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NEWS 10



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A back-to-school survival story

Julianne Mosher
Campus News

The idea of graduating “on time” from a two-year college is long gone.

In recent years, the percentage of students who attend a college or university after high school only to take many more semesters than previous generations to graduate has skyrocketed.

According to the Na-

tional Center for Education Statistics, 58 percent of full-time undergraduate students take up to six years to obtain a “four-year” bachelor’s degree from public institutions. For two-year colleges, typically only 35 percent graduate within six years.

With students constantly graduating later and later, the rates of depression, dropout and anxiety have gradually risen.

The student who planned on receiving a degree in only a few years but who ended up staying longer could face struggles with more loan debt, inability to move out of the parents’ home sooner or struggle to find a job that could pay off the bills accumulated

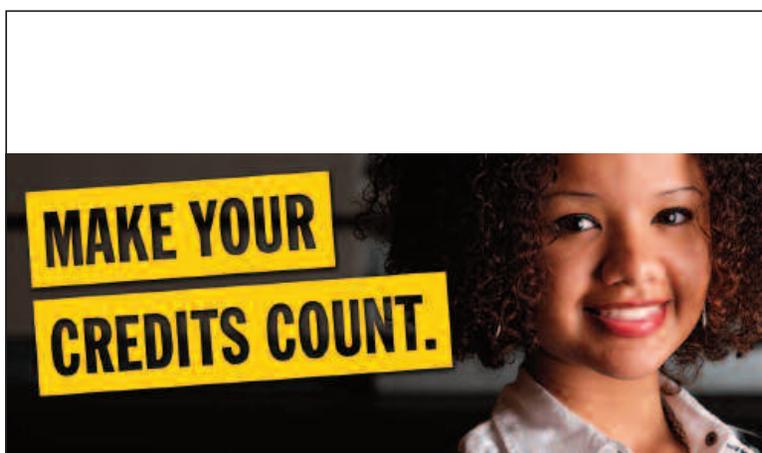


through the years. However, with every negative comes a positive and some students learn to stick out the long term.

At Suffolk County

Community College, one student in particular said that despite staying at the two-year institution for over

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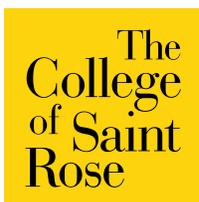
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How to live like a hobo

Julianne Mosher
Campus News

When students attend four-year institutions after they’ve graduated high school, statistics show that most people end up living in college dorm rooms, campus affiliated housing or university owned rooms.

But what does someone who attends a com-

muter-only school or who is a commuter at a four-year college do when they simply cannot afford to live in an expensive room on or close to campus? They just live out of their cars and bags.

Living out of a bag is actually quite easy. After attending a community college for three years and then furthering my education at Stony Brook Uni-

versity for another three, I have mastered the art of living out of an automobile and, better yet, a bag that you keep right on your shoulder.

In college, many, if not all, students have a part-time or even a full-time job keeping them busy when they leave the classroom. Constantly moving around can be

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You do belong in college and can make it!

Darren Johnson
Publisher

I'd been wanting to write this piece for a while. Aside from publishing *Campus News*, I have also worked in community colleges for a long time now, in various capacities, and remain concerned that not enough students are what administrators call "persisting."

In short, it mostly means lasting past the first year, or even the first semester.

I've worked upstate and downstate in New York, and there are some variations on this problem. In some community colleges in poorer regions, for example, a lot of students leave after receiving their financial aid check, around Thanksgiving time in the fall. I have taught in one of these locations and it is disconcerting to lose a third of my students for no good reason. I assume it's because they had never had a lump sum of money before like that and get caught up in the euphoria of it. When I was a college student, I once won \$1000 via a slot machine and thought it was the best thing in the world! It beat the \$7/hour I was earning at the local fast-food joint. However, in the case of my classes, these students were passing and would have likely passed the course if they did not stop attending. They just aren't getting good advice in their personal lives. Lump sums come and go, but a 0.0 may stay with you forever.

Completion

The other term the administrators use in regards to community college student success is "completion."

That usually means graduation in a reasonable amount of time, but the numbers are alarming. (See cover story.)

The problem may be mindset. Students are not generally advised to take 15-18 credits a semester, and thus the potential to get a two-year degree in two years lessens. The longer one takes to get the right number of credits, the greater the chance that life can get in the way - especially for commuter students, who have family and other

relationships nearby.

A lot of financial aid is tied to graduating on time, but I've found many students are talked into the minimum 12 credits, to their detriment. At the aforementioned college, the typical full-time student took less than 13 credits each semester.

So students run out of time and money and don't "complete."

Here's what you should do: Sign up for 15-18 credits. It costs the same in New York State whether one signs up for 12 or 18.

If you find you are actually failing a course, with no real hope of passing, then you can drop it (usually sometime in November is the final withdrawal date for a course; check your academic calendar via your campus web site) and still pull in 12-15 credits.

But talk to your professor first - you may think you are failing but, in his mind, you still have a shot of passing. Take the gamble. Often, it is better to fail and try than to drop a course. As a grader, I often give extra points for persistence.

And don't be afraid of C's. A C simply means you passed the course in average fashion. You can't be great at everything. As an undergrad I got a lot of C's - sometimes worse! - and here I am doing this thing!

Confidence

Ultimately, I believe a lot of whether you succeed or not depends on you. That's part of the reason why we publish this paper - we pepper each issue with useful advice to help you along (we also try to entertain; else no one would pick this up!).

I've met so many under-confident students over the years. Here are some examples:

- The fragile-ego student who isn't getting all A's who suddenly doesn't feel "college is for me." My advice: Buck up! You're doing better than most, and, who gets a 4.0?

-The student who didn't do well in high school, and most of his friends at home are telling him he can do well



enough without college. You don't need college to work a trade, they say. And often trades pay better than jobs that require degrees. True, but it can't hurt to have that degree in your back pocket. Eventually, you may want to move into management or the like. You may not see it now, but at, say, 35 or so, you will.

-Which brings us to the 30-40+ students. Every class has one or two of them. As I have gotten older myself as an instructor, I often relate to them on a more personal level and strike up conversations with them outside of class to make them feel more at ease. They often have the least confidence in the class; many tried college at 18, didn't succeed, and now, here they are, back in a classes with a bunch of students who could, symbolically, be their kids. It is unnerving. If you are one of these students, do realize that it's not too late. Also, your maturity probably makes you a stronger writer than the younger students in the class, so use that to your advantage. Once the panic is over, these students have often been my best students (I teach writing-related courses). If you are a younger student and see an older student, be kind to him or her.

Lifespans are tricky, so starting college 10 or 20 years after the traditional age student may not, longterm, be that bad of an idea. And, over time, if you are, say, 40 and entering a white collar job market, the recruiter doesn't care if you had gotten that degree 20

year ago or yesterday. A degree is yours forever once granted. Go for it!

-Finally, there is the student who suddenly feels that college is too hard and is overwhelmed. They aren't used to getting papers back covered in red ink (your high school teacher was too easy), answering questions properly when called on in class and all of the reading.

But you are using new muscles. It will take time to get your academic stamina going. Don't give up.

The red ink is nothing personal. Instructors do that to everyone. OK, you may not be very articulate yet - I was barely a step up from a caveman my freshman year in college as far as speaking ability. That improves dramatically over your college years. Don't sweat it.

As for the reading, it's OK to be a slow reader. I tend to have two speeds. I can read quickly if it's not a work of creative writing, but for such works I tend to read each sentence twice just to absorb it. We all do that.

But don't be afraid to ask for help in your campus learning labs. They are non-judgmental and eager to make a difference. Let them do their work and help you.

In short, you can do this. I personally know you can because I have encountered practically every type of student, and all have the ability. The fact that you've read this article to the end is a very promising sign!

Student loan debt weighs more on dropouts

Jaelynn Grisso
Scripps Howard Foundation Wire

Most politicians talk about student loans as if they are a burden for borrowers, but some experts say they should instead be seen as investments.

Just this past summer Democratic presidential candidate Martin O'Malley announced a plan to allow all students at public universities to graduate debt

free, a personal hope for the former Maryland governor who has borrowed \$339,200 to put two of his four children through college.

"All of the research is very clear: College pays off," said Mamie Voight, director of policy research at the Institute for Higher Education Policy. "A manageable amount of debt is worth it."

But for students who do not earn degrees, student loan debt can be crippling.

pling.

"The truth is that student debt is not necessarily a bad thing," she said. "Where we have problems is when students end up with too much debt, or don't get the degree."

Students who borrowed money for school but did not finish are four times as likely to default on those loans because they face higher unemployment rates and lower average salaries.

Safety tips to prevent your being hacked

College campuses have traditionally been a magnet for thieves and scammers. Hackers and identity thieves are drawn to students like moths to a porch light. These days, anything you have that connects to the Internet – your computer, smartphone or tablet – is the target of countless cybercriminals.

Max Nomad, IT computer consultant and author of the book *Surviving "The Zombie Apocalypse: Safer Computing Tips for Small Business Managers and Everyday People"* offers up these tips to help students (and their parents) keep their information safe:

Turn on security features – every mobile device has a number of security features, such as passcodes/PIN numbers, unlock patterns, device lockouts, encryption and etc. The idea is to make sure the information on your device is either inaccessible or unreadable if it gets into the wrong hands. Check your documentation for specifics. NOTE: this is best done when you take the device out of the box.

Don't use your computer or mobile device on any public WiFi until you've done the following:

Make sure your computer or device has been fully updated – this applies to Android, iOS, Mac OS X and Windows. The more current you keep it, the lower the chances it can get infected. This is your machine's equivalent of getting a yearly flu-shot and allergy shots every two weeks.

Make sure you've installed a Mobile Security & Antivirus app – most major antivirus companies provide free Mobile Security / Antivirus apps for Android and iOS.

Make sure the Firewall on your laptop is enabled – both Windows and

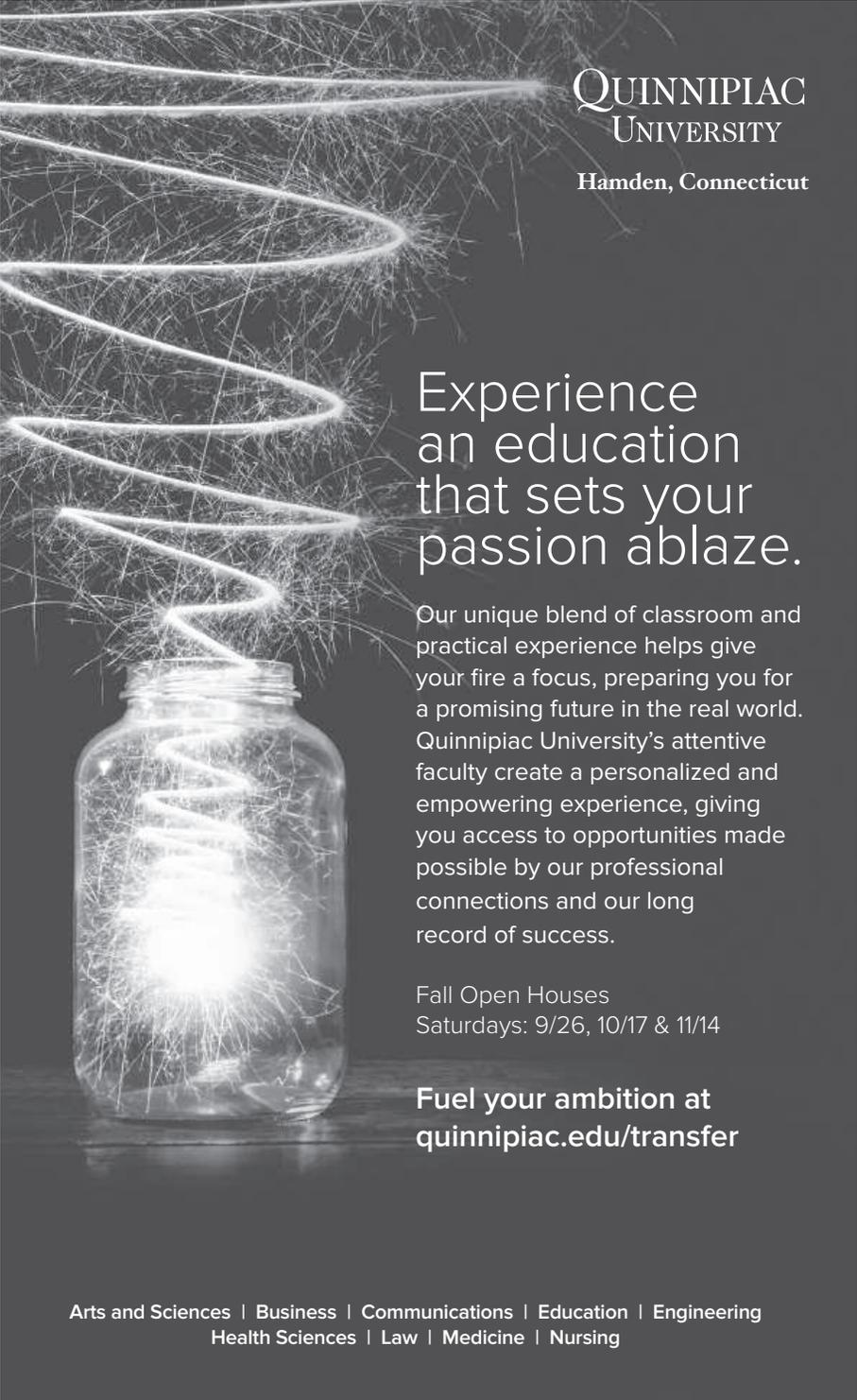
Mac OS X come with built-in firewall features. Always keep them on for an extra layer of protection, particularly if you plan to use public WiFi hotspots.

