

Community & College CAMPUS NEWS

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Volume 1, Issue 5
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June 2010

Graduation	3
Politics	4
Poetry	5
TV Previews	8
Summer Films	9
Classifieds	12
Books	15

Visit us at
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Smart dad, 6



Dress, 14



Vampire, 8



Third Party, 4

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Working while in college

Christine Barton
Campus News

The decision to work or not to work during the college years is a personal choice for some and a necessity for others. Working offers both opportunities and challenges to students that they may not otherwise have; some good, some not so good; but never the less, a reality of life after graduation. After all, most people go to college to be gainfully employed. Having a job seems like a very realistic component of the learning experience during college. Work experience can offer students a small taste of what is to come after graduation. A work study position, an internship or a summer job may be a nice compromise for those just looking to get experience rather than supplement income.

Employers also benefit from having college students on the payroll. Tess Sullivan is the Assistant Manager at Mary Jane Books in Albany New York. She started working part time at the bookstore while earning her English degree from the State University at Albany. Not having come from a wealthy family, Sullivan reports having to work during her college years. "Having money to spend to live during college is necessary," she states. For Sullivan, her part time job at Mary Jane Books led her to a promotion to her current title of Assistant Manager. She now finds herself working in a job that falls nicely in line with her future career plans.

"Mary Jane Books is a nice place to work," states Sullivan. "It's like a family". The bookstore hires mostly college students in and around the area. Many of the students who work at the bookstore are within walking distance. Many of the bookstore employees attend area colleges, such as St. Rose, SUNY or Hudson Valley. Stu-



Looking for On-Campus Jobs at Career Day at Stony Brook Southampton.

dents either live locally or know about Mary Jane through campus affiliations. The bookstore offers a unique opportunity to employ students who are also customers of the store.

Traditional aged college students who begin college directly following high school may have the luxury of holding off getting a job until they have graduated. For many, the work experience begins well before college. Non traditional students returning to school after having a career or after being laid off from a job or in search of a new career path often need to work to pay for living expenses or educational costs. It is a reality

for most Americans to have to work to make ends meet and afford to attend college. Even those who qualify for educational assistance, still have to find a way to pay the bills. Many today find themselves in the position of working, and attending classes while raising a family or having to contribute in some way to the family income with employment.

Employers benefit from student workers in more ways than one. Mardie Fraptellone, the Office Manager at the Shop 'n Save Supermarket in Schaghticoke, New York, often hires col-

continued on page 11

Homeless in New York

David Marx
Campus News

*No-body loves you when
you're down and out.*

—John Lennon

The primal scream of being homeless in today's shotgun America appears to mean nothing. If it did, it wouldn't exist.

Very simple – yet not simply solvable.

That it's just not in the country's best interest to eradicate the drug problem (a mighty contentious issue if ever there was one), it's also not in the country's best interest to fundamentally help the down and out. Drugs after all, generate a ton of cash. The same cannot be said for the homeless, whom, although generate far less competition for far fewer jobs, es-

entially generate nada in relation to GDP (Gross Domestic Product). Thus, a fraudulent, tenuous and rather elongated equilibrium is unfortunately maintained – much to the clandestine rejoicing of Middle America and the me, me, media culture of uber saturation.

gurus of ultimate power – tainted beyond redemption.

As callous competition isn't the only reason for America's (partial, regal ignorance of) homelessness.

The homeless have always been there. They are as much a

**1 in 5 New Yorkers fear they
could be homeless soon.
Cause: Unaffordable rents.**

So while the spurious pursuit of happiness does indeed work for some, it's nothing other than a Dickensian induced trawl through the urban decay of a forgotten land for countless others. A land, which the late great, Woody Guthrie, bequeathed as "your land," is – no thanks to the myopic

part of the country's quintessential backdrop as Nathan's hot-dogs and Elvis – albeit an unfortunate one. A sad state of affairs, underlined by the notion that homelessness in America is a "revolving-door" crisis. For just as some people exit homelessness quite quickly, many others become homeless every

day. This may explain why homelessness exceeds one percent of the total US population – and may even represent as much as ten percent of all poor people in the country (of whom one in ten face the prospect of becoming homeless in an average year).

Clearly, current policies to alleviate homelessness are failing; despite the fact that a recent ICP Survey (Institute for Children and Poverty) called "Stemming The Tide: New Yorkers Expect Government Solutions For Rising Family Homelessness" – conducted on June 19th of last year – discovered the following:

80% of New Yorkers had thought, considered, pondered upon the issue of the homeless within the last month.

75% of New Yorkers support

continued on page 8



Where Transfer Students Succeed



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Opportunities for low-income women in the green economy

Desmond L. Marshall
Scripps Foundation

Renee Owens, 36, an unemployed single mother with two kids, ages 6 and 12, was searching for work. But in a bad economy, few companies were hiring.

She has worked as an unskilled laborer at construction sites, and her last job was at the International House of Pancakes, where she made \$3.20 an hour, plus tips. Then she lost her job and was unemployed for a year and half.

Owens had tried many training programs, but they could not help with job placement. She said many of the instructors were undereducated, and some judged her unfavorably because she is 6 feet tall.

"I was being picked on. I was like, why are you building me up just to tear me back down?" Owens said. A former boxer, Owens was determined to not let this affect her search for a job.

Many women like Owens face similar struggles.

Eventually, she discovered Wilder Opportunities for Women, which works nationally and in the D.C. area to build pathways to economic independence for families, women and girls.

Owens graduated from WOW's D.C. program earlier this month and has started work as cement mason, putting in new sidewalks and repairing old ones.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, about 56 percent of the 39.8 million Americans living in poverty in 2008 were women. And of 13.5 million children living in poverty, 8.5 million were being raised in single-parent household, nine in 10 headed by women.

Unemployment rates nationally have hovered just below 10 percent recently, with April's rate of 9.9 percent up from 9.7 percent in March. In the District, unemployment is higher, but the rate went from 11.5 percent in March to 11 percent in April. Women are doing better than men nationally, with an 8.2 percent unemployment rate in April, up from 8 percent in March.

WOW Executive Director Joan Kuriansky said the organization found that training low-income women for green jobs meant they could earn double or triple what they had earned in previous job.

Since 1964, WOW has trained more than 10,000 women for well-paid work in the D.C. area.

According to the Department of Labor, green jobs reduce the use of fossil fuels, decrease pollution and greenhouse emissions, increase the efficiency of energy usage, recycle and develop and adopt renewable sources of energy.

Some good green jobs include construction managers, electricians, welders, environmental engineers and agricultural workers.

"Not every green job is a good job ... part of what we have to do is ensure there are career ladders in these fields so that women have the opportunity to move from a job that does not pay self sufficiently to one that will over time," Kuriansky said.

WOW and the Women's Economic Security Campaign released a report, "Creating Opportunity for Low-Income Women in the Green Economy," which says these nontraditional jobs will help women move out of poverty.

"Even with increased funding, women face substantial barriers to accessing green jobs, including a lack of training and role models in these fields, limited work supporters, and sexual harassment and hiring discrimination," the report says.

The program taught Owens many skills to prepare for a job for the green economy, including blueprint reading, weatherization, construction math and introduction to tools and materials.

Thursday, WOW, Women's Policy Inc. and Climb Wyoming, a job placement program for women, held a briefing on Capitol Hill to inform people about green jobs.

"With the proper training and supports low-income women can thrive in the green collar workforce," the report says.

Many women can be like Owens, but they need proper programs to help them succeed.

"They were concerned about my concerns," Owens said. "I found somebody that took me in as family... [WOW] has been a blessing ever since."

In May, Owens began her first day of work at Plasterers' and Cement Masons' Local 891 with more training. She will be making about \$14 a hour, with the possibility of a raise every six months.



Renee Owens jokes with fellow trainees at Local 891.

Reaching for the STARS

A 66 year-old grandmother of five has found a new direction through the S.T.A.R.S. (Services to Adult Returning Students) program at SUNY Rockland Community College.

When Veronica Chiarito of New City retired with time on her hands, she decided it was time to pursue her lifelong dream of taking a college course in painting. Having retired as a producer/director with Warner Brothers after 48 years in the animation industry, she felt unsure how she would fare in the college environment.

