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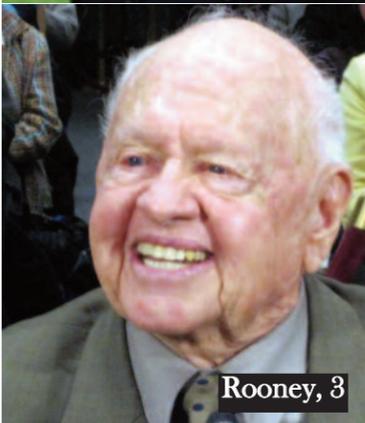
April 15, 2011

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## Colleges' social lubricant

**Brittany Grueter**  
*Campus News*

College. The word itself speaks volumes. The remark seems almost like a blessing to incoming freshmen. An overall feeling of letting go of the boundaries that parents and high school set for you. The "We were young, we were free" concept; yet it can be a scary, unsettling feeling as well. Whether you are going to attend a 2-year school or 4-year school, life as you know it changes drastically after high school. We all remember these mixed feelings of entering college. All of the prosperity we once knew, growing colder like walking into a mid-winter night; we all shared the same soul. All of us, as we entered into an unknown reorganized higher education, we all felt the same inside. We were all longing for acceptance and how we had the chance to find ourselves com-

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An inside look as to whether alcohol is just an icebreaker, or worse



## Singing the campus commuter blues

**Craig Sarich**  
*Campus News*

I've never been an on-campus guy; I seem to always be going from somewhere to get to somewhere else. Even growing up, my bedroom was furthest down the hall from the bathroom. My commute to campus is longer than most. I travel over the river and through the woods to get to English Lit 2 before Joseph Conrad's "Heart of Darkness" has stopped beating. However good my intentions are, obstacles, inconveniences, and people who should probably not be given keys to a car get in my way. The first chasm to leap is getting out of my street.

As cars approach and they see me, they seem to accelerate so unless I have a twin-turbo Lamborghini, I'm not pulling out anytime soon. Two spinning tires and one middle finger later, I'm finally on the main road. Hinderance number two is the school bus. The big yellow school bus is a great way to move large numbers of children to school

in an efficient way. It is also a way to turn main roads into a series of stop signs. If you happen to get out before the buses have hit the road, you free fall to campus. If you leave thirty seconds later because you're waiting for the car to warm up, nothing but a teleport will get you to campus on time. The road on which I travel has a speed limit of 45 miles per hour. The bus that I am behind has a top speed of 23 miles per hour while going downhill with no passengers, no pend-

**'Unless I start backing up, I'm going to be looking down the short end of a cop's ticket book'**

ing stops and jet fuel in the tank.

One time, a bus had stopped and the little stop sign thingy sprung out so I stopped as well. When the bus began moving, the driver had forgotten to make the sign flip back against the side of the bus and a big red octagon is moving towards me. I have a decision to make. Unless I pop my car into re-

verse and start backing up, I'm going to be looking down the short end of a cop's ticket book.

So after I pass the bus level (I feel like I'm playing a video games without the instruction booklet), I should be awarded with a suspension and an engine upgrade after traversing the big yellow iceberg minefield.

The next challenge in The Lord of the Undergraduate Degrees is the highway level. From driver's ed, I remember that the left

lane is reserved for the faster cars and the lanes to the right are meant for slower drivers. I think a few people missed a memo. The left lane is for people who don't want to change lanes and feel compelled to talk on the cell phones, put on their makeup,

shave, read the newspaper, and clip their toenails while driving. The middle lane is for passing the slow people in the left lane while catching their eye to give them a dirty look and then cut them off and watch their reaction. The right lane is where Nascar drivers

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# Letter from the Publisher: Why not take a 'retro' major?

**Darren Johnson**  
Publisher

In the back of this issue, we have a story on campus photography programs and how many campuses still teach using film with old-fashioned darkrooms.

In a previous issue, the same writer focused on how campus radio stations still seem to trudge on despite that radio as it once was is almost gone. Practically everything in that world is pre-recorded and automated now.

I listen to satellite radio a good deal and kind of laugh at how the DJs try to sound topical, maybe mentioning a specific baseball game "later tonight," even though I know these spots were recorded awhile ago – perhaps days or even weeks ago, all in one sitting (Who knows where?), and the guy was probably paid a pittance for the work.

Forget about the glory days of radio where a DJ actually was live and got to take requests and have a real say in the records that were played.

Stations like 99.1 WPLR in Connecticut have been playing the same 150 songs for the past 20 years it seems. But one thing mainstream radio station listeners hate are surprises. Just give them the same meal every day.

Still, there still are *some* DJ jobs in America, as low-paying as they are, and the skills learned in a radio program can translate to other forms of communications, such as video; so if the student demand is there, why not keep the major going? In fact, a community college seems a perfect setting for a radio program as two years of training sounds just about right. It's a trade, not purely an academic pursuit, and most trades can be learned in a couple of years.

Though a photography program that teaches darkroom work may seem more of a stretch in these modern times.

While I was a journalist in the 1990s and college PR person in the 2000s, I had hundreds of photos published in a variety of places (and thousands of stories) – and while my Pentax ME Super 35 mm camera took great shots with a lot of personality, it really wasn't so much better than the Nikon digital SLR I later upgraded to, and the digital camera was so much more convenient. I was able to see my photos right away to determine if my shots were good enough, and upload directly to publications. No waiting for development. I would never go back to film, except, maybe, to be kitschy. But

not in any practical way.

However, that doesn't mean there's nothing that can be learned by taking a retro class.

The old, film photos I'd taken are better in many ways than the current shots. On average anyway. Then, I knew I had 24 or 36 shots on a roll and knew to make the photos count. I couldn't wait to actually get the prints to see my hits and misses.