Shield your credit cards – credit and debit cards with the embedded RFID chips can be scanned from a few feet away. While this makes them convenient, electronic pickpockets can walk by and steal the information off your card without ever touching it. There are plenty of RFID blockers and blocker wallets on the market but, despite their claims, many have proven not to be 100% effective. A cheap alternative is to keep your credit cards in an Altoids tin. It's not cool, kind of bulky, but proven to be 100% effective as long as the top is closed.

Get a pre-paid credit card for use around town – many college students practically live off of that first credit card... and identity thieves know it. Credit card thieves commonly skim information from cards used in restaurants, bars, clubs, corner stores and other places with high customer traffic. Since most prepaid cards do not report to the credit bureaus, if yours gets stolen and used it won't affect your credit. A prepaid card will also keep you from overspending – a mistake that can damage your credit far more than any thief!

Don't use your ATM / debit card for purchases – debit card protections are not as good as credit card protections. And if a scammer gets your debit card number they can also drain your entire bank account. If you have a debit card, stash it in a safe place and only use it to withdraw cash from a local branch of your bank.

Find more tips on www.ccn.us/



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How to write better college essays

Robert Cutrera
Campus News

Whether you are beginning your first semester of college or are returning to school after summer break, you are going to have to acclimate yourself once again to the demands of college writing. For many reasons, this can be a daunting task. The college standard for writing is much higher than the typical compare and contrast assignments you found littered throughout your high school career. Your voice matters much more in your collegiate papers, and in order to develop that voice, much practice and preparation needs to be given.

The process of writing an analytical essay, generally the most common type of essay assigned in first year writing courses, is a slow and thoughtful task, but there are a few things you can be aware of to make this transition easier for yourself.

The Introduction

Probably the biggest difference between high school and college essay writing is the format and structure of introductions. High school teachers often prescribe a method that clearly outlines your topic and concisely communicates to your audience a general meaning; don't forget the importance of this suggestion, as it is true for college as well. But college introductions need to have more of your personality. This requires thorough attention to detail and deep thinking. It is essential for you to understand that your opening paragraph, even your first line, sets the stage for the rest of your essay, and also decides for your audience whether or not they want to continue reading your work. Of course, your professor will always read your essay, no matter the quality of your introduction, but if you are looking for an A or A- you'll have to make sure your introduction is attention grabbing and sharp.

Thesis Statement

Technically, this is part of the introduction, but it deserves its own space and mention. Your thesis statement is

basically what your essay is about. High school began teaching you the importance of a clear and concise thesis statement, but in college thesis statements should not be contained to a single line. Your introduction needs to build up to your thesis, making sure that the final sentence of the first paragraph rings loudly in the minds of your audience. Ask yourself, "What claim am I making for this paper? And is that claim completely obvious to someone who doesn't know anything about my topic?" While the answers to these questions may seem obvious to you, you need to consider them from different perspectives.

The Body Paragraphs

The paragraphs between the introduction and conclusion are often referred to as the body paragraphs, what constitutes the details and descriptions of your paper. You should always make sure that each paragraph begins with a topic sentence, clearly outlining the point of the particular paragraph. There really isn't a "right" way to go about this, though. You can keep the common point-counterpoint-solution template, and you will find that it is often successful; but in order to attain consistently high marks, you will need to add your own unique touch to how you present these points. Does your essay call for outside research? If not, consider bringing in a relevant source to solidify your own views. Also, you will want to avoid using cliché remarks or popularly held points of view without giving time to deconstruct their meaning. The last thing you want is for your professor to read your paper and feel that you have contributed nothing new to the dialogue surrounding the topic you wrote about.

The Conclusion

High school may have taught you to approach the conclusion as a review of what you have already covered in the rest of your paper. In some ways, this is right. Your conclusion does need to connect to what you have already written in your essay, but, by no means, are you required to review all the material

over again.

What sense is there in ending your paper by restating, in other words, what you just had your audience read? The conclusion is the point in your paper where you can make connections to your topic that did not necessarily fit into your essay or to give a completely new perspective that you did not have a chance to write about.

Make sure not to limit yourself here either just because you want to end the paper. Your conclusion is, most likely, the last thing your professor will read before giving you a grade, so the impression you make here is very important.

Another big mistake is to rearrange the sentences and ideas already stated in your introduction; this is obvious and a waste of space that could have been dedicated to a new point or perspective.

Proofreading

While this is not technically part of the essay, it is necessary for the overall quality of your essay. By going back and rereading over your work, you are allowing yourself the chance to catch small grammatical mistakes — never trust the auto-correct function on word processors, as they often guess the wrong word — and to change a sentence or two in order to better accommodate the ideas you are trying to express. It is so easy to make small mistakes that you do not catch in the process of writing.

If possible, upon completion of your essay, put a day in between proofreading. This will allow you to approach your writing with fresh eyes. Also, if you



have someone who is willing to read over your essay and provide constructive feedback, you should look to get their opinion. Some professors will offer peer review/editing days in class to allow for this, but, if not, ask a friend or family member.

Also, as a side note, make sure to always meet the minimum page requirement. If your assignment calls for four pages, that means a full four pages, not three full pages and a paragraph on the fourth page. This is a place where many students will lose points unnecessarily.

These are just a few tips to help you begin your writing assignments for the upcoming Fall semester. Writing is a very personal process that you should take very seriously. By practicing and paying detailed attention to how you write and the multifarious ways you can improve your writing skills, you will not only succeed in many aspects of college, but you will set yourself up for many successes in life after college.

Robert Cutrera has an M.A. in English from SUNY New Paltz and has taught Composition courses at numerous colleges over the past three years.



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Community college 'chargeback' pushback

Tyler McNeil
Campus News

Travelling across county lines to get to school in the morning actually makes a difference in the way community colleges and counties operate, for better or worse.

Recently, many two-year schools and counties across New York State have been anticipating the arrival of a new system of funding, replacing a nearly half-century-old system, starting in the 2016-17 academic year.

The new methodology in the way counties pay for residents attending community colleges outside of their home county or "chargebacks" is projected to cause a \$6.3 million total loss of SUNY charge-

back revenue (based on information from the 2014-15 fiscal year) for a five-year phase-in period, hitting 20 community colleges with a \$15.9 million chargeback revenue loss.

Despite negative implications for two-thirds of SUNY two-year schools, 10 community colleges could see a combined \$9.3 million increase in chargeback revenue by the 2021-22 academic year. One of those schools, Nassau Community College is projected to have a \$335,674 total gain in chargeback revenue by the 2021-22 academic year.

The need for reform was a result of large chargeback shifts during the Great Recession when enrollment shot up. "In the past system, colleges were consistently overcharged or forced to undercharge resulting from the formula," said James Corra, director of communications for the SUNY Student Assembly. in a statement.

In 2012, by order of the legislature, SUNY and CUNY submitted a study on capital chargeback and reform for a uniform chargeback rate landed the following year in the

2013-14 New York State Enacted Budget. "We were asked to prepare a document to reevaluate and make changes to the chargeback process," said President of the Community College Business Officers Association Hezekiah Simmons.

In the most recent SUNY report, submitted to the state legislature on June 1, a college's chargeback rate would be determined by dividing county sponsorship by the number of full-time equivalent students to determine a college's chargeback rate, based off of the current CUNY model.

A change in formula means HVCC could lose \$7.6 million.

Nassau, Rockland, Suffolk and other counties across the state have charged local cities

and towns with millions in chargeback fees. The Town of Hempstead was hit with over \$1.6 million in chargebacks a year after Nassau County started charging local governments for FIT in 2010. As a result, the county won the battle last year with FIT being considered eligible for chargebacks under state law despite having four-year programs.

Putnam County paid \$3 million for chargebacks for the 2014-15 fiscal year with the majority of fees for FIT. "I would be in favor of [chargeback reform] as long as it takes pressure off the county and taxpayers," said Putnam County Commissioner of Finance William Carlin.

Along with FIT, Orange County has been hit by neighboring community colleges such as Rockland County Community College and Dutchess County Community College. According to Orange County Legislator Jeff Berkman, Orange County chargeback fees have been greatly impacted by neighboring community colleges with accommodations such as student housing. "Some community colleges survive on the aid of other counties and that

becomes a money drain on some counties to the benefit of others," he said.

Chargeback fees for Erie County rose when Niagara County Community College constructed student housing in 2008 and a new building for its culinary arts, hospitality and tourism programs four years later. "The current formula for chargeback fees has burdened Erie County's towns and any revisions that even the playing field would be a benefit locally," said Erie County Legislator Edward A. Rath, III in an email.

The report includes a suggestion for legislation to subsidize counties impacted by chargeback costs. Suffolk County Legislator Tom Cilmi hopes finalized legislation will include county subsidies due to an increased chargeback rate from colleges such as FIT. "It's like me trying to part the Atlantic Ocean because of the political nature but nonetheless, it's something that we're going to fight for, for sure," said Cilmi.

Since 1992, New York State has fallen below its established one-third share funding for community colleges (the other sources of revenue are tuition and local support). "I

watch the debate about chargebacks and how they're going to throw a few more crumbs to the counties and people miss the entire issue. The issue is that the State of New York is throwing it to counties when it comes to funding community colleges," said Rockland County Executive Ed Day.

Chargeback

reform has led Hudson Valley Community College to work with Rensselaer County to increase sponsor contributions for the college over five years. "The change in state legislation with regard to chargeback caused us to really sit down with the county and problem solve," HVCC President Drew Matonak said.

HVCC has been projected to receive the greatest losses in chargeback revenue with an 8.5 percent loss (\$7.6 million). Possible changes were suggested in the report to give schools like HVCC and heavily impacted counties a longer phase-in period to adjust to the change.

The report also suggests making it clear that "regional community colleges" such as Jamestown Community College and Corning Community College are exempt from the phase-in process. "They want to make that more explicit so there's no confusion in the future," said Assemblyman Chad Lupinacci (R, C, I - South Huntington).

Revisions to chargeback reform are expected to be finalized before the legislation goes into effect less than a year from now.



How do college Republicans feel?

Matthew J. Connor
Scripps Howard Foundation Wire

Young conservatives converged this past summer to think about which older conservative would best represent the Republican Party in 2016.

Bay Buchanan, president of the American Cause and former treasurer of the United States under President Ronald Reagan, told more than 200 college students that the eventual GOP nominee must adopt part of Donald Trump's flare.

"The Republican establishment has failed us," Buchanan said. "We don't need Trump representing our party, but we do need someone just as outspoken."

The sister of three-time presidential candidate Pat Buchanan was one of the featured speakers on the third day of the Young America's Foundation's national conference.

With 16 people vying for the 2016 GOP nomination, Buchanan said each candidate needs to make his or her policies exciting for young voters.

Millennials, the largest generation in the country, could determine the fate of either party for the White House in 2016.

Tristan Justice, 18, an incoming freshman from at American University in Washington from Columbus, Ohio, said he wants his governor, John Kasich, to be the GOP nominee.

"He's got both the private sector

experience and the congressional experience," Justice said. "He doesn't play political games like the others."

More than 200 college conservatives attend a speech by Bay Buchanan, former Treasurer of the United States under President Regan. She said Ohio Gov. John Kasich will become more popular with the GOP base, but is too boring to win the party's nomination. SHFWire photo by Matthew J. Connor

Buchanan said she is unconvinced that Kasich can win the nomination. In the latest CNN/ORC International poll, Kasich polled at 4 percent, tying with New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and retired surgeon Ben Carson for eighth place. Trump was ahead of Kasich by 14 points.

"He's boring," Buchanan said. "Boring doesn't beat Trump."

