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#### November 2011

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# When hookups get serious

#### Brittany Grueter Campus News

College is a time to meet new people, figure out who you are, have memorable experiences; obtain your degree, etc. We all know this going into this phase of our lives.

What else is a key subject of the college lifestyle? Depending on who you talk to, dating may be that subject. Some students believe that dating is archaic in today's fast-paced society; that "hooking up" is a more common occurrence. Even though college is packed with fun it is also very stressful, and as the old saying goes, "Why buy the cow when you can get the milk for free?"

Students find that the hooking up trend is easier because it is not formal, too many expectations are held within relationships, and they do not want to be tied down with everything else going on in their hectic lives. Why else does hooking up occur more than dating? "People are trying to experiment, see what's out there, who you are compatible with," said Elizabeth Riley, a sophomore at Worcester State University. "You don't want to jump into a relationship right away. It's interesting because people hook up more often but they would rather be in a relationship if the opportunity arises."

There are also other problems with dating in college. "It is really hard sometimes because you are always around each



other," said Pat Brossi, a criminal justice major at Worcester State University. "It can get to be too much if you both live on campus and spend all of your time together. It's hard to find space and meet new people once you're tied down with one person."

I wanted to branch out and get the opinions of students from other schools besides my own. I asked Sarah Khalifa, a junior psychology major at Boston University, how dating worked on her campus: "A lot of students here are actually in long distance relationships. I think it's because we go to school in a large city. A common trend with those types of relationships is that people get too involved with their partners and don't socialize with others as much as they should. Long distance relationships can be worth it but are a lot of work and you miss out on other experiences."

Reaching way out I asked Stephen Farrand, a history student at Sam Houston State University in Texas, what his opinions were on college dating. "At my college peo-

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#### Cristina Guity Campus News

When you walk into college you can't help but realize that everyone has their own clique; it almost brings you back to high school. You have your Goths, honors group, gym group, gamers, partygoers, and the list goes on. Did you know who you choose to hang out with can affect how well you do in your academic career? After doing much research on the matter, I found some proving points. According to a 2004 Journal of Higher Edu-

Good students try

to only hang out

with winners.

student named Chloe Roth explains, "I personally am very independent, but many people can be influenced. For example, if a friend wanted to recommend a certain class or teacher, then you would be more likely to take that class or teacher. They may negatively influence, such as maybe skipping classes." do. You can be an outgoing person and still have time for school."

A student named Laquisha states: "I remember back in high school I had a lot of deadbeat friends, but I have always been studious, and it did not affect me."

As you can see, there has been a mixture of different responses on the matter.

cation piece, "A college student's peers act as a reference group or an environ-

Jobs, 3

mental source of socio-cultural norms in the midst of which the student grows and develops."

Our educational growth depends on who we choose to surround ourselves with. I interviewed a couple of students from the Eastern Campus of Suffolk CCC as to whether or not they felt one's social group can influence how they did in college. One Another student named Nicole states: "I feel that college students do get affected by peer pressure, for example, if you're hanging out with a rough crowd that likes heavy partying and drinking, that can take a toll on

you."

Another student named Andrew states: "Yes, it does affect a student. If you're hanging out with good people, then you will do well. If you hang out with a negative crowd, then you most likely will not do so well."

Molly from Eastern Campus states: "Yes, it does affect me, more on a negative side, such as going out and not spending so much time on my studies."

Although many students agreed that your college peers can affect how well you do in school, some students disagreed with this.

A student named Joane states: "I don't feel that peers can influence how well you

What do you feel? Do you think your peers have any influence on you with regards to your academic success?

According to a 2009 Journal of Psychology article, many people fall under social injunctive norms. This is when we reflect perceptions of what is significant about others, and we behave in a way to get approval or we behave how they think we should. Social injunctive norms motivate us to take action by envisioning the potential special rewards and punishment of not living up to this norm. This goes hand in hand with our academic success because we are easily influenced by others in every aspect of our lives, not just in education.

We are all very fragile emotionally and long to be part of a group. You should ask yourself what kind of influence friends have on you. Are they encouraging you to be the

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# Apple's CEO redefined 'inventor'

#### Darren Johnson **Publisher**

The day after hearing of the death of Steve Jobs, the Apple Founder, a lot of people I met of the age of typical college students seemed genuinely bummed.