Now, while I still consider angle and lighting, I just shoot machine-gun style. There's no cost factor, no reloading, and just shoot freely. Just based on luck, I'm sure to get one publishable shot out of all that. My memory card can hold a thousand shots. But am I learning anything from that? Eh.

I also think it would be helpful for journalism students to take a step back in time and do newspaper layout old-skool.

Maybe not hot-leaden type, but at least paste-ups.

When I first broke into the journalism business, I worked at a small-town paper where we would print out sections of the paper, piece by piece, and, with an X-acto knife on backlit tables, physically paste the paper together on white card paste-up boards and drive those to the printing plant. No PDFs, no FTPing.

But laying the paper out like that really helped me understand space as it pertains to the page, how to be neat, and how the different parts of the paper – ads, text, headlines, photography – all came together in a wonderful stew.

Like the photographers using the darkroom or the DJs spinning records, I gained an interest in the craft and an attention to detail I wouldn't have otherwise developed.

I developed an appreciation. And that's a solid foundation to any career.

## What's this?

You may be a new reader to Campus News, as we've created with this issue a mid-month edition that is hitting about 10 New England community colleges now. Welcome aboard. You may want to "like" us on Facebook (see how, page 5) or send an email to [ccn@twinforks.com](mailto:ccn@twinforks.com) so that you don't miss an edition. This paper is tailored for you, and is the only one of its kind in the world.

Campus News really came together about 15 months ago in the New York Metro region. I was an administrator at



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the now-mostly-closed Stony Brook Southampton campus and an adjunct instructor of journalism at a large community college in the county. I also advised the community college newspaper for about four years for a small stipend. Most campus administrators and faculty disliked or disregarded that paper, and the student staff was so transient, as soon as it built any momentum, the kids would graduate or drop out. Any ideas I'd had to improve the paper were tossed aside in administrative meetings, so I concentrated on learning the business end of the paper and making it profitable. A profitable paper will never be killed, no matter how disliked by the powers that be it is.

With the writing on the wall in Southampton and knowing that job had a shelf life, and noticing the community college trend of fading newspapers with students and faculty who no longer understood newspaper production, gathering advertising and circulation, I came up with this hybrid idea. A student newspaper that hits multiple campuses, produced in one place with a professional ad agency

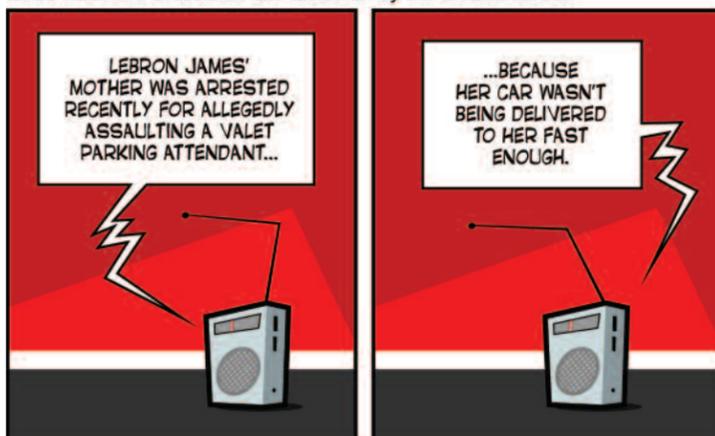
helping with the ads and more effectively circulated, but designed, photographed and written by college students, largely. Student journalists now could focus on being creative as opposed to the mundane technical requirements of Quark Xpress or paying the bills. Journalism and writing students could focus on writing and getting published. We pay them, too!

Campus News doesn't compete with existing papers, as we distribute far fewer issues per campus than traditional student newspapers, can't cover hyper-local issues and are limited to 12-16 pages in size for distribution reasons, but most community college campuses don't have newspapers nowadays, it seems. We're an adaptation to changing times.

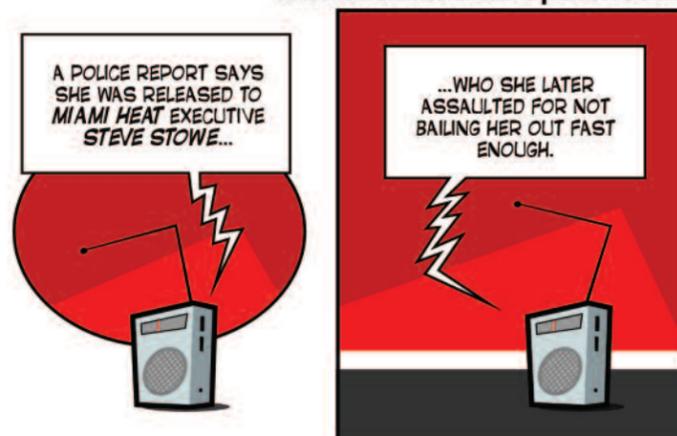
Anyway, the New York paper rolled along, and my family and I moved to Upstate New York, about 15 miles from the New England border, so distributing in New England is now as easy as it is in downstate New York.

Thus, here it is, and we hope you like.

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# Stopping elder abuse

Gabriel Weinstein  
Scripps Foundation Wire

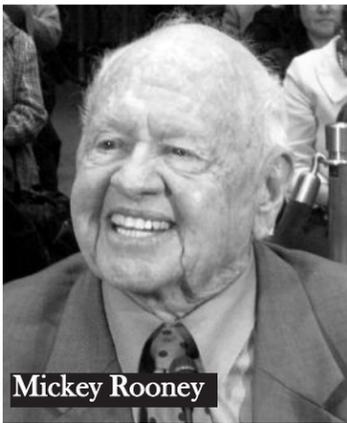
Mickey Rooney walked into the room with his signature smile and sunny personality. But Rooney's chipper demeanor vanished when he discussed his experience as a victim of elder abuse.