Buchanan said conservative college students must work harder to engage their peers in political conversations about 2016.

Buchanan said the Founding Fathers fought so people would have the right to freedom of speech.

She said that, at college campuses, conservatives must confront their more liberal or independent peers and challenge them on issues ranging from abortion to the national debt.

"One person can change a lot," Buchanan



Photo by author.

said. "What you believe is right for this country. And I challenge every single one of you to start the debate."

Buchanan said people incorrectly label Republicans for their values, but this should not silence students who identify with the party.

"We're considered to be racists, xenophobes, homophobes and a couple other things," Buchanan said. "But all we are are Americans who hold traditional values."

The GOP's presidential nominee has failed to win a majority of millennial voters since 2004 when the first few members of the generation were old enough to vote.

Students at the conference did not have a consensus on the right candidate for 2016.

Lauren Houck, 21, a rising senior at Eastern Michigan University from Jackson, Mich., said one GOP candidate is already winning millennial voters with social media.

"Scott Walker announced his campaign via Instagram," Houck said. "I follow the campaign on Snapchat, and it's like you're right there."

Sergio Mota, 19, a student at Indian River State College from Sebastian, Fla., said that Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, best represents the GOP because he is the most principled.

Mota said Trump is making a good point about immigration policies.

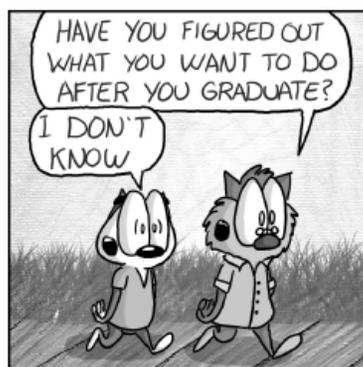
"I'm Hispanic, and I believe we should have a strong border," Mota said.

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Campus crime reporting rules confusing

Nadia Dreid

Scripps Howard Foundation Wire

When Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., called for the repeal of the Clery Act at a campus safety conference in June, Annette Spicuzza clapped. She wasn't alone – the room rumbled with the applause of a hundred plus educators.

"I know the mess it is," McCaskill said of the law. "So my goal would be to remove it."

The Clery Act, enacted in 1991, requires all colleges and universities receiving federal money to collect and publish information on crimes that occur on or around campus. The law's namesake, Jeanne Clery, a Lehigh University student, was murdered in her dorm room in 1986.

The Clery Act has been amended and expanded since then, and schools across the country have hired compliance officers like Spicuzza, who works for Stanford University, to keep up with its requirements.

'As if we're being set up to fail'

Spicuzza applauded McCaskill's statement because she said the law has become too complicated to accomplish its own goals.

"Clery is – the spirit of it is wonderful," Spicuzza said. "It's just become very confusing and very difficult for individuals to define and navigate through."

The Clery Act requires schools to have a public crime log that is updated within two days of any reportable incident. Schools are required to report crimes that fall into seven categories, including criminal homicide, sex offenses and aggravated assault. They are also required to publish an annual security report that includes three years of crime statistics.

Schools are responsible for devising notification and response systems for emergencies, to inform students of danger in a timely manner, among other re-

quirements.

"It's become so bureaucratic and so confusing in terms of property, location, geography, crime classifications and now the addition of dating, domestic and stalking," Spicuzza said. "It almost makes you feel as if we're being set up to fail."

"The Department of Education just accepts it"

If a university is found out of compliance with the Clery Act, it can be fined up to \$35,000 per violation, or it could lose all federal funding.

The bill McCaskill is sponsoring, the Campus Safety and Accountability Act, would not repeal Clery. It seeks to reduce sexual assault on college campuses by creating cooperation between university and town police, providing additional information to students and providing more training to campus officials.

CleryNumbersWith bipartisan support from 33 cosponsors, the bill was considered by a committee last month, but has not yet been put to a vote. The bill would require schools to publish Clery information online and raise the maximum penalty for a Clery violation to \$150,000.

But even with the current fines, few schools pay penalties. Since 2012, only eleven schools have been issued notices for violations and proposed fines.

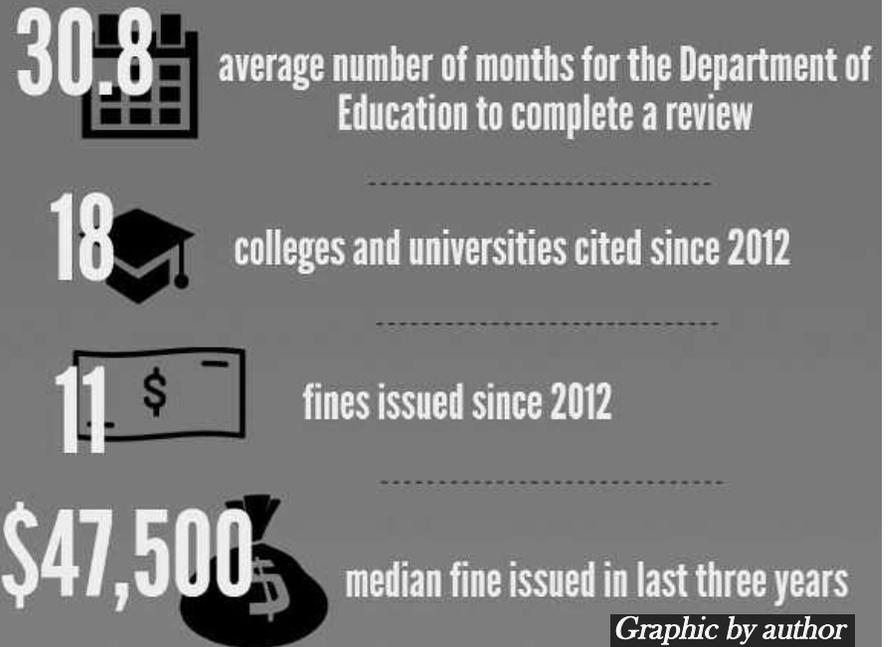
'A campus with 30,000 people claims zero rapes.'

What's even more troubling to people like Frank LoMonte, director of the Student Press Law Center, is the number of schools that aren't reporting at all. Or rather, their reports don't match reality.

"We have universities with 20,000 and 30,000 people on campus claiming to have zero rapes," LoMonte said. "And the Department of Education just accepts the report, files it, posts it on the web and says thank you."

Higher numbers of reported rapes can be a good thing, Alison Kiss, executive director of the Clery Center said. They usually mean more women feel safe enough to come forward and report their assaults.

CLERY BY THE NUMBERS



From 2010 to 2012, 30 percent of colleges and universities with over 1,000 students reported zero forcible sex offenses. If large colleges are regularly reporting zero assaults, women either aren't coming forward or numbers are getting fudged, Kiss and LoMonte said.

"There is every incentive to lie because the Department of Education is so ineffective at auditing people that you're almost certain to get away with it," LoMonte said.

The Department of Education has published reports citing violations at 19 schools since 2012, but oftentimes, investigations drag on for years.

'Do you feel safe?'

During her keynote speech at the conference, McCaskill called Clery ineffective and a mess. She suggested scrapping it entirely and replacing it with what her bill calls a "campus climate survey."

"The campus climate survey is really what parents want," McCaskill said. "The campus climate survey is going to ask kids, 'Do you think your school is trying to do a good job? Have you been told where you can go if you were as-

saulted? Do you feel safe?'"

But the climate survey would gauge only students' feelings and opinions about campus safety. It wouldn't produce hard data on campus crime.

LoMonte said he thinks McCaskill is well-intentioned, but that her aims are misplaced.

"I think that she is probably awakening to the reality that those statistics are not worth the paper they're printed on," LoMonte said. "When you realize how unreliable the numbers are, it makes you question whether the reports are helpful."

But that is an argument for better enforcement of the Clery requirements, LoMonte said, not to remove them.

"It just shouldn't be that hard to count crime," LoMonte said. "Colleges seem to struggle with this, and they have such a hard time with it. But that's because they have every incentive to downplay the numbers and very little incentive to tell the truth."

McCaskill's communications director did not respond to several requests for clarification on her comments about the Clery Act.

President, First Lady address college-bound

Jaelynn Grisso

Scripps Howard Foundation Wire

Oscar McClain tried his hardest to get good grades in school. He wasn't always that way; when he was in 6th grade, he skated by with C's. But after his grandfather died, he realized he could do better, so he worked harder. Hard enough, in fact, to receive straight A's through high school and graduate as salutatorian. Now he's preparing to go to college and major in chemical engineering.

McClain, of Baton Rouge, La., and over 130 other college-bound students listened as the first lady told them to aim for the biggest dream they have. Michelle Obama hosted a summit for students last month at the White House.

The president dropped by, and Wade, whose musical career took off during college, said his time in school was "taking the training wheels off." He wakes up every morning at 6 a.m., he said, because if he didn't then he might miss an opportunity. He learned that from college.

"I always refer to my college days because it taught me to be self-made," he said. "It taught me how to be my own boss. And a lot of you guys are going to be your own bosses one day."

As part of her Reach Higher initiative, the first lady shared advice with the college-bound students from across the country during a "Beating the Odds" summit. The students at the summit were

chosen because they overcame disadvantages in order to go to college.

"Do not be afraid to fail," the first lady said. "And sometimes that's why we don't work hard because we think maybe if we put our all into it and we don't really achieve what we want, then that's somehow a statement."

She added more advice: "Roll up

your sleeves. Don't be afraid to work hard. And if you fail, then recover. Get over it. Get up, figure out what went wrong, and go back in."

The summit included a panel discussions, a performance by Wade and workshops hosted by the Department of Education, Chief Education Evangelist for Google Jaime Casap and other education leaders, all designed to give students the tools they need to graduate.

Rising Brown University senior Manuel Contreras, of San Diego, a Mexican-American and first-generation college student, said he felt he did not fit in at Brown when he started college and soon did not fit in at home because of his experiences at Brown.

"There were a lot of students that were a lot wealthier than me," Contreras said. "There were a lot of students that would talk about books - books that I'd never read because my high school wasn't as resourced as other schools were. ... While Brown was wonderful, and there was this great community and all this stuff is really exciting, there were so many times where I felt like I didn't belong there."

He decided he did not want that to be the experience for other first-

There were a lot of students wealthier than me.'

generation students, Contreras said, so he co-founded IvyG, a networking organization for first-generation students at Ivy League schools.

When President Barack Obama made a surprise appearance, he was greeted by an overjoyed, cheering crowd.

"America succeeds only when every young person in America is able to dream big and has the tools to make their dreams," he said to the



Photo by author.

students, most of whom held their cell phones high in the air. "If you are willing to work hard, if you are willing to dig deep, and if you're willing to make sacrifices, and if you're willing to embrace the values that are vested in us, there's nothing that is going to stop you. You've got to set

your bar high."

The Reach Higher initiative is designed to help students get the tools they need to get degrees or vocational training. The program also focuses on making college more affordable and teaching students how to succeed at college.

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Be sure to travel while in college!

James Grottola
Campus News

For two weeks in July, I was given an opportunity I never thought I would have ever had.

I've spent a decent portion of my life involved in the "underground" music scene that comes from seeing bands play to 40 or 50 people in bars that don't normally see traffic from people over 30. Through the interactions that come out of going to concerts in these bars, I met three people who perform under the name Sinai Vessel.

About a year after meeting Sinai Vessel, I was given the option to accompany them on a two-week tour that would have me going from Boston, to Buffalo, to Philadelphia and back. I'm no stranger to traveling or meeting people from outside the state, but Buffalo was certainly the farthest I would have been from home without at least being accompanied by my parents.

Of course, I originally had my doubts about taking two weeks out of my summer to travel the northeastern United States, without even having the certainty of a place to sleep every night. The worries about not being able to get an internship, or take summer classes that stretched through July immediately flooded my thoughts.

However, I decided to take a risk and tell Danny, the bassist of the trio, that I would be taking the fourth seat in their Honda minivan for the two weeks in July.

What would follow would prove to be two of the most interesting weeks of my life and a sense of experience that would trump anything that an internship in a New York City office could have hoped to have ever given me.

Instead of pushing papers and opening and closing Microsoft Word

documents for another four lines that could be put on my resume when I left college, I found myself cliff diving into lakes in Western Massachusetts, taking photos of newly made friends silhouetted against the Rochester skyline, climbing to the roof of an abandoned grain mill in Buffalo and simply overall making the most out of the sights of the northeast while I was still young.

Now when most of the people I meet talk about traveling, their experiences normally revolve around the common sights of a city or a resort that's based entirely around a hotel.

'It may be as easy as packing a car with friends and driving to new cities.'

In my case, out of the 14 nights I spent away from home, two of them had me in cheap \$75 motels, while the rest had me sleeping on the floors or couches of either complete strangers, or friends I had yet to meet that were associated with the band I traveled with.