"I graduated high school at the age of 16 at a time when only the boys in my family went to college. So I went straight to work for Terrytoons CBS in New Rochelle.

"When a friend heard that I wanted to go to RCC to take a painting class, she told me I should contact Terri Kaye Needle of the S.T.A.R.S. program because she worked with returning adult students and would know how to help me."

Needle, Chair of the S.T.A.R.S. board, suggested that aside from painting, Chiarito should also take the Life Skills class to help her acclimate to the student environment. Needle also told Chiarito that she was eligible to receive financial aid and pointed her toward the Financial Aid Office.

Chiarito still had other obstacles to face. "My fear was that I wouldn't be accepted by the students. But in every class, there are a few students who come to me for advice, looking for a mother-figure. I've even become so friendly with one young student that she is tak-



ing an evening art class with me so we can continue to work together.

"When I attended my first English class, I was faced with learning how to write a documented essay, how to type and how to use a computer — all at the same time! In doing so, I found a whole new world of possibilities. My first essay was chosen to be published in last year's issue of the student magazine, Impulse. Isn't that exciting?"

"It took me 50 years to finally find the time to go on to higher education. The decision to come to this campus and experience all it

has to offer has proved to be one of the best decisions I've made in years." Chiarito's first two classes began in Fall '08. She has now earned 34 credits and is taking 19 credits this semester.

Returning adult students, or those considering becoming one, are invited to attend the weekly S.T.A.R.S. support group, which meets on Tuesdays, 12:30-1:30 p.m., in Academic I, Room 1116.

For more information about S.T.A.R.S., email tneedle@suny-rockland.edu.

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CCCNEWS.INFO

Top 10 reasons to go to a CC

Father Martín I. Esguerra

Campus Ministry, LaGuardia CC

Here are some not so well known facts about Community Colleges that can motivate you

to attend and graduate from a Community College:

10. Community Colleges provide millions of students and adults access to the required education to further their educational careers or enter the workforce.

9. Graduates from Community Colleges include a space shuttle commander, an astronaut, the president of Grumman Technical Services, the director of the U.S. Department of Energy Missions at Lockheed-Martin, a professor of Biochemistry at the Rockefeller University, the Head of the Genetics Program at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, our current U.S. Surgeon General, Dr. Richard Carmona, M.D., etc., etc.

8. There are currently about 28 members of Congress with an Associates Degree from a Community College including Honorable Steve Israel, Republican from New York, who graduated from Nassau Community College.

7. Community Colleges will educate about 59% of new nurses and the majority of other new health-care workers.

6. Community Colleges give credentials to about 80% of firefighters, law enforcement officers, and EMTs.

5. Community Colleges' workforce education and training programs are recommended by 95% of businesses and organizations that employ community college graduates.

4. Community Colleges educate almost half (46%) of all undergraduate students in the United States.

3. The average expected lifetime earnings for a graduate with an associate degree are \$1.6 million – about \$400,000 more than a high school graduate earns.

2. Nearly half of all Baccalaureate degree recipients in the U.S. attended a community college at some point in their educational careers.

1. Community Colleges have an open admission policy giving you the opportunity to begin your educational career, remedy any deficiencies, obtain vocational training, earn transferable credits, participate in enrichment courses, and/or obtain a college degree.

Source: American Association of Community Colleges (<http://www.aacc.nche.edu>). Compiled by: Father Martin I. Esguerra, Campus Ministry Office, R.C. Diocese of Brooklyn and Queens (FatherMartinESGUERRA@gmail.com).



Jeffrey Miron

Libertarians?

There are conservatives, and there are liberals. But wait, there are also libertarians.

And they feel misunderstood.

The Cato Institute, a libertarian policy institute, hosted a forum in May to discuss the book "Libertarianism, from A to Z." The book's author, Jeffrey Miron, started off by discussing how he became a libertarian. "Well, it started with my father. He switched over to be libertarian, because of two words: Richard Nixon. And then I have been one all my life."

The book is a dictionary of libertarian views, touching on subjects from central banks to government funding for science to the sale of human body parts. According to the Cato Institute, libertarians believe in individual conscience and individual choice and in helping people to take more control of their own lives. They believe in having as much freedom as possible and in a government with the least amount of control over them.

Miron, a senior lecturer in economics at Harvard University, explained why he wrote the book.

"I wanted to give people a taste of libertarian views because, to some people, they think of it as a world view, but it's really giving a set of opinions. Far

Juan Diasgranados
Scripps Foundation

less government, and in most cases, little to no government." The book discusses the war in Iraq as an example. Miron said the war costs hundreds of millions of dollars a year, and that it's far from clear that it's doing anything to prevent terrorist attacks against the U.S.

"If terrorists really wanted to, they can attack buses, Metro stations, schools and so on, so us being in the Middle East gives people in the Muslim world a reason to be angry with U.S. policy," he said. "So in my opinion, I would withdraw in the quickest manner consistent with the safety of the troops."

Dale Brown, a policy analyst from Washington who is not a libertarian, said she learned a lot about the concept but was concerned that libertarian views seemed to be "out of touch."

"The views seemed to be far more concerned about the possibilities of government threats to liberty, and I'm nervous about the corporate threats to liberty," Brown said.

Miron said he wanted people to leave with one message: "Policies have a lot of unintended consequences that are usually worse than disease."



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NCC is Turk's delight

Dave Paone
Campus News

It's a long journey from Turkey to New York. Not just the 5,000 plus miles, but the emotional journey as well. Eda Kus-cakoglu, a student at Nassau Community College, took both of those journeys.

Eda's story starts 25 years ago when she was born in Mersin, Turkey, and grew up in Izmir, a city on the Aegean Sea. Soon enough she could see her love for math; right from the start of school she gravitated towards numbers.

Born to middle-class parents, she was able to earn a Bachelor of Statistics from Ege University in Izmir and was the first in her immediate family to attend college.

Plan A

Plan A was to come to the US for six months, mostly to improve her English skills (students in Turkey study basic English starting in middle school), and then possibly move to Europe to work at an international company.

"My family, they didn't want me to come here by myself," said Eda.

But eventually they realized this was something she wanted to do and then supported her in her decision.

Eda had a friend in the US already, who was attending NCC, and encouraged her to do the same. Eda received a student visa, enrolled at NCC and arrived at JFK in January of 2009.

New Life

Since she already has a Bach-

elors degree, and Nassau only goes as high as an Associates, the question is: Why enroll there?

The answer comes in the form of the LINCC Program, which stands for Language Immersion at Nassau Community College. It's a four-step, non-credit, English as a Second Language program designed to help students succeed in the college environment.

Although Eda is currently in step three, occasionally there's a language problem, because the symbols in math are a bit different in the two countries. For example, a division sign in America looks something like a Turkish square root, which can be quite confusing.

While the USA is known as the "melting pot" of the world, where all religions and cultures come together, Turkey has a similar dynamic. Turkey is a religious mix, with Islam, Christianity and Judaism being the three main religions. So Eda had no problem interacting with different cultures when she arrived in America.

However, one small cultural difference Eda observed is American students depend on calculators far more than Turkish students.

Her five-year student visa allows her to find work on campus and after three months she landed a job as an adjunct technical assistant at NCC's Math Success Center, which provides one-on-one tutoring for math students.

Plan B

This allowed her to move on to Plan B: stay in America and

pursue a Masters degree, which she hopes to begin working on next year.

Eda, who taught math on the elementary level in Turkey, feels satisfaction when she solves math problems and when she teaches others, so she knows teaching is her calling.

"I want to stay here, and I want to get my Masters degree and I want to become a math professor," said Eda. "I love to teach."

Some days Eda is a student in the ESL class at NCC and other days she's passing her knowledge on to students at the Math Success Center.

"I'm teaching and learning at the same time," she said.

In April of this year, Eda represented the NCC Math Success Center at the New York State Mathematics Association of Two-Year Colleges' 43rd annual conference in Ithaca, N.Y. Also in April she was a presenter on a panel discussion for international students at NCC.