"He did invent the iPhone," one told me, looking down sullenly.

I corrected her: "He really didn't invent anything," I said. "He was a marketer."

And therein lies the issue. Maybe she was right. In this day and age, are the people with ideas the inventors?

I'm a generation older. The inventors we learned about as kids actually did the hands-on work in creating the product. Marconi playing with radio transistors or

All it takes today is

good taste and

business sense.

whatever, Bell with wires and telephone receivers or the like, Fleming tossing mold into a petrie

dish of sorts to create penicillin. They had an idea and they saw it through themselves.

So when Al Gore said he invented the Internet back in the 1990s, we all had a laugh. And he certainly did not.

But nowadays with virtual reality and machines and people trained like machines doing the nitty gritty of creating chips and circuits and the artistic people creating the look, feel and interface, maybe an "idea guy" like Jobs is the one to bring it all together.

His vision – and access to tremendous resources - did, in a way, "invent" something like an iPhone. He made the commands that made it happen. He looked at the prototypes, a combination of engineering and artistic taste, and had final say on what would go to market. The iPhone 5 did not come out because he was sick, and surely, when it does come out, will lack something because of the lack of Jobs' input and inspiration.

So being an "inventor" is a lot less tangible than it was a hundred or so years ago.

The engineer did not invent the iPhone. The artist did not invent the iPhone. The person who hired and understood both invented the iPhone. (This is good news for someone like

me, who scored nearly equally unremarkably on the math and verbal portions of the SAT!)

But the rea-

son why this belief seemed foreign to me is that I have an affinity for computers, and was an expert of sorts in the Apple line, as much of an expert as one can be as a writer, and knew the machines from the early days were anything but the effortless devices we have today.

And even Apple's ideas were not original back then.

Jobs, the marketer, and his buddy Steve Wozniak, the engineer, built the original Apple Computer as a hobbyist kit from cheap parts held together by wood

and screws and glue. It didn't even have a monitor. It was hardly a computer, but sold enough units to geeks for them to start a successful line – the Apple II.

The Apple II ran like those computers you see in old 1980s movies like "War Games" or "Ferris Bueller's Day Off." There were no graphics. No point and click mouse. Commands were typed out. There was no saving to a quiet hard drive. Saving seemed physical with a loud clank and whirr of a 5.25" floppy diskette. Printing was even louder to a dot-matrix machine. The original monitors had only one color, usually green. Monitors were so expensive, many people hooked up their computers to TV sets via an RF switch for display. Modems made loud noises. Everything made noise. The Apple was a machine and behaved like one, and a user needed to know how it worked inside out to get it to run; just like how really old-timers you may meet mostly all seem to know how to fix cars because cars were unreliable back when, people who used computers in the 1970s and '80s know how to fix them inside out to this day. There was no Help Desk.

And Jobs had wild ideas. Not original ideas, but he could spot a diamond in the rough.

For example, back then, Xerox, the behemoth corporation, was rolling in money from copier sales. They had so much money, they could pay a bunch of geeks to sit in a room and brainstorm all day. The geeks came up with the mouse and the graphical user interface (or GUI, what we use today, with the icon for a recycle bin, a task bar, scrolling menus, etc.,



as opposed to typing text commands). The brass at Xerox didn't take notice.

Jobs and Wozniak weaseled their way in to meet the geeks, who proudly showed them their inventions, and the Apple founders saw gold. They nodded politely, went back to their ramshackle headquarters and stole everything (of course, Windows would later rip off the Apple interface and use of mouse, but all's fair...).

And while the 1984 Macintosh was considered the first successful commercial computer to use a GUI and mouse, Jobs and Wozniak did have some failures before that.

Most notably was the Apple III, which was supposed to be the successor to the Apple II, but never caught on. At up to \$7800, not fixed to inflation, and only up to 512KB in RAM, forget about

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WHEN CAN YOU START?

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# Information overload (!!!) and the student

#### **Christine Barton**

Campus News

Information overload, information anxiety, information overload syndrome and information explosion are just a few of the common terms used today that refer to the phenomenon of simply having too much information at one time resulting in brain overload! The amount of data that we encounter in a single day can have an effect on how we react to and process that data.