After comparing the stories I was able to tell with those of my friends who worked harder to afford a more luxurious vacation, I was able to confirm that I could definitely win a non-existent storytelling competition and that my experiences were going to stick in my mind way longer than theirs.

The point of this anecdote isn't to downplay the fun of spending a week on a resort, or the importance of work experience before graduating, but to talk about how unorthodox experiences are beneficial to metaphysical development in ways that the standard "college summer traditions" just can't match.

Unfortunately, not everybody is able to have the background in music that I have, in which I regularly make friends who are attempting to make a living out of traveling the country and

ideally, the world, spreading their art. The key message to take away isn't the fun of touring a part of the nation with people making music either, but again to talk about how beneficial the idea of going from unknown town to unknown town, sleeping on the floor of a stranger's house and finding out the tales that humanity has to offer.

My suggestion is to just save up enough money to take a week off of work, find a friend with a car big enough for a group with three to five people, find some towns you wish to explore, load up on necessities and just make a break for the road.

In traveling there's so much talk about going places that sometimes the physical act of traveling doesn't even take place. In touring, the sentiment is much more on "just going for it," which I believe is a sentiment that everybody should have when leaving their hometown.

So much thought goes into "Where am I going to stay?" "What am I going to eat?" and "Will I even enjoy it?" that people forget how much easier things are in the heat of the moment than they think.

In my experience, I was able to go two whole weeks only sleeping in a small amount of \$75 motels and the

floors of friends of friends, while binging on cheap fast food combos and promotions that had me spending less than five dollars per day on feeding myself.

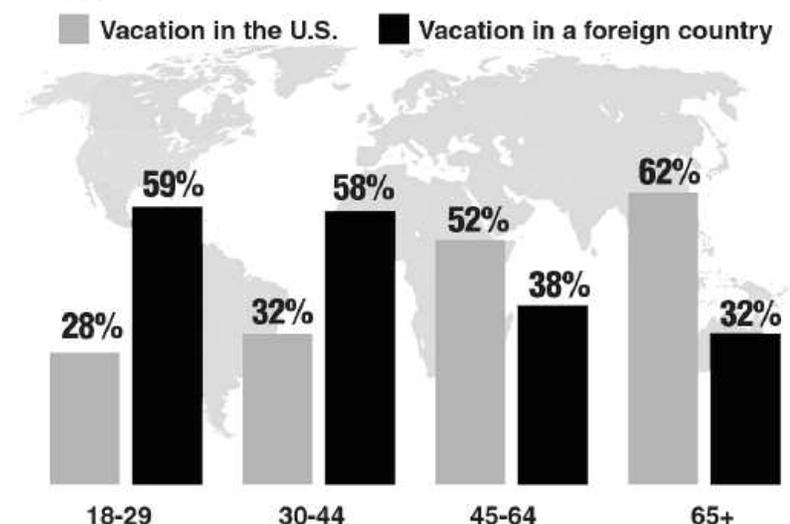
Given, this isn't the healthiest way to treat oneself when trying to make it out of the home state, but even on the cheapest of budgets, it's still relatively simple to travel the country.

You don't need a resort to put cool Instagram filters on a post captioned, "#vacation," but you can do it on a small budget if you're willing to drop a bit of luxury for cool life experience. Travel agencies advertise luxury, but the real life experience that comes from traveling comes with the stories that are created by putting yourself outside of your comfort zone.

Given, I may be a bit biased in the advice I've given simply based on how good of a time I actually had, but if I can do this making seven-hour drives most days because those are the only places we could get a show in, I'm sure that you'll have an even better time being in charge of the route of your experiences. The road is freedom and freedom is the feelings that are given by the road.

Here or there

If money were no object, would you prefer to take a vacation in the United States or would you rather take a vacation in a foreign country?



Source: yougov.com
Graphic: Greg Good, Tribune News Service

'Ask April,' a new advice column

Dear April,

In just a week me and my boyfriend are going to different colleges, but they are only 3 hours away from each other. The thing is I am scared...I trust him but he can not communicate well. I know it sounds childish when he takes a really long time to answer texts but I do not know how a long distance relationship will work when he takes hours to text back unless I send a question mark... I love him and he loves me, but I do not know what is best for me if I am going to worry about him at college. We always talked about our future and everything and I can see with him, but what should I do. I do not want to be upset and I do not want to break up but if he never listens to how serious I am when it comes to communication, do you think I should move on?

**Please help me,
Collegegirl3**

Dear Collegegirl3:

I think it's very difficult for young people going off to different colleges to retain a long distance relationship. There are more available single people at college than anywhere else in your adult life. This makes it very easy for singles to flirt, date and get involved with other people. Since you already have communication issues with your boyfriend, adding that issue to this scenario is going to make for misery. The other issue is that going off to college is exciting -- but it's also scary, and many people hold onto relationships as safety nets because they're afraid to face the future. That's not a good reason to stay together at this time in your lives.

I hear you saying that you don't want to break up, but you don't want to be upset because your boyfriend doesn't communicate with you the way you'd like -- so you've kind of painted yourself into a corner. I think that although it's difficult, the best thing for both of you is to let go and move on. If you find yourselves dating during winter break and summer break -- if you're both in the same cities at the

same times, then you should reevaluate, then. But for now, with these big life changes in front of you, I think it's going to be easiest and most practical for you to break up on good terms, and go to your respective colleges. If you don't, I think you're going to be focused on the problems in your long distance relationship, not the experiences in front of you.

Dear April,

My ex and I dated for about 5 months and had what I considered a great relationship. We were very compatible, shared similar interests, and were very much in love. The only thing was, my family wasn't crazy about him for primarily 1 reason: he has 2 DUI's, the last of which he got last November (and now he has a breathalyzer in his car). He's also been in college for 5 years now, though he'll graduate next spring (I'm 22, he's 23), and he has a reputation from high school for smoking lots of pot (which he still does occasionally). So those are his "bad" qualities. He has plenty of wonderful ones as well (he's caring, kind, very intelligent, passionate, always nonjudgmental,... the list goes on). Not to mention he was a wonderful boyfriend.

So the breaking point came in late June when he vacationed with my family. This was his first real vacation in nearly 10 years, so he was excited. The problem was that he drank a lot (especially by my conservative parents' standards). On 3 of the days of the trip (out of 7 total), he drank 6 to 8 beers over a period of several hours. He never got super drunk, but I got upset with him after the 2nd night of drinking like that because I knew it would irritate my parents. Then he drank like that again a few nights later. I was annoyed, but the trip was pretty good otherwise. When we got home, my family confronted me, saying that I needed to break up with him: his drinking behavior had been unacceptable in their eyes (especially given his 2 DUI's). I also found out

the reason they hadn't commented on his drinking during the trip was because they were hoping I'd "see the problem for myself." So they were hoping this trip would cause me to break up with him. I'm an extreme people pleaser, especially towards my family, and I did see where they were coming from. So in my emotional state, I broke up with him the following day.

To keep this story from getting too long, we've kept in touch since the break up and are on good terms. We know that we both still have feelings for the other, and he knows the full story of why I broke up with him. He really regrets his behavior on the trip, too.

I think I'm leaning towards getting back together with him, despite my parents' disapproval. Do I seem crazy for wanting him back, or does it seem like a really bad idea? I know that I still love him and that my parents just want the best for me. But does it seem like a mistake to go against my parents for this guy?

**Sincerely,
Blinded By Love**

Dear Blinded:

This isn't really about going against your parents. It's about doing what's right for yourself and for your ex-boyfriend.

On 3 of the 7 vacation days that your parents hosted you and your boyfriend, he drank 6 to 8 beers a day, over the course of several hours -- and that should ring a couple of alarm bells. That's a lot of alcohol for someone who has two DUI arrests at the age of 23.

If you really love him, or just care about him, you should be concerned about him. I know you said he's caring, kind and very intelligent -- but this behavior isn't caring, kind or very intelligent. He wasn't thinking about you or your parents -- or anyone on the

road, the two nights he was arrested for driving under the influence. That's not caring. It's uncaring. It's not kind, it's selfish. And it's not intelligent. It's unintelligent.

I understand that your parents want better for you. But this is really about you. Whether you date him again or not, if you care about someone -- really care about them -- that means wanting the best for them and acting in their best interests. It sounds

like you've been enabling him. Ask yourself what you did when he got so drunk on those 3 vacation days, knowing about his past issues with drugs and alcohol. Did you

take it seriously? Did you feel terrible, but decide to avoid conflict? Did you think it was funny? This is a great opportunity for you to learn more about yourself, and what it is you're looking for in a boyfriend. I'm guessing that your parents are hoping for someone who's responsible, moral and hard working -- beyond kind and caring. What do you think of those characteristics in a boyfriend?

I know this all may sound a little harsh, and I don't mean to hurt your feelings, but I think from what you're describing, he's more concerned about his relationship with a substance (alcohol) than he is with anyone else.

Let me know if you have any questions. And please let me know how things go for you

April Masini is a relationship expert and author with over 2 million social media fans. Visit her site AskApril.com, where you can send her your questions.



SCCC student's survival story (cont. from cover)

four years instead of two, she found happiness in the situation and within herself.

Renata Da Silva is always smiling. She loves her family, her friends and her boyfriend. She would do anything for them.

For eight semesters, Da Silva's bright brown eyes showed a happy front but behind them were pain, stress and anxiety. Growing up in Suffolk County, New York, she and her two younger siblings lived with their mother and father who originally hailed from Rio de Janeiro. When the family moved to New York, the Da Silvas wanted nothing more than to better the lives for their children and themselves.

But starting college while her parents were struggling to gain their green cards was hard for the recent high school grad. Like thousands of other students, she faced hardships but kept her head high while she survived going to school.

"My family was going through a tedious immigration process for us to

gain our green cards," she said. "I wasn't eligible for financial aid and in the beginning I was told that I might not be able to study at all."

After proving that her parents were taxpayers, Da Silva became emotional, she recalled, when the worker inside the financial aid office at Suffolk County Community College told her that she was finally able to attend her classes after graduating from Sachem High School East.

A lover of children and education, the student decided to major in Early Childhood Education so she could become a teacher. However, she decided to switch to General Liberal-Arts because she was not entirely sure what she wanted to do when she was finished at the community college. Still, she kept going to her classes and held her hopes high that she would be done and moving on in her life soon enough.

While she was at SCCC, Da Silva took small jobs using the money that she earned to help pay for her schooling.

"My main struggle was the money. I was paying for school myself without the help of my parents, not because they didn't want to help, but because I didn't want them too," she said.

"Even though Suffolk is more affordable than most colleges," she added, "as an 18-year-old working as a nanny part-time, I struggled. Every penny I earned was put into paying for school, books and supplies."

Da Silva said that the stress of working and pay-

ing for college without the financial support of her family only added more unnecessary conflict to her life. She said, "I would literally be stressed 90 percent of the time.

"All I would think about was, 'How am I going to pay for this semester?'"

With the financial help of a mother she was babysitting for, she was able to finish her year and afford to pay her bills.

In September 2011, Da Silva was granted her green card, finally allowing her to apply for financial aid so she would not have to struggle and pay out of pocket for her semester.

Because of her few setbacks, Da Silva ended up graduating from the college in January 2015, more than four years after her high school graduation. While some of her friends were leaving their universities and colleges with a bachelor's, the now 23-year-old finally received her associates degree.

Da Silva at times felt discouraged that she was on the long track to get her degree.

"It did drag on every once and a while but knowing that I was going to be the first one in my family to get some sort of college education was enough for me to keep going," she said proudly. "I told myself, no matter how long it takes, I will graduate and I will do it at my own pace."

Da Silva said that attending classes where she made friends – many whom she still keeps in contact with – made school much easier to deal with. Staying social helped her keep sane and able to survive going back to school each semester.

Speaking from her experiences, Da Silva gave insight on how to survive going back to school for her fellow students who are spending a little longer than expected at community college.

"My advice for any students who are in a similar situation or just strug-

gling in general is, always have someone to confide in and to never let stress get to you," she said.

"Being able to vent is sometimes the best medicine," she added.

Da Silva also said that having a

'All I would think about was, "How am I going to pay for this semester?'"

goal that will "keep you going" is an important part of going back to school.

"For me, it was my family and knowing that they were going to be proud of me," she said. By keeping a goal in mind, whatever it may be, Da Silva said that being on campus would be more appealing and easier to get through.

She also noted to not be afraid when it comes to not knowing exactly what you want to do. Starting college thinking she wanted to become a teacher and then changing her mind to general studies was the best option for her because she did not want to waste her time or money on a degree she may not eventually use.

"It's okay to not know what you want to do with the rest of your life," she advised.