"I am here today because it is so important that I share my story with others, especially those who may be watching at home, suffering silently as I was," Rooney said at the Senate Special Committee on Aging's hearing on elder abuse. "If elder abuse happened to me, Mickey Rooney, it can happen to anyone."

Rooney, 90, said family members took money from him without permission and refused to explain their rationale. He said he was stripped of his abilities to make basic decisions that his life became unbearable. The actor thought his situation would gradually improve, but it never did.

"It became something sinister that was completely out of control," Rooney said. "I felt trapped, scared, used and frustrated...For years I suffered silently."

Rooney's appearance at the Senate comes in the midst of his legal battle against his stepson Christopher Thomas Aber. Rooney alleges Aber and his wife Christina emotionally, verbally and financially abused



Mickey Rooney

him. Recently, Rooney was granted court ordered protection from Aber and his wife.

According to a Government Accountability Office report released recently, Rooney is among the 14.1 percent of elder adults not living in an institution who suffered elder abuse in the past year. The report said elder abuse will likely become more prevalent as people 65 and over are expected to make up about 20 percent of the population by 2030.

Elder abuse is often not reported by victims or not detected by outside agents such as physicians. Dr. Mark Lachs, director of geriatrics at the New York Presbyterian Health Care System and a professor at the Weil College of Medicine, told the committee he found in a study that for every reported instance of elder abuse, there are 23 to 24 cases that go unreported. Older people's isolation and small social networks prevent official recognition of elder abuse, he said.

Rooney closed his testimony by encouraging victims to speak out against elder abuse. He said speaking out against elder abuse is the only way it will end.

"You are not alone and you have nothing to be ashamed of," Rooney said. "You have the right to control your own life, to be happy, and not live in fear. Please, for yourself, end the cycle of abuse, and do not allow yourself to be silenced any longer. Tell your story to anyone who will listen and above all, have hope."

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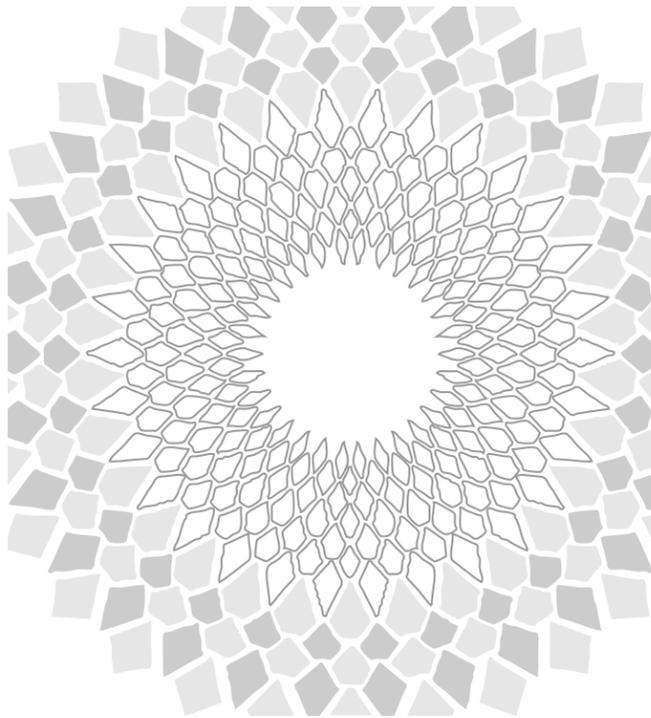
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## Drinking (cont. from cover)

pletely.

What makes young college students find themselves, meet new people, be outgoing and relaxed? Alcohol consumption. Though everyone may not agree with this statement; it's safe to say that a majority of college students partake in partying and drinking. For those reasons alone, college life takes on its own personality. "I feel like in college people turn to alcohol when they are stressed with classes. As far as partying, it's a time for you to have fun with your friends and meet new friends," said Alicia Ryan, 20, a sophomore Early Childhood Education major at Worcester State University. "At parties everyone is relaxed and trying to have a good time, the atmosphere isn't demanding."

Especially with college freshmen, everyone is so eager to meet new people, and sometimes attempt to become someone they're not. Other times, their true colors show. "It seems like you can tell a lot about a person from what they do when they are drinking. You can tell who has some anger issues; you can see who has no common sense, guys who are just trying to use girls, and the girls who just want to be used," said Neil Reilly, 19, a freshman Chemistry major at WSU. "It seems like partying and drinking mean different things for every person. Overall it seems that alcohol is such a key part of the college experience that it is almost necessary to be used by students to function. It's something to look forward to when the weekend comes around." Maybe a student is shy at first, but when they guzzle a few drinks they transform into a lively and entertaining party guest. Let's say another student is stressed out with suppressed feelings. Even though typically it's not stable behavior to drink alcohol to cope with what we feel, we can't argue that students don't do it anyway. Attending college is a time to experiment with our emotions, and to further figure out what is right and wrong for our personal lives.

I am a college student from Worcester, Mass., and I can say that New England sports have a lot to do with drinking and college culture as well. Walking out of my dorm into the hallway during a Boston game on TV, I realize all of a sudden that I have entered a zoo. You hear guys drinking and watching the game, cheering and ranting about the different plays taking place. This furthermore brings more students together as well. Since almost everyone in Massachusetts is a fan of Boston sports, it's easy to start up a conversation with a complete stranger as long as they're native to this area. Alcohol is like a social activity that creates numerous outcomes. When you know there will be alcohol involved, usually a good time is heading your way.

