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Volume 4, Issue 4
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December 2011

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Darren Johnson
Campus News

We’re starting a new tradition here at Campus News: A holiday gift guide with suggestions by college students *for* college students.

We’ve developed a pretty decent email list of college students, and I sent out a query. The response was decent, with some recurring items on many of your wish lists.

So take this paper home. Leave it on the coffee table where other gift buyers can see it, and maybe they’ll get you some of these items.

If money’s tight and you want a holiday conversation piece, try getting that special someone a **Chia Pet**. These always generate a laugh at a Secret Santa gathering. I don’t think most recipients actually use the items, but they are easy to find – even Walgreens carries these things.

I’m wondering if the much-hyped **Chia Obama**, pictured, is worth the \$20-30 they are going for on eBay, though. They may be collectors’ items someday, in that they are totally tacky, and maybe even a bit racist (though they also released a Chia Washington and Chia Lincoln). But in this day and age of hoarding so-called “collectibles,” something as obviously kitschy as this surely is not going to be in short supply 20 years from now. (See, “Elvis Plates.”)

A cheaper conversation piece would be the typical Chia Shrek, Chia Bart Simpson or whatever for \$12. Still tacky enough to



A cool collector’s item or a monument to the end of civilization?

get a laugh, but the recipient won’t feel guilty tossing it in the trash a week later.

Speaking of eBay, there are **mp3 players** that look like iPod Shuffles for \$8 (free shipping) and Android tablets for under \$100, both from Hong Kong, that are items that look like they cost more than their actual price.

I buy the mp3 players all the time for people. They are shiny, metallic and look to be of decent quality but are inexpensive, super easy to load and very light and clip on to your shirt at the gym. And at \$8, you

don’t care much if they get lost. You’re better off adding your own headphones (dollar store), as the headphones that come from Hong Kong are horrible, but that’s a minor complaint. The eBay keywords to find this: **“New 2GB Metal Mini Clip On MP3 Player.”**

However, I bought one of the no-name **Android tablets** as a gift last year, and that ended up being junk. The touch screen just wasn’t sensitive or accurate enough to let the user do much, the clarity of the display

continued on page 7

Federal student loan help – for some

Shannon McDonald
Scripps Howard Foundation Wire

College isn’t cheap – and it keeps getting more expensive. But some federal loan borrowers may soon get a break, while others may have just missed the cut.

Katherine Kopriva, 23, graduated in May with a debt of more than \$50,000. But because she took out her first student loan in 2007, she will not qualify for the recent proposals to change the program.

“I could use the help,” Kopriva, a 2011 business graduate of the University of Iowa, said. “I haven’t even budgeted in my student loans, and I have to start paying back next month.”

President Barack Obama announced a proposal last month to make it easier to repay student loans. Pay As You Earn would lower monthly payments through an income-based repayment plan that first became available to borrowers in 2009.

The current law allows graduates to cap their monthly payments at 15 percent of their income, and after 25 years, whatever is left is forgiven. Obama’s proposal would lower the monthly payments to 10 percent as early as next year – two years



Lauren Fabijanski qualifies.

earlier than planned. Under this provision, remaining student debt would be forgiven after 20 years instead of 25 years.

Before borrowers can benefit from these changes, the proposals need to pass through negotiated rulemaking – a process in which interest groups come to a consensus. These groups are likely to involve universities, borrowers and loan service companies, according to the U.S. Department of Education. Discussions are expected to start early next year with

a goal of finishing before spring graduations.

The Project On Student Debt last month released its sixth annual report on the average student debt accumulated per state. In 2010, two-thirds of college seniors graduated with an average student loan debt of \$25,250, up 5 percent from



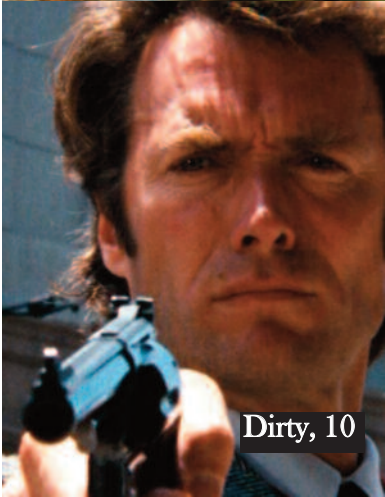
Katherine Kopriva does not.

