

Community College CAMPUS NEWS

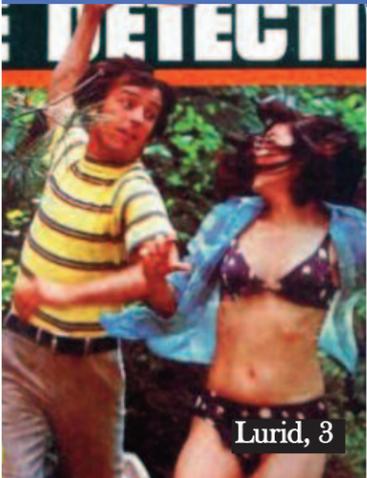
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Volume 3, Issue 1
Cool! Free on Campus!

February 2011

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Sick of a snowy commute?

Upstate, Long Island, New York City – it's all the same. Snow, snow, snow. As of this printing, practically the whole Campus News coverage area has had double the amount of the white stuff of a typical year – and there are two months of winter to go!

Students from Suffolk, Nassau, Queensborough, LaGuardia, Rockland and Westchester have had delays and/or days off. They've also reported fairly well plowed out campuses when school's back in session.

And while on the Suffolk Facebook page, students are allowed to post, and they respond with cheers at closings, perhaps they aren't aware that these days will need to be made up at the end of May. Wouldn't you rather be at the beach then?

Check your college web site's academic calendar for make-up dates.

Students at other campuses

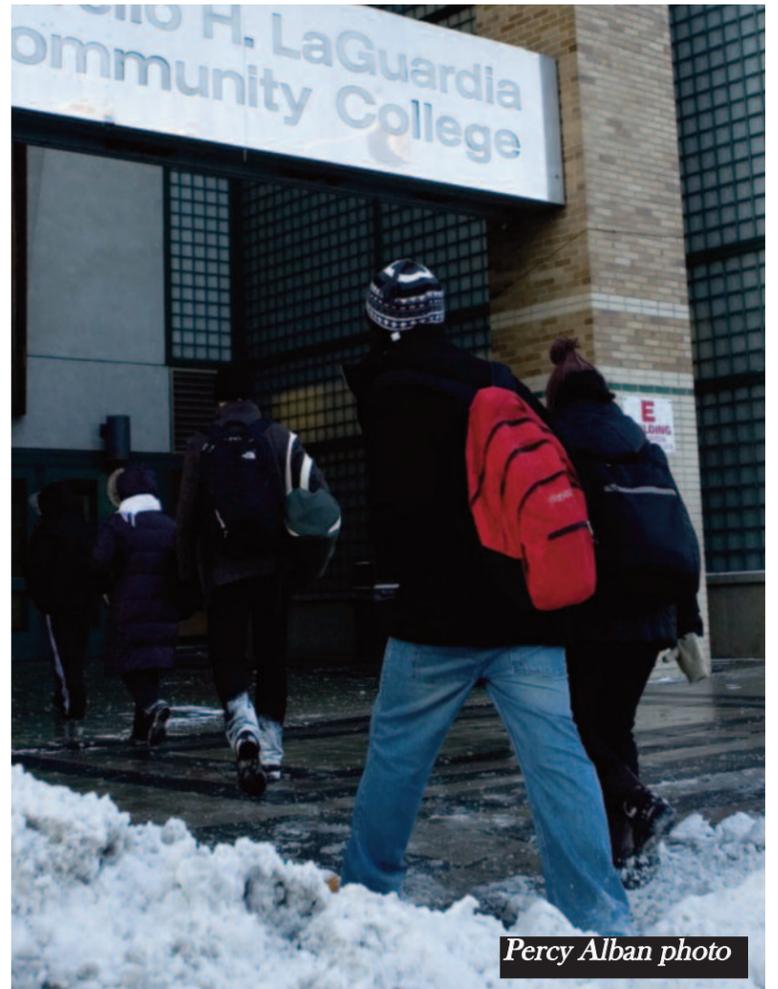
reported, on days the campuses remained open, trudging through the snow only to get to their classrooms to find a note posted on the door – the professor called in!

One student suggested that campus web sites should post when individual professors call in so students don't have to risk life and limb to make it to class. Sounds like a good idea, though perhaps not so easy to accomplish on the administrative end.

Better, professors should outline their own individual class cancellation policy during that first class, collect all their students' emails, and send out a blast email once they know they aren't going to make it in.

Anyway, hang in there. The beauty of the spring semester is it starts like a lion and goes out like a lamb. At least after finals.

What's your weather-related story? Contact us at cccn@twinforks.com to share your stories.



Percy Alban photo

Love your major; seize your future

Nicole Mendez
Campus News

Dr. Phil calls us the ME generation, in a recent NY Times article we're labeled boomerang kids, and baby boomers all over can be seen shaking their heads in disapproval. Where did we go wrong? We all understood what was in store for us. It was simple: go to high school, start looking for colleges in junior year, take all the right extra-curricular activities, and score slightly above average on all exams. After that it all seemed so simple: get into a good college, find a major, graduate, and secure a job that pays better than our parents'; so what happened to us? We're stuck.

Everyone knows someone with a loan in their parents' names for college courses that they never finished. The ones that graduated and found employment in their respective fields are becoming fewer and far between. Every dropout leaving collegiate life behind them had their own individual reasons; "I couldn't get the classes I needed this semester," "My (part time, probably retail) job wouldn't work around my school schedule," "Maybe school just isn't for me." The reasons for them leaving college in the dust are as numerous and weak as the reasons for those forced into differing fields following graduation; "I have to go to graduate school for my resume to even be considered," "There isn't a need for my profession in this economy," "I have applied to every job posting I could find

on the Internet." Spring semester is upon us and we all know what that means: more parking spots. The vastly vacant lots represent the void that our fallen solders have left behind. To those of us left it represents being ahead of the game, we made it back for more, but what exactly are we back for?

Simply stated, our get up and go must have

Finding a career takes work, not instant gratification

got up and went. The reality of entering the workforce in days like these is that it's going to take a lot more to enter any job market than a well-written resume. This is a reality that many feel twenty-somethings are failing to see. In speaking with Paul Edwards, the longtime owner and manager of PM Systems, a Long Island based company specializing in burglar and fire alarm systems, college graduates and students are missing a big piece of the puzzle. Turns out our iPhone toting, YouTube uploading, and online searching generation "has become accustomed to instant gratification," we want what we want, and we want it now, including our futures.