While information is good, too much at once can lead to problems. The difficulty people have learning; understanding, sorting through immense amounts of data, simplifying issues and making decisions, can be a direct result of the presence of so much information at our fingertips. Simply put, "the more information you receive, the more difficult it is to decipher what's credible and useful and the harder it is to perform tasks and make decisions," concludes Alexander Charles, a Corporate Public Relations exec with Xerox Corporation.

The availability of so much information so rapidly has had such a shift on how human beings interpret, assess and make sense of data. While some people can easily adapt, the truth is that there has been so much technological change in the last 30 years that information overload can be very different for each person. Interestingly, the term and the idea of information overload emerged far before the rise of the digital age.

# A Brief History on the Concept of Information Overload

The term "sensory overload" was introduced in the 1950s, prior to the internet and digital media igniting society. The term is used to identify a circumstance when the brain responds negatively to being clogged by too

much information. It is thought that too much sensory stimulation can result in a person's inability to reasonably react to this information in productive way. Overload may affect reading, writing, and the ability to interpret information to use it in a useful manner.

As the world started becoming more digital, information started becoming more readily accessible. Some people without even realizing it fall victim to the dreaded "information overload syndrome." The premise of the theory is that human beings have a limit to the amount of stimulation that they can rationally react to effectively. An overload of data can have an affect, usually temporary, on a person's ability to absorb reason and rationally respond to the intake of information. Alvin Toffler is the author of a bestselling book that emerged in the 1970s called "Future Shock." The book discusses the difficultly that can be caused by the presence of too much information all at once. Toffler's work introduced the notion that sensory overload was a real concept. Toffler went on to discuss how sensory overload, later termed, information overload, has an effect on the cognitive functioning of the human brain.

The 1980s saw the development of the personal computer system, advances in technology and the beginning of the computer age. While the internet has existed since the late 1960s, the World Wide Web was not invented until 1989. The early 1990s saw a great expansion of the internet and the web when it became accessible and available to the public. The internet changed the face of information and life as we know it.

Since the internet made its public debut in the early 1990s technology began to grow at a rapid pace changing the way that modern society functions. Education, global relations, communication and networking has all been changed by the massive and rapid developments in technology. The internet and technological developments have made significant changes in how we do business, how we socialize and how we teach and learn.

#### A Real Issue

Xerox dedicates a special section on their website relating to the concept of information overload. Not only does Xerox take pride in providing a quality service but recognize that helping people manage information is a natural extension of the service that they provide through their business. The blog, specifically dedicated to information overload can be found at http://informationsanity.blogs.xerox.com/.

Additionally, Xerox even recognizes October 20th as Information Overload Awareness Day, which was started by Jonathan Spira, an information overload expert. According to Charles, Xerox recognizes and actively addresses the concept

# <u>The amount of data a</u> <u>student is presented with</u> <u>can distract from goals.</u>

of information overload. The company completed and published a recent survey on information overload. Based on their website the following statistics were gathered.

\* 28% of the typical workday is wasted by interruptions caused by unnecessary information.

\* 53% of people believe that less than half of the information they received is of any value.

\* 42% of people accidentally use

have never had to use the card catalog to locate a reference book or apply for a library card. The infor-6000 0 mation that traditional aged stu-VALOOI Ebau nsn chm dents need to do research today is accessible SMS TAT DOCX at their fingertips; just a click away. Older students, born before the rise of the digital age and returning to school, 5"Z may have a very different

accessing and interpreting information. Information overload is person specific and preventing overload is possible if there is an awareness that it in fact exists.

experience

Students need to learn to do a little bit of work all of the time, rather than saving it up for a stressful cramming session, says Dr. William J. Ward, Social Media Professor, Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University.

He says that multi-tasking can reduce focus and the quality of work. "It is impossible to keep up with all of the information, so students need to use digital and social tools wisely and step away from the computer and other digital gadgets when it becomes too stressful and overwhelming," says Ward.

Think for one minute about the amount of data you send and receive each day. Take a minute to think about how many times a day that you engage in one of more of the following activities?

- \* Surf the internet
- \* Participate in social media
- \* Use a smart phone

\* Send or received an email or text message

- Utilized web based research sites
- Go to an online news feeds
- Download a file attachment

while you are doing other tasks. The second set of tasks typically are done one at a time after thinking about which one should happen first.