the previous year. New Hampshire students topped the list with an average debt

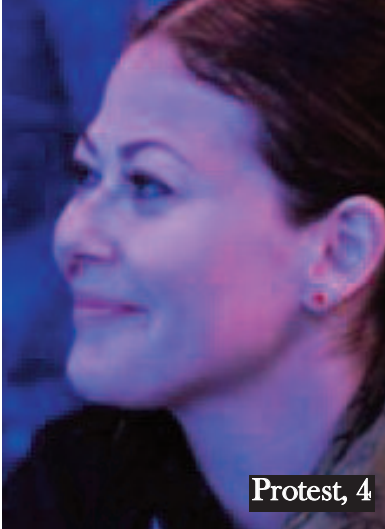
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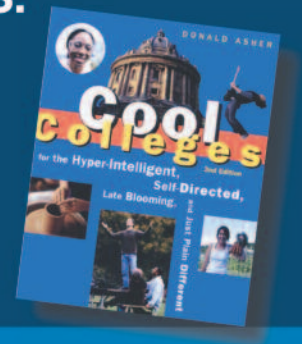
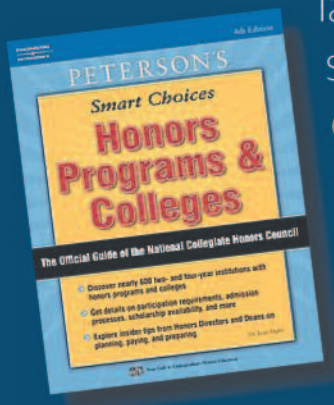


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MERCY COLLEGE

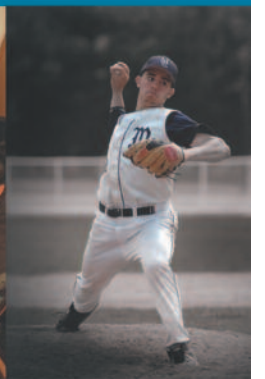
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Top chefs face toughest critics – 6-year-old children

Danya P. Hernandez
Scripps Howard Foundation Wire

Four renowned chefs took on what might have been their toughest challenge ever, and it had nothing to do with cooking a fancy meal. It was to make a delicious, healthy dinner for five for \$10 and to please tough customers: kids.

Six year-old judges Jeshua Ferro and Austin Jackson tasted six dishes and voted for their favorites by selecting a happy face. The losers rated sad faces.

Jeshua said everything was good – the salad, the yogurt dessert and the broccoli-beef. That’s the only dish Austin liked. He tasted the shaved carrot and apple salad with a frown and spat out the Jell-O and buttermilk panna cotta.

James Beard Award-winning chef Tom Colicchio, the father of two young children, took his defeat in stride.

“I’ll stand behind the instant Jell-O buttermilk panna cotta any day,” he said, as he laughed.

Maria Hines, Holly Smith and Ming Tsai joined Colicchio on Nov. 30 for the Great American Family Dinner Challenge at the Building a Healthier Future Summit.

Hosted by the Partnership for a Healthier America, the summit focused on ending childhood obesity.

The chefs worked in teams of two to prepare two three-course dinners. They quickly realized that culinary experience was something children don’t always care

about.

Tsai opted for a strategic approach. He described a yogurt parfait with cinnamon-covered cashews as “vanilla ice cream with rock sugar.” Both kids seemed to like it.

Jeshua’s parents Laura Castillo, 30, and Tony Ferro, 50, of Silver Spring, Md., and Austin’s mother, Kim Mrkva, 29, of Toledo, Ohio, judged the food favorably.

The families participated after winning a contest Parents and Ser Padres magazines.

The challenge imitated what American families deal with every day – no time, tight budgets and picky eaters. The children’s mothers, and thousands like them, struggle to get their children to eat healthy food and like it.

“I like corn, pizza and chips,” Austin said. The only vegetable he approves of is

broccoli, but only if topped with “yummy” melted cheese.

“It is a challenge, especially with lack of money,” Mrkva said.

Mrkva is a stay-at-home mother of two, Austin and Kaleigh, 4. Her husband is a stone and brick mason.

The event focused on busy parents like them who need to become educated about the variety of healthy food options and easy recipes.

Four other chefs prepared a healthy dinner for everyone at the conference that cost \$4.50 per person. The meal included risotto with vegetables, turkey and pumpkin pie.



Chef Ming Tsai.

Sam Kass, White House chef and host of the challenge, said it is crucial to get this information out to parents. He promoted initiatives such as My Plate and Mi Plato, from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

“Kids make 70 percent of all restaurant decisions,” Tsai said. “Why do you think there are all these free gifts at McDonalds?”