Somewhere along the line we began believing that all we needed was a piece of paper stating our college achievements and then simply to find the right position. "What's worse," Paul claims "is that so many of these kids graduate from college and feel they must have a college

degree to succeed." Paul's words of wisdom for us: "You have to do what you love because you're going to be doing it for a long time." In a day when most college students are trying to find a profession that will pay well, even in an entry level position, that reality stings for a minute. Graduating college is just the beginning of the hard work. Unless your resume comes

with a webcam so potential employers can see your face, you had better plan on knocking on (or down, as the economy is forecasting) some doors. Also while debating the pros

and cons of potential jobs, remember this: your garbage man may very well make twice that of the average lackey at a big corporation, so if money out of the gate is what you're looking for, perhaps you should be thinking twice before spending your parents' second mortgage on school. While Paul's opinion may be biased, as he has created and run a company that's income has supported four children and a Long Island mortgage without a college degree, even in a spiraling economy, for 30 years, he raises an excellent point: If we all attend and graduate colleges, who will the carpenters, electricians, and plumbers of our future be? Too many of us are running to colleges after high school demanding a good job with a retirement plan and a 401k. With any job there will be ups and downs. "It hasn't always been easy, but it's what I love to do," Paul says. We need to be honest with ourselves and the ones paying the bills.

continued on page 6

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My investigation of True Detective magazine

Darren Johnson
Publisher

Every writer has a trick that helps him imagine an audience – while sitting alone in a room at the keyboard – so that the words flow more easily. Writing is a form of communication, so we must envision someone we are communicating with, even if the piece ultimately will be published in a form of mass media and read by many. Most picture writing for a person they know; say a parent, a spouse or an old friend.

I sometimes do that. But oftentimes, when I'm writing something more serious, I'll have a more elaborate fantasy audience. ... Say, somehow, the world were destroyed. Obliterated. Every-

one's gone. Years, decades, centuries go by. ... Then an alien ship finds Earth. And the only evidence of advanced civilization they find – that somehow survived a fiery millennium – is a crumpled up piece of paper amongst some ruins. And on that paper – the story you are writing right now. They translate it.

Did what the aliens find really leave a legacy for humankind? Did they find your Magnum Opus? Your Great American Novel? Or did they find your spec script for "Family Guy?"

Which brings me to my latest find, a 1987 True Detective magazine.

And, based upon my confession above – the "aliens will find my manuscript" fantasy – I myself often look for long-forgotten diamonds in the rough from other authors. I much prefer a used bookstore or the book shelf in a thrift store to some clean and shiny Borders. I find some old and yellowed pulp book and realize I'm the only person in the world about to read it. And by reading it, perhaps I give some cosmic good karma to some long-forgotten author.

This past summer, I decided to slum it a bit and read detective fiction. I was done with one academic job and waiting for a new academic job to begin, it was ungodly hot, and I found the structure of that genre comforting. And I recalled that my late mother, a deputy sheriff, would read boxes upon boxes of this stuff. I didn't really understand it when she was alive, but, while I'm not converted, this past summer did give me an appreciation for the craft.

And I'd totally forgotten that her favorite magazine, True Detective, had existed until it turned up in an unrelated search I'd done on Ebay. Surprisingly, many of these issues are worth a lot of money. Especially the ones with bondage on the cover (not that that's what I was searching for!).

My curiosity was piqued. Under my parents' bed growing up were lots of adult magazines. As a kid, I'd go for the Playboys, and had totally ignored these. Until now – and I am the age my parents were then.

I first went on Amazon to see if True Detective or anything like it were still being published today. No, not in the USA.

Wikipedia said that True Detective folded in 1995. Then its parent company was sold and sold again, and that company is now in bankruptcy.

I ordered one of the cheaper, non-bondage issues of True Detective from Ebay – \$5 with shipping (the cover price was \$1.95, though). It's the one you see in the photo at the top of this page, from October 1987 (it was a monthly). The cover pic is just of a normal-looking female officer with a flashlight. The headlines, though, were dramatic – "Incredible Police Work in Arkansas Ended the 10-STATE CRIME

SPREE of the PEG-LEG KILLER"; "Puz- zler for British Sherlocks: WHO BURIED NUDE WOMEN IN SHALLOW GRAVES?"; "Probers Heard the Strangest Motive of All in the Case of the GIRLS WHO LAUGHED BEFORE DYING!"; and "California Sleuths Piled Clue Upon Clue

to Nab THE KNIFE-WIELDING SEX MONSTER WHO CLAIMED TWO!"

How could a magazine like this not have a market today? It's so sensational. But, I guess, cheaply-put-together publications aimed at average Joes mostly started to fade away as the 21st century approached. The last of which was the wacky Weekly World News, perhaps, which had dropped from a circulation of 1.2M in the 1980s to just 83,000 at its demise in 2007.

