (the local town board offered to pony up money to try to convince SUNY to change its mind), but the legislators now are questioning the closure, as well.

As of press time, Stony Brook's President, Sam Stanley, and Zimpher finally agreed to meet with Thiele and LaValle.

While it may be too late for the current Southampton students - most of them, grudgingly, have already filed paperwork to transfer to the main Stony Brook campus 40 miles away for the fall – their work at the very least taught them a lesson in advocacy that can't be taught in the classroom (and they did skip class that day; but most professors didn't hold that against them).

Also important, it taught SUNY a lesson. They will be

more sensitive as to how they treat a campus in the future when it comes to handling budget cuts. The Southampton students are mad because they were never consulted; never made part of the decision-making process.

Top administrators don't want a PR nightmare like this to happen again. What the Southampton kids did, and are still doing, may keep SUNY off your campus's back. You should thank them.

Congrats, grad, but now what?

Prof. Jack K. Mandel Nassau CC

The original intent of my article was to focus on CCCN readers who are graduating from high school (such as my son Jaron from Roslyn High) or college in 2010. Congratulations to all!

However, it's really targeted to anyone under 30 who is about to embark on his or her next stage of life.

Mick Jagger, lead singer of the Rolling Stones once remarked, "Don't trust anyone over 30." Unfortunately, those of you in your teens, early or late twenties have little choice in the matter.

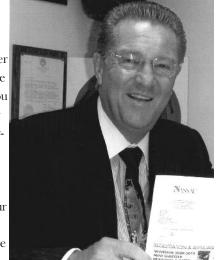
means more than an email. At least with Skype you can see the person you are communicating with. Here are a few thoughts to help you on your journey of life ...

FIRST, appreciate the fact that experience does count for something:

Other than the NBA, MLB, and NFL, wisdom does come after years of effort. Yes, we do slow down as we get older (especially in sports), but people over 40, 50 and 60 can offer you

At the same time, I have had time to pursue many outside interests, such as a mail order venture, self-publishing, consulting, and so on.

You only have one go around ... make it a good one!



and communications, it's no wonder they were able to get so much press so fast. A Facebook page they cre-



Baby-boomers, like myself, are the professors, executives, and supervisors in positions of authority. We do the hiring, and, on the flip side, the firing, too.

While it's logical to assume that given your youth you may not readily know what a transistor radio, cassette player, Betamax, or Atari system looks like, it behooves you to make every effort possible to bridge the generation gap.

I still think a personal phone call is a better form of communication than a text message.

I still think a written letter

a great deal - IF you are willing to listen. Remember, great players make great coaches! SECOND, be willing to take calculated risks. The one thing you have is TIME on your side. If you want to be a model or an actor, give it a shot. Just be certain to set a time limit and have a backup plan.

THIRD, and perhaps most important of all ... don't let the almighty dollar determine your choice of career. I've always had the drive and personality for sales. As a college educator, I may not make the really BIG \$\$\$, but I do have an impact on students I meet. How can you put a dollar figure on that?



Professor Mandel teaches marketing at Nassau Community College in Garden City, NY. He is the recipient of the prestigious Outstanding Teacher Award conferred by the NYS Association of Two-Year Colleges. He is also a "Best of Long Island Winner" for 2010 in the Teaching category from the Long Island Press.



NCC students help promgoers

Each year, students in the Marketing & Fashion programs at Nassau Community College host a "Prom Boutique" for invited young women from area high schools, youth centers and at-risk agencies. The boutique provides girls who would otherwise not be able to obtain a dress with a complete outfit for their prom, graduation or sweet 16. This year's Prom Boutique was on April 17.

The same NCC students who planned and publicized the Prom Boutique – and supervised the collection of dresses and accessories – got retail experience when they set up the multi-purpose room and lobby of the CCB in preparation for the event and on the day of the boutique itself. The students spent the day before setting up the "store," complete with onsite seamstresses, cosmetic demonstrations, signage, mannequins, clothes racks, and, of course, the dresses.

All of this was under the guidance of NCC professors Heidi O'Connell and Joe Pescatore, who have been working on the Prom Boutique at Nassau for the past five years. Also, before the event, NCC fashion students had met with two individual high school students in order to find out what kind of outfit they wanted and then designed a dress specifically for them. "This is a project that our students will remember for the rest of their lives," said Prof. Pescatore. "It's the perfect opportunity for them to take what they have learned in the classroom and apply it to a real life situation."

More than poetry in motion

David Marx

Campus News

Edwin Starr once sang: "War – What is it good for? Absolutely nothing." In this day and rather unfortunate age of downloadable passion, pizza and porn, might the same just as readily apply to poetry? Do the likes of Shelley, Byron, Keats, Rimbaud, Eliot, Thomas, Plath, et al, still resonate amid the daily contours of today's hip-hop induced society?

Unlike the current hip and glib and surely unsustainable perusal of high-octane media studies – wherein the young and the (preferably) beautiful embark upon such solipsistic career paths as self-absorption ad celebrity infinitum – were poetry to be a tad more pronounced, a tiny modicum of melioristic thought, might, somewhere along the line, be allowed to prevail. As is, the circus of life continues to run amok amid the rather hazardous slipstream of pain, pathos, and the pre-ordained complexity of denial.

So yeah, poetry, what is it good for?

This is surely dependant upon who's reading, who's listening and who's ignoring. Reason being, the quintessential essence of poetry lies within the realm of those truly in need of some detonative tenderness and enlightenment. Those who want to be touched, want to be reached, want to be healed, want to be brought to bear upon the sacrosanct idea of something other, will always find that poetry resonates like nothing else.

As for many, there is nothing else.

"When you got nothing/You got nothing to lose." Bob Dylan

Like painting, and to a certain degree, philosophy, poetry is one of the few mediums wherein the currency of regulation is without value. Anything goes. Anything is permitted – which in and of itself, is freedom funky a go-go bro. Anything that is, except for the duplicitous repetition of vacuity. Indeed, the potential of poetry's virginal canvas is as provocative as the whole wide world itself – a world wherein entire platoons of literary oysters are to be caught and revered and devoured and pondered upon, beyond resolution. Yet even here, within the wide, open cathedral of contemplation, there may still be room for more. More vision. More irregularity. More sparkle.