April is Alcohol Awareness Month. From an article I read from 2010 on Psychologytoday.com, apparently 8.5% of Americans suffer from alcohol-abuse disorders. April 9th is National Alcohol Screening Day, "According to the National Epidemiological Survey on Alcohol and related conditions, only 25% of alcoholics ever receive treatment." As Americans, for some reason it seems like we abuse alcohol more than other countries. There are a lot of countries in Europe where the citizens drink heavily, but for some reason in the United States we seem to have more problems with it

as a society. Do we over embrace it? Do we let it interfere with the other aspects of our life? Whatever your answers are to those questions, again college students need to be careful with how alcohol coincides with their lives. Like anything else, moderation is key. You can never have too much of something without it taking away who you are.

Even though I have said alcohol can have its own personality, meaning that it creates the same kind of atmosphere in various places; college students are very diverse. Going into college everyone has the same nerves, but your peers around campus may be very unique. Some students fit the "Work hard, play hard" category. These students work extremely hard with their school work all week, but when the weekend comes around; they party hard as a reward. Other students tend to party too hard. They are in college for the social experience and become careless with their grades, and end up failing out a majority of the time. There's also that group of students who chose not to drink/party at all. "When I first came to Worcester State in 2009, alcohol was available to me immediately. It was what brought people together at first. Since then I have had experiences good and bad with alcohol. Now I have chosen not to drink socially anymore. I attend parties sober, and have no intention of drinking regardless of what others do," said Jake Mattison, 20, a sophomore History major. "I do sometimes get questioned for not drinking in a social gathering where most if not all are drinking except me. I simply tell them "I just don't feel like it." That usually works and most people accept the fact that I choose not to drink. So in summary, drinking doesn't affect my life because I don't let it."

Campus-goers may feel like participating in clubs and organizations, if that fits their scene better. Same thing with athletes. As a track and field athlete myself, I find that I only go out usually once a week. Thursday and Friday nights for me aren't spent partying like a majority of my fellow students around me; since I usually have meets on Saturdays. Serious athletes put their sport and schoolwork before the festivity of alcohol consumption. There's that saying, "College is what you make it," and already as a sophomore I've found that this is very true. Being a student in Worcester, Mass., considered a smaller version of Boston, there are various nightclubs and bars everywhere that make up the college scene here. "For me the aspects of drinking have changed a lot over the past few years I've been in college. When I was a freshman, drinking meant freedom and partying. When I turned 21, drinking became more of a casual experience at bars rather than a party scene," said Rachel Sullivan, 21, a senior Psychology major at WSU. "Now being a senior, the partying I once was surrounded by has shifted into a more mature social experience with drinking." As long as you have money, there is always something to do, and most college students find that they run out of money quickly after spending it on alcohol.

Overall, I'm saying that no matter where you go to college in the United States, alcohol is a huge trademark that goes along with the experience; whether it is good or bad in your opinion. It's good because it corresponds with an exciting social life, but it's bad because if

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Should campus News get a brick and mortar office?

## Commuting (cont. from cover)

get their start because you really have to be on your toes. Between merging waves of cars who think you can come on the highway doing 17 miles per hour and mix with cars doing 85, people can use this lane to catapult ahead of the drivers in the other lanes.

And as George Carlin pointed out, anyone driving slower than you is an idiot, and cars moving faster are considered maniacs. It's a wonder I get anywhere with these maniacs and idiots on the highway with me.

I downshift from the highway to local roads, and I get a spattering of different types of motorists. One of them is the person who has the cruise control set at 7 miles an hour presumably on a dry run for Sunday church on a Wednesday during rush hour. Then there is the person looking to get on the main road who feels compelled to fly out in front of me with reckless abandon and then drive like he's in a funeral procession. There is also the person who seems lost and brakes at every street almost to the point of a complete stop, then slams on the gas until the next street. And we wonder why Dramamine sells so well. The next is that person who jams on her brakes and stops, then puts on her right turn signal. As you pull around this person, she inevitably cuts across the front of you to make a left turn. The light accelerator is the one that gets me. I was always taught that green means go, red means stop, and yellow means slow down, and black means I've either had too much to drink or someone has punched you in the face and its time to lay down. What I have learned from watching others is that yellow means go faster, and look to see if it changes while I'm under it, then check for cops. The light accelerator hits the gas when he sees the yellow which causes me, being right behind him, to do the same. He then rethinks his actions and hits the brakes which causes the coffee in my hand to explode against the windshield. While waiting for the light to change, I clean my dashboard of with what I have available: a gum wrapper and a two-year old band-aid I find under the seat. Although I wasn't fully awake when I left the house, the 400 degree coffee that I brewed at home so I can't sue anyone for the third-degree burn on my thighs has scalded me awake more than calmly sipping it in class could have ever done.

The Army commercials say that they do more before six a.m. than most people do all day. I can guess that no one in the Special Forces has ever commuted to college. I've had enough for one day, and I haven't even gotten to campus yet. Driving through town is the fun part. If I've done well up until now, local roads make me feel like a tourist with a gun full of blanks in a Texas bar. New Paltz has made it quite clear that they prefer walkers over drivers. There are talks about making the parking for the village of New Paltz in Highland. And it would probably help me get to campus on time. Some of the streets seem to be a solid crosswalk for a 1/4 mile stretch. So I inch towards campus with my foot on the brake like a lost guy in the desert waving people across my front bumper. I'd love to continue writing, but I have to put the laptop down and find a parking space.

# Have an opinion? Send it to us!



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you're not careful, it can interfere with your life negatively. After freshmen year most students get into a pattern that works for them. If they had difficulty with decisions that first year, they have the chance to renew themselves and discover what choices enable them to be the best that they can be. Alcohol will always be around us in

our lives, and it's just a matter of mentality, maturity, and experience as to how you perceive its consumption. As college students we're led to believe that these are the best years of our lives, so with whatever we do let's make sure of that, in whatever way we can, to create a strong future.