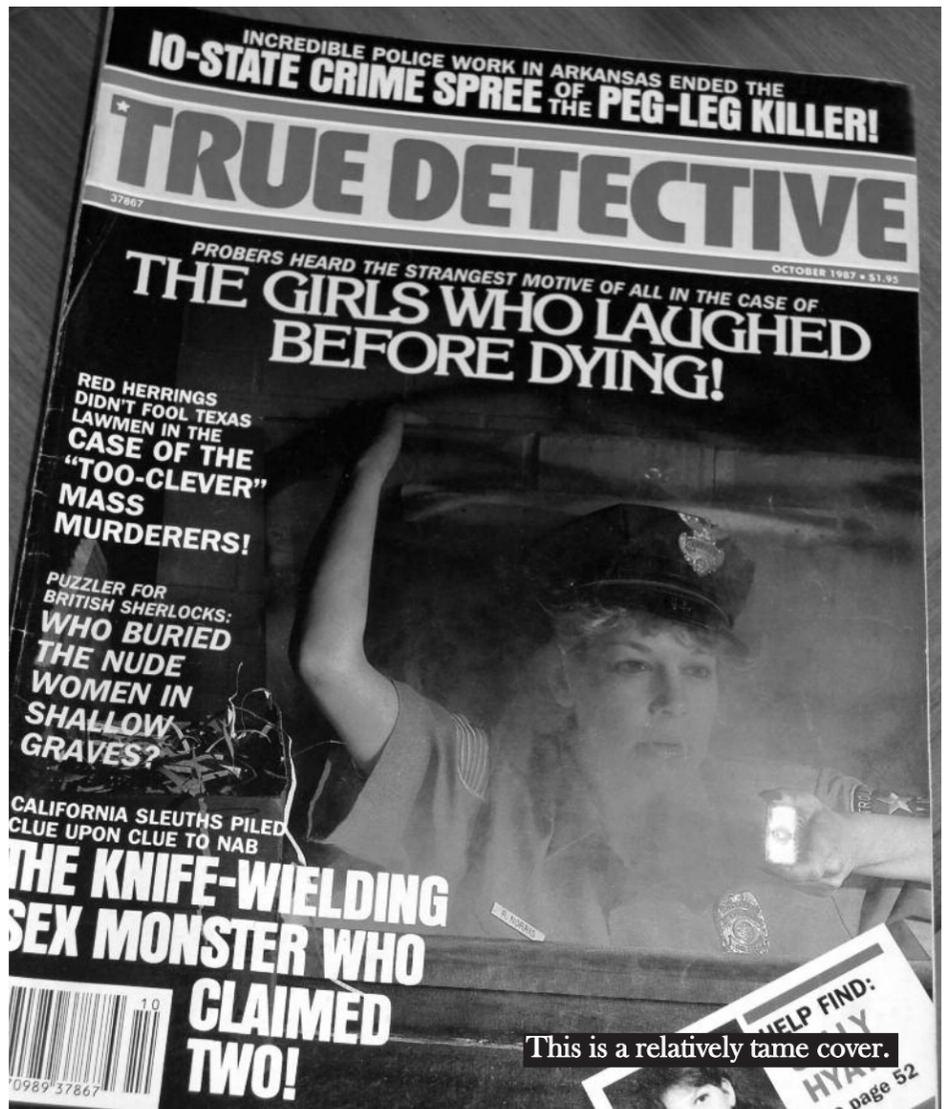
Elvis finally was dead. And maybe people have lost their sense of humor?

Or maybe – as had happened to radio plays when TV came along, or happened to black and white TV shows when color TV came around – there were translation issues. What the Weekly World News and American detective magazines had in common were their being printed on older, black and white presses. With dwindling readerships already, perhaps they couldn't afford to go to color presses. Maybe they thought they were being kitschy and retro. It didn't work. There's a reason why there are no new black and white TV shows, let alone radio plays, of note today. People aren't comfortable with these formats anymore. Times change.

In the mid-90s, around the time magazines like True Detective (and its sister magazines, Master Detective and Official Detective) folded, I was working at a newspaper based in Westhampton Beach, N.Y., called The American that was a good-looking tabloid and well edited, I must say, but had a business model that was doomed to fail.

The problem? The Internet.

"[Her brassiere] was knotted around her neck. So tightly that it was completely invisible between two ridges of swollen flesh. Her open eyes were glazed over. Her tongue protruded, black and swollen, from her mouth. And there was a yellow stain on the sheet between her legs, indicating that she had lost control of her bladder as she died."
– From "The Girls Who Laughed Before Dying" by John Dunning.



This is a relatively tame cover.

Its goal was to be the USA Today of Europe. It actually looked better than that paper.

It had millionaire backers. We sent a relatively new technology – PDFs – to printing plants in Berlin and London. The paper was distributed to dozens of countries abroad.

The paper had no serious ads and no plans to attract them. The cover price was high; the publisher, a former news correspondent for a major magazine, felt somehow a cover price would be enough to pay the bills. Typical editorial person's perspective. I used to think that way in the days when I was writing and editing papers and had ambitions to start my own publications. (It wasn't until I'd learned that courting the right advertisers should be a part

of the planning process when starting a periodical did I start to create successful ventures.)

And The American was a colossal failure. It only lasted a few years, but is now totally forgotten. There's no mention of the paper on the Internet. It's as if it never existed. While it tried to be USA Today, USA Today isn't exactly known for having much personality. (But USA Today maintains a large circulation – boosted mostly by free distribution at business hotels – and thus attracts some high-end advertisers to pay the bills.)

Readers need something to latch on to to pick up a publication. Give them a laugh. Give them hope. Give them practical info. Give them SOMETHING. But The American was all about

continued on the next page

"A trail of blood led him to the women's restroom. ... There, he found a large quantity of blood on the floor near the wash basins and blood splatters on the walls and floor. ... Moving closer he saw the partially nude body of a young woman on the floor. ... The woman, a stranger to him, was obviously dead. ... [S]he had probably been raped."
– From "Sex Monster Claimed Two!" by Walt Hecox.



A typical ad

Detective (cont. from page 3)

trimming 2000 word stories into 400 word stories and that was that. I was too young and too low on the totem pole to know better or change anything and went with the flow.

The target audience was expatriates and others in Europe, mainly interested in American sports and entertainment. We'd

"[Essie] Black's blouse had been ripped open, buttons scattered around the bedroom. She still wore her bra and pants. It seemed that the kind and gentle lady now so brutally murdered had at least been spared the final indignity of rape. ... [S]he had been stabbed three times in the back, six times in the chest and her throat had been slashed, probably after she was dead. ... Investigators agreed it was one of the most vicious cases of 'overkill' they had ever seen. ... The killer added [a] bizarre touch. He carved an 'X' on the victim's right cheek."

– From "The 10-State Crime Spree of the Peg-Leg Killer!" by Tara Lewis.

stay up to 3 a.m. before we ftp'd the pdfs to get these readers the latest scores. Then the Internet hit, and who would need to spend \$4 on some newspaper when sportingnews.com was free? (Sportingnews.com also killed its own paper publication, largely, which now is just a bi-weekly shadow of its former self.)

I can only assume that True Detective had a similar fate. Sensational stories like those in the magazine were all over the Internet by the '90s. From my analysis of True Detective, they made the mistake of raising its cover price too high over the years as ad revenue fell. It was \$2.25 in 1990; a good deal for pulp.

The publishers probably felt that they had to do that because advertising was dropping. The types of ads the magazine attracted were no longer viable in print by the age of the Internet – mail order brides, mail order porn, fake badges, sex boosters, weight gain/loss, correspondence schools, witchcraft, photos of medical oddities and get-rich-quick schemes. The Internet provided all of this stuff better and cheaper.