Like thousands of other community college students who take the three or more years track, come back after leaving for a while or decide to go to school slightly differently than someone they know, Da Silva advocates that there is no need to rush.

She said by taking her time she was able to learn a lot about herself while getting through the issues that stood in her way on her way to school.

With a smile on her face, Da Silva said, "Do things at your own pace and get it done for your own happiness."

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Netflix: 'The Homesman' and 'Moreau'

Darren Johnson
Campus News

"The Homesman," starring (and directed by) Tommy Lee Jones and Hilary Swank, now on Netflix, is a fantastic movie for a lot of reasons, which I will get to in a second.

First, I wanted to state my critical philosophy, especially pertaining to how I write this column.

There are a lot of movies out there, and it does seem unfair for me — a lowly Netflix critic (though the first person in the world to start reviewing Netflix offerings for an established publication) — to crap on a movie that took months and millions to make in a column that takes about an hour to write; and especially considering that I have never made a movie myself.

So, considering there are a lot of movies out there — especially on Netflix, my playground — I see my value in finding hidden gems that

As well, I work under the pretense that you are not paying \$12 for a movie ticket, and instead are watching this for free, relatively, on Netflix. Some movies, where you can unwind on your sofa and pause as needed, work better on the small screen.

And, finally, a negative review does you little good — unless it's an over-hyped movie or TV series I think you may encounter based just on its large marketing budget. In those rare cases, I might write the negative review just to warn you, and save you time. Time has value, too. But, ultimately, I do the best service when giving you positive advice. Most bad movies I see on Netflix I simply don't bother you with, when there are so many good ones I can let you know about, instead.

Anyway, back to today's review, "The Homesman,"

which didn't do much at the box office in 2014 and features a "plain as a tin pail" Swank as a single, religious, un-marriageable homesteader in the mid-1800s, who takes it upon herself to take three mentally ill women east from Nebraska Territory to Iowa for help.

While this movie has a mediocre audience rating on Rotten Tomatoes, it did gain four out of five stars on Netflix from us regular Joes — a score that is similar to its 80% critics score on RT.

What makes this riveting is the attention to detail — all of the characters seem very authentic for the time period. As well, we are presented with a desolate Great Plains without hills or trees, but bearing many eerie symbols along the way.



'The Homesman'

Jones and Swank both portray mannerisms that seem true to that place and era, as well. Last, the idea of people, especially women, losing their minds in the Expansion west is a topic we don't read much of in history books, but it was a real problem then. The movie conveys well the fear and isolation of the setting. Too, we realize how long interstate travel took.

"The Homesman" is a well-acted, very accurate period drama, not to be confused with a typical Western, that teaches us about an important aspect of American history in a very real way. As well, this movie has an interesting perspective twist about two-thirds of the way through that I can't detail as not to spoil the story for you. Just hang in there...

'Moreau' Trilogy of Sorts

Anyone can review one movie at a time, but with this column, I aim to heighten your viewing experience by relating two or three movies to view together.

This time around, try the documentary "Lost Soul: The Doomed Journey of Richard Stanley's 'Island of Dr. Moreau,'" which details the

failed 1996 remake of the film based on the HG Wells book; then queue up the 1977 version of "The Island of Dr. Moreau," and finally take a look at Richard Stanley's "Hardware" indy film from 1990.

All three of these are currently

'It conveys isolation and fear, and how long interstate travel took.'

on Netflix. I suggest watching them in the above order.

By the way, I am a Wells fan. I had adapted his "The War of the Worlds" at one point, before the Tom Cruise movie, for the stage. While not the most interesting writer from a wordsmith perspective, he was a master of creating science fiction plots.

"Lost Soul" takes a very interesting look at how and why the 1996 "Moreau" remake — starring Marlon Brando and Val Kilmer — was a huge flop.

It is interesting in that Stanley, a

continued on page 23

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you may not be aware of for a number of reasons. For example, perhaps the movie wasn't advertised enough in its initial run and you missed it. Perhaps you were too young to have seen it then. Maybe critics did not like the movie initially, you read the reviews and avoided it at the time.



Richard Stanley in 'Lost Soul'

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12

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6

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Cut the cable TV cord, or not

What did Campus News do over its summer vacation?

Besides the usual concerts, vacations and book reading, we also watched a lot of TV.

But not just for entertainment - we also wanted to find out, from a college student's perspective, which may be the best TV option for you. We also worked with some of the key providers to get you discount phone numbers (though note: while some of these companies are advertisers, this article is as objective as possible).

Here is what we found:

Standard cable

Pros: Best quality picture, most reliable signal, good customer service, often packaged with Internet/phone.

Cons: Highest cost.

The Skinny: According to a survey we conducted separate from Campus News, we found that most community college students still primarily have cable TV, either through their parents or on their own. In our coverage area, that means primarily Time Warner Cable or Cablevision as providers. There is no denying that cable's service is the best of the bunch, but at the highest price, as well. That said, it is easier paying for TV, phone and Internet on one bill.

The Campus News Discount: TWC is offering a TV/Internet/phone package for \$89.99 with free HD DVR. If you don't need the phone package, they will give you a further discount.

Call 1-855-399-0157 for this deal. Cablevision did not offer a promotion, sorry!

Satellite TV

Pros: Lower prices than cable, over 99% reliable signal, special packages (such as NFL sports or Latino).

Cons: Picture looks a bit more "digital" than standard cable (our view), and you will probably need to go through your cable company for Internet, anyway.

The Skinny: There are two primary satellite TV providers, The Dish and Direct TV. The Dish is usually \$5-10 cheaper per month, but with less channels (though a decent Latino package). DirectTV is great for an NFL

We review your TV options, and offer some discount numbers.

lover. While not as convenient as dealing with a cable company, there is no denying the savings. The TV signal quality seemed a little less sharp than standard cable TV, but still sharp. DirectTV in general gets better customer-service ratings online. Both satellite options are especially good if you are getting Internet elsewhere.

The Campus News Discounts: For **The Dish**, including **Dish Latino**, call 1-844-254-0866. They start at \$19.99 a month, but for \$10 more, you get many more options. For **DirectTV**, which is offering a 12-month package that includes all NFL for \$29.99 a month (but this requires a 24-month contract; ask about the second-year charge (it still should be much cheaper than cable)), call 1-800-920-2817.

Free TV

Pros: It's free, and the signal quality is often excellent.

Cons: You are limited to broadcast channels.

The Skinny: A company called Mohu sent us Leaf 50



TWC and Cablevision offer the gold standard, but is it worth the price?



DirectTV and The Dish offer TV alternatives, but which deal works for you?



The Mohu Leaf gets free signals.

and Sky 60 amplified antennas to try and we were amazed at the quality. These are not the "rabbit ears" you see on TVs in old movies. For about \$70 for the Leaf and about \$150 for the Sky, you can get many free channels. You won't get the Comedy Centrals, AMCs or Showtimes, but will get ABC, NBC, CBS, Fox, PBS and some indy channels. You may also get some channels from neighboring states. For example, if you are a Patriots fan living on Long Island, you may get a handful of New England stations and be able to watch their home games. We tried these products on a TV about 50 miles from any notable city and got 17 channels, of which about 12 came in very clearly, similar to cable quality. If you are getting Internet already, you can then add Netflix and other a la carte

apps to your menu to give it more flavor. The Leaf has about a 50 mile reach and fits nicely on a desk or the like (but you need one for each TV) while the Sky goes 60 miles and is much more serious, capable of even being placed outdoors, but assembly is required. Both are good enough, if your intent is to have free TV.

The Campus News Discounts: Please use the following Amazon links for the best prices we could find:

Mohu Leaf 50:

<http://amzn.to/1EtPKaQ>

Mohu Sky 60:

<http://amzn.to/1N32RTh>

Whatever your goal is, be sure to try to get the most for your money, and tailor a plan that fits your likes, habits and lifestyle. Happy viewing!



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Jack Mandel, MBA
Campus News

Hey, Campus News readers,
“I’m talking to YOU!”

Don’t you realize that we are at the beginning of a new semester? Don’t you realize that the timing couldn’t be better than TODAY to pursue a fresh, positive start for yourself? NOW is the time for action to take the place of excuses.

So, let me get personal! Let’s say it’s not you, but a close friend, a brother or sister, cousin or neighbor who is somehow not doing the right thing with his or her life ... in short, a screw up.

Instead of striving for an “A” or “B” grade in college, that individual is happy with a “C” or “D.” Instead of seeking a promotion at work by being more responsible, he or she comes in late and is in jeopardy of being fired. Instead of being motivated and passionate about life, that individual drinks too much alcohol or gets high on weed on a regular basis. Know anybody that fits the above description? I do, and I call them LOSERS!

For every hour of every day of every month of every year, such individuals need to take their own destinies into control. When is the time to “walk the walk” rather than “talk the talk?” Isn’t the answer obvious? It’s THIS very moment in time!

WHY NOT BE A WINNER?

You see, it isn’t enough to “want” to get better grades, to “want” to earn more money at your job, to “want” a better relationship with your parents, boyfriend/girlfriend ... because each of us wants things. Unfortunately, “wanting” is never enough.

You can say anything you want

because words are easy to roll off a tongue. In fact, YOU WANT WHAT YOU HAVE. You see, if you were really serious about wanting something different, you would take the actions needed in order to achieve your goal. Only actions produce results. Nothing else really matters. However, words, wants or thoughts don’t really mean much. It’s what you DO that will get you what and where you want to be!

Your success depends on having the ability, the drive and the determination to eliminate the non-successful behaviors you exhibit to yourself and others.

You can’t plead ignorance or lack a plan of action. Ever hear the expression “if you fail to plan, you are planning to fail?” It holds true in personal and business situations again and again. Try to start paying attention to people around you who you admire. Observe their actions and get a clue about what works for them.

In short, become a self-starter – a TRUE WINNER! I have the confidence that you can make it happen.

Jack Kent Mandel is a Professor of Marketing at Nassau Community College. He is the recipient of the prestigious Outstanding Teacher Award conferred by the NYS Association of Two-Year Colleges.



Dems tackle debt-free college initiative

Quentin Misiag

Scripps Howard Foundation Wire

Progressive Democrats rallying behind a national bipartisan goal of debt-free college who have received love from half of 2016's Democratic presidential hopefuls had a firm message to Hillary Clinton: It's your move.

Armed with over 400,000 petition signatures and more than 70 congressional backers, several liberal lawmakers, lobbyists and college students took to the Capitol recently to help more students go to college without sinking into debt.

"The next thing would be to have Hillary Clinton mention student loan debt in her ... speech," said Marissa Barrow, a spokeswoman for the Progressive Change Campaign Committee.

Clinton was scheduled to give a major speech to formally launch her campaign June 13 in New York.

The committee's co-founder, Adam Green, said financial liabilities "must be a central issues in the 2016 presidential debate."

The lawmakers and progressive group representatives also said they hope that Republican presidential candidates will come around to the idea.

According to a January poll conducted by GBA Strategies, 71 percent of likely 2016 voters across all political parties and affiliations support debt-free college.

The idea of debt-free college is the number one issue that would have gotten Democrats who didn't vote in the 2014 midterms to do so, the poll found.

But in a May 18 visit to Iowa, Clinton appeared to have embraced a national debt-free college standard saying: "We have to deal with the indebtedness - to try to move toward making college as debt-free as possible."

Half of the Democratic presidential hopefuls have explicitly supported the idea.

"Our ultimate goal should be sim-

ple: Every student should be able to go to college debt-free," Democratic presidential candidate and former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley said in a recent national email to his supporters.

And while he hasn't publicly thrown his support behind a college graduation sans debt, Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., did endorse President Barack Obama's proposed for free education at two-year community colleges, while going a step further to include the first two years at public colleges.

A pair of the seven co-sponsors in attendance Wednesday said 2016 congressional leadership need to make a debt-free college system a priority.

In an interview following the address, Rep. Raúl Grijalva, D-Ariz., said he plans to introduce legislation that would regulate for-profit colleges if the Department of Education doesn't take action soon.

That move, Grijalva said, would come on the heels of the collapse of one of the nation's largest for-profit higher education systems, Corinthian Colleges Inc.

Grijalva and six co-sponsors from the House and Senate led the effort from inside a room packed with about 100 people at the Capitol Visitor Center: Sens. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass.;

Brian Schatz, D-Hawaii; and Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., and Reps. Grijalva, Keith Ellison, D-Minn.; Mark Pocan, D-Wis.; and Katherine Clark, D-Mass.

Warren, who many had urged to run for president, spoke about her early life.

"Good morning, I am Elizabeth Warren and I am a former student," she said before raucous applause.

She described growing up on the fringes of the middle class and raising a family as a single mother: "College was not in the cards for a kid like me."