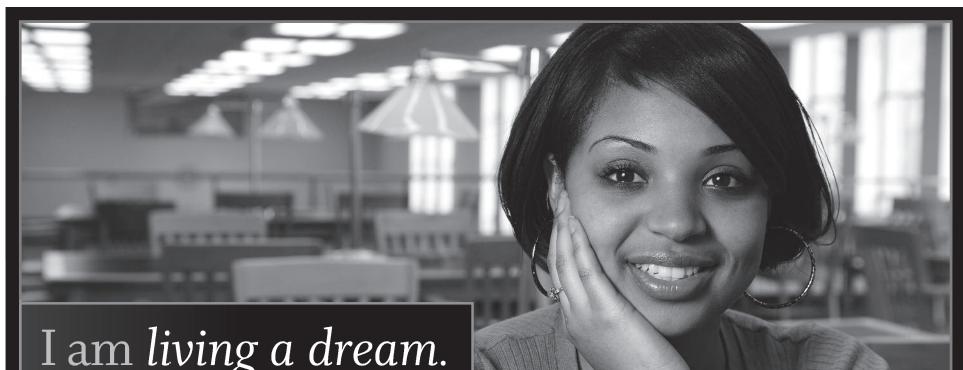
More often than not, smug-fucks – with everything to prove and everything to lose should their credit rating wane beneath that of their peers – are utterly oblivious to the validity of poetry. The thought of reading some hippy-dippy, fag-perplexing, psychohomo, commie-shite, usually has Mr. Expanding Waistline, running for the hills with a revolver and an accountant. Not for he, any existentialist horseshit of the flim-flam persuasion – all hearts and butterflies and subliminal Norwegian erections on a platter to go, all sunny-side up and making no sense whatsoever. No sir.

He is after all, invariably blessed with a myopic sense of being that is signed, sealed, delivered and what's more: safe. And as we all know, safe, like the color beige and Barry Manilow, is fundamentally transient, linear, boring and ultimately unfulfilling. That said, the moment something goes wrong, everything changes. Everything.

As pain is always pain. Regardless of constitution. Substitution. God. Truth. Bank account.

To be sure, when pain rears its ugly head, poetry essentially evolves unto its own.

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Helping find a job

Sherrie Guerrero Campus News

A large majority of employers are looking to hire highly skilled employees. Still, there are employers who would prefer an inexperienced employee - one tvery passionate, dedicated and moldable. The process of finding a job has been increasingly difficult, especially for college students. Fortunately, there is help if a job fair is being held nearby.

Once a year since 1994, either shortly before or shortly after spring break, the second largest event at Nassau CC is held. On April 8th, approximately 80 companies attended what they call one of the best-organized job fairs around. The NCC Job Placement Office anticipated about 4,000 people to show up with hopes that 30% would find jobs.

They did not want students to go to the job fair without being prepared, so students were offered help with making their résumés and how to present themselves by attending workshops which are available year-round.

"We're trying to make sure students in this environment get the best experiences they can have, in terms of academics and also preparation for employment," said Henry Williams, a professor at NCC and is a counselor in the Job Placement Office.

that page was a floor plan to show everyone exactly where each company was located.

The businesses in attendance were diverse in nature. They ranged from the popular (WBAB Radio sans Donna Donna), the exotic (US Customs and Border Protection) and the compassionate (North Shore Animal League).

"I've chatted with the swimming pool company. I could teach it because I have the certification," said Nancy Walordy, a senior observer student at NCC. This is someone who has a skill and is looking for a job where she can use it.

Adriana Fernandez, a firstyear communications major at NCC, is currently employed but came to the fair in search of a different opportunity. She wasn't looking for another job but for an internship. "I just spoke with the radio station, and they said they are accepting for interns right now. I want something that gives me more experience in the field I want to go in," she said.

Skills are important for most jobs, but there are some employers who would prefer a person to simply be passionate about doing a particular job.

"Personally, I think it's better if you don't have any experience at all because the city has specific ways to do things," said Oscar Tel-

Some employers are given a bad rap based on the statistics of whom they hire, or simply on the types people think they hire. When people think of a police officer, firefighter or a soldier, the stereotype of a physically strong person comes to mind. When someone is passionate enough to train to do these types of jobs and succeed in the training, they are considered capable of doing that job. "We don't prejudge anyone who comes in," said Emmanuel Boudouris, a correction officer for the Nassau County Sheriff's Department. He knows that certain people might not fit the part, but he gives them all the same advice about possible employment.

"This isn't necessarily a physical job; I think it's more mental. It's more of using your brain with good common sense for handling some of these individuals we have incarcerated," he said.

Since the Job Placement Office had lots of success with getting its former students employment opportunities, it's able to keep holding job fairs. Of course, employers need to hire new people, but the alumni also come back to offer students the same help they received.

The Job Placement Office offers this kind of help partially because it's difficult for students to find employment. Another reason is to give confused students the chance to find employment in a field they might learn to love. It also helps because many parents believe if their child goes to college, he or she will automatically find a job. Even if a student came to the job fair and didn't get hired, at least he or she gained the experience of how to hold a conversation with someone in human resources. In 1999, the country was at a 30-year unemployment low with only three percent of the population out of work. Times have certainly changed. The Job Placement Office offers all of their services to every student who is willing to take advantage of these opportunities.

The real cost of credit transfers

Jen Marx Campus News

Many high school students who do not have a particular career in mind are encouraged to go to community college in order to determine what they want to do and to dabble in a variety of options. But does dabbling become unproductive and useless at a point? Part of answering that question lies in figuring out how those credits earned at community college will transfer over to a four-year institution.

Eric James, a Nassau Community College graduate of 2005 and an Adelphi University graduate of 2007, raves about his time at college. He said, "My experience at NCC was a positive one which helped set a foundation for the future years of my college career. I was able to take the basic required courses for a low price while getting a great education. All my credits transferred over to Adelphi and because of that I was able to take classes that were strictly related to my major and minor and any electives that interested me. Getting my core courses out of the way at Nassau allowed me to develop my interests and take classes that I was really interested in at Adelphi."

When asked if the school faces problems with credit transfers from community colleges, CW Post, Adelphi University and SUNY Stony Brook declined to comment. What exactly is the big secret then, if there is one at all? Adelphi's Admissions website offers a handy tool, the Transfer Evaluation System, for prospective students to determine if their credits will be accepted at the institution. Let's see how it works!

If a prospective student compares courses from an Associates degree in English Teacher Education at Nassau to a Bachelors in English and a minor in Adolescences Education at Adelphi, he or she will find that 21 courses transfer over. Nassau's English 101, Composition I, becomes Adelphi's English 107, The Art and Craft of Writing.

Everything looks great at first; however, in order to have such a flawless transition, students must be like James and have a plan prepared from the onset. First of all, our theoretical student with an Associates in English Teacher Education would have to complete 21 courses at Nassau in order to have all of his or her basics covered at Adelphi - 21 courses are 63 credits. Take an average student who pursues 15 credits per semester, and intends to finish community college in two years, and such a plan leaves one class (3 credits) unaccounted for.

James admits that in order to complete school in two years, he had to attend classes over the summers. Though not a problem for the student with a plan, what happens to the students who want to dabble? We still have not quite determined where their credits go. Furthermore, the Admissions website states: "Please note that while a course equivalency may appear in a list, this does not guarantee that the course will transfer to Adelphi University. Our Transfer Admissions staff continually reviews equivalencies, making them subject to change. What exactly does this mean for prospective students?