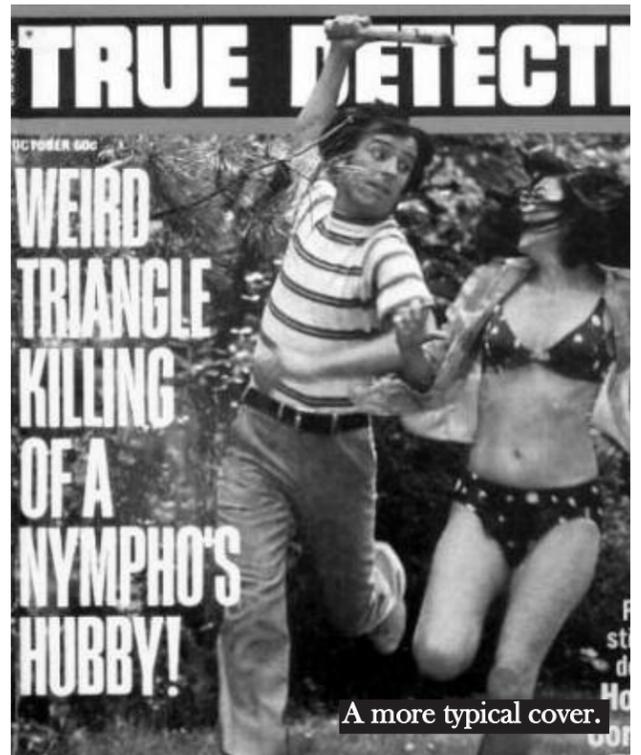
Judging by the ads, the typical reader was a male sociopath who lived in his mother's basement, had minimal education, had money issues, was a wimp and rarely scored with women.

Meanwhile, because of the presence of such ads, reputable advertisers stayed away from True Detective. There weren't even ads for cigarette

or gun companies. At the same time, as the cover price increased, circulation must have fallen to the point where getting national advertisers of note was less and less likely.

Also, their editor in chief, pulp king Art Crockett – known for his ability to type up endless copy, with lots of adjectives, on an old manual typewriter while smoking two packs a day – died of a heart-attack in 1990. Sometimes just one person can be the soul of a company. I'm sure the magazine lost its intangible allure after his death.

True Detective was in a hopeless downward spiral. Curiously, such detective magazines are still popular in the United Kingdom. It would be interesting to investigate why such lurid crime magazines survive



A more typical cover.

there, while in the USA they are dead. For one thing, the U.K. mags do not put staged photos of half-naked, fearful-looking women on the cover. Instead, they mostly use perp head- and mugshots and actual crime photos, however grainy.

Part of it also may be because American TV is so much more ample than English TV – especially back in the 1990s when England was still limited to just a few channels to our hundreds. Someone who is under-educated and lives in mom's basement here can watch one of a number of shows to get his crime fix. The most famous of which is "America's Most Wanted," which began in 1988 and still is popular today.

Another factor is, I think the "average" American is less literate than in generations past. As lurid as True Detective was, the sto-

continued on page 6



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Detective (cont. from page 4)

ries were long and required an attention span. (The average story was pieced together from old court reports with lots of details, but not always easy to follow.) It's probably also safe to assume that the average Englishman has a better mastery of the language than the average American, and thus why "long-story" detective magazines live on abroad.

One story I read in the May 1987 True Detective was written by Marilyn Keelin and titled, "KC cops wrap up the unique investigation in the CASE OF THE MISSING GAY AND THE DEADLY STRIPPER! PART TWO." I'm not sure what "PART ONE" was about, but this story seemed to not really need a set up, anyway. (Also, we never see "gay" written as a noun anymore!)

The writer seemed to do no original reporting. She mostly just relied on court transcripts to pound out a story that read easily enough. Though there were many grammatical errors the editors failed to catch.

The gist of the story: A good-looking guy, who sometimes was a male stripper, killed a chubby, but good-hearted, well-liked guy for his Camaro by luring him to a se-

cluded area. The evidence was overwhelming against the stripper, so the attraction of the story for an interested reader would not be in pretending to be Sherlock Holmes and solving some mystery. More so, a person would read such a story to be offended - by peeking into the mind of a sadistic killer.

My mother used to often tell me crime stories from her own experiences in that world. The point wasn't that the criminals were smart, nor the investigators. No. The stories were about human depravity.

How low people can sink to satisfy base desires.

I guess the lesson is, most people are not far from being cave-men. So stay on guard.

But True Detective - the American version, not the U.K. version - with its scantily clad,

timid, often bound and gagged women on the covers, seemed marketed at the cave-men within us. There's a reason why, today, the old magazines with such covers are collectible - sold on Ebay for \$20 and up with keywords like "bondage" and "rape." Perhaps the average reader was on the borderline of being a criminal himself. Judging by the ads, especially.

So maybe it's a good thing that such a

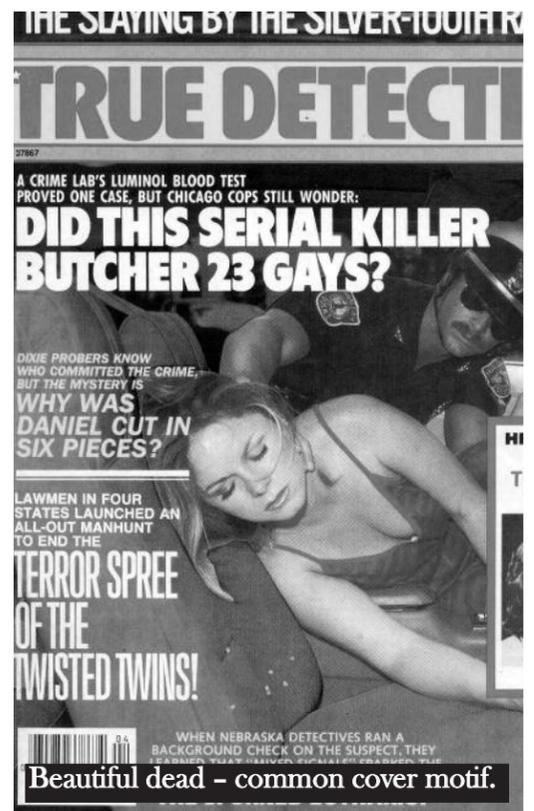
"Her clothing had been removed from the waist down and even with a quick glance Sergeant Machen could see she had been stabbed repeatedly. Her color indicated she was dead and had been for some time."

- From "Sex Monster Claimed Two!" by Walt Hecox.

magazine didn't survive into the 21st century.