But Warren said that a move as a teen to an area with nearby community college kick-started her collegiate career for just \$50 a semester.

"I grew up in an America that was investing in a kid like me," Warren



Photo by author.

said.

Schatz, Schumer and Warren and Grijalva, Ellison and Clark introduced two separate resolutions in late April to allow college students to graduate without debt.

But the resolutions don't say how they would pay for the plan. Instead, they are waiting for their party's presidential candidate to draw up the specifics. It could involve either the states or the federal government each paying part of the cost.

Maija Ross-Hall, 19, a rising junior at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, and Duncan Robinson, 21, a senior at the University of Maryland-Baltimore County, were two of many students at the press conference.

Robinson said he owes some \$25,000, despite commuting to school to save money.

"Debt is like an inconsolable anchor," said Ross-Hall, who said that at least 12 of her hometown friends had to opt for a community college path or no college because they couldn't afford

it.

Some GOP presidential hopefuls, such as Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., have said colleges need to do more.

"Our colleges and universities must do their part by making it among their highest priorities to find the right balance between quality and cost. And simplifying the tax benefits of higher education will help students deal with the cost of higher education as well," he said in a February address at Miami-Dade College.

Rubio also proposed an "income-based repayment system," that would peg repayments to income.

Schatz, who has been one of the more vocal proponents of the debt-free system, called the Democrats' announcement "an outside-in-strategy," but one that will likely be thwarted by influential Republican House Speaker John Boehner.

"What we're doing here is an act of patriotism," Schatz said. "If we don't do anything, that torch is going to flicker."

But will the quality still be as high?



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For more information on tournaments and clubs, email NASPA - North American SCRABBLE Players Association info@scrabbleplayers.org. Visit our website - www.scrabbleplayers.org. For puzzle inquiries contact scrgrams@gmail.com.



Changes for Campus News

Returning readers may notice some changes with Campus News. We've adopted a more modern tabloid size, are now bound, have more color, are 32 pages (we used to be 20) and are hitting more campuses (37 per year; New York monthly and New England and New Jersey alternating months). Our print run has grown from 7000 to a regular 10,000 issues per month, or 100,000 total copies for the 2015-16 academic year. Many of the extra copies will hit a new area, the Capital Region of Upstate New York.

That may make you think that Campus News is some big corporation, but it's not. It remains a grassroots, pay-as-we-go effort that depends on your involvement. Whether you are a student, a faculty member (adjunct or full-time), a staff member or administrator, we are interested in hearing from you.

Some ideas:

Write for us! Get your ideas read by 10,000 print readers and more people online. Our stories go out on Google News, where we are a verified news source! Impress your friends and family. We also pay stipends to student writers who write on assignment. You can also ask your internship office if

you can work for us for credit.

Start your own campus news outfit! For colleges that don't have an official print newspaper, we can donate black-and-white pages to on-campus journalism groups. Your stories would only appear in papers distributed to your campus.

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Have a great year!

Live like a hobo (cont.)

hard for students who do not have the convenience of a dorm room on campus.

When I transferred from Suffolk County Community College to the state university, I envied my friends who went to class, studied and worked all on the same campus. They could quickly stop by their room on the way from class to work, change their clothes and drop off their books and not have to carry a thing.

However, after years of living practically on the road while attending college, I, like the thousands of other students who still live with mom and dad and go to school, mastered the practice of organizing while also planning my week in advance.

The first and most vital step in this life changing routine is to find a large bag - masculine or feminine - that can hold exactly what you need. Backpacks, tote bags or a large beach bag are the easiest and simplest to find that will not make you look silly while you walk around campus with luggage by your side.

This bag will become your new best friend because whether you decide to be a nomadic hobo like I tend to be or live out of your car traveling from destination to destination, this one piece of baggage will hold everything you basically need to stay quickly overnight and keep you looking alive during long days ahead.

Inside a little bag, investing in a trial size bottle of shampoo, body wash and toothpaste would be a smart idea especially when you decide that you do not feel like going home from campus at 2 a.m. and have to be back at 9 for class, so you just crash at your best friends room on her floor.

Throwing a few other necessities in this bag like a hairbrush, glasses (or an extra pack of contact lenses), a travel toothbrush and a can of spray-in dry shampoo can make getting ready in the Student Activity Center

bathroom easier than you'd ever imagine.

But quick beauty products are not the only things you need to throw in the trunk of your car. Keeping an extra pair of shoes handy like sneak-

'The first step is to find a large bag that holds everything you need.'

ers or flip-flops, a towel (for when you use your friends private showers in their suites), some extra socks, underwear and a hoodie.

Having these extra utilities easily at hand can allow you to sporadically stay over a friend's dorm - or inside the library if it stays open late enough - with the ability to get ready in a flash along with looking and feeling good.

Of course this is not for everyone and sometimes it is good to go home. But I've realized in the five-and-a-half years I've been a commuter who worked at least two jobs, that living out of my purse and car is quite honestly the only option when it comes to saving time, money and gas.

The best part of cycling is staying at your friend's dorm. Not only do you get to sleep late, spend time with people you only see in class and make the most of your time, but you are saving thousands of dollars living out of your car instead of tacking living expenses onto your already high financial aid loan.

But what about the community college students who live far from their campus? My experience? Find a friend or two close to the school and ask to crash at those cribs. That way you can just go in an easy transition from school, to sleep, to work, to school again and back home by cutting your travel by a decent percent.

Hobo lifestyles are definitely the best for a struggling college student.

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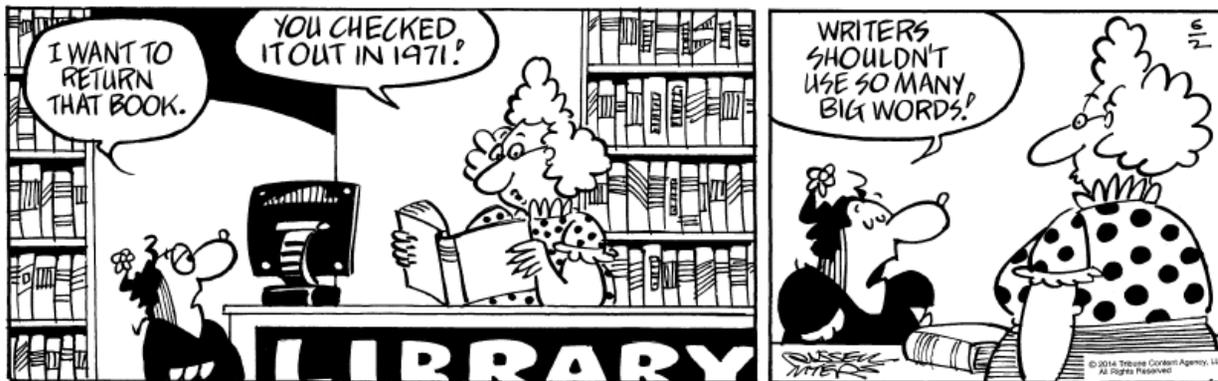
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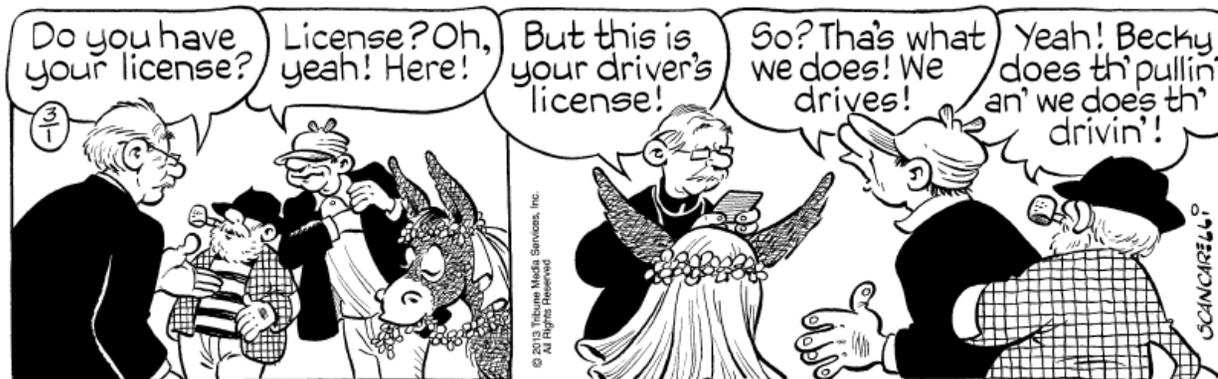
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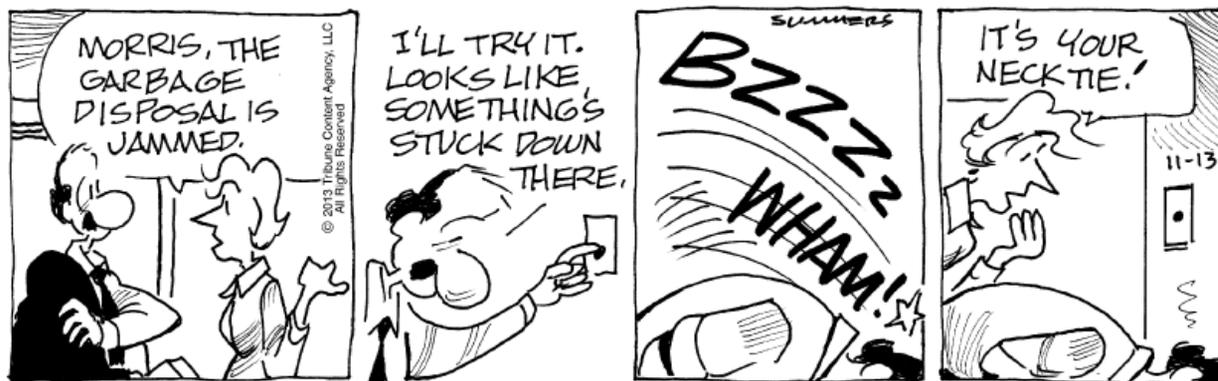
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College student tips

Two advice pieces courtesy of StatePoint:

How much will college really cost?

Paying for college? Look beyond the tuition price tag when making your financial plans and you will encounter many expenses not listed in school brochures. Here are some things to keep in mind when assessing college costs and financing options: No matter what your family's financial status is, you should complete the FAFSA form, which is the first step toward obtaining financial aid. Also explore additional financing options, like scholarships, tuition payment plans your school offers, federal loans and private alternative loans. After receiving award letters, scholarships and grants, calculate whether there is still a financial gap between your resources and the cost of college. Take out a private student loan only after exhausting these other resources and efforts first. If you do opt for a private loan, ensure you're familiar with the loan's terms, as well as the realities of graduating with debt. A responsible lender that defers payments until after you leave school can help you get educated on how loan repayment works and how this decision will affect you in the future. A loan consultant at your bank can help you explore the best options for you. For example, applying with a cosigner may qualify you for a lower interest rate, saving you money down the line. To be truly prepared for the years ahead, get as accurate an estimate of total college costs as possible. Most school websites offer a net price calculator that can give you an estimate of your total college cost and your financial aid award. Also, free online tools, such as Wells Fargo's Get College Ready College Cost Calculator, available at www.WellsFargo.com/GetCollegeReady, helps you take all your personal factors into consideration. The site also features useful tips and checklists for parents and students on

subjects like paying for college, managing money and building good credit while in school.

4 mistakes college students make

Here are strategies for dodging common mistakes made by college students: 1. Hurting Your Credit: You may be presented with credit card offers for the first time; and building good credit can help lay the groundwork for future financial options — but proceed wisely. College seniors owed \$4,100 in credit card debt by graduation, according to recent research from Debt.org. Don't let credit cards be an excuse to spend beyond your means. Start with a line of credit you can handle. If you manage that well, later on you'll be able to borrow more. 2. Overdoing It: College is about earning a degree. However, it's also about making lifelong friends and exploring interests. Keep this in mind when choosing courses for the semester. For example, it may not be the best idea to stack five of the most challenging courses offered by the school into one semester. 3. Bad Money Management: College is expensive, and beyond the expenses you already know about — tuition, books, and housing — you will incur many other expenses along the way, from lab fees to gas to cell phone bills. "Setting up a budget is crucial, particularly if your spending money is drawn from a loan or grant," says John Rasmussen, head of Education Financial Services at Wells Fargo. "You'll need that money to last if you don't have another stream of revenue." Don't form bad financial habits now, as do so many college students. 4. Not Sleeping: Between cramming and socializing, shuteye may be in short supply. However, quality sleep is fundamental to quality learning. If you're a night owl, avoid early morning classes. Also, avoid procrastination, which can lead to all-nighters.



The 1977 version of 'Moreau'

New to You! (cont.)