# You meet Mr./Miss Perfect. Now what?

Craig Sarich  
Campus News

When you're in college and beginning to get your life underway, there is pressure to date. Dating is tough. You want a girl who is nice enough to give you a shoulder rub without expecting one in return, but not too nice enough where she gives away her bank account. She can be attractive to the point of being cute, but not too hot where your friends are drooling over her. She should be smart, just as long as she's not smarter than you. This pretty much pulls me out of contention with any of girls at New Paltz.

Dating isn't any easier for women. I was talking with a female friend of mine, and she told me that finding a guy is a lot like choosing a stall in a public restroom;

you take the one that is unoccupied, doesn't smell too

bad, and needs the least cleanup. So, with regard to dating, men and women have different views on it. If you think about it, it's a wonder there are any couples at all. When driving, guys constantly switch lanes while women pick one lane and commit to it. Get a remote control in our hand and you'd think we're playing hot potato with the channels while women pick one channel and seem to watch it for hours. When I order my meal at a restaurant, I still have to look at what the other guy has on his plate even though the waitress has taken away my menu. We can't commit to a lane on the parkway, a television channel, or even a meal. And women wonder why we have trouble committing to a relationship.

I was in a relationship a while back and it went on too long. The reason I know this is because when she asked what my fantasy was, it involved Heidi Klum, a bottle of baby oil, and a hula hoop. Hey, it's my fantasy. And my girlfriend was in it; I didn't leave her out. The problem was she was standing by the bed holding my pants. And to add to that, she was an earth sign and I was a water sign. It made for a real messy relationship, and I have white carpets.

So, if I can't sustain a relationship, kids are probably out of the question. I'd like to have kids someday. But first I have to get the right girl drunk enough long enough to say "I do." And we all know that women change their names when they get married. Even when they get engaged, this is the guy "marking his territory" with a ring. Everything is about letting everyone know that this is our property. Relax women, be thankful were not dogs; they have their own way of marking territory. If you think about it, marking your territory is not that much of a problem in some states in the South, which will remain nameless. Everyone already knows she's your sister, and there's no name change to worry about. And at the wedding, you cut your costs in half with only one family attending. Which side do you sit on in the church?

So, after the wedding come the kids. But before you have kids, you first have to have the pregnancy. Not only do you get bad writing from me, but I teach you about the circle of life. Disney has nothing on

me. I saw a friend having a baby, and they call the birth process the delivery. To me, a delivery is when the Fed Ex guy knocks at my door in a nice neat uniform with a clean package. This was more like 'Deliverance' if you ask me. I was looking around for rubber gloves and a mop, that is until the squealing started; then I ran for the door. And we've all heard of the books "What to Expect When You're Expecting" and "What to Expect the First Year." Well, my parents just bought the book "What to Expect when Your Child is a Wanna-Be Writer and Has Decided to Move Home." Chapter 1-He Borrows Money; Chapter 2-He Borrows More Money; Chapter 3-How to Change the Locks and have a Garage Sale with All of His Stuff to Recoup Some of Your

Losses. Don't get me wrong, I do have a promising career as a writer; it's promising to

## Fast forward to having a kid and idiotic rituals

leave me broke. But you may have the privilege of me serving you coffee at Starbucks. Let me know how you like it.

Now, I have often thought of having kids sometime in the far away future. In having children, I know I'd have to explain some idiotic rituals we have in this society. One of these is Halloween. The whole concept of Halloween is quite interesting. I see the first conversation with my kids going something like this: "Now listen Bobby, I know we're doing well as a family. We have a 3000 square foot house and a BMW and an Audi. But what we need you to do is - How do I put this? - I need you to go out to all of our neighbors and beg for candy. And so no one can figure out whose kid is a beggar, we need to disguise you with this goofy costume. OK, do you think you can do that?" The funny thing about this is that we'd send our kids out wearing \$100 worth of garb and they come back with \$5 worth of candy. It doesn't seem like a sound investment. As long as no one can tell who they are, I might have them ask for a VCR, a plasma television, and a pair of socks without a hole in them.

So after Halloween, the next major holiday to get some free stuff is Christmas. And Santa is the figurehead for this holiday. How did that happen anyway? "Okay, we have the birth of a savior - who caused a spiritual revolution - and continues to inspire 25% of the world - who should we choose to adequately represent the coming of the Messiah? Hmm, an overweight jolly fellow with a bowl full of jelly for a stomach - long lines at the stores, hot lights on a dry tree, a ten-year-old hot-potato fruit cake and overeating until we puke - that makes me feel connected with my creator; the person who came to save us from our sins.

The concept of a real Santa Claus in today's day and age probably wouldn't work. Picture this: You wake up at 2 a.m. on December 25th when you hear a noise downstairs - in the kitchen, a fat man in a red suit is rummaging around for milk and cookies - 20 minutes later, the police have him handcuffed face down on the tile floor checking his pockets for weapons. I wonder what he got Jesus for Christmas? Did he deliver it himself or send it FedEx?

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# Remembering a fallen hero – finally

**Gabriel Weinstein**  
*Scripps Foundation Wire*

Donald Mounts was not sure how he would react when his third cousin, Army Air Corps first lieutenant James Mounts, was finally buried at the end of March at Arlington National Cemetery.

After all, Mounts had never met the World War II veteran who died eight years ago.

"The moment they opened the doors, and I watched them bring his ashes in it gripped my heart," Donald Mounts said.

James Mounts' remains sat at a funeral home in Vero Beach, Fla., until Donald Mounts discovered he was related to him and arranged for the funeral his cousin wanted. James Mounts retired to Vero Beach in the early 1980s.

In October, Donald Mounts, 55, a retired New York police detective from San Antonio, Fla., discovered the relationship and that James had been dead for eight years. He was driven to bury his cousin at Arlington after learning through James' friends about his military career and desire to be buried at the cemetery.

Donald Mounts said he viewed burying his cousin at the cemetery as a way to recognize his military achievements and honor the family's long tradition of military service.