Though, interestingly, Timothy Pride - the "black, extremely muscular, six-foot-three" janitor who killed two women office workers in "Sex Monster Claimed Two!" and ended up on a California Death Row - was killed in 1994, according to a google search. New DNA evidence was about to, perhaps, clear Pride, and corrections staff accidentally, they said, shot and killed him before his case could be reheard. Though the evidence was pretty overwhelming against Pride, DNA or not.

Times - and detective methods - change, along with the media. Though part of me is considering creating a paper detective magazine. Maybe class up what was True Detective a bit. I have some ideas to make it work, this time.



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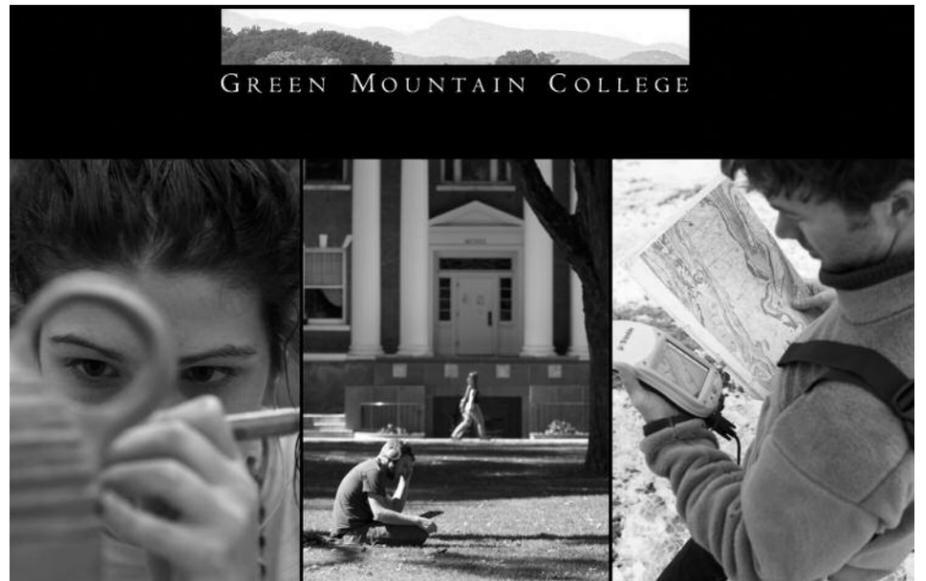
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Future (cont. from cover)

For every person who drops out prior to the spring semester, there are four more that are in less expensive college classes barely keeping up because their parents want them there. They're taking the Liberal Arts/Shut the Parents Up route. Now, don't get me wrong, college majors often change in the course of the average student's shelf life. It's okay to not have the next thirty or forty years of your life planned out, but some of us are outright lying to ourselves and those around us about what we want to do. It's possible these people have been told that "no one is hiring writers" or "there's no money in being a chef," but regardless of what we're told, we need to be able to discern reality inspired advice from obstacles. Maybe they're not hiring anything less than the best writers, and unless you plan on being a chef at a four star restaurant, starting out is going to include a long time of penny pinching.

Recently I met Mikki Perry, a lively, 20 year old Liberal Arts major who will be returning to community college this semester because her hopes of attending culinary

'I don't want to go back [to school]. ...My mother wants me to!'

school have been quashed. Her grades in college were good, but she seems disappointed, to put it mildly, that her plan wasn't even attempted. When asked what was wrong with her spring schedule being filled with classes as opposed to quiches, she said, "I just don't want to go back. It's not what I want to do; it doesn't feel challenging, and to be honest, I hate it." When asked for her reasons for her come back tour despite her obvious hesitation, she laughed and said, "because my mother wants me to!" Some of our parents have their own regrets about not finishing college, and all of our parents want more for us than they had. It can be said that they see a large benefit to college that we may not in our early twenties. Forcing us to attend may be their way of preventing us from someday regretting our wasted youth, however some of them may just want us to have what Joe and Cindy's kid has; the promise of a bright future; regardless of our protests. However, no one says we can't keep what we're driven about in the back of our minds.

College, like anything else, is what you make it. You choose your classes, you build your schedule, and the point, let's not forget, is to better your education. It's not against college rules to take classes that don't necessarily apply to your degree, and it's not fruitless if you learn something that you can use in multiple fields. If writing is your passion, you would take English courses. No one is stopping you from taking a business management course if you want to open your own restaurant someday. College is an educational institution, so become educated. You're not going to learn anything if you don't want to be there. Let's be honest, it's also a business. You're paying them to teach you; get your money's worth. I myself have been a victim of approaching a counselor to find out, "What do I take next semester?" regardless of the fact that all I want to do is write. It's a hard lesson to learn, but when you're knee deep in a semester filled with math, science, and physical education "requirements," it's a lesson you'll never forget. After taking some courses that you actually WANT to take, you may be better suited to choose a career path. It's easier to make sacrifices and sit through the classes you need when you see a final goal. If that goal happens to be one part passion and one part degree, so be it. At that point you'll be working towards a goal. Community college or otherwise, goals are what will get you through that three hour Philosophy class. Eventually you'll see the required classes as necessary for your goal not because Aristotle had grand ideas in the kitchen but because you'll learn a way of thinking outside the box, problem solving skills, studying skills, etc. A college course should be valued for the skill set you gain from it as opposed to just a two hour lecture about Plato's Republic. Take what you can and run, but not just to that little piece of paper.

Last month, this very newspaper published an article telling us to "make our major matter." It just as easily could have said, make yourself matter. College students, who start out lost, misdirected, or pursuing a career for the wrong reasons, aren't the only ones having a hard time finding work. Unless you've been living under a rock, you've probably heard, the job market sucks. It's true, I won't fight it, and it is, in fact, the harshest of the realities I've mentioned. Too many hopefuls and not enough positions have created a generation of people willing to wait for the turnaround. I hate to point it out, but the winner of a competition without any other competitors isn't really winning anything. This shouldn't dissuade us from our future. We shouldn't be putting our plans on hold; if the economy is going to push us away we're going to have to push back.

The New York Times recently published an article titled "Is Law School a Losing
continued on next page



Percy Alban photo

A winter diet plan

Svetlana Sforza
Campus News

New York is home to: phenomenal education, millions of people, countless germs and occasionally horrible weather. Does this sound like what your campus endures? You certainly have company there. Well, if you pair this advice with the healthy eating budgets I previously wrote about, then you can assure yourself of having a happier and healthier winter. And if you forgot those tips, fear not, for I shall provide new ones that should suffice.