B-type personality who had only done artsy, low budget films, was tapped to lead a major studio movie with giant A-type egomaniac actors on a faraway island. The A-types dominated him. It was a disaster, and eventually Stanley had to be replaced by another director.

"Lost Soul" is ably directed by David Gregory, who assembles all of the actors, aside from Brando, of course, and Kilmer, and many of the crew to tell the story of how this monstrosity came to be. The 1996 version of the film has been roundly panned by critics.

After watching "Lost Soul," I was curious to see the 1996 film, but it wasn't on Netflix. Instead, the 1977 version, starring Burt Lancaster and Michael York, is on there, and is relatively credible until the final third of the film, where it descends into a "Planet of the Apes" ripoff.

For the uninitiated, "Moreau" is the story of a mad scientist who plays with DNA to create human-like animals on a remote island, and Braddock washes up on shore one day after a shipwreck.

Sadly, I don't think any Wells book has made a great movie.

But the 1977 version is OK. It has a decent critics score on sites that aggregate such ratings. Why do a remake 19 years later?

And why tap a person who essentially only had done some music

videos and B-movies to lead it?

"Lost Soul" tends to overhype Stanley a bit. Queue up what is considered his best movie, "Hardware," and you can see it is a mess. So maybe the studios hired him to be a stooge? Some movies that are made simply are a money grab, doomed to fail on purpose. Think of the premise to "The Producers." Perhaps the 1996 version of "Moreau" was just that, and Stanley unwittingly got caught up in an ego trip and accepted his role. I wish the documentary pursued that angle a bit more.

'The film, based on the HG Wells novel, descends into a "Planet of the Apes" ripoff.'

In the end, this debacle ruined Stanley's directorial career for all intents and purposes, and perhaps his spirit, too.

Thus "Lost Soul" is a must-watch to examine what happens when someone is unwittingly set up to fail, and the toll it takes on that person.

"It's New to You!" is a regular column that helps you find cool new movies in the hidden recesses of Netflix. Find more reviews on www.nu2u.info.

Editorial: Don't sell out to 'arrangement' sites

While Campus News doesn't endorse this concept, we were sent, unsolicited, these stats from a web site called "SeekingArrangement" (where, presumably, wealthier men come to terms with women for some type of financial/sexual arrangement).

Apparently, many people use the site to fund their college study. According to the site, the most popular majors of the "sugar babies" are:

- Nursing - 48,493
- Business - 43,809
- Psychology - 43,573
- Communications Studies - 42,834
- Political Science 40,790
- English Language & Literature - 39,461

Their note read, "Collegiate Sugar Babies, making up 42 percent of the Sugar Baby users on SeekingArrangement,

take a proactive approach to tackling their student debt that so many other students will have haunting them for years to come."

The press materials add: SeekingArrangement matches wealthy benefactors seeking "mutually beneficial relationships" with members. Founded in 2006, the website currently claims to have over 4.5 million members. SeekingArrangement was founded by MIT graduate Brandon Wade.

It's too bad that hundreds of thousands of young students may feel the need to finance their educations this way. While, technically, most college students are adults, this does seem to be a bit predatory on the part of the "sugar daddies," as, certainly, the typical age gap between the parties is decades. An older person with money is always going to have an advantage over a younger person — who has hopes and dreams but no

money.

Perhaps colleges should make this a topic in first-year courses. Judging from documentaries on the subject of young women being sexually exploited, they almost always seem to regret these decisions later. We'd encourage Wade, if

not delete the site, implement a higher minimum age to use the site, and to lessen the potential age gap.

As well, lower tuitions and more government loan-forgiveness options would also help curtail this negative potential.



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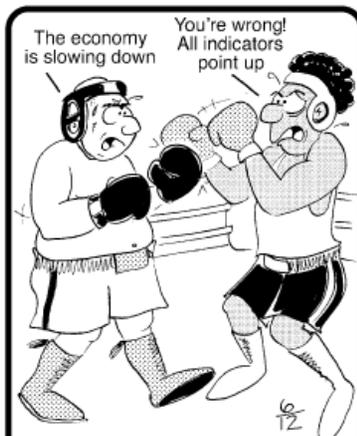
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THE BOXERS ENJOYED ARGUING BECAUSE THEY ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Ans: TO " "

Jumbles: LOUSE CHICK PARLOR STUDIO
 Answer: The boxers enjoyed arguing because they ---
 LIKED TO "SPAR"

Travel: A cruise may sound good on paper

Darren Johnson
Campus News

Whoever said it's not the destination but the journey obviously had never been trapped on a Norwegian Cruise Line ship.

Their motto is "Cruise Like a Norwegian," but my recent experience on one of their boats makes me think the nation of Norway should sue the company for defamation. Based on this, if this cruise line is what Norway is like, I don't want to go to Norway, either. Maybe the marketers meant that this was more like a Viking funeral?

Ironically, this was supposed to be a "free" cruise. I will admit, I was tricked. I sometimes play a few games in casinos, where comps are common. One such casino sold my name to NCL, who thus gave me the free offer. I thought it would be like a hotel comp – truly free, no strings attached. But NCL had other intentions.

This trip was hardly "free." What was free was a barebones, mausoleum sized, windowless room in the innards of the boat for two. I added my daughter as a passenger (there's a foldout bunk). She had to pay full rate, whereas if I'd booked all three via a site like Expedia we would have gotten a group discount. Then there were a bevy of mandatory fees, taxes, port charges, exorbitant gratuities, etc. Before leaving the Port of Boston, I was down about \$1500. This doesn't include the \$140 parking fee I'd come back to.

The minimum doesn't get cruisers much. "Complimentary" are a handful of cafeteria-style options where one has to wrestle to get a seat, and the food gets old quick. There are nightly shows, which were unexpectedly good, with trapeze style acts, Second City comedians and some very capable singer/dancers. I'd put the entertainment on par with any mid-level Vegas hotel without the cost.

The destination was Bermuda, which was very scenic. Luckily, we got good weather, as the island can sometimes be rainy. Of the seven days, ap-

proximately two half days and one full day were on the island.

Then, back to the boat. What got me peeved throughout was that I had felt tricked. I'd written NCL media relations, stating my presence on the ship. Not that Campus News is The New York Times, but it's something, and maybe they'd want to put their best foot forward with this writer, but they could not have cared less.

And that was the general attitude on the ship by its personnel. Whereas land-based casino hotels will bend over backwards for guests, on the NCL ship we were viewed as walking ATMs by staff. The NCL TV had a few legitimate channels, but the rest were infomercials for the cruise line. Some were deceptive; for example, an infomercial on how to shop in Bermuda. It tried to come off as informative, but instead was trying to steer passengers to NCL endorsed shops and products.

Seminars on the ship tried to sell

'Dollar-per-dollar, this is the worst trip I'd ever taken.'

weight loss products; "art" via auction (they were really framed posters, taking advantage of the lack of savvy of the passengers on the ship); acupuncture. One British fellow struck up a conversation with me. I thought he was being nice, but then he tried to steer me to get my feet measured for insoles. It was all so tacky. I found myself rebelling and not spending much of anything.

Most annoying was the lack of any management on the boat. Not that I want to become a crotchety Mr. Wilson, but the MO typically are parents on the ship getting drunk and hordes of kids just running – literally running – loose to all hours of the night, pressing all the buttons the elevators. They were bored silly, and there were lots and lots of them.



There were a lot of cover bands playing songs by the Eagles, John Denver and Tony Orlando and Dawn all over the boat. These were mainly for the drinkers. We did not buy the unlimited booze plan, figuring if we'd wanted a drink we'd just buy them individually, but the mojo of the boat was really geared toward the unlimited drinkers. Who wants to be around a bunch of sloshers, if one isn't sloshed?

OK, we'd figure we'd head to the pool, instead. But that was tiny, not much bigger than the typical Grecian-style pool in a middle-class backyard – but for over 2000 people! This was another big deception, as on the NCL web site the pools look Olympian.

The little pool was swamped, too, again, mostly by kids and unlimited sloshers. I have to assume the pool has large parts urine, bourbon and Drakkar Noir in it. At one point, some broken glass got into the pool and it was closed for a couple of days.

Almost immediately, I had felt trapped on the boat, in a tiny, windowless room, and few places to just relax. Dollar-per-dollar, this was the worst trip I'd ever taken.

But obviously many people were enjoying themselves on the boat. I'd suggest this kind of trip is worthwhile if you don't mind tight quarters and you buy the booze plan (should you be one who partakes; personally, it seemed wasteful to me, as NCL requires you

buy the plan for every adult in your party – you can't just buy one plan).

I also think this could work for a newer couple, without kids, where the tight quarters may actually be welcomed and promote coziness.

Are all cruise lines like this? I don't know. This was my first such cruise. I only bit because it was "free." What an idiot I felt like after I realized there was no such thing, but it was too late to turn back, as I'd already told the family, who was excited. They too now say they'd never cruise again. At least the idea is out of their system.

I think I would have liked it more if it did not feel like a money grab, and if the crew actually cared about more than my credit card. It seems if a complaint did not have a money value tied to it, they did not care. Anything goes.

At least if one goes on a traditional vacation, and stays in a hotel, if that hotel doesn't pan out, there's probably another hotel next door. But once stuck on a ship, they've got you – and they know it.

Again, I don't want to be a crotchety Mr. Wilson, but this experience unfortunately brought out that side of me. If I were to go to Bermuda again, I'd simply fly to the island nation. There are multiple hotels right near some of the best (and free) beaches in the world. Surely, that would be more affordable, and relaxing.



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CC Sports: Region XV season kicks off

Peter Briguglio
Campus News

Now that the calendar has turned to September, schools in the area are beginning their fall slate of athletic competition. In Region XV, which consists of 19 junior colleges throughout Long Island, New York City and lower New York State, plenty of teams have already attracted preseason recognition in their respective fall sports and are poised to have successful seasons on both the regional and national stages.

Football

When it comes to football, Nassau Community College is the class of the Northeast Football Conference. The team that went an undefeated 10-0 in 2014 has been selected as the favorites to win their conference in 2015 and also earned the #5 rank in the country in the first NJCAA National Rankings poll. Despite losing three All-Americans from last year's squad, it's not hard to see why the Lions have received these accolades.

All-American quarterback Ben Holmes returns to the Lions for his sophomore season in 2015. Holmes, threw for 13 touchdowns a season ago and ran for three more. He compiled 937 passing yards for an average of 7.4 yards per attempt, and also added 168 rushing yards to his stat line. Also returning for Nassau is running back Marcus Levy, who averaged 5.4 yards per attempt and scored six touchdowns in 2014. In total, 14 offensive players will return to patrol the field for Nassau, including eight starters, and 10 defensive players will once again suit up, including three starters.

Fellow Region XV competitors ASA College and Monroe College also cracked the top four in the NFC preseason standings prediction poll. ASA returns 30 players this year and checked in at #2 in the NFC poll, and Monroe placed fourth. Additionally, ASA garnered votes in the national poll, placing 17th in the country heading into the

season. This marks the third straight year the Avengers have been ranked.

"We're looking forward to another competitive schedule, which starts with the first ever junior college football game to be played in the state of Florida at ASA Miami, said first year ASA head coach Chris Boden, who spent six seasons as the team's offensive coordinator. "We're looking to play for another Northeast Conference title and earn an NJCAA bowl bid. We have a solid group of returners and a very talented group of freshman and transfers joining the program."

All of these teams figure to be contenders for an appearance at the NJCAA National Tournament, which will take place at a time and location to be determined.

Cross Country/Half Marathon

Women's Cross Country runners from Region XV had a standout season in 2014, with four of the 15 All-Americans coming from the area. Second-

New to Campus News: Coverage of regional 2-year college athletes!

Teamers Carolyn Gordon from Dutchess and Leana Wiebelt from Suffolk, along with Honorable Mention Edina Music of Queensborough are all looking to improve upon their 2014 performances this year.

Fashion Institute of Technology's women had the most success as a team, placing fourth in the country at last year's NJCAA Championships. They also had a strong showing at the Half Marathon Championships, placing 8th overall as the only Division III team in the field.

"We are looking forward to another successful season," said FIT coach Joe Plutz. "There a lot of new freshman runners who are eager to prove themselves on the course and will mix nicely with the core of returning



Monroe's title team

runners."

Soccer

Monroe College's men's soccer team opened the 2015 soccer season on the heels of a #3 ranking in the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) preseason poll. The Mustangs have a stock of their players returning from the 2014 team that lost a tough 2-1 decision to Tyler in the NJCAA Championship game. Monroe, led by head coach Marcus DiBernardo, posted a 13-4-1 record a season ago. Twelve players from last year's squad are once again suiting up for Monroe, including All-American Khadim Seye.