Digital media, if not controlled, can result in multiple disruptions that can interrupt productivity. You can check your email on your phone while waiting in line at the grocery store, doing homework or sitting in class, or send, receive and read text while having a face to face conversation with someone or working on a research paper. The click of a mouse or push of a button can create an influx of information coming at you while you are engaged in another task. Doubling the amount of information you received in the same amount of time and expecting that the brain will process everything effectively is a lot to ask of the brain.

Now ask yourself how much information is too much and how much information can you effectively take in all at once? Knowledge is powerful but not when so much information negatively affects productivity.

#### Simple Solutions

Most students probably suffer from some form of information overload, if they haven't they will, and if they don't they are an exception. Add yourself to the long list of students, professionals and everyday people who are in the same boat. Many of them probably won't realize why they are unproductive, tired, overwhelmed or making simple errors in assignments or projects. Information overload might just sound like a fluffy term for a "fake" issue. Your doctor may not be able to diagnose you with information overload but some of the signs are those that you can identify for yourself and do something about. The good news is that there are ways that you can control the information rather than letting it control you. According to Ward, "A good way for students to deal with the information overload issue is to learn how to use digital media and social tools to do the work for them, help them to better organize and to save time. Students can use digital and social tools to tell the internet what they need, when they

According to Wikipedia, the information age got its start with the unveiling of the personal computer in the 1970s. the wrong information at least once a week.

Unless information is organized, useful and accurate, it serves little purpose for a business and individuals alike. Learning how to interpret and manage information to be effective is a necessary component to having it. Companies and individuals who realize this can begin to avoid falling victim to information overload.

Do You Suffer from Information Overload?

How does information overload affect the college student? This question may have different answers for different people. The truth is that traditional aged college students may have grown up with the internet and have never had the experience of owning a set of encyclopedias stacked on the bookshelf at home that were the only reference available to them at homework time. Some students may

- \* Visit YouTube
- \* Use ITunes

\* Participate in online banking or shopping

Now think about how many times in a day you engage in the following methods of receiving traditional information.

\* Read a book or a newspaper or article

\* Listen to a lecture or attend a seminar

- \* Watch television
- \* Talk on the telephone
- \* Attend a study group
- \* Go to the library

\* Check the bulletin board or read a flyer

The number of times we rely on digital technology in a day can be alarming and distracting. The difference between the first group of activities and the second is that the first set of tasks can be done

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# Campus News

# College dating (cont. from cover)

ple tend to hang out with the same people all the time. The fraternities and sororities basically date each other. Once you're in a relationship there are a lot of good aspects about it but unneeded stress as well. Some people put themselves in a comfort zone with someone and just stay there." The impression I was getting from the more research I did on the topic and from the students I interviewed is that you are ei-

ther, "Single and lonely or in a rela-

Is it so important to be 'Facebook official?'

tionship and miserable." Is it just our generation that feels this way? It seems like there is a great deal of negativity, however we are still young.

Maybe we all need to place our concerns on more important qualities of life for the time being. "There is definitely a lack of traditional dating nowadays. I think part of it has to do with all of the technology we have. Texting, Facebook, etc. All of that internet communication takes away from the emotional aspects of dating" said Kevin Fenlon, a counselor at Worcester State University. "Students constantly ask what am I getting myself into? The aspects of a relationship becoming 'Facebook official' and how serious the

relationship is. It seems that students want to be in good, healthy relationships but do not know how to because the media tends to focus on sex and our fast-paced culture. I think people somehow need to get back to the basics of just spending time and talking to a person to see if it can lead anywhere. The actions of hooking up first at parties and being so concerned with what's going on on Facebook can really com-

> plicate things." When you dive deeper into the subject of college dating, maybe the trend of hooking

up also has to do with the fact that many college students in our generation have divorced parents and low incomes because of the economy. People often got married at younger ages in earlier decades, but now psychologically and financially it is difficult to develop strong relationships. Overall while we are in college we should focus on school work and having fun with friends without getting into too many complicated situations. Everyone wants to find that "special someone" and even though it may seem more convoluted in today's world with media and tools such as dating websites, it is possible if we go back to fundamentals and openly getting to know someone.

# Apple CEO (cont. from page 3)

When a marketer

becomes 'creator'

having a hard drive, the Apple III was one costly clunker!

While Jobs, the marketer, wanted a quiet machine without an internal fan, the reality of the day wasn't with him. Jobs was concerned with the computer conveying a "feeling." He was looking out for the user.