The most obvious rule should come as no surprise: drink plenty of fluids, but mainly water. Invest in a stainless steel water canteen and a filter to keep you refreshed. Of course, we are privy to some of the finest water anywhere, so filters remain optional. But, I know germophobes and conspiracy theorists feel comforted in having those around. And to warm yourself up, go ahead and turn that water into tea. Green and white stand as the most beneficial, and adding raw honey only increases these healthful effects.

Eating right and exercising become even more crucial as the temperature drops down. And that's not an invitation to go jogging in skimpy clothing when a blizzard arrives in town. But, there is nothing wrong with home and/or dormitory workouts. Plenty of fruits and vegetables are available in abundance during the winter, so be happy about our global markets ushering in berries from South Amer-

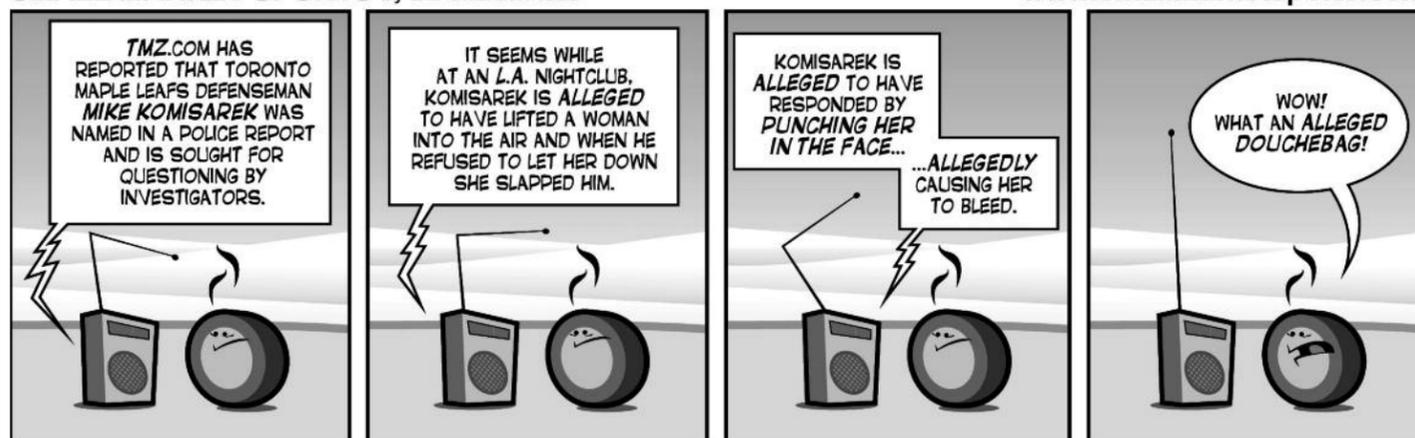
ica. Of course squashes and cold-weather produce remain the best choice.

While short skirts and tight shirts appeal to both men and women, layers lock-in that desperately needed warmth. The coat check is your friend. Do you honestly believe that you look cooler sniffling and coughing in a tee than in a sumptuously cozy coat? Stores already started throwing out jackets at bargain prices to make room for bathing suits, so take advantage of sales! And besides, the layered look is so cute. Guess what? An opportunity always arises where one may take off any extra pounds also. We shall start crying that our shorts are too heavy once that sun starts beating down again soon.

Here is a less-obvious tip: take supplements of Echinacea and goldenseal herbs. One capsule at 250 milligrams of each herb every other week should keep your defenses on-guard. If you feel particularly awful, then increase the dosage to twice daily, but do not take that prescription for longer than two weeks, as they can stop being effective if overdone. But, taken in moderation and pairing these with 100 percent recommended daily intake of vitamin C and zinc will naturally boost your body's own immunity. So please, cough into your elbow, wash and sanitize your hands (without triclosan) and follow the above instructions to help limit the spread of disease this season.

Write for us – cccn@twinforks.com

SMALL MARKET SPORTS by Bill Charbonneau



Future (cont. from page 7)

Game?" In it, David Segal sits down to talk to a young man with \$250,000 debt and a temp job.

What's the reason for this overwhelming debt? You guessed it. The young man in the article went to law school and now has no way to repay his loans. The young man in question sees the obvious prosperity to be made from the field but Mr. Segal goes on to explain that figures of future jobs are skewed. He claims that while national statistics state that 93 percent of law school graduates are employed nine months after graduation, that number includes all those working in retail outfits, waiters, stock boys, and basically anyone earning a paycheck after dumping all of that money into law school. The 27-year-old at the forefront of the article is claimed to "radiate a kind of surfer-dude serenity." WHAT?!?!

Perhaps, it is my own foolishness but I don't believe the cavalier attitude we have all acquired as a result of this mess of a job market is the best approach to our futures. No one is going to hand you your future. It's not going to change unless we change it. Welcome to being the next generation on deck. If a career is what you're searching for, you had better walk away from your computer because you're not going to find it on craigslist. Keep learning, network, and work in a similar field; never stop trying to become the very best at what you want to become. There are a million ways to say it: drive, ambition, work ethic, when the going gets tough, the tough get going. Whatever rings true to you, the point is all the same. After you've found your direction, and you know what you're chasing; go for it. Don't stop till you get there. Sometimes if you wake up every day and do the right thing for what you want, pushing yourself in that direction, you'll get there. Pause at times to evaluate your progress, reassess your methods, and focus yourself; just don't stop chasing. Become part of a generation on the run.

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Tay 'Firefly' Fisher: a true love of the game

Zack Pumerantz
Campus News

It was a game searching for excitement, yearning for something special. The pressure was palpable throughout the arena as the players fought to maintain composure. Tay Fisher knew better as he was ready to make a name for himself and his team. The Sienna Saints, ranked 13th in the 2008 NCAA Basketball tournament, had to face the heavily favored Vanderbilt Commodores, ranked 4th. "It was a great feeling, it was definitely a great opportunity, not only for myself but for my team as well," said Fisher. But this story isn't about the upset victory that Sienna eventually had over Vanderbilt, nor is it about the six consecutive three-pointers that Fisher hit to conserve Sienna's lead in the game. This surrounds Tay "Firefly" Fisher and his quest to find the best in himself and the happiness in those around him.