The Future

So far her plans are working but there's always the unknown future. The vibe among the staff at the Math Success Center is it could be shut down at any point, which would leave Eda (and all the others) out of work.

Eda isn't worried. "Nothing is impossible in the world," is her attitude. An attitude which has served her well her whole life.

Karen Schulte
Central Islip, NY

They were so young.

She was younger than he, but not by much.

They walked the streets of the city like they owned it.

They were in love or something like it in the spring of 1960.

It was spring for an entire year or so it seemed. They were too young to notice.

Without much to interrupt their time together, they wandered through the streets; as long as they stayed downtown among the folk musicians and the beats, they were o.k. A black and white contrast

but similar in passion for truth and art and love.

They were always in a daze. their rendezvous daring, delicious. In school they found an iron-clad

building and joined their bodies in silent conspiracy.

They rocked the stone and concrete,

left the beams shaking. They were never exhausted.

Nothing happened. No one said, "Don't do it."

Some years later, she thought she saw him

standing on a platform in Penn Station:

The same scar across his check,

The same eyes that pierced her skull,

The same resolve pinned her in place.

He stood there as if time hadn't passed,

waiting for her or so she thought.

At that moment of startled recall when possibility hung motionless,

he disappeared without a word as if there was nothing to say.

Summer Youth Parliament

Father Martín I. Esguerra
Campus Ministry

Join youth (17 to 30 years old) from the United States and around the world as they come together to propose values for a new civilization during the International Plenary Session of the Idente Youth - World Youth Parliament from August 11th (Wednesday) to August 13th (Friday) at St. John's University, Queens, N.Y., and at the Headquarters of the United Nations.

This event is in the spirit of the International Year of Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding for the WYP seeks to be a forum where young people commit themselves to explore the foundations of a new society and to propose guidelines which, not without self-abnegation and effort, mark out a change and a way of life that lead to a more just society.

The Idente Youth - World Youth Parliament is addressed to all young people interested in collaborating with this project: Associations, Youth Groups and Movements,

High School Seniors, Universities, or other organizations, so that everyone can contribute their vision and personal experience of the subjects treated. The WYP entails the formation of local groups that work on values and subjects of their choice proposing conclusions that will be taken by national representatives to the New York International Plenary Session in August 11th to 13th, 2010. Fee: \$80.

The WYP does not identify itself with any political current. It is constructive for it is not about denouncing behaviors but about discovering values and suggesting solutions for the future that are rooted in generous love and friendship. It is open to all young people who want to identify themselves with the greatest and most noble ideals and values of humanity, fostering mutual respect, independently of creed, nationality, culture or any other difference there might be.

For registration information: email teresa at: wyp@identeyouth.us or visit: wyp.identeyouth.us or wyp2010.wyparliament.org.



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Here’s my typewriter

Darren Johnson
Campus News

It's the same model I had in college. I found it in a thrift store for \$7 – actually, my daughter was attracted to it, which really made me happy as she has the "writer gene," and encouraged me to buy it. I'm starting to think whole memories can be passed along through genetic material – why would my daughter focus on the same exact model (of the scores of models of typewriters out there) that I had in college?

Wouldn't it be funny if this was the EXACT typewriter I had in college? I'm famous for dumping stuff off in Goodwill dumpsters. I once left a popcorn machine at the Salvation Army in Riverhead when we moved from Southampton to Greenport and didn't have room for it. Five years later, we moved to Riverhead and wanted a popcorn machine. I went to the Salvation Army, and there it was! Of course, I had to buy it. I love reunions. It's missing a piece now, so I think it's in our appliance-limbo cabinet with an electric fry-

ing pan that has a frayed plug. I got six ribbons for the typewriter for a total of about \$5 off ebay. They used to cost \$7 each back in the day, and are the correctable kind, but, if I recall, the correctable ribbon always runs out before the black. At least it did for me. I'm a crummy typist. The machine also makes an annoying beeping sound every time it detects a typo – which is just about every other word because there are no proper nouns in its dictionary. I loaded a cartridge up last night. The machine works. Of course, this may all sound like me procrastinating before writing a novel. Part of it is, but part of it is an annoying process that many writers go through. Like a pitcher warming up before the big game – I just need a little HGH to really get going.



From drop-out to Ivy League

A high school dropout is heading to Columbia University after completing the Honors Program at Rockland Community College, a unit of the State University of New York.

Enior J. Jimenez of Spring Valley is transferring to the School of General Studies of Columbia University in the fall of 2010 where he will pursue a bachelor's degree in Neuroscience and Behavior with a concentration in Middle East Studies. Ultimately, he hopes to enroll in the dual M.D./Ph.D. program at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University.

Eight years ago, this educational path seemed unlikely for Jimenez. In 2002, at the age of 16, he dropped out of high school. He said, "My current wife and then girlfriend became pregnant with my child. As a result, I left school at the beginning of my junior year and prematurely began fulfilling my responsibilities as a husband and father. I worked two full-time jobs at local gas stations trying the best I could to provide for my wife and daughter. However, as time progressed, the inescapable feeling of failure and inadequacy overcame me with fear."

In the fall of 2007 at the age of 21, Jimenez enrolled at the College, hoping that his placement exam, interview and strong desire for intellectual growth would be enough to gain acceptance into the nationally ac-

claimed Honors Program. Remembering his interview with Dr. Cliff Garner, Coordinator, Sam Draper Mentor/Talented Student (M/TS) Honors Program, he said, "Academically, I had nothing to show for myself except my GED. Incredibly, however, Dr. Garner saw something in me that I didn't see in myself."

Garner said, "Enior told me that he a dream, and that he had heard RCC's Honors Program was the place where dreams could begin. I saw a young man who was obviously bright but also had drive and a clarity about what he wanted for himself and his family. I knew right then and there that if we gave him the chance, he would succeed—and he did."

The Honors Program offers highly advanced academic pursuits to prepare students to transfer successfully to Ivy League schools like Cornell, Columbia and Harvard, and outstanding four-year colleges like Georgetown University and Cooper Union.

Enrollment is now underway for the Fall 2010 Semester, which begins September 1. Students can take Honors courses in Liberal Arts, Business, and most recently, Art. financial aid and child care available.

To see if you qualify for the Sam Draper Mentor/Talented Student Honors Program, visit sunyrockland.edu/go/honors.

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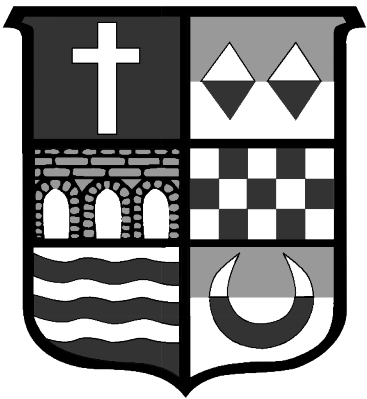
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Enior J. Jimenez is joined by his daughter, Judith, at a scientific poster symposium at Binghamton University in June 2008 where he presented his neuroscience research findings, "Alterations in the Cholinergic Nuclei of the Brain Stem in an Animal Model of Diencephalic Amnesia," through the RCC Bridges to Baccalaureate Program. Photo by Enior's wife, Ruth Jimenez.