The chefs agreed that getting children involved in preparing healthy meals encourages them to try new foods and make better choices that could help them avoid obesity.

“Kids will eat it, they just need to be exposed to it,” Colicchio said.

Health-care costs related to obesity

are about \$147 billion, Kass said. According to the summit website, those costs are projected to reach \$6 trillion by 2050.

First lady Michelle Obama attended the summit Wednesday and said many of the long-term issues of childhood obesity go unnoticed.

She said overweight children miss two weeks of school per year on average and that a fourth of young people are too overweight to serve in the military.

“We have to think seriously about the future of our kids,” Castillo said. She said she doesn’t want her daughter to struggle with health issues and that’s why she is patiently trying to build healthy habits.

Supreme Court weighs privacy issues in cyber era

Pamela Engel
Scripps Howard Foundation Wire

The Supreme Court confronted Orwellian privacy issues last month in a case many legal experts have cited as one of the most important this term.

In United States v. Jones, justices questioned whether installing a GPS device on a suspected drug trafficker’s car violated his Fourth Amendment rights protecting him from unreasonable searches and seizures.

Justices discussed a previous Supreme Court case, United States v. Knotts, which determined that using a radio-transmitting beeper to help law enforcement officers follow a car did not violate a reasonable expectation of privacy.

“Knotts seems to me much more like traditional surveillance,” Chief Justice John G. Roberts said. “You’re following the car, and the beeper just helps you follow it from a slightly greater distance. That was 30 years ago. The technology is very different, and you get a lot more information from the GPS surveillance than you do from following a beeper.”

Authorities tracked a car used by Antoine Jones, whom they suspected of dealing cocaine, for about a month with a GPS device they installed without a valid warrant and without Jones’ consent. The warrant police obtained required officers to plant the device within 10 days and only in Washington, but police installed the GPS on the 11th day and in Maryland. Both sides agree that police installed

the device without following the terms of the warrant.

Jones was eventually convicted of drug trafficking and sentenced to

life in prison. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit reversed the conviction.

The GPS technology allowed police to “push a button” whenever they wanted to locate the car, Roberts said. The device also kept location data from everywhere the car went during the month the GPS was attached to it.

Micheal R. Dreeben, U.S. deputy solicitor general, argued that this did not violate Jones’ reasonable expectation of privacy because the device did not expose anything that was not available for public view. Dreeben said the FBI could legally order agents to follow Jones around-the-

clock as he traveled on public streets.

Law enforcement officials, however, rarely send officers to follow people 24 hours a day, Justice Stephen G. Breyer said.

“That occasionally happens. But with machines, you can,” he said. “So if you win, you suddenly produce what sounds like ‘1984’ from their brief.”

Modern technology has catapulted surveillance efficiency to new heights, as police departments no longer need to use a limited number of officers to tail suspects.

“In the pre-computer, pre-Internet age much of the privacy ... that people enjoyed was not the result of legal protections or constitutional protections; it was the result simply of the difficulty of traveling around and gathering up information,” Justice Samuel A. Alito said.

Stephen C. Leckar, the attorney representing Jones, argued that the GPS device was unconstitutional because it was attached to personal property, a car that Jones’ wife owned.

“The Fourth Amendment protects effects, it protects people,” Leckar said. “If you put it on someone’s briefcase, you put it on somebody’s car, you have affected their possessory interest.”

Although law

enforcement officials did not take physical possession of anything Jones owned, they seized data from his car, Leckar said.

“What happens is the police have the capacity with GPS to engage in grave abuse, grave abuse of individual and group liberties,” Leckar said.

Justices also questioned whether the one-month time frame of the tracking factored into whether the surveillance violated Jones’ reasonable expectation of privacy.

“If there is no invasion of privacy for one day, there is no invasion of privacy for 100 days,” Justice Antonin Scalia said. “Now, it may be unreasonable police conduct, and we can handle that with laws.”

Eleven friend-of-the-court briefs – submitted by organizations including the American Civil Liberties Union and the Center for Democracy and Technology – supported Jones, while one, filed by the Administration of Criminal Law, sided with the government. The court is likely to rule on the case in the spring.

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Occupiers head from NYC to DC

Lyudmila Tsubiks
Scripps Howard Foundation Wire

After a 13-day, 300 mile march from New York, about 25 members of Occupy Wall Street were met with cheers, hugs and screams of “I love you” during the week of Thanksgiving as they arrived at the camp of Occupy DC.