But the lack of a fan meant that the

boards would overheat. Chips would become displaced. The machine would cease

running if left on long enough. Apple actually sent out directions to users to lift the machine a few inches off the table and to purposely drop it to knock chips back into place. Other reports told of users putting the machines on floors. opening them up and physically stepping on the boards to get the chips back in place. What a mess! Hardly the Zen-like experience Jobs anticipated.

Mac line and the Apple II line was its more profitable, but neglected step child.

This schism allowed a far inferior Windows to move in and take over by the 1990s, and Apple only had a tiny percentage of the market share for that decade and much of the following decade. Jobs came, went and came back.

> I was working in the 1990s in one of the few fields still using Macintoshes - newspapers. Jobs' artistic sense led to the Mac's better printing technology, rendering of fonts, etc., that allowed for newspapers

to go from old-fashioned paste-ups to newer formats that allowed for greater creativity. The invention of the PDF by Adobe first took hold in the Apple world and publications could be saved and shipped to printers anywhere. In the mid-1990s, I worked for an American publication that only existed because it was able to send PDFs over the Internet to printing plants in London and Berlin. And, in the end, Jobs was right. Mac people seem like they are part of a cult their machines cost twice as much as a Dell or Compaq and essentially are the same computers, but they can't explain WHY their Mac is better. To them, it just IS. They are "at one" with something or the other. Any idiot can operate an iPhone. Maybe an invention isn't as tangible as kicking chips into an overheated logic board. Maybe an invention simply is a feel. A user's experience. A relationship. And perhaps that's why it seems Jobs is so irrationally missed by his customers. Because isn't everything – even religion with its beautiful statues and stained glass windows - marketing?

# Loser friends (cont. from cover)

best person you can be? Do they push you to keep your studies up? If the answer is yes, then hold tight to them. If the answer is no then you should seek out people who are encouraging.

In a 2004

Journal of Higher Education story, there was a study reported that tested a group of adolescents. There were 253 participants who

were part of the experiment. The participants took self-reports. The reports were done on a scale ranging from 1 to 5. One strongly disagree to five strongly agree. The experiment measured mastery level skills and behavioral influence. Some of the questions on the reports were: I work in this class because I like to understand what I'm learning, I do the work in this class because I want to show that I know more than my classmates, I do work in this class because I don't want others to think I know less than they do, and, lastly, I can do the work in this class. There were three choices that the participants were given that assessed the social reasons for not doing the class work. The participants were given the following reasons to choose from: social responsibility, social intimacy and social approval goals. It turned out that the social approval goal was the most popular.

Another famous experiment done was the Asch Conformity Experiment. The experiment consisted of 123 participants, each of the participants were put in groups. The group consisted of 5 to 7 people who knew what the experiment was about and one or two people who were clueless. They were introduced to the other participants as being just as clueless as they were about the experiment. The first cou-

We are conditioned to conform to the people around us.

De who were iced to the other clueless as they clueless as they ple of trials the participants were shown a card; the card had a line on it. The postiai The participants were shown another card with three different sized

lines on it. The participants were asked which line on the card matched the size line of the second card. The experiment continued for about 18 trials, using different cards. Out of the 18 total trials, in 12 of the trials the participants answered the obvious right answers incorrectly. The experiment showed 75 percent of the participants answered obvious right answers wrong just because everyone did before them. This experiment shows us how easily influenced we are by others we surround ourselves by. These participants were not even friends with each other and they were still influenced.

This goes hand in hand with our educational goals. We as humans long to be accepted, but you can lead by example. You can be that influence, that POSI-TIVE influence on a friend. You can offer up for study groups and cut back on the partying. If you feel like your friends are not building you up academically, then give them a heads up. True, you are responsible for what you do, but make the best choice of friends.



#### ISFERRING TO SAINT ROSE IS INTEGRAL

Wozniak would later opine that the machine was a failure because its design was led by marketers, not engineers.

Wozniak would be later bought out of the company. Apple scurried back to the Apple II line, which did have a foothold in elementary schools with educational programs like "The Oregon Trail," and for awhile Apple produced two incompatible, competing lines of computers, the Apple II and the Macintosh.

I was in the Apple II camp back then. I liked pulling out cards, acting as both an engineer and an artist, while the Macintosh was meant to be for less technical users. It had a monitor built in, a hard drive, a mouse, quiet laser printers. Apple was putting all of its effort into the

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# smh ... wbu?\*

#### Prof. Jack Mandel, MBA

Nassau Community College

If you can "decode" the above headline, I would venture to "guess-timate" that you are between the ages of 18-30.