Monroe, who plays in Division I of the NJCAA, will endure a demanding schedule featuring three opponents that also appeared the NSCAA preseason poll. Their toughest regional competition will come from ASA, who do not have the same continuity on their roster that the Mustangs have.

"I'm excited to get underway with pretty much a brand new team, said ASA College's fourth-year head coach Mike Grudge. "This is one of the toughest region and districts to get out of in the nation, but we are always determined to do so."

The Avengers are also looking to unseat the Mustangs on the women's side as well. Third-year ASA head coach Brett Polow believes his team can

do just that in 2015.

"With a strong recruiting class, we should be able to do some special things this season," said Polow. "I am pretty impressed with this group of young ladies academically and athletically, and have definitely raised the bar on what the goals should be for this season."

Monroe will be a tough team to beat, however. The women marched through the Region and the District en route to winning it all at the 2014 NJCAA Division I Championships. The team defeated Iowa Western 2-1 in a thrilling double-overtime game to capture the National crown. The victory gave the Mustangs the first Division I team Championship in school history and first ever for the women's soccer program.

Gone will be both of the team's sophomore NJCAA All-Americans from last year, but with seven international recruits joining 2014 NSCAA Coach of the Year Jonathan Garbar's squad this year, the Mustangs appear poised to make it a repeat performance in 2015.

Women's Tennis

ASA College proved once again that they were the team to beat in women's tennis last year — not just in the Region but in the entire country. A team that repeated as NJCAA Division

continued on page 29

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Region XV (cont.)

I Champions in 2014 will bring back three all-Americans for the upcoming year, including Macarena Olivares. The Chile native earned National titles in both first flight singles and doubles last year after being ranked the #1 player in the country heading into the competition. During the regular season, her only defeats came against an NCAA Division I opponent in three sets and against a pair of highly ranked NCAA Division II foes.

With their success, the Lady Avengers made the NJCAA women's tennis record books by becoming the first team to sweep all singles and doubles championships since 1991. The team will be hard pressed to surpass last year's dominance, but they certainly appear capable and ready to match it.

Fashion Institute of Technology was the class of the region's Division III competition last season. The school made an appearance at the NJCAA tournament, finishing third overall, and earned four individual all-American bids. Freshman Nicole Druzhinsky earned dual honors in both singles and doubles competition alongside Spenser Corson after winning National Championships. Ravina Parikh finished as a National Champion runner-up and earned second-team all-American status. All three will return for the 2015 campaign to lead the team back to prominence.

Women's Volleyball

On the court, Monroe's women's volleyball team returns eight players from a season ago. The 2014 Mustangs finished with a 35-5 overall record including a perfect 14-0 mark in the MAC. Monroe welcomes in a recruiting class of seven new players, including players from Puerto Rico and Brazil.

In Division III, the Queensborough Lady Tigers are looking to make a deep postseason run after acquiring plenty of depth in the offseason.

"I'm really excited for the new year," said Queensborough head coach Jason Demas. "I was able to schedule the hardest group of scrimmages and nonleague games we've ever had, so we will be tested early and often."

The Lady Tigers will be returning three starters, including Alanna Cafrey, who led the team in kills in 2014.

When asked about his depth, Demas said, "I have three or four girls at every position who can really play, and I like having a constant position battle at practice to keep everyone motivated and ready to play. I wouldn't be surprised if our lineup changes several times during the season."

Nassau figures to be contenders for the Region XV crown as well after bringing in an almost entirely new roster for the upcoming season.

"I have all the components; some height, a couple of capable setters, strong hitters and hard workers," said Nassau head coach Kristine Abrams.

Nassau women's volleyball may be a 'top team.'

"I think throughout the season these ladies can grow into a top team in the region.

The potential is strong, we

have had a great preseason thus far and I am excited to see what they can accomplish this year."

Both teams, along with the rest of the region, will be looking to knock off FIT, the reigning Region XV Tournament Champions. The Tigers will once again be led by Regional Player of the Year Jenna Dickey, who posted 34 kills and 6 blocks in the team's five-set victory over Suffolk in the finals. The team that appeared at last year's national tournament ranked 10th in this year's preseason poll.

"We are very excited about the upcoming season as we have most of our players returning and a good group of freshmen coming in," said FIT head coach Danial Levent. "Hopefully we can build on what we have achieved in the past few years."



QCC's Edina Music



FIT's Jenna Dickey

DePew named VP

SUNY Sullivan Director of Athletics & Recreation & NJCAA Region XV Men's Director Christopher D. DePew has been elected as the 1st Vice-President of the NJCAA Men's Basketball National Coaches Association. DePew served as the Association's Secretary from 2009-2013 until he was elected 2nd Vice President in 2013, a position he held for a 2-year term. He ran unopposed for the 1st Vice President position this spring and began his 2-year term on August 1, 2015. He is in line to take over as the National Coaches Association President in the summer of 2017.

"I am honored to be elected to a role where I can continue to serve junior college basketball at the highest levels," said DePew, who also serves as the National Chairman of the NJCAA DIII Men's Basketball Committee and has been the Executive Director of the NJCAA National DIII Men's Basketball National Championship Tournament held at SUNY Sullivan since 2011. "I thank the Association for having the faith in me to help lead this amazing organization. I look forward to working with my other Association Officers to make this

organization the very best that it can be."

As 1st Vice President, DePew's duties will include but are not limited to planning, organizing and implementing the annual NJCAA National All-Star Game in Las Vegas each May, answering questions for the over 2,500-member organization, and serving on the Hall of Fame and National Coach and Player of the Year selection committees.

The purpose of the organization is to promote basketball as an integral part of the junior/community college educational

program, to foster junior college basketball to its highest level both nationally and internationally, to place at the disposal of coaches, sources of basketball information, and to advise, through recommendation, the National Junior College Athletic Association standing committees for basketball from each division. Learn more at www.jbcba.com



When an education may not be enough

David L. Podos

Campus News

Most people today know (or should know) that having a college education is so important. The world has changed so much over the past 30-40 years and is changing ever faster at an exponential rate, and right before our eyes. Our ever-expanding human knowledge and discovery in regards to technology and science are our biggest change agents. The never ending desire for companies to reach zero waste with maximum efficiency and effectiveness and never ending profit margins drives upper management to seek new and bold ways to run our organizations

For those without a college degree the statistics are oftentimes quite dismal. Normally we see much higher unemployment with those lacking an advanced education degree, and of course overall earning power are time and again greatly diminished without a college degree.

So, why is it that a college education for many is seemingly just not enough today? What other skills are students lacking and how can they obtain them? How can a college degree mean more than just a fancy piece of paper with your name on it?

In an article authored by Melanie Dostis for USA Today College, and titled, "Degrees Alone Are Not Enough To Prepare Grads For the Workforce," she states: "Fewer than two in five hiring managers who had interviewed recent graduates in the past two years found them prepared for a job in their field of study."

Amy Homkes-Hayes, Coordina-

tor for the Career Center at the University of Michigan, emphasizes that to bridge the gap between employer and student perceptions all parties must come together to help the student. "I don't think there is one single best way to prepare students for an increasingly complex working world," she adds.

For students to come out of our colleges and universities well prepared for the rigors of the "real world," it will require a serious look at our higher educational curriculum, the involvement of our companies to be stewards and mentors to those students who may become their future employees, and a recognition of the importance of adjunct faculty.

Let's start with college curriculum; volumes can be written about this one topic alone, but, for sake of space let me concentrate on one particular issue I have. I find it quite interesting that for most students they need to obtain and pass two college level English classes. I find this interesting because there is one other very important English class that should be added onto the course menu and made mandatory for all students to take regardless of major. And that course? Public speaking! You can be a wiz at science, technology, engineering and math, but, if you cannot speak to a group of people and be able to get your thoughts across, if you cannot step into a boardroom and carry on a cogent conversation with your board members, if you cannot articulate information and share with your staff your strategic vision, you're going to be lost! We are losing the art of effective speech, and many of our students are unable to function at a high level

in an eyeball to eyeball conversation. I have seen this many times in my classroom. I suppose technology has some accountability for this, as more students turn to their electronic devices as their primary means of communication.

While this form of communication is legitimate, as it often works well within your group of friends, overall effective face to face communication skills still are in high demand by most employers today. So, in that job interview you had better be able to carry on an adult conversation. Much of the feedback that is heard from prospective employers is: the applicant struggled to maintain an intellectual conversation, diverted eyes away from the interviewer, and when asked questions, came across disorganized with his/her answers.

It's interesting to note that the number one fear of professional men and women is public speaking. So until colleges "get it" that an effective speech class should be mandatory for everyone, don't run from a public speaking class, rather run towards it even if it is not part of your electives and/or core courses.

Next is company involvement: while there are a number of companies that do engage with local colleges to provide internships, we still need more! We need the local community colleges and local businesses continually dialoguing with each other. Can the college work up a mentorship program with a senior employee to assist potential future workers? What specific knowledge, skills and abilities do these local companies need? Can the company provide job shadowing for the student who may be interested in "hanging out" and watching what goes on in a typical day at any given business? This bridge between business and college is absolutely critical. How can we expect our students to "know" what lies ahead of them without giving them better road maps? Colleges and businesses that do not have this kind of collaborative relationship are doing a terrible disservice to our students (our future workforce).

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not speak of the importance of adjunct faculty and the important skills they most bring into the classroom. In my advisement capacity I have often

been asked by students if they should take a class that was being instructed by an adjunct (part-time) faculty member. My response is always a resounding "Yes!" Why?

Adjuncts often bring an incredible amount of experience into the classroom. For many adjunct professors/instructors they are still working their "day" job, but because they have a love for teaching, instruct in the evening or during the day if

their schedules permit. Other adjuncts that are semi-retired, like I, have the availability to teach both day and evening classes, but regardless of the availability, it is the boots on the ground experience they bring that make them such a valuable asset to any school and of course to their students .

For an example, if you were majoring in Criminal Justice and had to take a CJ 101 class, how would you like to be taught? How about by a retired police officer with over 25 years experience? If you were going to take a business management class, how about that adjunct that has spent most of his/her professional life in management?

Getting the best out of our students and assisting them to be all they can be, getting them prepared for the real world, is so important. Perhaps by incorporating a few of these changes and opening one's mind to change, we will go a long way to make that a reality.

David L. Podos is an adjunct instructor for the Center for Social Sciences, Business and Information Sciences at MVCC.



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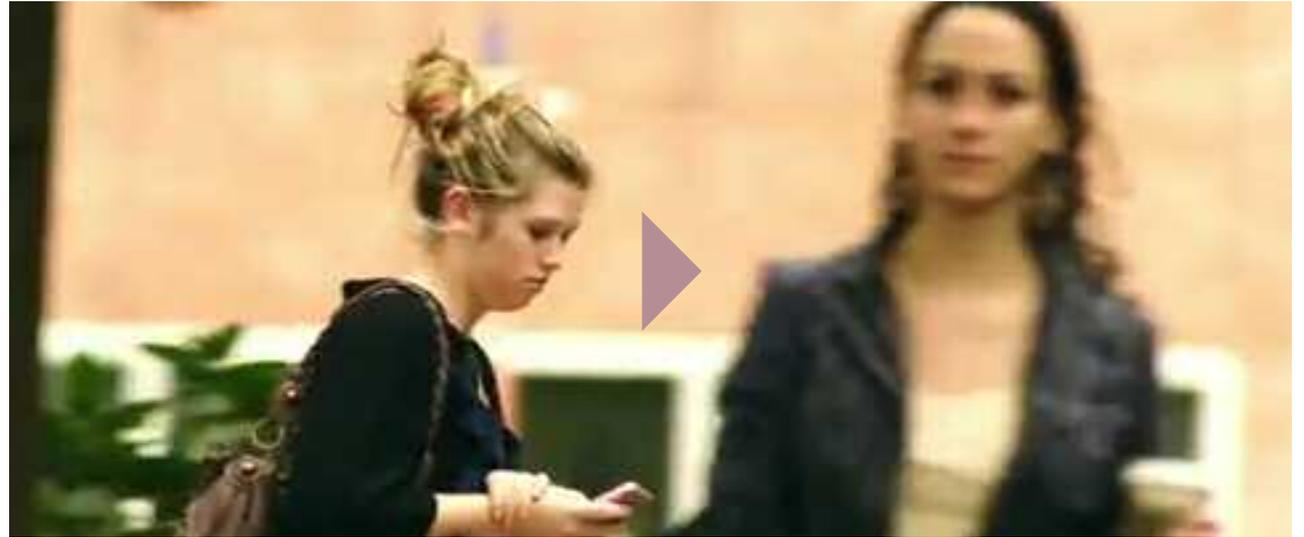


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