They didn’t have a carriage to get here, but “as you can see we are here,” New York marcher Michael Glazer, 26, said.

The New York group came to Washington to protest at Capitol Hill against the government’s budget policy.

“The Bush-era tax-cuts have to expire, so we do not continue to lose jobs due to budget cuts,” Merielle Santiago, 25, a marcher from Monmouth County, N.J., said. “We need as much money pumped in our economy, and the rich have an obligation.”

The occupiers disagree with President Barack Obama’s decision to extend the Bush tax-cuts through the end of this

the tax cuts “only benefit the richest 1 percent of Americans.”

“We are 99 percent,” is the marchers’ slogan.

The marchers wanted to protest and discuss the tax-cut question at the final meeting – originally scheduled for the day before Thanksgiving – of the congressional super committee, which had a mandate to cut the federal deficit. However, the super committee failed to reach an agreement on how to cut the deficit by \$1.2 trillion.

Protesters blamed the super committee for the failure.

“This committee was set up to fail,” Glazer said at a press conference after

arriving at McPherson Square, the home of Occupy DC. “So we need, as the occupation, to raise these issues.”

The group of about 25 marchers started their trek

Nov. 9 at New York’s Zuccotti Square and went through New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland. Some occupiers from cities and towns on the route



Merielle Santiago.

joined the marchers. About 50 marchers reached McPherson square, two blocks from the White House, about 3 p.m. Tuesday.

Glazer said they planned their route with the help of the Internet and the highway.

“We were trying to find where the closest major cities were, and also where there closest occupations were to the highway,” Glazer said.

The marchers were given \$3,000 by the Occupy Wall Street general assembly

to pay for food, clean socks and other necessities. They didn’t need most of it.

Sarah Handyside, 28, of New York, said 99 percent of people they met on the way were supportive. She said people gave them food and invited to stay with them to rest and take showers. Some drivers handed food to marchers through car windows. Others shouted support. Some yelled insults, or urged the marchers to get jobs.

Eric Carter, 30, an emergency med-

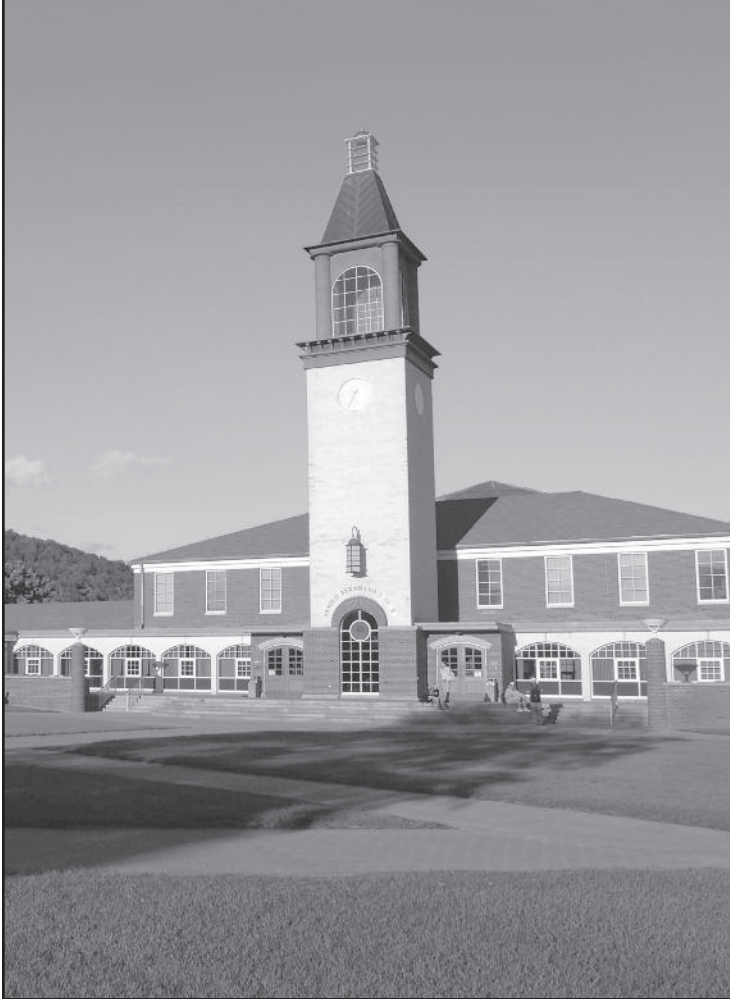
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‘We need the Bush-era tax cuts to expire and pumped into our economy.’

year. Obama has said he will veto any bill that continues the tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans.