Without answers from school officials, determining exactly where the problem lies is difficult. However, if there were no problems, 2,210,000 results would not appear when searching for "college credit transfer problems" on Google. Furthermore, a Long Island student, Lola L., stated, "I didn't have any troubles but I had a cousin who had a lot. She is currently at her third university hoping that they will accept her transfer credits. She has been in school for four years because of the fiasco and doesn't see her graduation date being anytime soon."

So far the problem has only been defined in terms of cost effectiveness. The sooner students get out of school, the quicker they make money. The more credits that transfer, the less money students have to spend on excessive credits. However, reworking the definition of the meaning of college presents a different insight on the issue.

The job fair began at 10:30 a.m. in NCC's physical education complex. While recruiters from the various companies in attendance set up their stations, students handed out flyers to remind everyone of the event. Prior to this, there were posters throughout the campus and every student had a flier mailed to him or her.

Once the three-hour event started, the Job Placement Office staff members were at the doors of the complex to hand out packets. These consisted of a welcome page, a second page with the names of the businesses in attendance, the type of businesses they are and the positions they were planning to fill. On the back of

leria, a New York City firefighter.

"If you have different habits, it's going to be difficult to learn a different system," he said.

Kimberly Veasey, a secondyear student at NCC, has high hopes of the Marines changing their current policy on tattoos. Without knowing there is a limit of how many visible tattoos she could have, Kimberly has 23. She spoke to a recruiter at the fair who took her general information.

"He said policies change all the time, so I filled it out, and he said we never know what could happen," she said. Nevertheless, Kimberly is very eager to join.

"If the Marines took me tomorrow, I'd leave without a second thought," she said.

Math 102, Introduction to Statistics, becomes Math 113 Survey of Statistics and so forth.

To account for equal treatment of community colleges, let's look at how a Suffolk County Community College student would fare in the same program. Interestingly, the guide lists credit transfer programs for nursing students only for the four campuses of SCCC. Whether the tool is not yet complete or the institution simply does not have any other transfer programs from SCCC is unclear. In either cases, 10 courses from SCCC are accepted as credit for the nursing program in much the same style as the previous case, where the community college courses are accepted as one of the same nature of the Adelphi course.

Imagine a world where students dabble indefinitely in a wide range of classes that interest them, but perhaps are not going to be useful in their career. Students could take as many art, drama, music, etc. courses 🛱 as they want without a clear path of that would eventually become their major. Perhaps this fantasyland does not exist, if it did, students would not have to worry so much about credit transfers because they would be more focused on taking courses to enhance their unique interests and tastes instead of their wallets. continued on next page

Credit transfers (cont.)

Kieran Kutner, an NCC student, comes close to this idea. When asked about his time at NCC, he said, "When I began going to NCC, my dedication and drive to attend class was low, and my grades suffered signifiz cantly. I failed and dropped courses and took time off from school. Since then, my GPA has risen from a 1.07 to just below a $\leq \frac{\text{GPA}}{2}$ A has risen from a 1.07 to just below a ≈ 3.0 . I now know I have the ability to get the grades I want, and get that GPA over the 3.0 . 20 | ∃ mark."

He added, "For me, Nassau was the place to start. It was inexpensive enough to allow me make mistakes and improve upon them; it has taught me that the time to mess around is over. I guess it's gotten the screw around time out of my system, and now that I have found the motivation within me, I am not so worried about transferring to a fouryear school."

For Kutner, community college was not about making a perfect plan for the future, but rather exploring his interests and really getting to know himself. Claire Semder, 2008 graduate of Marist College, perhaps finds a balance between Kutner and James'

experiences when she said, "Personally, I don't believe that money should be the goal of any education. It is an added benefit. I chose a career that I enjoy, but since graduating from a four-year program my diploma did not automatically entitle me to a life of luxury. I have worked for free at

internships, low budget freelance jobs, and just now have taken on my first full-time permanent position.

"The career you choose and the reasons to choose it are important to the individual, be it for money or happiness or familial obligation. ... However, I do think taking courses is good for life in general. Those who take them in college have an ultimate goal of a diploma, but they also learn how to adhere to deadlines and juggle schedules," she continued.

Semder summed it up: College is about finding a job, but also about enjoying the ride. Students who want to get out quickly with a successful degree need to have a plan from the start and research the four-year institution they intend to attend after community college, while students who want to spend more time exploring their various interests need to be aware and prepared for the extra money they will spend. But perhaps it is the students who find a balance who are most successful and fulfilled. Afterall, Semder did graduate salutatorian of her class.



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For Mother's Day...

Nancy Muldoon Campus News

My mother would never be able to get a Mother of the Year Award. Quite frankly, she'd never get past the application process and not just because her references wouldn't check out.

As mothers go, my mother wasn't mother material. It's what movie industry people call bad casting. However, I still learned a thing or two from her even though she was never right about anything.

It was my mother who taught me that if I didn't have enough money to tip, I didn't have enough money to go out to eat. Good advice.

One time my mother had a hangover, we were en-route to Grand Central Station

from Brooklyn so I could go back home to upstate New York. We stopped by a diner in Greenwich Village to get a bite to eat. My mother foolishly ordered and ate an egg salad sandwich.

After I had arrived home in Saratoga Springs, I called my mother to inquire about how she was feeling. She told me that, on the subway back to Brooklyn, the motion of the train was making her feel quite queasy and before she knew it, she had projectile vomit right there on the subway. She said that within seconds she had the entire subway car to herself.

I couldn't stop laughing at that last part and my mother hung up on me in disgust. Lessons learned: Never sport a hangover in public and never eat an egg salad sandwich when you have an upset stomach.



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In my last year of high school, I moved from Saratoga Springs to Brooklyn to live with my mom.

Political Correctness never quite made the journey into our neighborhood in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn. No ethnic groups were off limits to my mother's scathing commentary of them. Our just off the boat Polish immigrant landlord who recently bought the piece of crap apartment building on North Sixth Street where we lived was frequently referred to as "that stupid Polack." However, I must admit that my mother's diatribes against him were not without merit.

The Polish landlord who barely spoke English commanded two phrases and used them frequently. Anytime my mother went to him for anything that needed fixing in our crappy railroad flat of an apartment she would invariably be told by him, "I put paint" or "I put tape." We literally had that ugly

gray duct tape in the front of our house to patch up the spots where the property was falling apart, as if the duct tape would save the house from decay. It was rather embarrassing. It also didn't help that our newly arrived to America Polish landlord bore a striking resemblance to the cartoon character Elmer Fudd, complete with ridiculous looking hunting cap. The only thing that was missing was the rifle with the cork, and I'm not kidding.