Known as a three-point specialist at Sienna, the 5-9 guard was drafted by the Harlem Globetrotters in 2008 to compete for a roster spot. Starring during high school in Kingston, NY, Fisher never let his height limit or hinder his development. "I was short, shorter than most of the players on the court, but I was able to hold my own," Fisher said. "My goal was just to play professional basketball. Everybody says they want to play in the NBA, other people say they want to play in Europe; my goal was just to play professional basketball." He knew he was on track when he scored 61 points in a game during his senior year at Kingston, which got him in the Faces of the Crowd section of Sports Illustrated Magazine. He was recruited by Sienna

College and finished as the second most prolific three-point shooter in the school's history. He believes the game against Vanderbilt got him noticed by the flashy professional club. After getting the call from the Globetrotters, he knew he was on the brink of his dream. "They actually contacted me, that's what made it even better."

While his dream of playing professional is coming to fruition, he has other aspirations as well. He runs a youth basketball camp and says he would like to be an elementary school teacher when his basketball career is over. He says that with the Globetrotters schedule, he is rarely home and he misses seeing the kids at his camp having a good time. On the other hand, he gets a thrill from teaching youths about the history of the Globetrotters, as he says most of them think the team began in the 21st century. "For me to tell them that the Globetrotters have been around for 85 consecutive years, it's just the best thing ever," he says. "A lot of these young kids need to be able to be educated on not only basketball but the culture and history."

A self-proclaimed New York fan, Fisher has always rooted for the Knicks, Giants and Yankees. He is excited to play at Madison Square Garden for the first time to showcase his skills to his family, friends and fans. "My parents are really happy, especially my mom, she used to be a basketball player at Kingston as well," he says. "For her to see me play, because she doesn't get the opportunity to come as much, is really great." He has two brothers and two sisters that he says he would do anything for. "I have a great family that's

just really proud of me... I know they'll be with me no matter what."

Fisher has always worked hard for his goals and dreams and knows that there is no time for regrets. "I'm pretty sure there are things that, if I had a chance to do them over, I would, but I can't say I have any regrets as of right now because they got me to where I wanted to be," he says. "My whole goal was to graduate from high school, graduate from college and play professional basketball." The first person in his family to graduate from a four-year college and play professional basketball, Fisher wants to continue to please his fans.

More than playing professional basketball with the revered Harlem Globetrotters, Tay Fisher gets to travel the world and feels lucky to be able to be exposed to international customs. "You're able to learn new languages, you're able to see the types of things they eat, how they live," he says. He says that most people don't get that opportunity, and he is very grateful for what he has. However, he says, nothing supplants playing in the United States. "Coming here, wearing the red, white and blue. Going on the military tour. These are the highlights of my life," he says.

He is a person before an athlete, a leader and a teammate. Fisher has proven that he always plays hard and never looks back in defeat. He sustains his zeal every second and thrives off success, getting hungrier every day to change the lives of his fans. "I want to keep entertaining people, I want to keep them smiling." He will be revolutioniz-



ing basketball moves to the tune of Sweet Georgia Brown for years to come.

Full schedule of area games:

Friday, Feb. 18 at 7 p.m. - Madison Square Garden

Saturday, Feb. 19 at 1 p.m. - IZOD Center

Saturday, Feb. 19 at 7:30 p.m. - Madison Square Garden

Sunday, Feb. 20 at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. (doubleheader) - Nassau Coliseum

Monday, Feb. 21 at 1 p.m. - IZOD Center

SMALL MARKET SPORTS by Bill Charbonneau



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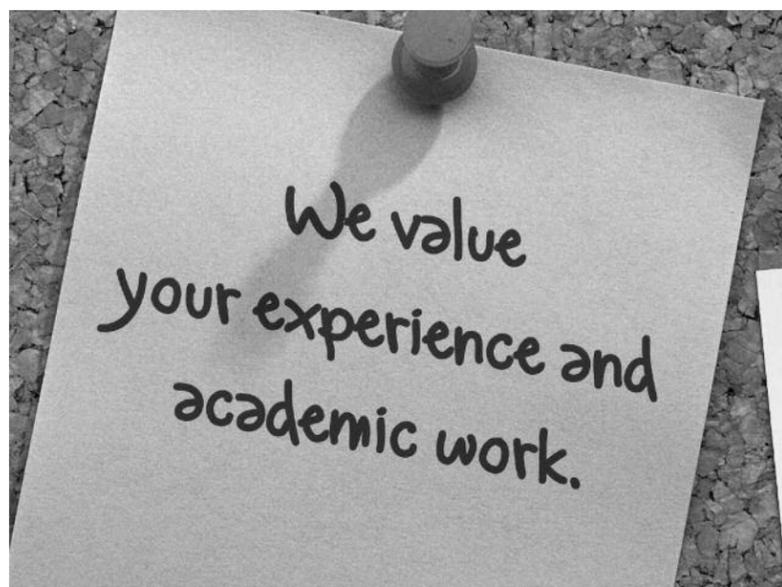
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Ode to Notepad: Using old technology to write

Darren Johnson
Publisher

I've gotten a lot of writing done over the years – thousands and thousands of pieces of all types – but when I think back to times when I was most prolific, I find that I had to put blinders on to the distractions of technology as much as possible. At the same time, the instruments I had used to create the pieces did have an effect on the flow of the compositions.

Perhaps you get that now. You want to write. But every other sentence, you're getting an IM or compulsively checking your Facebook news feed. The plainness of simple words on a screen is overwhelmed by that colorful browser in your background and alert beeps and buzzes.

I'm no technophobe. I own and have hand coded web sites that have gotten millions of hits. I used to even handle a three-credit section of HTML for a few semesters when I'd first started teaching at the now defunct Southampton College. Math is my friend.

But when it comes to composing something original, when I have to use the other half of the brain, I look to scale down the distractions.

In my world, there's an order to the technology I use when it comes to writing.

A press release – fairly easy. I go straight to Word on any PC. Even a laptop

works.

A journalism story – Word is OK, but no formatting. No autocorrect. I did suffer a bit in the 1990s when my black-and-white Mac SE was replaced by a color Power Mac at the newspaper I was working for. Somehow, the black and white display conveyed a sense of seriousness better; perhaps like black and white photography and art does vs. color.

An essay? A poem? Fiction?

Now we're getting more serious. Here's where I go into the program you may not know existed on your PC. It's called Notepad and is located under Accessories. Notepad has been bundled in PCs since the days of DOS. (Macs have a similar program, TextEdit.) Give it a try. I'll wait for you to find it. ...

Have it open? Be sure to click on Format-Word Wrap.