As the caisson carrying James Mounts' ashes arrived in the cemetery and the trumpets of the U.S. Army Band pierced



Members of the 3rd Infantry Regiment with the ashes of James Mounts.

the damp air, Donald Mounts and his second cousin Navy Cmdr. Shelby Mounts, 41, of Norfolk, Va., felt a strong connection with the cousin they had never met.

Shelby Mounts said the funeral kin-

dled an unexpected connection with his distant relative.

"We are family, no matter what," he said.

Throughout the ceremony, Donald Mounts said he thought of James Mounts' experiences as a prisoner of war. He was a POW in Barth, Germany, from September 1944 to May 1945, during one of Europe's coldest winters.

"I was hell-bent to get him into a place he's supposed to be," Donald said. "This man deserved this."

After learning of Mount's scheduled burial at Arlington National Cemetery on Thursday, U.S. Rep. Bill Posey, R-Fla., who represents the 15th

Congressional District where Mounts lived, asked his senior legislative assistant, Robert LaBranche, to attend the funeral.

"I'm pleased that now after so many years, Lt. Mounts is rightly resting among his fellow heroes at Arlington National Cemetery," Posey said. "Such an honor is fitting for a member of the greatest generation and a member of a family that has sacrificed so much for our freedom."

Donald Mounts said it was an emotional day.

"To be able to put him back with his comrades in arms, is very emotional for us," Donald Mounts said. "To have someone go to Arlington that really deserved to go there and hadn't got there it meant a lot to us."

## Drugs legalized? Never.

**Melvin Felix**  
*Scripps Foundation Wire*

Drug legalization in the United States "is not going to happen in our lifetime," Peter Reuter assured a group of Latin American diplomats and journalists recently.

The founder and director of the RAND Drug Policy Research Center from 1989-1993, said it was a "seductive idea" but it will not happen due to the huge uncertainty on the effects such a measure would have on society.

"No one has taken it seriously enough to look for a blueprint of what that would look like," he said.

He spoke about a new report, "Rethinking U.S. Drug Policy," by the Inter-American Dialogue, a forum for discussing Western Hemisphere policies.

Peter Hakim, author of the report, said drug proliferation is a problem shared by the United States and the rest of the hemisphere. He said a number of people in Latin America blame U.S. drug consumption and arms shipping as

contributors to drug problems in Latin American countries.

The report said three out of four Americans believe the U.S. "war on drugs" has failed, according to a 2008 Zogby International survey. It offered six proposals for rethinking U.S. and global approach toward drug policies:

- \* review outdated United Nations treaties that provide the legal foundation of the international narcotics regime;
- \* organize an inter-governmental task force to fight narcotics;
- \* establish anti-drug strategy commissions in the House and Senate;
- \* expand the collection of drug-related data and analysis;
- \* finance research on the physical, economic, social and criminal effects of drug use; and
- \* monitor drug-reducing programs at the community, state and federal levels.



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# Lance Armstrong urges cancer research

Melvin Felix  
Scripps Foundation Wire

As Congress prepares to tighten the federal budget

by cutting spending, seven-time Tour de France champion and cancer survivor Lance Armstrong said the fight against cancer should remain a priority.

"As cancer's economic and human costs grow, we cannot back away from our commitment to conquer this disease," Armstrong, whose foundation runs the Livestrong campaign, said recently at the National Press Club. "We hope Congress will recognize that if we reduce our investment now, it will cost us far more in the long run in health care costs and lost productivity."

About 1,500 people in the United States die of cancer each day. In a poll conducted by Lake Research Partners this month, 77 percent of respondents said they would oppose making cuts to cancer research funding to reduce federal spending.

"Research cures cancer," said National Institutes of Health Director Francis Collins. "Let's make sure research can happen."

The health advocates argued that the funding bill recently approved by the House of Representatives would squander progress made in cancer research. The

continuing resolution would cut funding for the National Institutes of Health by 5.2 percent, from \$29.3 billion in 2010. It would also cut the budget for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention by 21 percent.

Christopher W. Hansen, president of the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, said he worries that the Senate will adopt the House bill because Congress is in a race to cut spending before it reaches the federal debt ceiling, which limits the amount of money the government can borrow.

"It makes the whole situation very unpredictable," he said.

Hansen said the "appropriate number" for cancer research funding is closer to President Barack Obama's proposed budget of \$32 billion to the National Institutes of Health for each of the next two years.



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# Some students still do it in the dark

**Dave Paone**  
*Campus News*

The current crop of college students grew up with digital cameras. Some may have a vague memory of a film camera from their childhood, but chances are digital is what they're familiar with.

Digital photography courses have replaced "traditional" photography courses - that is black and white pictures shot on film and developed in a darkroom - in high schools throughout the country. Newspapers and magazines print black and white photographs less and less.

Yet colleges still maintain working darkrooms, complete with enlargers, chemicals and running water, where students can develop negatives and print black and white enlargements.

Why?

"I think that students in an academic setting learn an enormous amount by working with their hands and their eyes and the chemistry in a darkroom, and I think they learn more about light and shadow and more about composition and how to create a beautiful image when they're really hands on," said Professor Janice Mehlman, interim art department chairperson at Kingsborough Community College.

However, she also believes digital is part of the process. "It's very essential that you have both. It's a lot like learning to walk before you learn to run," she said.

She added that photography majors at KCC understand that some images need to be made digitally and others need to be made on film and printed in the darkroom.

KCC has the students take photo one, the black and white darkroom class, followed by photo two, either with darkroom again or with digital. That's followed by independent study and each student chooses either darkroom or digital.

"I think that having had the black

and white before the digital, the digital is that much better," said Janice.