My mother used to joke with me and say, "Nancy, one day we're gonna come home and the entire house is gonna be wrapped in duct tape." My mother's friend Billy would joke that our apartment building was starting to resemble a Yoko Ono art project.

As most teenage girls in the 1980's who worshipped Madonna, I was no exception. My mother as most mothers, despised continued on page 12

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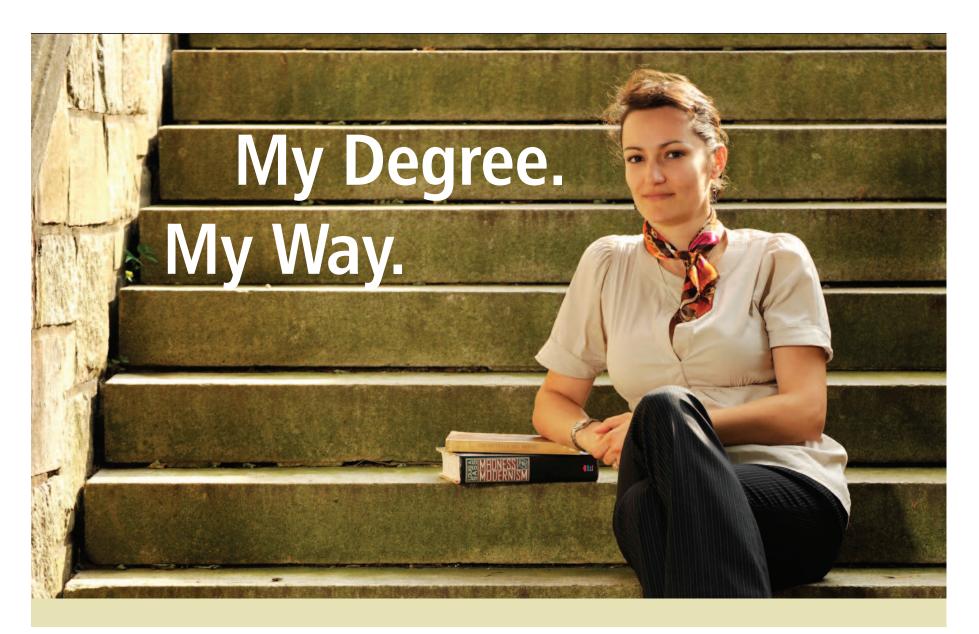
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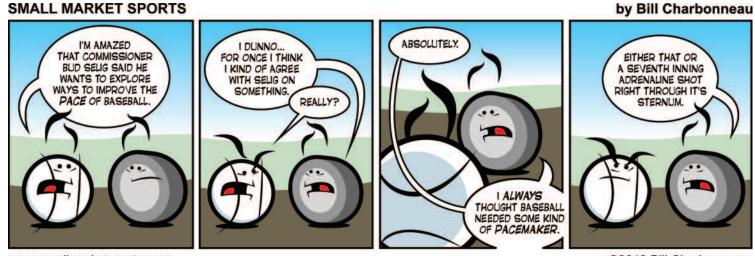
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Reality TV overwhelms May small screen

Laura Tucker Campus News

May is always an exciting month for reality TV fans. That's the month we find out the winners of all the competitive reality series we fol-

low all winter and spring. It's the month that your DVR is working in overdrive, and when you try to avoid seeing anyone you might know, your email, Facebook, and Twitter, before you get to the watch the finale, just in case they spill the beans.

Our first reality season finale will be "The Amazing Race" on May 9. It's been a season that's been decided by the U-Turn and by lots of backbiting. There were two pivotal points this season, and both of them were with U-Turns that were used not because the others were in danger of winning, but because of them shooting off their mouths. It'll be interesting to see if the U-Turn goes on to help someone win the game or not.

"Survivor: Heroes vs. Villains" is another with a lot of talking going on, and before the finale airs on May 16, there's bound to be a lot more. But that's what makes this show. This was another interesting social experiment, which has gone on to prove that no one can be all Hero or all Villain. It's reminiscent of the end of the "Breakfast Club," which says there's a little bit of Princess, Athlete, Brain, Basketcase, and Criminal in all of us. There's a little Hero and a little Villain in all of us as well. The question if it will be someone with a little Hero and a lot of Villain, or a little Villain and a lot of Hero in them that will win.

"America's Next Top Model" brought in a new judge, André Leon Talley, to the show this season, and Miss J. Alexander left the judges' table during challenges to mentor the aspiring models. Will it make a difference as they reach naming a winner on May 12, or was this jumping the shark? Were they worried that the series wasn't the big ticket in everybody's weekly viewing schedule that it once was? The same goes for "The Biggest Loser." They do enough to switch up the seasons each year, but somehow the show doesn't have the same kick that it once did, leading to the question of how many people will be watching the May 25 season finale?

The celebrities came out to do a third season of "Celebrity Apprentice" and a tenth season of "Dancing With the Stars." On the Donald Trump-hosted show, it was expected that Sharon Osbourne could run away with the win, but she spent the first half of the season sick and not around, and while you would think it would make her a longshot for the May 23 finale, no one else seems to have it in them. There's not much of a challenge on "Dancing With the Stars," either. Once Kate Gosselin was finally voted out, the only question has



been if it will be Nicole Scherzinger and Derek Hough or Anna Trebunskaya and Evan Lysacek would win.

The biggest reality TV finale, however, will be "American Idol." Of course with all of these shows it's hard to predict a winner a few weeks in advance, but seeing either Crystal Bowersox or Lee Dewyze in the final two seems a safe bet at this point. We should see at least one, if not both. Yet what will make it all bittersweet is that it's widely expected to be Simon Cowell's last season before he moves on to "The X Factor." The show survived the loss of Paula Abdul, but it's a big uncertainty how it will do without Simon.

Other TV In May

Of course the biggest news for the month of May will be the end of two series that were at one time really popular. The more celebrated seems to be "Lost" on ABC. Its first four seasons it ranked consistently in the top 20 shows, but last season it sank to number 28. It'll wind up up its fifth season on May 23 with a two-hour recap special, followed by the twohour season finale. Then after the local news, Jimmy Kimmel will host a special, "Jimmy Kimmel Live: Aloha to Lost." After discussing the show every Tuesday night on his talk show, it's Kimmel's own salute to the sci-fi drama. He'll feature appearances by executive producers and live interviews with cast members.

"24" is also bidding adieu, and on May 24 will end without as much fanfare as "Lost." Jack Bauer's story will end on day eight. The series was unusual in that it played out in real time, taking a whole season to go through just one day. Like Lost, it's won its share of awards, and became the longest running spy drama on TV. Keifer Sutherland said of the end of the series, "We always wanted "24" to finish on a high note, so the decision to make the eighth season our last was one we all agreed upon." It's not completely the end for Bauer and the others, though, as a feature film version of "24" is in the works.