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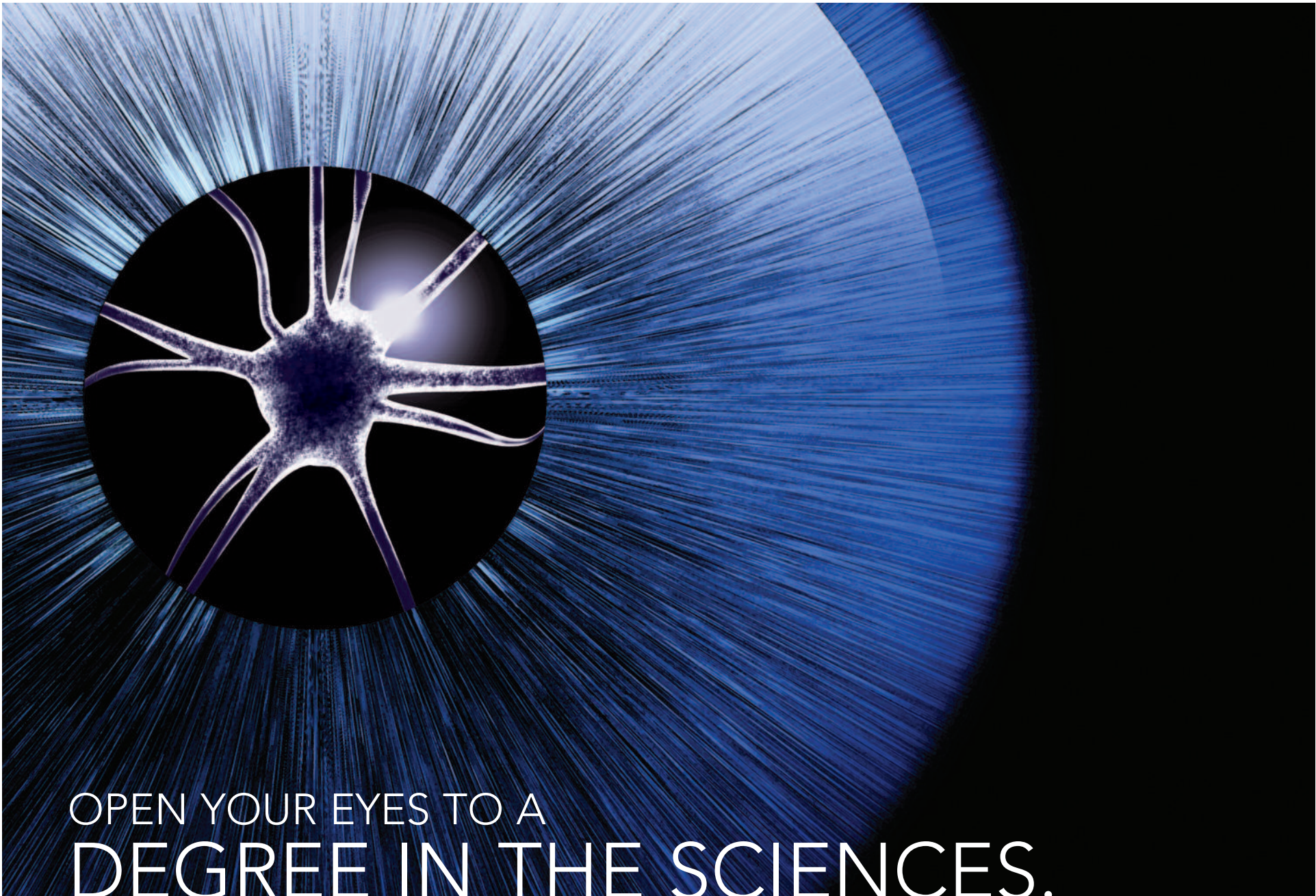
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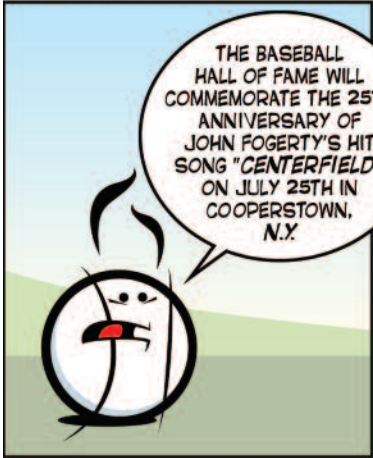
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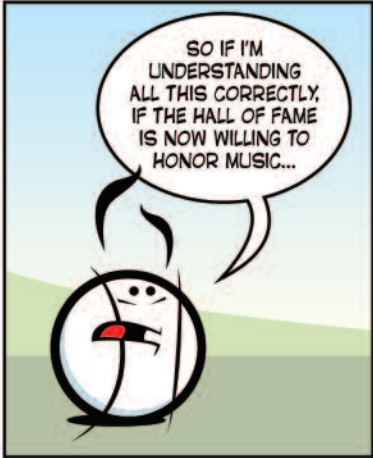
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HBO takes a bite out of summer TV blues

Laura Tucker
Campus News

Just because it's June doesn't mean we're stuck with reruns for the summer. Several popular series are making their return to our televisions this month starting with HBO's "True Blood." The series follows the popular trend right now in TV and movies, focusing on interpersonal relationships between humans and vampires.

The series is based on Charlaine Harris' "Southern Vampire Mystery" books. Academy Award and Golden Globe Award winner Anna Paquin stars as Sookie Stackhouse, a telepathic cocktail waitress in Bon Temps, Louisiana, who falls for Bill Compton (Stephen Moyer), a vampire. In Bon Temps, vampires are now able to live amongst humans after a synthetic form of blood was invented in Japan, negating their need to rely on human blood to survive. If you're itching to get caught up in the lives of the Bon Temps citizens, you don't need to wait until it's June 13 premiere on HBO. HBO.com has been featuring "minisodes" to help ease that waiting time. They've been featuring a new one each week, and will continue until the premiere.

Also returning this month to HBO are two more successful series, "Hung" and "Entourage." Hung has a subject suitable only for cable. The subject of the series is a high school basketball coach who eases his financial woes by utilizing what he sees as his best asset, and turns to prostituting himself. "Entourage" follows a young movie star and his buddies from back home in Queens as they pal around Hollywood. The second season of "Hung" and seventh season of "Entourage" are back on the air June 27. HBO doesn't completely own the summer dramas market, as USA will bring its successful one-two punch, "Burn Notice" and "Royal Pains" back on June 3. Colby Bell of "Third Watch" will join the cast of "Burn Notice," and the Fonz himself, Henry Winkler, will join the cast of "Royal Pains" as Hank and Evan's father.

Reality TV always makes a big showing in the summer. We'll start off the month with three season premieres, "America's Got Talent" on NBC, "Hell's Kitchen" on Fox, and "Wipeout" on ABC, all premiering on June 1. "America's Got Talent" has the biggest change, as David Hasselhoff is out and being replaced by comedian/game show host Howie Mandel. Chef Gordon Ramsay will start with a new cast of sixteen untested chefs on "Hell's Kitchen." The third season of "Wipeout" promises new, bigger, better, and wilder obstacles. It will also have some themed episodes such as "Ladies Night" and "Wipeout Blind Date." If that's not enough, "The Biggest Loser's" Jillian Michaels premieres her own show, "Losing It With Jillian" on NBC. The trainer that puts the fear in all of us will travel around the country helping families change their lifestyles.

And all that is just on the first day of June. We have a few more standout reality shows later in the month. "Last Comic Standing" will make its return to NBC after a two year absence on June 7. We'll have another new host, Craig Robinson, star of "Pineapple Express" and "Hot Tub Time Machine." Bravo has quite a few things going on in June as well. One of our favorite Real Housewives, Bethenny Frankel, will get her own series, "Bethenny Get-



Anna Paquin and Stephen Moyer in "True Blood."

ting Married?," following her life changes heading into wedded bliss and motherhood. That premieres on June 10. "Kathy Griffin: My Life On the D-List" returns on June 15, but just after she escapes the D-List hosting the Creative Arts Emmy Awards, she loses in her own category, placing her back among the other D-Listers. The top food show on cable, "Top Chef," will make its return on June 16, this time in Washington, D.C.

Homeless (cont. from cover)

the legal right to provide shelter for the homeless, and support relative government proposals such as various programs of prevention – like the provision of housing subsidies.

66% of New Yorkers have witnessed an increase in homelessness within the past six months.

50% of New Yorkers are prepared to pay higher taxes to reduce homelessness.

One in five New Yorkers believe themselves to be at risk of homelessness.

Telling as these findings are, one cannot help but ask the question: what, at the end of the day, is really being done about the scourge of homelessness? Perhaps more importantly, what accounts for homelessness in the first place?

Other than the usual structural, personal and political issues which influence the varying levels of homelessness, there are a number of national factors that fuel the crisis (as a crisis is what it is). These include:

- * Dwindling employment amid today's economic climate, which in and of itself, is continuing to widen the veritable gap between the haves and the have nots.
- * A fluctuating housing market for low-income families and single adults, is forcing more people – whom just about exist below the poverty line – out of the market.
- * The removal of institutional support systems for people with severe mental illness – epitomised by drastic reductions in the use of long-term hospitalisation for the mentally ill – are leaving many with few housing options.
- * Racial, ethnic and class discrimination in housing, along with local zoning restrictions, are excluding affordable alternatives.