It's beautiful in its simplicity. Just black and white. Want to separate your paragraphs? Just hit Enter twice. No red and green squiggly lines under your words. No dancing paperclip or scratching dog.

No fonts. No indents. No spacing. No tracking. No need to use the mouse.

Notepad takes me back to those days when I was most prolific, writing novels on:

An Apple IIc in a little, windowless room, with a monotone amber monitor. The whirl of the 5.25" floppy disk when I hit Save helped me feel at-one with the



The Apple IIc clone

final product, not to mention the clack-buzz-squeal of the dot-matrix Imagewriter printer.

The Bank Street Writer Plus program I'd use to write was about as Spartan as Notepad, though files had a size limit of just a few thousand characters. This made me write short chapters. I could fit about a dozen chapters or so on a 128k diskette.

The spellchecker was on Side 2 of the BSW+ diskette. Just flip it over. We were used to flipping things over back in the day – records and cassette tapes worked the same way. Notepad doesn't have a spell checker. (If you are spelling/grammatically concerned, free write in Notepad, and then copy/paste into Word to edit.)

I keep an Apple IIc clone in my basement – just in case! – though I'd have to use an RF switch to hook it to a TV to use, as I don't have a monitor for it. (Did you know, in the olden days, computers had the option of being hooked up to a TV, for those who couldn't afford then-\$1000 monitors?)

Before the Apple IIc, during my freshman year in college, I only had a typewriter, but it did have an autocorrect feature with a type of White Out built in under the ribbon. In high school, I had a funky Type-o-Graph machine made by Sears that used little pens of black and blue and green and red. An added feature of the machine was that it made pie charts and bar graphs, per request. It could also run on five D batteries, so, thus, was portable.

I recently picked up a Type-o-Graph at a thrift store for \$7. Maybe it was the exact one I had in high school? Surprisingly, the pens still worked and hadn't dried up.

The font is really strange, though, making it useless by today's standards. If

I used it to write a letter, the person on the other end would think I were mad. It may appear like those ransom notes where the hostage-takers cut the letters from magazines and glue them on a page.

The Type-o-Graph font, because it uses pens, looks almost like it's very carefully hand-printed, and only a nut job carefully hand prints things. Google "Anthrax Letters 2001."

If I were to type, say, a novel on this thing, and then try to Scan to Text, I don't think the scanner's OCR software would recognize this unique font.

Ultimately, if I did want to publish something written on the Type-o-Graph, I'd have to retype it in a modern word processor for submission. I guess there are people who retype manuscripts cheap, as I've seen in web ads, if I wanted to go that route. Maybe a buck a page or so, though not practical.

The last issue is, I'm down to just a blue and a green pen with ink for the Type-o-Graph and refills are nowhere to be found. I've searched and searched. Say I were to start the Great American Novel and really get on a roll and then run out of ink? That would affect the whole flow of the novel. I'd have to use a different instrument to finish it and the tone would surely change – the sentences may be a word shorter or longer, on average; the adjectives more or less abundant – and the novel would be ruined.

These are the things writers worry about.

At least with Notepad, if my printer were to explode, I could hit Save. Perhaps email the file to a different computer and print from there.

Yeah, it's Notepad or nothing for me!

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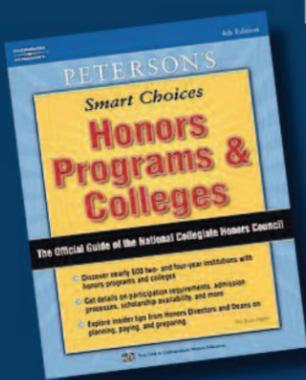
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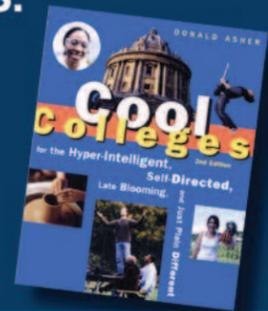


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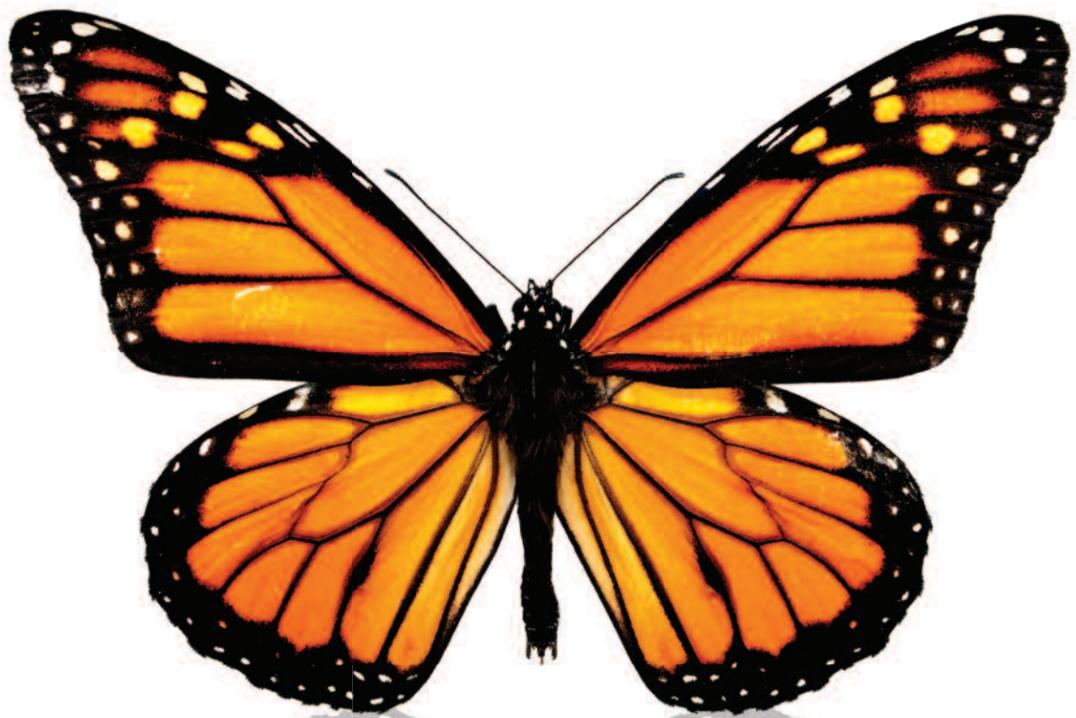
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