As we say goodbye to those two old favorites, other old favorites will be making their return. "Friday Night Lights" will return on May 7 to NBC, and Grey Damon who appeared on "True Blood" will join the series as basketball player Hastings Ruckle. Ali Fedotowsky who opted to quit "The Bachelor" so close to the end when her work gave her an ultimatum, then was rejected by Jake Pavelka when she tried to come back, has somehow cleared enough time on her schedule to become the next "Bachelorette" as the show premieres on ABC May 24.

We'll have two more reality series coming back into the fold as well. "So You Think You Can Dance" returns to its rightful place on Fox's summer schedule the day after "American Idol" crowns its winner. Yet the show will be unlike what we're used to from past seasons. Instead of being paired up with each other, the contestants will be paired up with All Stars from past seasons. The Tyra Banks and Ashton Kutcher jointly produced "True Beauty" will surprisingly be back for another season on May 31. We'll lose judges Cheryl Tiegs and Nole Marin, who will be replaced by Howard Stern's wife, Beth Ostrosky Stern, and Carson Kressly, while Vanessa Minnillo returns as host and judge.

And finally we'll have two new series as well. "The Good Guys" will have a special premiere on Fox before results night on "American Idol" May 19, then will make its official debut on Fox on June 7. The series is created by the same guy behind "Burn Notice," Matt Nix. This action-comedy stars Bradley Whitford as an old-school cop and Colin Hanks as a more modern detective. NBC will debut a new comedy as well, "100 Questions." Written and produced by Christopher Moynihan, who co-starred in "For Your Consideration," the series focuses on a woman still searching for Mr. Right. She answers a 100-question compatibility test on a dating site, and each one of those questions makes her reflect on a humorous time in her life. The series makes its premiere on May 27.

Graduating (cont. from cover)

She stated, "I worry about getting a job because there really aren't many out there for school psychologists. My mom works at a school, and she tells me how there are never any openings for any job position at her school and that definitely scares me."

Marissa LoMonaco, 18, undeclared, also weighed in explaining that she "knows the situation is really bad" because one of her friends "is graduating this year from Cortland with a degree in education and the school near her laid off 100 teachers. My high school only laid off five, but I heard Island trees District laid off about 62."

Education is certainly not the only competitive field now daunted by the after effects of the economic crisis, but they are affecting every career field. Specifically, creative fields like writing and the arts, which are already near impossible to enter, are beginning to crush even the slightest glimmer of hope these students have. Joseph Chilman, 26, a graduate student at Hofstra University, explains, "I worry a lot about getting a job. I know the field I'm headed into is very competitive and job placements are rare...being a novelist, I worry I'm going into an area where the odds of finding an opportunity are low...the future seems unclear."

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CAMPUS

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In preparation for the disappointment, some students are bracing. Jennifer A., 23, an aspiring writer and student at the University of Scranton, explained that she is "creating fall-back opportunities for herself" so that if her first, most desired job falls through, "she has other jobs to provide for herself."

It seems students are not only preparing for one job prospect but must be open to many - even if it isn't what they want. Lauren K., 21, a Hospitality Management major at NYIT, stated that she was "worried about not getting a job after graduation" and was "conscious to choose a field that opened her up" to many different job opportunities - whether she wanted them or not. For the new graduate, the job world has shrunk and having a plan A is no longer sufficient, as one needs a Plan B and C.

Given the extenuating circumstances, the once positive feelings of accomplishment and excitement that came with a college degree are now tainted with anxiety and uncertainty. Jacob Gallay, 24, an alum of Catholic University of America summed up what many are feeling: "The hunt for a job is always at the forefront of my mind."

New films: 'Juliet,' 'Shrek'

Laura Tucker Campus News

One thing that always seems to stop people in their tracks is a newborn. Everyone just has to stop and coo. Filmmaker Thomas Balmes

obviously took note of that when filming the documentary "Babies." The film follows four babies from around the world: San Francisco, Namibia, Mongolia, and Toyko. It follows these babies from their birth all the way to taking their first steps. "Babies" makes its debut on May 7 and is rated PG for cultural and maternal nudity throughout.

May 14 has three films opening. The first is "Just Wright" starring Queen Latifah and Common as a sports trainer who gets assigned to rehabilitate a professional basketball player from an injury that is career-threatening. They don't need much more than that to fall in love, yet her best friend is also interested in him. It'll be nice to see Queen in a leading role again. This romantic comedy also stars Paula Patton, Phylicia Rashad, Pam Grier, James Pickens Jr., Mehcad Brooks, Michael Landes, Dwyane Wade, Dwight Howard, Rashard Lewis, and Bobby Simmons. It's rated PG for some suggestive material and brief language.

Opening on the same day is "Letters to Juliet" about a young American woman, Sophie, who travels to the storied home of Romeo and Juliet, the city of Verona. A ritual in the city is for star-crossed lovers to leave letters for Juliet seeking romantic advice. Sophie joins other volunteers answering the letters, and is inspired to seek out the writer of a letter from 1951, Claire. After finding her, Sophie and Claire set out fifty years later to find the long-lost love mentioned in the letter, and it seems Sophie finds some new love as well. Amanda Seyfried and Vanessa Redgrave star. Christopher Egan, Gael Garcia Bernal, and Franco Nero appear as well. It's rated PG for brief rude behavior, some language, and incidental smoking.

"Robin Hood" is coming to the big screen again, also on May 14. Directed by Ridley Scott, the film features an all-star cast of Russell Crowe, Cate Blanchett, William Hurt, Matthew Macfadyen, Mark Strong, Oscar Isacc, Lea Seydoux, Scott Grimes, Kevin Durand, Alan Doyle, Danny Huston, and Max von Sydow. The story of Robin Hood is of course well known, and from what is known so far, it doesn't appear to alter it too much, but the chance to see Crowe and Blanchett as Robin Hood and Maid Marion is perhaps one that can't be missed. It's surprisingly rated just PG-13 for violence including intense sequences of warfare, and some sexual content.

"Shrek Forever After" is the fourth in the series, and once again stars Mike Myers, Cameron Diaz, Eddie Murphy, and Antonio Banderas as voices. This sequel brings in even more stars including Jane Lynch, Kathy Griffin, and Ryan Seacrest, but the funniest has to be Larry King and Regis Philbin voicing the Ugly Stepsisters. The story has Shrek feeling he's become too domesticated, so he strikes a deal with Rumpelstiltskin to get his ogre mojo back, but in the deal, he has to stab his old friends in the back. "Shrek Forever After" debuts in 3D, 2D, and Imax 3D on May 21. It's rated PG for mild action, some rude humor, and brief language.