Yet still Mayor Bloomberg and the new DHS Commissioner Seth Diamond, architect of harsh Giuliani era welfare policies, adamantly refuse to see the light. Where the latter wants more homeless families to work (duh, really, don't we all...), he fails to recognize that it is the continuing lack of af-

fordable housing that is at the root of New York City homelessness. NOT joblessness. While the former, in partnership with Governor Paterson, has proposed such enormous State budget reductions to vital services, they are the most severe in New York City since modern homelessness began.

Failed dogmas both, the above proposals will invariably lead to further increases in homelessness – especially during this current period of double-digit unemployment.

So what to do? I once read some graffiti that read: "Arm The Homeless." A tad irrational perhaps, but then so are the countless, inane proposals, set in place by those who are paid colossal amounts of money to (responsibly) care. It's not rocket science, but surely some of the answers lie in tackling the problem(s) that account for homelessness in the first place – such as a severe lack of affordable housing, support networks, and the ever increasing, disgraceful gap between rich and poor.

That a quarter of the homeless are children (forty-two percent of which are under the age of six) is such a shameful issue, it makes one wonder if being born in the USA is



–Roman Bonnefoy

everything it's supposedly cut out to be. Barack Obama became President of the United States on, among other things, a premise of three words: "Yes we can!" If such is the case, then surely we can eradicate this terrible affliction called homelessness? If nothing else, we owe it to homeless children.

To find out more about donating or volunteering to help, please get in touch with:

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Retro themes strike back

Laura Tucker
Campus News

Back in 1984 America’s idea of martial arts was formed by a movie that went on to earn an academy award nomination for its 52-year-old co-star who had been told as a young boy he would never walk because of spinal tuberculosis. After his family spent time detained in an internment camp during WWII and the boy learned to walk again the age of 11, his family opened a Chop Suey restaurant where the boy would entertain the diners, a talent he later incorporated to become a standup comedian and actor.

“Wax on. Wax off.” If you ask most people what they know about martial arts, they’ll either state that discipline, or they’ll raise one leg off the floor and both hands in the air. Both moves were taught to us and “Daniel-san” by Mr. Miyagi in “The Karate Kid,” although actor Pat Morita was a native of California, spoke better English than Japanese, and didn’t really know karate. The movie went on to spawn three sequels, all starring Morita.

Twenty-six years later, and five years after Morita’s death from natural causes, the film is being remade, or some might say reimagined. Mr. Miyagi is replaced by Mr. Han (Jackie Chan) a master of kung-fu instead of karate. Instead of taking place in California, the film takes place in Beijing. The “kid” in the film is Dre Parker (Jaden Smith) who has moved to China with his mom. It features more forbidden love like the first film, yet involves inter-continental cultural differences instead of inter-California.

It will be interesting to see if the newly-imagined Karate Kid will pass or fail with moviegoers. The original film and its stars, as well as its karate discipline, became national treasures. We don’t always take too kindly to change as moviegoers. Anyone seeing the movie needs to remember it’s more reimagined than remade, and then the beauty of Chan’s technique and natural acting talent of Will Smith’s son might truly be appreciated. Maybe it will bring kids flocking to martial arts schools wanting to know kung-fu, instead of wanting to know “Wax on. Wax off.” “The Karate Kid” bows in theaters June 11.

If you’re looking for laughs instead of martial arts inspiration, “Get Him to the Greek” brings together again Jonah Hill and Russell Brand after their “Forgetting Sarah Marshall” success. Hill stars as a record company intern tasked with bringing in a combative rock legend for a comeback concert. Hill is also reunited with producer

Judd Apatow, and Sean Combs costars. Hill’s job seems a little easier than Ashton Kutcher’s in “Killers.” He’s an international spy, but doesn’t bother to tell Katherine Heigl when he first meets her on a trip to the French Riviera. She finds out after they’ve married three years later and gets thrown into his covert operations. Tom Selleck and Catherine O’Hara co-star. Tom Cruise and Cameron Diaz costar in a very similar film, “Knight and Day” which premieres June 25, while the others debut June 4, along with Owen Wilson’s second dog film in as many years, “Marmaduke.”

“The Karate Kid” isn’t the only reimagining in theaters in June. The “A-Team” makes a comeback, although this time without Mr. T. It involves a location shift, from Vietnam to the Middle East, and follows three U.S. Army Special Forces soldiers who are framed for a crime they didn’t commit, and escape with the help of a reconnaissance pilot. Liam Neeson, Bradley Cooper, Quinton “Rampage” Jackson, and Sharito Copley star. “The A-Team” makes its big screen debut June 11, and if you’re looking for more action a week later, check out “Jonah Hex” starring Josh Brolin as a drifter and bounty hunter who is asked by the U.S. military to track down a dangerous terrorist (John Malkovich).

Also making a comeback are Woody and Buzz Lightyear when “Toy Story 3” hits theaters in both 2D and 3D on June 18. Andy is now all grown up and leaving for college, and his toys aren’t sure what lies in store for them. Tom Hanks and Tim Allen are back, as well as Don Rickles and John Ratzenberger. While the toys are mourning the coming of age of Andy, one week later “Grown Ups” has Adam Sandler, Kevin James, Chris Rock, and Rob Schneider playing former teammates who get back together to mourn the passing of their coach. With their wives and kids along, they reconnect and realize it’s never too late to act like kids again. This film hits the theaters on June 25.



Betty is White-hot!

Laura Tucker
Campus News

It’s hard to believe life starting at 88, but it seems that’s exactly what’s happening with Betty White. You would think she’d have long since retired and would be sitting on her front porch watching the day go by and relishing in her career that once was, but instead, her career is hotter now than it ever was before. She’s starring in movies, hosting “Saturday Night Live,” and has a new series starting this month.

White has had quite the career. Prior to

this year, the octogenarian was known most as the sex-starved Sue Ann Nivens on “The Mary Tyler Moore Show,” as Rose Nylund on “The Golden Girls,” and as the widow of game show host Allen Ludden. Any time a charity for animals was raising money in California, she was usually somewhere near as an animal health advocate. Most actresses would be counting their blessings, polishing their six Emmy Awards, and calling it a career. But it turns out White was just getting started.

After a co-starring role in Sandra Bullock’s film, “The Proposal,” White moved in to a commercial for Snickers that appeared



DVDs: Goofy good times

Laura Tucker
Campus News

While the idea of traveling through time via a hot tub seems utterly ridiculous, it’s what happens while these old college buddies are back in time that makes the release of “Hot Tub Time Machine” on DVD worth seeing. That, and a great comedic cast.

Much of the idea of the film is reminiscent of “Back to the Future,” mostly the chance to go back in time to find your mom wasn’t as pure when she was younger as you assumed she was. These three old college buddies, John Cusack, Craig Robinson, and Rob Corddry, get together again and travel back to the ski lodge they’d vacation in back in the 1980s, and bring along Cusack’s nephew, Clark Duke. While in the hot tub, a Russian energy drink is spilled, and it somehow puts them back at the ski lodge in

the ’80s. It’s a great chance to see Cusack doing comedy again; he’s been too serious lately. But what really makes the movie are the hilarious ’80s references. To confirm what decade it is by asking what color Michael Jackson is is comedic genius! Catch “Hot Tub Time Machine” on DVD June 29.

Youth comedies seem to be the theme of DVD releases this month. “She’s Out of My League” will be released on June 22 and coins a new term, “moodle.” it’s a combination of a man and a poodle, a guy girls want to take for a walk and feed and cuddle, but not “do.” Somehow, though, this moodle gets the girl, and a hot girl at that. And what would youth movies be these days without a role for Michael Cera. He’s also looking for the girl of his dreams in “Youth In Revolt,” but is saddled with a trailer trash upbringing. You can catch this one on DVD June 15.