The Occupy Wall Street website said

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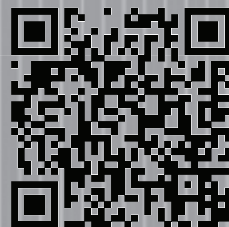
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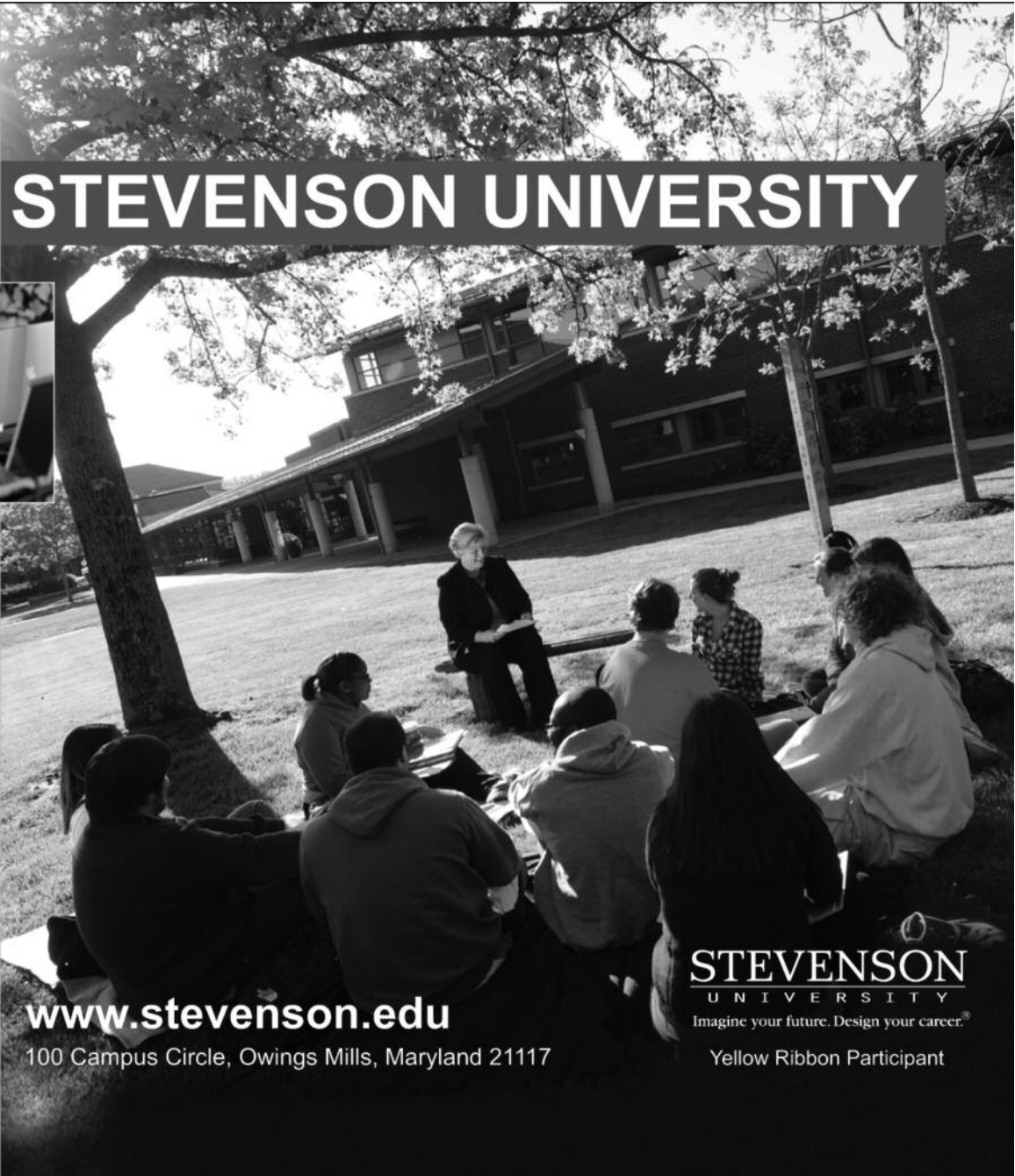
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Gift guide (cont. from cover)

wasn't very sharp, and the battery had little lasting power.