Also debuting on May 21 is "MacGruber," the next in a line of "Saturday Night Live" skits to get their own film. They don't usually do very well, so there isn't a whole lot expected from this one. It stars Will Forte bringing the MacGruber character to the big screen, and he's also listed as a writer as well, which could turn it into a hit. It stars fellow SNL-ers Kristen Wiig and Maya Rudolph, as well as Ryan Phillippe, Val Kilmer, and Powers Boothe. The question is if there will be enough plot behind this to sustain a feature film. This comedy is rated R for strong crude and sexual content, violence, language, and some nudity.

Another television show turned into a film debuts on May 27. "Sex and the City 2" is the sequel to the major blockbuster first film that followed the end of the series and found Carrie finally getting married to Mr. Big. This time she and the other gals travel to Abu Dhabi, and there Carrie runs into her ex, Aidan (John Corbett). Sarah Jessica Parker, Kim Cattrall, Kristin Davis, Cynthia Nixon, and Chris Roth are back to reprise their roles. While the first movie successfully transitioned from series to feature film, is there enough there for part two? This sequel premieres May 27 and is rated **R** for some strong sexual content and language.

This one isn't based on a television show, but on a video game. "Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time" is a Disney product and Jake Gyllenhaal, Gemma Arterton, Ben Kingsley, and Alfred Molina star. Gyllenhaal plays a street urchin in what is now Iran, but was Persia in the sixth century. After doing well in battle, he's adopted as an heir to the king's throne, and sets out with Princess Tamina to rescue the Sands of Time from the villains. If a short



Poetry (cont. from page 4)

The moment a partner runs off with someone else, a daughter is diagnosed with leukaemia, a sister is run over and killed by a drunk driver, an only son is blown to pieces amid the killing fields of Afghanistan; is the moment one reaches out for the aforementioned other.

"Aristotle argued that fiction – by which he meant all forms of poetry, including tragedy – was superior to history, which merely described events, because it had the power to order them in abstract ways and thereby convey deeper truths [...]. Nietzsche went a step further and insisted that art and music spoke a truth that went beyond words and had the potential to free people from the tyranny of logic." *Richard Ned Lebow*

The trajectory of language, for all its icosahedral and infinite quiddity of a kinematical persuasion, is one thing. The sanctity of the poetry, for all its complicit and comprehensive understanding of the human condition, is quite another. So while the grief stricken may initially reach for the bottle or the Bible, it's only the non-formulaic, poignant reaching out for hope, which truly, truly matters.

And where better to start than with words on paper?

There is after all, a reason why the War Poets were so revered during the First World War. With shells raining down amid the misery of the trenches, and with trinsic immediacy of a poem. And have we learnt anything? Have we (still not) learnt the fundamental difference between futility and the flag?

> It's nights like this I ask myself, what is a flag? A fluttering symbol of a nation's amplified psychosis. A blood-drenched rag dipped at the passing catafalque. A hankerchief to wave at the soldiers marching off to war, marching against human failure.

Run it up the pole and see who salutes it. Use it for swaddling, a bandage after an accident, to mop the feverish brow of one unwell. A thing to dry your hands on after throwing in the towel. *"Flag" by Bruce McRae*

By way of forensic contemplation and analysis, let it be said that it's surely poetry and poetry only, which helps society come to terms with the decrepit virtue of social greed and misapprehension.

It's just such a mighty shame that poetry, unlike algebra and psychology, physics and media studies, is no longer taken seriously within the curriculum of learning. For as logical as these subjects may be, only poetry can save us from both ourselves and the

skit from "Saturday Night Live" might not be able to sustain a feature film, will a movie based on a video game? It's rated PG-13 for intense sequences of violence and action and makes its debut on the big screen May 28.

New May videos

Laura Tucker Campus News

It seems movies are taking less and less longer to make it from the big screen to DVD. While it debuted in theaters in January, "Leap Year" is making it to DVD on May 4. Amy Adams stars as a business woman who knows what she wants and goes after it. She follows the Irish custom that allows women to propose to men on one day every four years, Feb. 29. She follows her boyfriend to Ireland, but gets involved with a cabdriver in a typical opposites attract plot. Matthew Goode, Adam Scott, and John Lithgow also star. "Tooth Fairy," starring Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson as a hockey player sentenced to one week as the tooth fairy, also appears on DVD May 4. Ashley Judd, Julie Andrews, Stephen Merchant, and Ryan Sheckler co-star.

May 11 will bring Mel Gibson's latest, "Edge of Darkness," to DVD. Many just saw it as a re-do of Gibson's "Ransom." In this film, his 24-year-old daughter is murdered and everyone assumes the bad guys were after him, a homicide detective. Also on DVD this week will be several movies to pre-

certain death perhaps moments away, there was no other solace except for that of the in-

pare for the May 14 theater debut of "Robin Hood." "The Bandit of Sherwood Forest," "Rogues of Sherwood Forest," "Sword of Sherwood Forest," and "The Prince of Thieves"" are all set for their release on DVD.

"Valentine's Day" will make a quick debut to DVD on May 18. It features an allstar cast that start off with separate storylines on Valentine's Day, but they all end up intertwining. It stars Jessica Alba, Kathy Bates, Jessica Biel, Bradley Cooper, Eric Dane, Patrick Dempsey, Hector Elizondo, Jamie Foxx, Jennifer Garner, Topher Grace, Anne Hathaway, Ashton Kutcher, Queen Latifah, Taylor Lautner, George Lopez, Shirley MacLaine, Emma Roberts, Julia Roberts,

hurt of another.

and Taylor Swift. When are you going to see all those people in a movie again? If this isn't enough celebrity for you, check out "John Lennon: Rare and Unseen," a documentary. The following week on May 25, if you're

still looking for more romance, and "Valentine's Day" didn't quite give you enough, "Dear John" appears on DVD. It stars Channing Tatum, Amanda Seyfried, Henry Thomas, Richard Jenkins, and Keith Robinson. Based on the Nicholas Sparks novel, the story revolves around a young soldier home on leave, falling in love with a college student. Similar to Sparks' "Notebook," the couple is separated for long periods of time, but in "Dear John," they never fall out of touch, corresponding with love letters.

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Facebook (cont. from cover)

joking on Facebook, 'had a

good day ... didn't want to

kill even one student :)'

as a tool. She offers the following key point as a result of her research: "Facebook has great potential for our purposes, and just over half of those surveyed already have a Facebook Page for their University. MySpace is not only loosing ground with the general population in terms of the number of active users, but it's also not popularly used in higher education." Facebook appears to be the preferred choice for the educational community over the competitors such as MySpace, Twitter and LinkedIn. This may be because of the popularity it holds in society. If people like it, they will use it, and it becomes the preferred trend for the time.