Looking for action instead? You can find some of that on DVD, too. A movie that got great reviews from theater-goers is “Shutter Island.” Leonardo DiCaprio stars as a U.S. Marshall investigating the disappearance of a murderer from a hospital for the criminally insane. That’s out on DVD on June 8, but don’t confuse it with “The Crazies” out on June 29. On the first of the month you can catch Johnny Depp’s spin as the Mad Hatter in “Alice In Wonderland.” Sometimes it seems he picks different roles just so he can wear outlandish makeup.

on air during this year’s Super Bowl. It ended up being one of the most talked about commercials this season. This garnered her enough praise that a campaign was begun on Facebook, “Betty White to Host SNL (Please).” It worked. She hosted the show back in May, bringing the late night series its highest ratings in a year and a half. She’s still not done. White has also landed herself a new sitcom. Starting on June 16, she’ll star in “Hot In Cleveland,” the first original scripted comedy to appear on TV-Land. Starring along side her will be three other sitcom queens, Jane Leeves (“Frasier”), Wendie Malick (“Just Shoot Me”), and Valerie Bertinelli (“One Day at a Time”). The series will be written by Suzanne Martin, an

Emmy winner for her work on “Frasier,” and will be executive produced by Sean Hayes, costar of “Will and Grace.” Bertinelli, Leeves, and Malick star as three friends – a novelist, eyebrow archer, and former soap star – who take off on a trip to Paris, but make an unscheduled landing in Cleveland. The three women end up enjoying life in in the Midwest much more than they thought they would, and decide to stay, moving into a home with an older caretaker, played by White. It seems everything White finds herself in lately is a hit. The question is if she’ll bring the same success to this venture, as her three costars don’t always find the same.

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Working (cont. from cover)

lege students for part time and summer work at the supermarket. Fraptellone speaks of the many benefits from an employer’s perspective in hiring college students. She appreciates that the students stick around for awhile during school. “They come back during school breaks and on vacations to help out with different shifts. “They like the part time hours we have available,” states Fraptellone. We hire part time students for all kinds of shifts, many of the students are local and are attending nearby colleges, she states. “We like having college students working for us,” states Fraptellone, in part because “they are flexible and able to pick up many of the shifts we have available.”

Community colleges in the United States saw an increase in full time enrollment of 24.1 percent from the fall of 2007 to the fall of 2009, according to a report titled, The Financial Aid Challenge, which was issued by the College Board and the American Association of Community Colleges in May of 2010. One of the goals of community college is to provide accessibility through open access, convenience and affordability to all profiles of potential students. The uncertainty of the economy and high frequency of job loss have led to the increased importance of community college opportunities. During times of struggle many folks look to education to better their futures. The budget cuts on a local and federal level continue to be a cause for the rising cost of education. What was once expensive is becoming even more so. Working may just become a necessity for more than non-traditional students. Part time jobs are one way that many students deal with the financial burden of education and living expenses.

Despite the economy, recent research indicates that low and moderate income students that would qualify for assistance are the least likely to apply for this. This seems like an ironic statistic. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the application that determines a student’s ability to pay for their education. This form also determines eligibility for federal and state aid, grant awards, loans and work study opportunities. For most students attending college, affordability is the major factor that will influence their choice of college and how they will pay for it. Those who find themselves seeking out employment to afford education may be pleasantly surprised by a financial aid award that could offset some of the burden. Working less hours or taking more classes may be an advantage if people begin to utilize the financial aid that is out there waiting for them.

Families who send their children to school and were once able to pay for educational costs and support the lifestyle of their college student are becoming much less common. Adults who return to college themselves usually still struggle on some level with the costs. The rising costs of education, books, and the overall cost of living makes it very difficult financially to attend college these days. The fact that community college students appear to be underutilizing the financial aid opportunities that may be available to them is almost unexplainable, given the financial climate. The high percentage of students who do not take advantage of financial aid may be due to a variety of different reasons. The lack of efforts to promote financial aid in the community college arena, a lack of accessible information or an assumption by students that they do not meet eligibility requirements are a few of the commonly discussed reasons.

Education is not cheap. The cost of education is high and keeps rising. There appears to be no end in sight to the budget cuts and the ever rising costs of college. The reality is that if a

FASFA is not filled out and submitted it is a guarantee that students will not receive any financial assistance to offset the costs of their education. Without assistance that can be generated from the FASFA application, students are left with the figuring out how to carry the financial burden of educational costs. Not having aid may result in a few different scenarios for students who cannot afford to foot the entire bill of education. Students may opt for part time study as opposed to full study which has its own set of strains both physically and financially. Students may get a part time job or a summer job saves for college and offset living costs.

Interestingly, according to a report issued by the College Board and the American Association of Community Colleges in May of 2010, “The amount of federal aid that goes unclaimed equals millions of dollars each year.” Only 58% of community college students eligible for Pell grants applied for them, as compared to the 77% of the eligible students at four year universities. Although working does have its advantages, there is a risk for students that work too many hours. Those students who are working out of necessity may be in for a pleasant surprise if they complete that FASFA form and find that they are eligible for money that can help them to pay for education. Regardless of the need to work, a job offers other benefits to students if it is carefully balanced. It is not uncommon that students who have not found a balance between work and school find themselves neglecting the expensive education for the sake of affording it.

Research shows that students who work possess some character traits that their non-working college peers may not possess; this may in part be to the need for students to learn how to balance commitments, meet goals and manage time effectively. All of these things are important later in life. It is very uncommon that life will hold just one thing for students. As adults we are forced to balance a multitude of commitments over the long term. Students who work may find that the combination of work and school makes them a better employee and a better student.

A job as a student offers experience, networking, builds character and provides financial stability. Fraptellone, the office manager from Shop ‘n save, reports that she prefers to hire college students for many reasons. “College students tend to be more responsible, have a better work ethic and tend to be reliable. ... College students like the part time hours and are flexible with the variety of shifts that we need covered.” This partnership is an advantage for the stu-

dent as well as the employer. Many employers indicate that student employees have better time management skills, increased confidence, a higher level of maturity, show more initiative and tend to be more independent with decision making skills. Financially speaking, students who learn to manage money at a younger age are at an advantage as adults.

Sullivan reports that her job at Mary Jane Books as a student gave her real life

experience. “Having a job definitely fills out our resume,” states Sul-

livan. Her ability to be flexible and available to her job while balancing her school commitments was challenging, but she ended up with the title of Assistant Manager. She thinks that her experience at Mary Jane has offered her valuable experience for her future. Sullivan has had the opportunity to learn about buying, selling and ordering at the store which has given her real hands on experience. “Maybe someday I will go into editing or publishing,” she states. Sullivan reports that from her perspective having a job as a student is a benefit. A job helps build your resume, it helps with networking and you learn how to balancing many things at once. She recalls one former employee at Mary Jane Books who went on to become a college professor at SUNY.

It is true that a job can be a good thing while you are in school. A job can offer many advantages. That same job with all of its advantages, can also lead to decreased success as a student if the job requires too much from the student. Full time students who work more than 15-20 hours per week may be in a vulnerable position in terms of maintaining that necessary balance between the educational responsibilities and the work responsibilities.

Sullivan admits that working during college did put a little more stress on her

as a student and she tried to limit herself to 25 hours a week while going to school. Working at a college bookstore in a college community offered its own set of challenges. Sullivan recalls experiencing the typical college semester rushes at exam times and at the end of the semester as both an employee and a student. After the busy semester rush at work she would have to go home and attend to her own schoolwork until late into the evening. Experiencing these semester rushes at the same time got a little crazy, she states.

Most people work on an average of 40 hours per week. Students who attend classes full time put the same amount of time into their classes as a person with a traditional job. Considering the added responsibilities that go along with classes such as research, group work, and writing papers and doing homework, it makes sense that students who work more than 20 hours may see a decline in academic performance. The key to being successful at multiple things is finding the right balance between all of the commitments on your plate.

The impact of student employment has been a long debate that continues to offer two sides. Not everything works for everyone. The key to success when working during college is to find a balance that works for each student. According to a report published on Inside Higher Ed that focused on The Impact of Student Employment, nearly half of all full time student and 80% of part time students work. This number is expected to grow, simply out of necessity. The days of working because you chose to are long gone. Most students will be forced to get a job at some point during their educational career, if even to afford entertainment costs. The best thing that educators, parents and employers can do is help to make the employment opportunities just as beneficial as the educational ones. Teaching students some real strategies that will help them balance the many commitments that will face them once the college years come to an end can be one of the most valuable learning experiences.