A lot of you who responded to my mass email said "iPad," and after last year's tablet debacle, I'm inclined to go in that direction. While the **Kindle Fire** is getting a lot of press at \$200, it's 3" smaller than the iPad. Apple, as of this writing, had the **32GB iPad I** on its site for \$399 with a one-year warranty and free shipping. **The 16GB iPad II** was \$50 more.

It's \$199-249 more, but I can just see the Apple product easily outlasting the Kindle Fire in durability and usefulness for twice as many years, and, because of the bigger screen, being a more enjoyable experience over its lifespan.

On the other end of the gift spectrum, I've been seeing a pic of a **Car French Fry Holder** a good deal in Facebook shares. From what I can gather, a few years ago, an online store called Im-

provements had this item for \$10, but doesn't anymore. Ebay doesn't have it. But what a monument to Obese America! It even has a little compartment for dipping sauce. If you can find one, this surely would be more collectable, and funnier at your Secret Santa gathering, than Chia Obama!

Getting back to my query, a good suggestion from one student was a **reed diffuser**. It's a type of incense that won't set off dorm fire alarms and there are tons of scents.

Some of the women who responded suggested gift certificates for **spa days**. In this anti-corporate era, it's a good time to "Occupy" a local



Is a car fry holder urban legend?

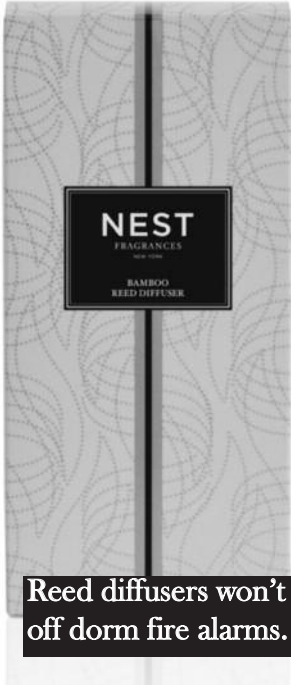
mom and pop with some cucumbers in your eyes or whatever you people do!

While another popular idea was **gift baskets for the college student** with lots of goodies to bring back to school, showing you care, another suggestion was more practical – **gas cards**.

Do a quick google search and find



iPads – worth the extra \$200?



Reed diffusers won't set off dorm fire alarms.



out which gas stations are in the town the recipient studies in, then go to your local gas station with the same name (Hess, Exxon, etc.) and ask for a gift card. To me, that seems not much more special, and less practical, than giving cash, but most people do tend to differentiate the difference between gift cards vs. cash in the "it's the thought that counts" category.



College students love gas cards.

Loan relief (cont. from cover)

of \$31,048, followed by Maine and Iowa. The lowest were Hawaii, New Mexico and Utah, at \$15,509.

The average student loan debt in Iowa is \$29,598 – third highest state for student debt.

And graduates are entering a labor market with a high unemployment rate, 9 percent in October.

But there's a catch in the possible changes for some students and recent graduates. Kopriva won't benefit from the 10 percent monthly payment rate because the changes would apply only to new student loan borrowers in 2008 or later who also took out a loan in 2012 or later. Kopriva took out her first federal loan in 2007.

"A 5 percent difference is significant," Kopriva, an administrative assistant at the Yale School of Management said. "It could really help you get by."

Kopriva earns nearly \$38,000 a year. She pays rent, a car payment, insurance, credit cards and utilities.

"I really don't know how I'm going to start paying back next month," Kopriva said. "I may defer my loans for awhile."

Kopriva's loans are all unsubsidized and, if she's approved for a deferral, the loans will build interest. Subsidized loans do not accrue interest during a deferral.

Mark Warner, University of Iowa financial aid director, said his office can assist borrowers in choosing the best repayment plan.

"We let students know if you're going to pay over a longer period of time, you're going to pay more interest," Warner said.

Lauren Fabijanski, 18, a freshman studying international affairs at George Washington University, is one of the

1.6 million student borrowers the U.S. Department of Education said will benefit from the new plan.

Fabijanski, of Naperville, Ill., said the reduced income-based repayment plan sounds like one she might like to use. Despite being a new borrower, had never heard of it.

She's not alone. Of the more than 36 million Americans with federal student loan debt, fewer than 450,000 use the current income-based repayment plan, according to the White House.

Andrew Gillen, research director for the Center for College Affordability and Productivity, doesn't support the income-based repayment plan.

In a recent article, Gillen wrote the plan "is being treated as a free program in spite of the fact that it could end up costing billions of dollars in a few decades."