At the beginning of the Facebook experience, the college community in general, had a very different opinion about Facebook than they do today. Ironically, Facebook began in the college community as a project. It then spread to the high school community before going full force into mainstream society. While the public quickly embraced Facebook, educators began to

raise concerns about it. The explosion of Facebook in 2004 offered an array of different

concerns from educators. The consensus was that it distracted students and had no place in the classroom. It was seen as just a method for social networking, not considered an educational platform. Some campuses even went so far as to ban laptops in the classroom. As time went on, so did Facebook. It became more familiar and less feared. Educators became more open to learning about this new trend and how it may benefit the classroom and students if used as another tool for learning. Educational initiatives were instituted by a variety of different organizations such as National Association for Campus Activities and the Association for Education in Journalism in an effort to take some of the fear out of Facebook. The reality is that Facebook does not appear to be going away. Instead of fighting against its use or banning it, the educational community has begun to embrace it as a learning tool.

Lisa Martin graduated in December with a master's in Literacy from the State University at Albany. She did not use social media sites to communicate with her professors but did use it to communicate with her fellow students regularly. Because her coursework was primarily hands on, and much of her time was spent leaning in the field, there was little need to use social media as a regular method of communication, she said. When asked about how she viewed the concept of using Facebook as a means to communicate as a student, she stated, "It would have been much more useful than any other form of communication out there." Martin reports that she is always sure to get the messages that are sent to her through her Facebook account. "It is the only way that I am going to be sure and get information every day," she stated. Facebook is a common way that Martin uses to communicate and keep in touch with the world around her. She wished that she had the option of using Facebook more when she was a student because it would have made regular communication with her professors much easier.

tion is often of a personal nature and once a friend is requested and accepted the information on personal pages can be viewed by those in the friend network. This does offer some level of potential conflict when it comes to student teacher relationships and potential professional affiliations.

The Chronicle of Higher Education published an article on February 26, 2010, about East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania suspending a professor because of the content of her Facebook posts. The associate professor of Sociology, Gloria Y. Gladsen, posted several comments that she claims were her way of venting to family and friends about her workday. The article offers the following face book posts authored by Gladsen: "Had a good day today, didn't want to kill even one student .:). Another post reads, "Does anyone know where I can find a very discreet hit man, it's been that

kind of A professor is disciplined for day." Gladson did not deny that she had written the posts and claims that she was

under the impression that her comments on Facebook could only be viewed by her family members and friends. A student ended up seeing these comments and later reported it to a university administrator. A written comment in the article by the interim provost Marilyn Wells stated, "Given the climate of security concerns in academia, the university has an obligation to take all threats seriously and act accordingly." Gladsen was then suspended pending the outcome of the investigation.

Social media and its use in the college communication continue to evolve. According to another article in the Chronicle of Higher Education in late 2009, the online campus at Penn State now requires student advisers to offer two hours of availability for meetings with students in a virtual meeting space called Second Life. This is a fairly new concept that was designed to allow dis-

tance learning students to have the same level of access to advisors as those who attend college on campus. The question that has been raised as a re sult of Second Life is the issue of privacy between advisor and student and if clear guidelines have been established to protect privacy and inform all users of the threats and consequences of providing personal information through third party applications. Adjusting your security settings to a maximum and keeping a bare minimum profile may not be enough to protect your privacy on soPage 11 | Community College Campus News | May 1, 2010

cial networking sites like Facebook, My-Space or even Second Life. Canada has raised a number of concerns over the use of Facebook because of its failure to comply with their national privacy laws. Facebook has been known to hold on to subscribers' personal information after the deactivation of their accounts, which can allow others to still have access to confidential information once the user has deactivated the account. There is

<u>Another professor says social</u> media 'attracts them ... engages them where they are'

> never 100% guarantee that it gets permabe shared, disclosed or leaked years after the account has been deactivated.

> Tom Proietti is a Professor of Communications and Media at Monroe Community College full time and at St. John Fisher College part time. He has been teaching at the college level for nearly 38 years. Proietti uses social media such as Facebook in his media classes where he engages students in discussions about the phenomenon of social media. Proietti claims that his students are "tuned in and alert" about the topic of social media because it "attracts them, holds their attention and engages them where they are." He also uses the Facebook platform like a blog to share links, videos, articles, interviews and observations for educational purposes. He describes Facebook as a "learning lab that works at so many levels." Proetti has found many benefits to using the social media forum to educate, insight and engage his students on their level, however the students participation in social media sites is totally voluntary

> As for conflicts, Proietti recognizes that conflicts happen in every platform of communication. He personally sees these conflicts as a way to teach students to develop their skills by offering observa-

tions and a candid approach to each situation should it arise. If students cross the line or are inappropriate, "I let them know in a kind and firm way," states Proietti. Proietti spends time with his students speculating about future social media applications and platforms and finds engaging with them on the topic of social media is easy with the right approach. He claims to have "won the job lotto." All are invited to Friend request him on Facebook

> where he has nearly 2700 friends and counting.

John Mooney teaches Public Relations and Media Entertainment courses as an adjunct at Berkeley

College's midtown Manhattan campus. He encourages students to use online media because of its importance in society today. Mooney actively uses Facebook with his students as well as his PR clients. He provides his students with a point on their final grade score if they do use social media. Mooney pulls up Facebook during class and will occasionally use it as a part of his lectures and lesson plans.

The profile you provide on any social media site can offer a great deal of information to others. Facebook is commonly used by employers to view the profiles of potential job applicants. Mooney stated, "HR departments regularly check MySpace and Facebook profiles because they provide insights into the potential hires' personality and character". Those looking for employment should always be conscientious of the content and photos that are displayed on their personal profile page, as it can make or break an employment offer. As a part of his teachings, Mooney will often pull up Facebook and identify for the students examples of those profiles that may be inappropriate.



nently deleted. Accounts that lay dormant may leave the potential for information to

The concern remains of the appropriateness of the information that is commonly shared with those considered "friends." This informa-

Poetry Corner: 'Baby Advice From a Daughter''

Sherrie Guerrero Nassau County CC

Have plenty of money saved in the bank.
Don't even think of ever giving the children a spank!
Eat healthy, exercise, and take the right vitamins.
No alcohol, cigarettes, illegal drugs, or the bad legal ones like vicodin.
Be sure to have a husband who is better than the rest,
Expect the worst and hope for the best.
Love them with all of the unconditional love in your heart.
Don't do anything that would tear, you two apart.
Be sure to say "I love you" everyday,
Don't try to live your life through them in any way!
It's very important to set a perfect example,
Take my advice, I think this would be the opinion of a large sample.
Our childhood really has a huge impact on who we are,
I don't want anyone to feel this awful pain that made many of us scarred.

Mom (cont. from page 6)

Madonna and everything she stood for which only made me adore her even more. It was my mother who informed me that Madonna in her opinion was nothing more than a talent-less, opportunistic slut who no one would even remember a year from then. The year was 1985. Throwing this back in my mother's face whenever the opportunity presents itself never fails to delight and entertain me.