If you can't and the letters look like "gibberish" ... I am the bearer of bad, or to put it more gently, disheartening news. Consider yourself to be "old school" (at best) or "over the hill" (at worst).

You see, I teach "Principles of Public Relations" at Nassau Community College. One component of the class focuses on the concept of "Communication." You know – S-M-R (Sender/Source-Message-Receiver). And I'm used to communicating in a "verbal" sense."

That's why I'm so confused ... perhaps perplexed is a better word to use. Because everywhere I look on campus ... from the parking lot to walking in the hallways ... from peering into a classroom (before and after classes) ... from walking on staircases to cubicles in the college library ... EVERYONE IS DOING IT ... except me.

And what exact is "IT"? ... In a word ... TEXTING.

Is this some kind of mean trick being played upon those of us over 40 years of age? Students smile, smirk, even laugh that accredited, academic professionals who hold MA, MBA and even doctorate degrees can't fathom the basics of texting.

My question is, WHO WOULD

#### WANT TO?

How many of us know what the letters TYVM mean? (Thank you very much); omw (on my way); Imao (laughing my ass off); Imk (let me know); omg (oh, my God) – that was an easy one! ... And the list goes on!

Is there some kind of hidden conspiracy among the youth of today to cease normal conversation to confuse their parents, professors and bosses? Is this a subtle form of rebellion? ... to immerse oneself in a communications vacuum?

It's as if one-on-one talking has become passé in our fast-paced, highly mobile, and tech world.

Does this trend have long-term staying power? I don't have an answer. But as a certified, card-carrying "baby boomer," I sure hope to keep teaching long enough to find out. It should be a good learning experience for me (and you?).

\*smh (shaking my head) ... wbu (what about you?) ... Good title, right? (lol) = laugh out loud.

Professor Mandel has taught marketing and public relations since 1978 at Nassau Community College in Garden City, N.Y. He is the recipient of the prestigious "Outstanding Teacher Award" conferred by the NYS Association of Two-Year Colleges. He is also a "Best of Long Island Winner" for 2010 in the Teaching category from the Long Island Press.

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# New column: 'It's new to you' on Netflix

#### Darren Johnson

Campus News

Welcome to my new column, "It's New to You," or easily found via the web at www.nu2u.info. Yes, that's a dot-info. I'm big on these \$1.99 domain names. Why pay more?

I got the idea for this column several years ago, when a "Pulp Fiction" reference I had been using successfully for many, many semesters fell flat in a Freshman Comp class I was teaching at the Sayville satellite of Suffolk County Community College.

How could these students not know a reference from perhaps the best movie of the 1990s? Then I looked around the room and realized the average person in this class was born around 1990. The movie was "R." Maybe they only had been watching "R" movies for a couple of years. This was a movie way to politically incorrect to translate well to regular TV. These students had no exposure to this film.

And, too be fair, I didn't see "Citizen Kane," considered by many to be the best movie ever — and definitely a must-see for a journalist — until I was 32. For all intents and purposes, that film, made in 1941, was "new to me," so the idea of a column came up after that "Pulp Fiction" lead balloon. I'm sitting in front of the flatscreen, scrolling through Netflix titles that are coming through my kid's Wii and realizing she hadn't seen so many classics I had enjoyed when I was her age. She's approaching college age. So the idea of "It's New to You" was revived and here it is.

Now that Netflix exists, along with other ways to get practically any classic movie or TV show at any time, writing this column makes more sense. So please enjoy my picks below. They may not be new, but, as you've likely never seen them before, they're new to you!

**"Funny Farm"** – You may remember Chevy Chase as the dad in the popular "Vacation" movies that still run on cable to this day; especially **"Christmas Vacation"** this time of year, one of the more underrated Christmas films.

But you may not have seen the box office dud "Funny Farm" that came and went in the 1980s like parachute pants and "The Safety Dance."

It's on Netflix now and worth a revisit. Seemingly every New York metro area writer has the fantasy of buying some bargain of a huge property Upstate or in New England and finally being free to write that great novel in them.