There are about 200 students each semester at KCC who make use of the darkroom in 10 classes with five teachers and one darkroom technician. One of those teachers is Maureen Drennan, who teaches photo one.

"The first assignment is aperture, so it's very technical," she said.

That's followed by landscapes, "So we're moving a little bit away from technical but I want them to think about design and where you put the horizon line," she said.

The third assignment is shadows, textures and reflections and the fourth assignment is portraits of strangers and family and friends. The purpose of shooting strangers is to make the students feel more confident.

The fifth assignment is a self portrait and the last assignment is "A Day in the Life of You," where the students are to shoot what goes on in their day, all day.

Some people may argue that these assignments could be given in a digital class and there's no need for the darkroom.

"I think that with this process you learn good habits and you learn how to be exact," said Maureen. "Because if you're not exact, you can't go back.... If you mess



Monique Fungkhee -dp photos

up the developing process, that's it."

Both Janice and Maureen believe the slower, meticulous effort needed to produce a quality photograph in the darkroom is actually a blessing.

"They get more and more focused. They get more obsessed in a good way.

And compulsive, which you should be," said Maureen. "You

have to be neat and tidy, and you have to have a system in the darkroom," she said.

Dante Hutchinson is an 18 year-old, first-year photography major who had some experience with digital before college but is brand new to the darkroom. He feels shooting a roll of film with 36 exposures, as opposed to a memory card with a huge capacity, has made him a better photographer.

"I'm precisely choosing what I want to shoot and I'm being very tightly focused," he said. When it comes time to choose a route for independent study, he thinks he may choose digital, but will still continue to shoot on film and work in the darkroom.

Samantha Pietrunti has been undeclared for four years but now that she's halfway through her first darkroom class she's considering making photography her major. She's also considering going into crime scene photography.

Kingsborough isn't the only community college in the area that maintains a darkroom. Nassau, Suffolk, Westchester and LaGuardia each have one, as does Brooklyn College and Adelphi University.

LaGuardia Community College's darkroom houses 26 enlargers, including

one for 8x10 negatives. There are six classes for beginner photographers and each class is half darkroom and half digital.

But it's not just the beginners who use the darkroom there; other classes such as the commercial photography workshop,

the studio lighting class, the intermediate photography class, the photo-journalism class

and the alternate process photography class all make use of the darkroom.

At Westchester Community College Center for the Arts, there four instructors who teach six photo one classes which utilize the black and white darkroom. Additionally they have six color enlargers for printing to a Kreonite KMIV color processor.

While the number of students voluntarily taking classes that involve working in a darkroom is impressive, there's always the cloud of termination hanging over the art departments.

Talk of phasing out darkroom classes at KCC started in 2007. When administration said everyone else is getting rid of their darkrooms, Janice's reply was, "Great! It's an opportunity to buy enlargers real cheap!"

"There's a magic about that darkroom," said Janice. It appears students all over the region get spellbound by that magic which keeps the classes full.

So for the time being colleges will keep darkroom classes part of their photography curriculum. The day may come when they're ancient history, but for now photography students still get to do it in the dark.

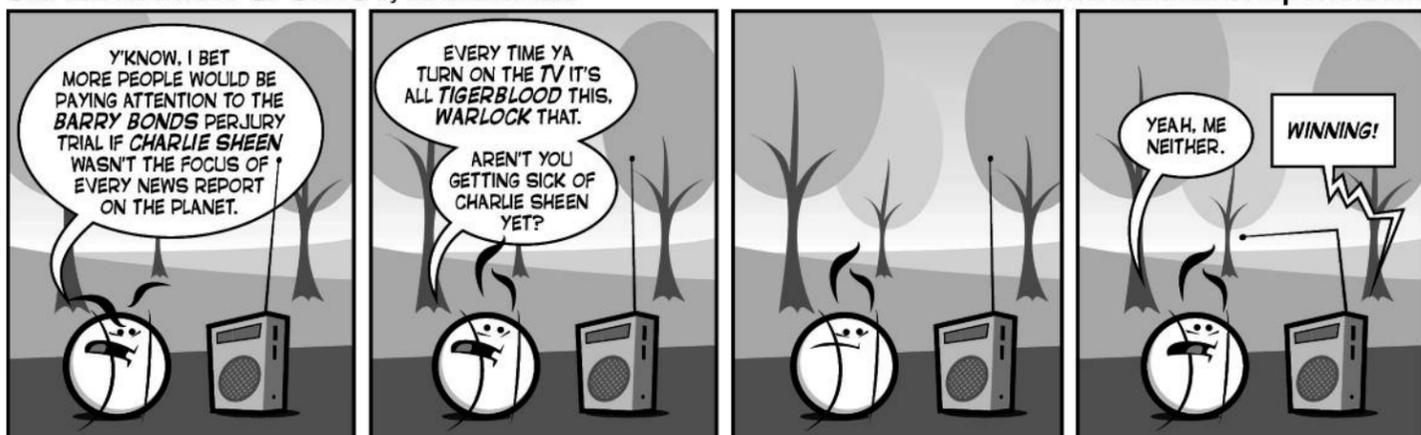
## Despite digital, film lives on at colleges