Many employers prefer students as workers – but will it hurt GPA?

Lost Youth



Outside the daycare center at Suffolk CC – Selden

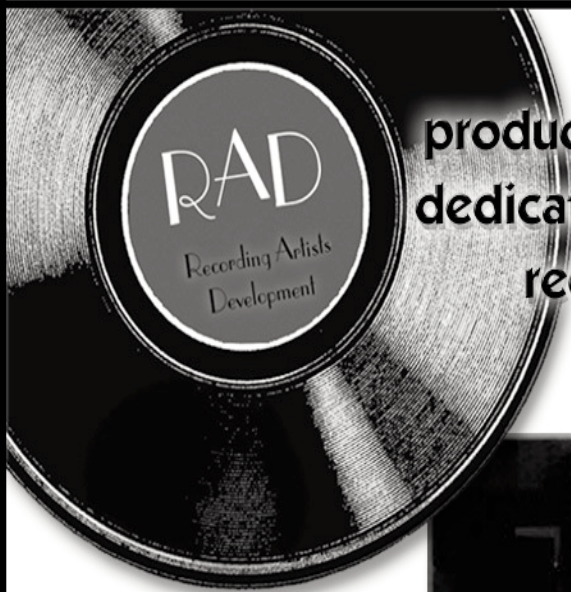
Darren Johnson
Publisher

Poetry Corner: ‘Painful Past’

Sherrie Guerrero
Nassau County CC

The smell of the alcohol on his breath
Made me wish he was addicted to meth,
Because maybe then, he’d leave us alone
But that drunk man always came back home.
He’d yell, throw up and finally pass out on the floor,
Which added to mom’s long list of chores.
Mom got mad but never did anything,
My older brother called social services and like a canary he did sing.
But no one was taken away,
He promised not to do it again so they let him stay.
I don’t understand, he breaks promises all the time,
Why would they trust him and tell us we’d be fine?
They could have prevented all the damage done,
Then I’d remember my childhood as being fun.
The blame can’t be shifted because it was his fault.
So painfully he’d wound us and pour on the salt.
Why certain people reproduce is a mystery,
Especially based on his own family history.
I’d think he’d want to be a better parent than them,
But this is why so many people have unresolved problems.
I know I’ve learned from my parents mistakes,
And hopefully everyone else will, for goodness sakes!

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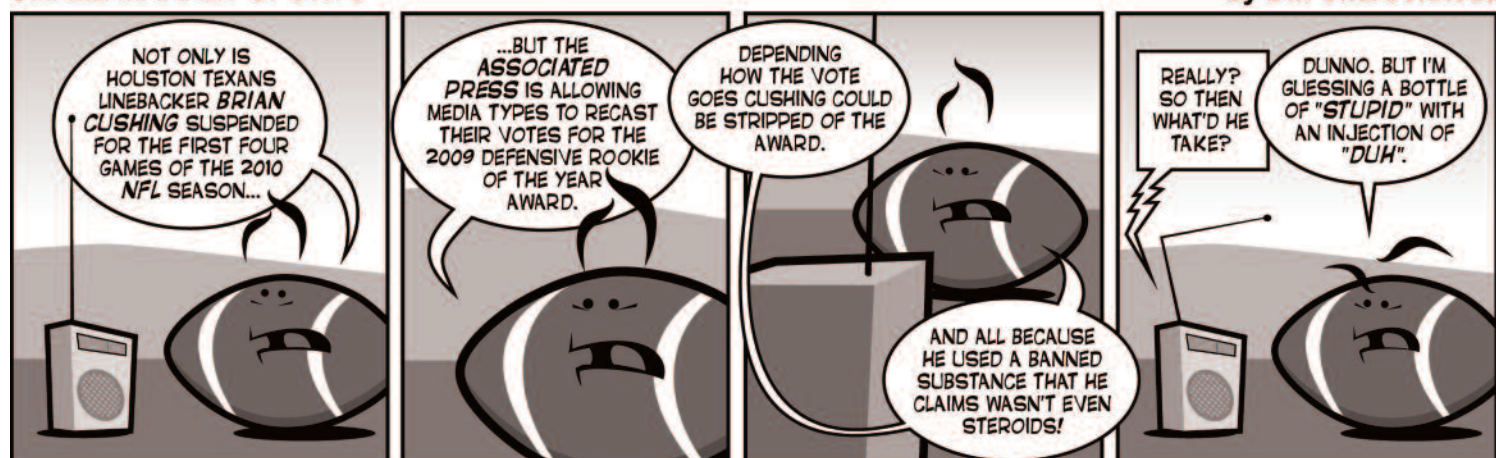
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SMALL MARKET SPORTS

by Bill Charbonneau



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A reality show offers subtle middle ground

Darren Johnson
Publisher

My wife and I are polar opposites when it comes to TV viewing. She’s more of a reality buff, even finding obscure shows on far-flung channels, while I look for shows that I can watch while on the Internet, multitasking — do I ever stop working?

I pick shows where I don’t need to pay much attention because the shows themselves aren’t too serious (“The Tonight Show With Jay Leno”), or I saw them in the ’80s and early ’90s when I had much more free time and already get the plot (various versions of “Star Trek”), or they are friendly to iO Cable’s rewind feature when I miss something (the Yankees and NFL football). I usually perk up from my computer if in the cases of Leno and sports the audience starts bellowing. In the case of “Star Trek,” it’s the opposite. I know there’s trouble when there’s about three seconds of silence. Look up and a laser beam is about to fly by. (Will my keyboard explode like always happens on TV starships under fire?)

So the typical reality show, especially on the higher-up channels, just doesn’t fit my viewing style. There’s a lot of slow action — little people playing bocce, sextuplets going to Chuck E. Cheese, someone who weighs 400 pounds happy about losing 8.7 pounds that week, some guy bakes a cake that looks (horribly) like a third-grader’s rendition of

the solar system — with little real payout for a viewer like me. No punchlines. No walk-off homeruns. No blown up Klingons. Life just goes on, and on. ...

When my wife puts on these shows, I definitely retreat to some other form of technology — but her viewing of TLC’s “Say Yes to the Dress” did get me to drop what I was doing at the time. It had enough elements to pique my interest — it wasn’t too forced (there really is no such thing as “reality” TV when you think about it — people become a bit more dramatic when watched by a camera), and it mostly focused on the bridal shop experience in the New York area.

My off-the-boat Italian grandparents started a bridal shop around midlife in upstate New York and made a relative fortune off the gamble, after a life of poverty with nine kids (take that, “Plus 8” Kate Gosselin!). As my mother worked at the bridal shop for a good while, I spent a bunch of time there in lieu of babysitter. So this show has a familiar setting.

Plus, the show mixes two themes — follow your dream, but also, follow your budget. Very goal-oriented.

Impressing my wife, and using the vast power of the Campus News empire — this newspaper is my version of what my grandparents did during their midlife — I replied to an email from a very capable TLC publicist who quickly hooked me up with one of

continued on the next page



Joey Georgio



This Summer Study at SUNY Maritime College

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Book Review: A true story Byrne approves of

David Marx
Campus News

It's no surprise to learn that Sytze Steenstra, the author of this astute book of rather stoic and stern academic quiddity is both Dutch and a philosopher. Dutch (because so am I, and as such, the linearity of the writing is something I easily relate to), and a philosopher, due to the expansiveness of deliberation contained herein. Not to mention the all round dogmatic approach. Then of course, we have at the core of all this literary, circumambulatory information, David Byrne, an artist of enormous gestalt induced gravitas and idiosyncratic individuality.

So in all, "Song and Circumstance – The Work of David Byrne from Talking Heads to the Present" makes for altogether enthralling, although at times, dense reading.

It's as much an education, as it is assimilation through the rites of Byrne's intellectual initiation, as it is a translucent and absolutist study of a unique artist – still delivering great work might I add.