I've done this in the past year, moving

# It's smart that networks like AMC put their best shows online. We'd never find them on Channel Z otherwise.

But I didn't have a newspaper at the time, and I'm not into the whole idea of blogging (I don't write on spec), so I let the idea sit on the back burner as life went by.

Besides, the idea wasn't practical. Even if I recommended some forgotten gem of a movie I found on VHS in the basement of my local library, how would readers be able to view my recommendations? They'd have to order the films through their local libraries or ebay.

Fast forward to a couple of weeks ago.

to a small town not far from the Vermont border, and this movie rings so true. One gives up the problems and high expense of a large urban area for quirky country neighbors, weird animal intrusions, nosy smalltown cops and politicians and unexpected expenses.

**"The Walking Dead ," Season 1 – I** didn't know about the AMC channel until scrolling through Netflix and finding this TV show. It's currently in Season 2, but





you can catch up with Season 1 on Netflix. Even if you have On Demand on your cable system (where Season 1 is also present), the Netflix version is commercial free. No fast-forwarding!

My wife did not like sci-fi/fantasy, and even she is into this show now.

I'm noticing Season 2 is starting to drag a bit with three episodes devoted to finding a kid lost in the woods, but Season 1 really created some believable characters in an end-of-the-world zombieland.

It's smart for AMC to put its best shows on Netflix (also, see **"Breaking Bad"** on there). Otherwise, I would never bump into them on Channel Z. It's not like anyone under 50 reads TV Guide anymore.

**"Star Trek Voyager," Episode 130 on Netflix: "Blink of an Eye"** – The exact episode number of this cult classic episode may vary depending on how you search for it, so I added the episode title above.

Even if you're not into "Star Trek," and "Voyager" was a lesser-regarded, late-'90s spinoff with a diverse (meaning mixed with humans, Vulcans, Klingons, a sexy Borg, etc.) crew lost in space, this episode



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York and New England two-year

Publisher/Editor: Darren Johnson.

has magic to it.

One doesn't need to know much about "Star Trek" or the mostly forgettable characters on this series to enjoy the mind-bending theme of "Blink of an Eye" - the crew gets trapped in the upper atmosphere of a planet with a different sense of time.

So what's seconds on the spaceship Voyager can be months on the planet's surface. This makes communication difficult with the planet's population and Voyager. Meanwhile, Voyager's presence is causing earthquakes down below.

We see the planet evolve from primitive days to a space age as the Voyager crew sits trapped.

In each era on the planet's surface, the natives try to communicate with the spaceship. At first sending hot air balloon messages up to the sky, and, as technology develops, missiles.

It's an engaging, philosophical look at the concept of time, and how quickly it seems to pass.

If you'd like more advice on obscure, older shows and movies that may be "new to you," visit www.nu2u.info.

#### Design Template: Thomas Johnson.

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Nassau Community College faculty were honored by the Town of Oyster Bay. Prof. Jack Mandel (see his column, page 8 – he's pictured in the front, fourth from the left), spearheaded the NCC/TOB 2011 Spring Business Initiative. Supervisor John Venditto (first row, second from left) presented several proclamtions on May 17. Other NCC faculty: Dawn DiStefano, Caroline Falconetti, Susan Goldson, Dean Holzmann and Edward Hom.

# Overload (cont. from page 4)

colleges.

need it and where they want it."

Ward also offers suggestions for using technology to benefit rather than distract. Social media such as Twitter and Facebook can be used for live discussion or to allow students to connect directly to an expert or create networks that can point them in the right direction, saving valuable time. Google alerts can be used to have content brought directly to the student via email or a Google reader rather than spending time searching for it, says Ward. Additionally Google docs can be used to collaborate on team projects such as spreadsheets, word projects or Power-Point presentations. This is a time saver rather than dealing with a slew of back and forth emails and attachments. It saves time and frustration, says Ward.

While the goal for improved technology is to make things easier, the truth is that sometimes less is more. The more Web: www.campus-news.org

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advanced things become the more complicated unless you can control the world around you. Organizing and using the efficiency of the digital age for its benefits and not for its distractions is key to beating information overload. Ward refers to sorting through the "fire hose of information," as a time waster for students. Information overload has a great deal to do with who you are, how you use and interpret information and the amount of information you consume in a day. Nothing is one size fits all, and each person is different in the way that he relates to the world around him.

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# where are the thinkers

# who will foresee the forces of nature?



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#### ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT AVIATION

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