The income-based repayment plan "is trying to fix the problem of students borrowing too much for college, without stopping students from borrowing too much," Gillen said.

Fabijanski, who estimated she took out \$4,000 in student loans this year, said students are not fully informed about the loan process because the wording is too legal. Fabijanski receives other aid through grants and scholarships.

"A lot of students don't understand the implications of what they're doing and how it's going to affect their budgets following graduation," Fabijanski said. "They don't know how they might have to struggle between food, rent, and just loans."

Vicente Fox: Legalize drugs

Danya P. Hernandez

Scripps Howard Foundation Wire

As Mexican President Felipe Calderón struggles to fight fire with fire against drug cartels in Mexico, his predecessor said legalizing drugs might be a better strategy.

Former President Vicente Fox is a strong advocate of this controversial idea and said his country doesn't need to continue to pay the price.

"Fifty thousand kids from 15 to 25 years old have been killed in the last five years," Fox said last month at Cato Institute's Center for Global Liberty and Prosperity. "Violence does not defeat violence."

He explained that because Mexico is stuck between some of the largest drug producers, such as Colombia and Venezuela, and the biggest consumer, the U.S., Mexico has been given the job of drug control by the U.S.

The location is ideal for drug cartels, which continuously fight for control of key areas for transportation through Mexico and distribution close to the U.S. border.

Even though legalization poses controversial ethical and moral questions, Fox

said the responsibility lies in the hands of parents to educate their children and, ultimately, in the individuals who decide to use drugs.

"Do we really expect that the government will eradicate the drugs from the face of the earth?" Fox asked.

He referred to other countries, including Holland and Portugal, that have adopted legalization of drugs as a method to eradicate illegal trafficking. The 2008 annual report by the Instituto da Droga e da Toxicodependencia I.P. (Institute of the Drug and Toxic Dependency) showed that many categories of illegal drug use among Portuguese teens decreased during the first five years.

Mexico does not penalize drug consumption, only its production distribution.

"If something is not done, who knows how Mexico will be after the war," Fox said.

Fox has been asked why he didn't propose legalization when he was in office, from 2000 to 2006. He responded that drug violence was simply not as high back then as it is now.

He said the main urgency is to protect citizens who have been directly affected by the violence.

What the frack?!

Pamela Engel
Scripps Howard Foundation Wire

The head of the Marcellus Shale Coalition encouraged its member companies and organizations to forge relationships with communities where they plan to use hydraulic fracturing to extract natural gas.

The controversial process, also known as fracking, uses water containing chemicals to extract natural gas from rock formations such as Marcellus shale. Communities with fracking sites can benefit from the industry because of jobs, but some people worry the chemicals could contaminate their drinking water supplies.

“We’ve made a lot of progress on the ground in communities where the operations are happening,” Kathryn Klaber, president and executive director of the coalition, said at a luncheon last month. “The latest numbers show ... 93 percent of hires are from the five Marcellus states, so we’re keeping it much more local, and we’ll continue to move in that direction.”

The states are New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia and Maryland.

The Marcellus Shale Coalition is an advocacy group based in Pennsylvania that works with regulators, government officials and communities. Its members are mostly energy companies. Some who are opposed to fracking say the chemicals used in the water

that blasts apart the rock could contaminate wells and streams. There have been no documented cases so far of fracking chemicals contaminating drinking water. The Environmental Protection Agency is conducting a study about fracking, due out in 2014. The report could lead to regulations about disposing of wastewater.

Wayne National Forest in southeast Ohio announced earlier this month a delay in leasing more than 3,000 acres of land that could be used for fracking. Forty-eight Athens County organizations oppose fracking in the Wayne forest. The U.S. Forest Service is assembling a team to study the effects of fracking before deciding if the land can be leased.

Educating communities about what it means to extract natural gas safely and about the regulations that apply is an important step, Klaber said.

“What’s important is to have people on the ground, working in this industry who can build relationships within their communities,” she said.

States develop laws based on their own geography to regulate fracking practices, including how to dispose of wastewater. Rep. Bob Gibbs, R-Ohio, and Tom Stewart, executive vice president for the Ohio Oil and Gas Association, spoke at a House committee hearing Nov. 16 to support state, as opposed to federal, regulations for the fracking industry.

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David L. Podos
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I read, with much interest, two articles published in Volume 4 issue 2 of Campus News, Cristina Guity's article, "Students Who Just Disappear" and Darren Johnson's editorial, "Retaining Students." While both articles discuss the increasing incidences of student drop out (a very real and disturbing trend across campuses throughout the United States), it was their comments specifically regarding adjunct faculty that caught my eye.