In spite of my mother's lack of parenting skills and logic regarding the merits of pop culture, she did manage to get some things right. She instilled in me the value of culture and took me to see foreign films, and we made regular pilgrimages to almost every museum in New York City. It was my mother who insisted on taking me to see the Robert Mapplethorpe exhibit at the Whitney Museum long before the mainstream media falsely touted him as a shameless

pornographer.

Lesson learned: Just because you are poor is no excuse for not making an effort to culture yourself.

We would on occasion go to see Broadway shows and sometimes off Broadway plays as they were certainly far less expensive. It was these moments and experiences with my mother that I still recall with great fondness.

Other times my mother's ineptness as a parent was painfully clear; like the time she barged into my room when I was 13 or 14 years old one summer afternoon and shoved a paper back book about sex into my hands and stated, "Don't believe what you hear on the street" turned on her heels and simply walked out of the room. I must have stood there stunned for at least a minute or two fully expecting her to return to finish the conversation. But no, that was all of "the talk."

There are many who believe that motherhood and nurturing are "innate" qualities amongst female people. Other people know better. If you have been lucky enough to have a wonderful supportive mother; good for you, I hope you are grateful and never take her for granted.

But for the rest of us, who have had to endure mothers who may have been alcoholics, drug addicted and/or mentally unstable, celebrating Mother's Day has become something of a mixed bag, another thing to survive, another mockery of reality.

I must admit that since I became a mother myself, I am far more compassionate for my mother's failings at being a decent parent than I would have been had I not had my own child. I've made some embarrassing blunders myself as a mother.

I sometimes joke with my daughter by telling her that my mother was never right about anything and how lucky she is to have a mother who is never wrong about anything.



"Christina." Photo by Dave Paone.

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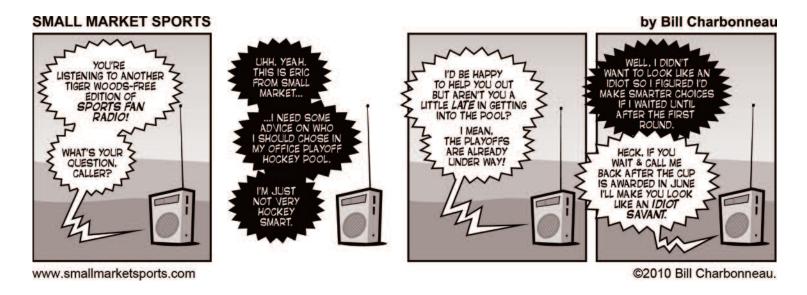




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Give Favre a break for skipping mini-camp

Darren Johnson Campus News

Don't hate on Brett Favre because, each summer, he does that retirement dance just to avoid mini-camp.

As someone his approximate age, let me tell you, the body just doesn't work the same way anymore. Favre is probably serious - holding out, waiting - because each stride hurts a little more once you turn 40.

I was up early this Sunday morning. There was an infomercial on with a guy, 51, claiming he went on some six-DVD exercise plan, and he now can do more chin-ups than when he was in the Marines. And, while the guy looked to be in super shape -though it's hard to tell who's juicing with what, legal or otherwise, nowadays -- I'd bet if he were playing an actual sport -- or back in Boot Camp - he would be less confident.

About three years ago, at 37, I decided to get back into shape; kind of like the guy on the informercial (though that guy seemed a bit self-consumed -- I'd bet anything he's recently divorced and living in a van down by the river; my wife stayed with me as my ego was in check!).

While I was never in the military, I did have some athletic success in my earlier years, playing football and wrestling in high school and playing lacrosse at a small college.

There once was a fitness contest at my high school, and, while I just had average speed, I did win contests in pushups and situps. I did some crazy number, like 100 of each in a minute. (Funny thing is, I've never had defined "six-pack" abs. Few did back in the day, except really skinny kids and pro wrestlers.)

So I started up with some basic cardio. I needed to lose about 40 pounds, after working in offices, commuting, and eating fast food in the car for many years. I hit the exercise bike in the gym because running was out of the question for me at that point in time, carrying so much extra weight.

I also did push-ups and crunches (sit-

ups are out-of-vogue now). Rather quickly, in just a couple of months, I was able to do similar numbers of pushups as I did back when. The weight took a long time to come off, and I still struggle with that, from week to week (I did get down to my college "playing weight" of 190, but had an injury and since leveled off at about 210), but the strength was there right away.

The weight room also was a cinch. In short time, I had the same strength I had in college when I used to train pretty regularly. I started running. It took a good year, and I was never good at distances due to asthma, but I ran my first 5K ever and still do that distance at least three times a week to this day. I did some sprints, too. I was never fast, but I didn't notice any serious drop-off in speed these past 20 years.

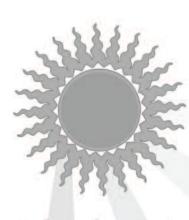
So, am I saying the informercial guy is right and Brett Favre is wrong? That one can have the same body at 20 and 40?

Not at all. Yesterday, at a college I work for, was a faculty vs. students softball game and, while I got on base all four at bats and, pitchng, struck out six (we lost, though, as I gave up as many big hits), I did feel sore and cranky after.

Sore? I run three days a week, do the elliptical or Stairmaster the other days. I lift weights. Stretch. I do all the prep work I did at 20. But it's just not the same as being in game shape.

In a game, anything can happen. You have to turn on a dime. You might run into someone. You may step in a divet. Over the course of a few hours, this all adds up. Just imagine what Brett Favre goes through on the field with 300-pound guys bearing down on him every play. And we feel it so much more in middle age. The pain lingers for days after a game; when I was in college, I was pretty good to play again after a night's rest.

Yeah, Mariano Rivera is also past 40, but he just has one pitch. One inning. I think I could handle that - if I had that one pitch!



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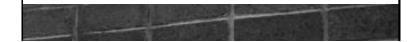
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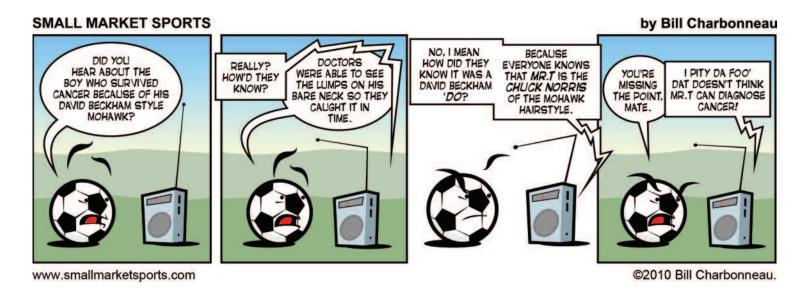
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