That Steenstra (in the chapter "In The Visual Arena") considers the new mythology of chaos in relation Byrne's two books "Strange Ritual" and "Your Action World: Winners are Losers with a New Attitude" for instance, is surely testament to much of the above and a whole more besides: "The idea that a new mythology was called for, as a meeting ground where science and morality, art, and philosophy can be freely mixed, was stated first by the group of early German Ro-

manics, in the years 1795-1800, when Europe was in a state of political and spiritual turmoil following the French Revolution. While it may seem far-fetched to connect Byrne's work to these writings of over 200 years ago, the formal analysis and playfulness that pervades their work is very close to the basic tenets of conceptual art."

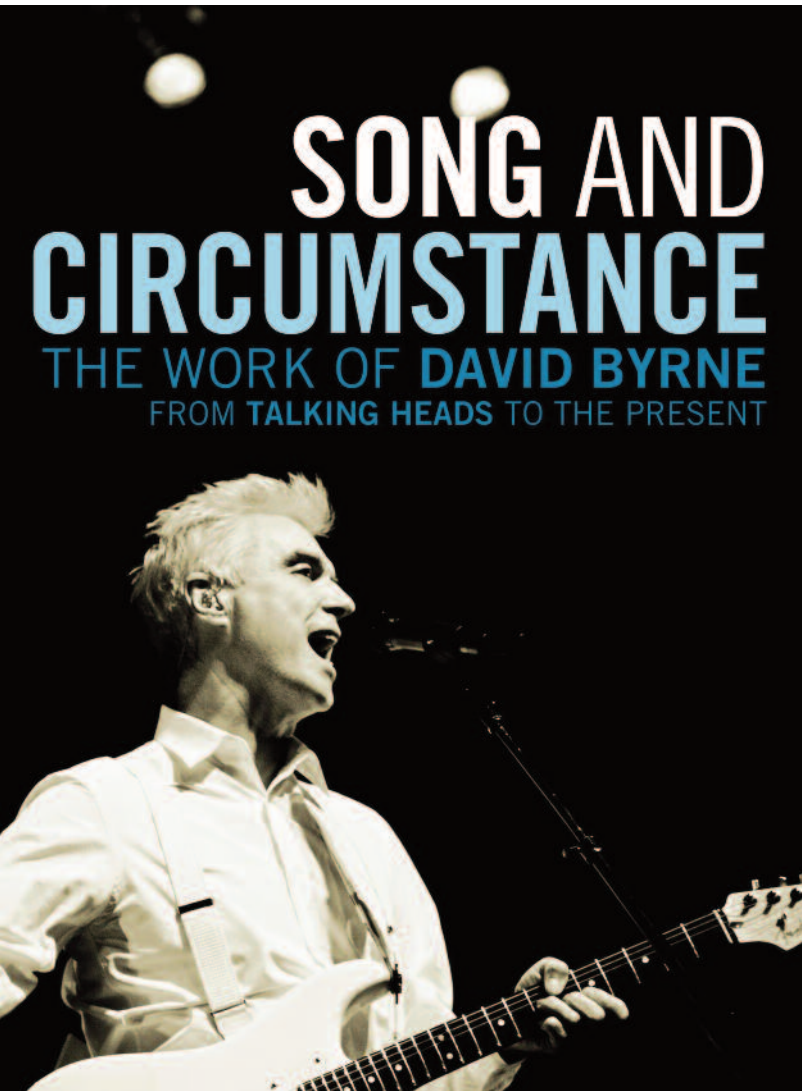
Far fetched it isn't, but such copious inference does indeed make for more of a resolute read as opposed to a diversionary and entertaining one. But in fairness, this is totally understandable given the nature of the artist himself, whom, with regards to the above mythology, the author quotes: "God created Sins!... Sins are woven into the fabric of our lives... To abandon and ignore sin is to ignore and reject God's handiwork. Sins are made by him – to enjoy and use until they have been eventually understood [...]. Murder on the battlefield is an act of bravery, but in the home or in a public bathroom would be seen in a less flattering light. Is this a "bending" of moral standards for the economic gain of war, as the Marxists would have us believe? Or, as the Social Darwinists maintain, are we simply animals at heart, creatures of habit and instinct..."

Like David Byrne, this is a very varied and colourful book. It covers all of the artist's relative terrain, in such a way that's as equally as enthusiastic and passionate as he himself. From the exceptionally incomparable Talking Heads right through to the present - via Byrne's many collaborations - "Song

and Circumstance" is both a terrific and constant read.

As the subject writes on the back cover: "the book is delightfully and unusually free of gossip and psychological assumptions and explanations (not that those don't also contain some truth); instead it focuses almost exclusively on what I've done, said or written – and comes

to some conclusions that are (to me) surprising and unexpected. Sytze finds connections I wasn't aware of, and continuity and patterns where initially one might see randomness and chaos. This book makes me seem both



smarter than I am and possibly stranger than I am."

And as a fan, what more could you possibly ask for?

‘Yes to the Dress’ (cont.)

the upcoming brides on the show, Josephine "Joey" Georgio, 26, of Long Beach, N.Y., a registered nurse with a degree from Stony Brook University who works in Manhasset in a hospital maternity ward.

Her quest for a wedding dress is expected to air on TLC at 9 p.m. June 11. The show, titled "Struggling to Commit," will also be repeated at 11 p.m. that night and surely many times after. In this episode, Joey goes in with only a budget number – \$2500 – but no real idea as to the exact style she'd like. The show portrays her as wildly noncommittal, trying on over 100 dresses, none of which seem to work for her.

But Joey found value in having the cameras present. "The shops tried a lot harder to put you in the perfect dress ... prime shops in the City," she said, acknowledging that her mere \$2500 wouldn't merit the same treatment if not for the show. TLC made all the appointments for her. The shops essentially get a free TV commercial, so it's in their best interest to be nice.

"After awhile, I totally forgot the cameras were there," Joey added. She had her sister and mother from Albany with her. "But I did have the [typical] breakdown when I found the perfect dress."

Joey was raised in Queens and attended Cardozo High. Her fiancée, Brian Fullen, 30, is in retail and does not appear on the show. (They will be married at St. Mary's in Lindenhurst on September 19.) But Joey feels the essence of the show is that her mother,

who couldn't always be with Joey when looking at dresses, was helped by the show to travel down from Albany to be there when Joey finally finds the perfect dress.

(Joey asked that we not tell you if the photo at left includes the perfect dress. Guess you'll have to tune in to see.)

Like me, Joey says she's not much of a reality watcher. She more prefers scripted shows, such as "Grey's Anatomy." But after going nowhere in her dress hunting, she filled out an online application on TLC's site and is glad she did.

"It was a spur of the moment thing," she said. "The show seemed to portray brides fairly, and even though I'm not much of a talker, I'm not shy, either."

Joey plans to have a viewing party with her mom and sister and some other members of her wedding party there.

"But my fiancée will not be there. He doesn't even want to see the dress before the wedding," she said. "He's old-fashioned."



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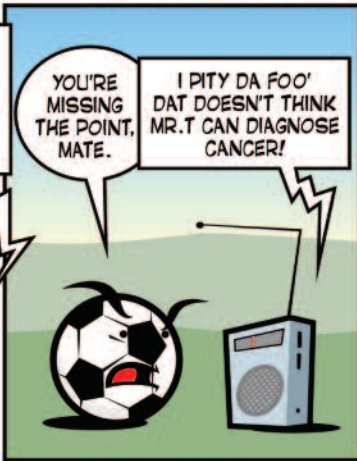
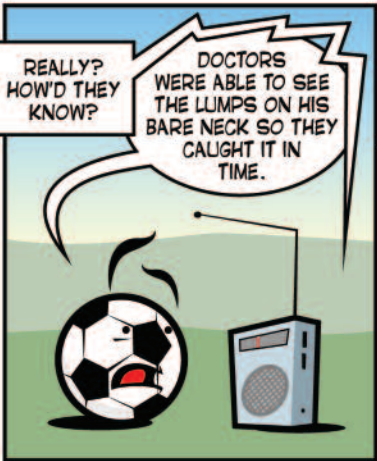
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