The KCC darkroom

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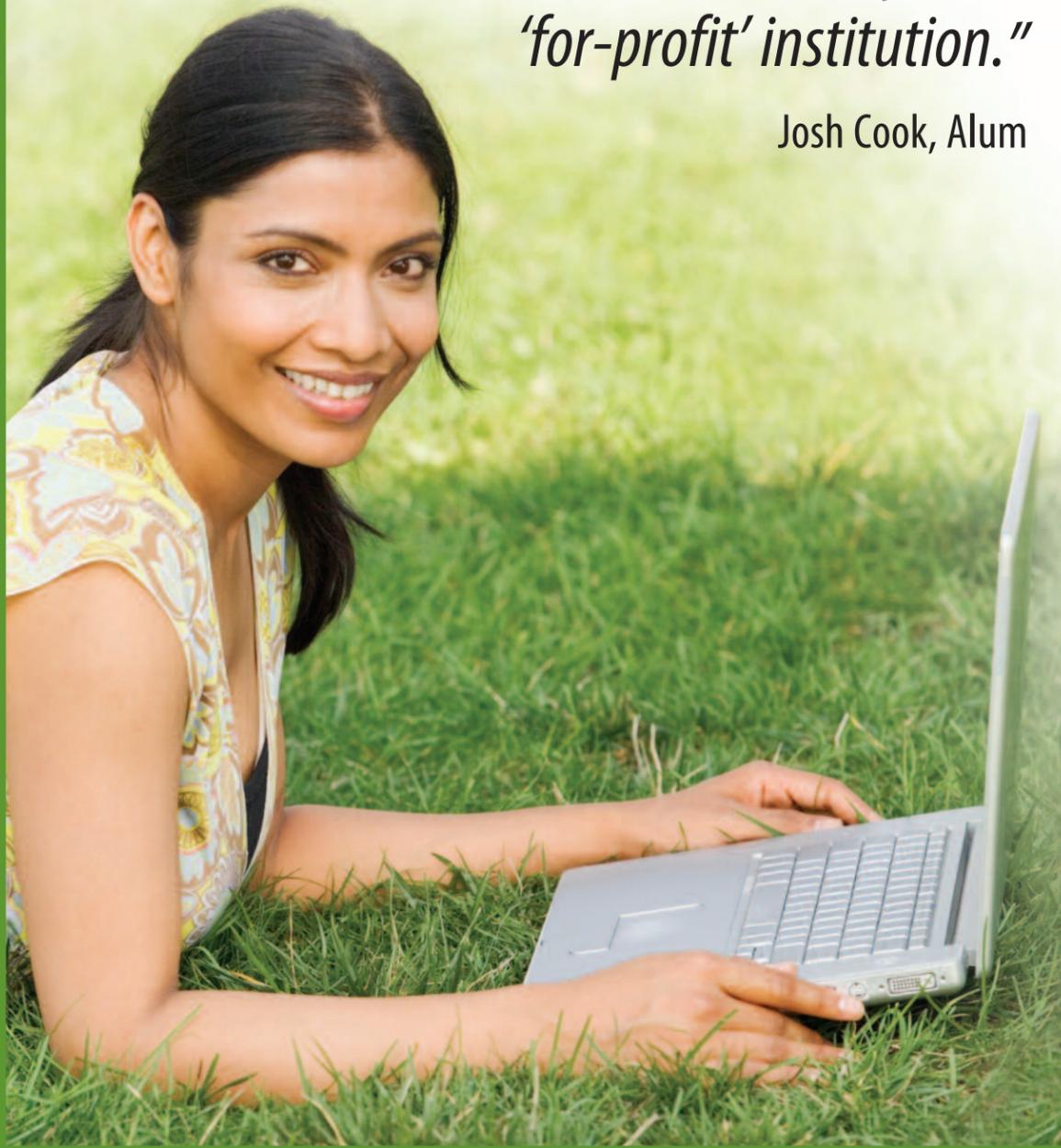
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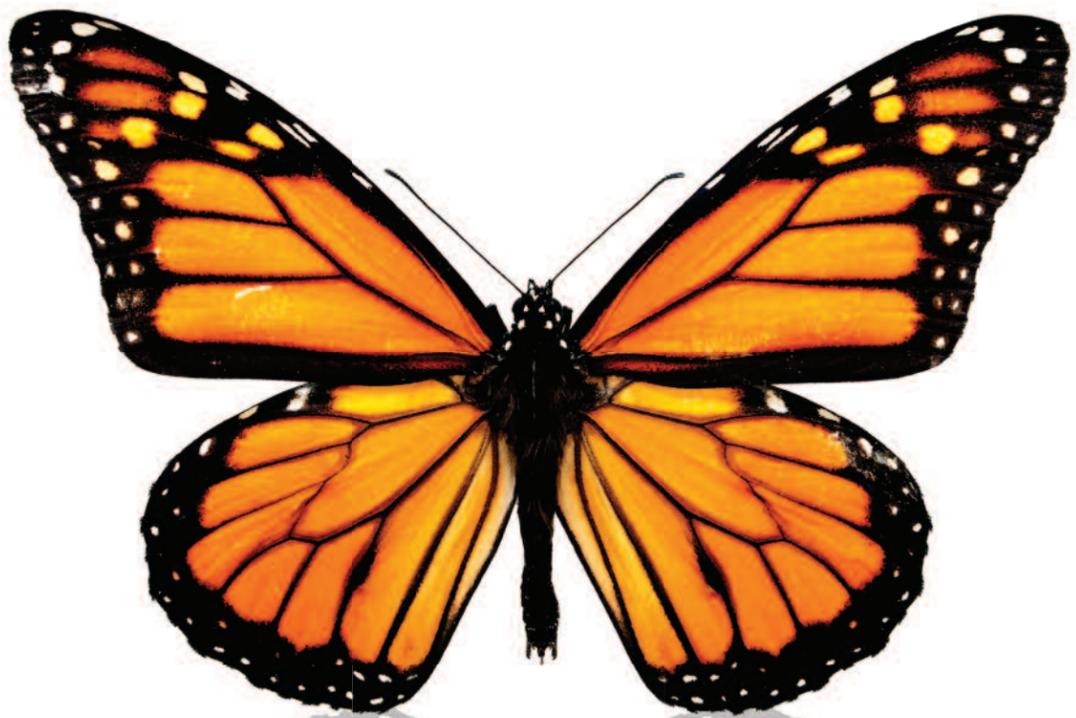
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