In her article, Ms. Guity mentions that a researcher (unnamed) writing for The Chronicle of Higher Education made the claim that first year college students have a higher propensity to drop out of high stakes courses (intro courses) taught by part time instructors. For reader clarification, this article was written by David Glenn and titled, "Keep Adjuncts Away From Introductory Courses." With all due respect to Ms. Guity, the problem with just printing this particular quote should be evident. Without giving alternative viewpoints, or at the very least mentioning that there are differing views, is unfair and misleading. In fairness to readers as well as the growing number of adjunct instructors who make up to 50%, if not more, of a growing number of college's faculty, I submit the following abstract, written by Eric P. Bettinger and Bridget Terry Long, titled "Does Cheaper Mean Better? The Impact of Using Adjunct Instructors on Student Outcomes." While their research does show a correla-

tion between retention rates going down with some students taught by adjunct instructors, it also clearly shows the opposite. "Adjuncts do have positive effects upon some students taking introductory courses, and, depending upon the course taken, may very well increase the number of subsequent courses, thus having a positive impact on overall student retention rates." Bettinger/Long.

The debate of whether adjuncts help student retention or hinder it will go on for as long as adjuncts continue to teach, which I surmise will be a long time based on every article I have ever read. I do not wish to get into a fit for tat debate; I merely want readers to know that there are differing views. For those who wish to explore in depth the topic of student retention vis-a-vis adjuncts, they will not be disappointed with lack of reading material; just use a favorite search engine to bring up hundreds of articles.

In Darren Johnson's Editorial, "Retaining Students," much of what he has to say concerns the perception students have when they see their instructors (adjunct) engaged in college community events outside the classroom environment such as at picnics, sporting events, etc. It is Johnson's belief that because adjuncts are for the most part not visible on college campuses other than class time that students would feel more connected to them if their visibility was more apparent, thus re-

tention rates would go up.

I have no qualms with Mr. Johnson's viewpoint, though I do not necessarily agree with it. I do believe Mr. Johnson when he states that, while an adjunct, his student retention rates went up as he became more connected with the college. There is something, however, that both Ms. Guity and Mr. Johnson do not talk about, and that is the quality of instructional time spent in the classroom. It is in the classroom that the teacher (full time or part time) can make his or her greatest connection and impact; it has always been that way. Students know if their instruc-

tors are engaged, compassionate, and knowledgeable

about the subject matter and whether they really care about their students' success.

During the last ten years, I have had the privilege to teach as an adjunct in higher education. During this time, I have been told by a growing number of students that the disconnect they feel from their instructors is basically due to the instructor's lack of concern for them as a student, poor teaching style, lack of real life experience in the subject matter that they are instructing in, and poor classroom management. Many students are on the verge of dropping classes and/or leaving school altogether because of this, and not whether their instructor is part time or full time.

If we want to see retention rates go

north instead of south, perhaps we need to take a look at ourselves as educators, adjunct as well as full time, and ask if we are really putting our best foot forward with our students. At the end of the day, if a student is going to drop out, they will; we cannot save everyone. Yes, there are many reasons why student retention rates have been going down and Ms. Guity as well as Mr. Johnson have appropriately identified a number of them, economic stresses, lack of preparation, schedule conflicts, sickness, and the list goes on. And, yes, some students may drop because they feel "cheated" that adjuncts are part of their faculty makeup, or they may become frustrated because they don't see their adjunct on campus other than classroom time and office hours.

Several weeks ago I received an e-mail from a former student who, in her first year of college, had taken an introductory course I was teaching in Human Resources Management. She was asking for a letter of recommendation as she was nearing the completion of her Bachelors degree and had applied to several companies. She stated that it was because of the class she took from me that inspired her to pursue her degree in HR. I wonder what David Glenn would have to say about that?

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Go ahead, make my Instant Queue!

Darren Johnson
Campus News

Just some helpful advice before I get into this installment of “It’s New to You,” my column on finding relatively old gems on Netflix that, because you’ve never seen them before, are “new to you”: Be sure if you see something of interest to put it in your Instant Queue so it’s ready for you when you want it. Movies get refreshed on the service all the time and seemingly at random, so putting them in your queue keeps them visible for you.

This column will review a set of films that many of us say we know, but I’m not sure I’ve ever met someone who has really viewed them all – the “**Dirty Harry**” series.

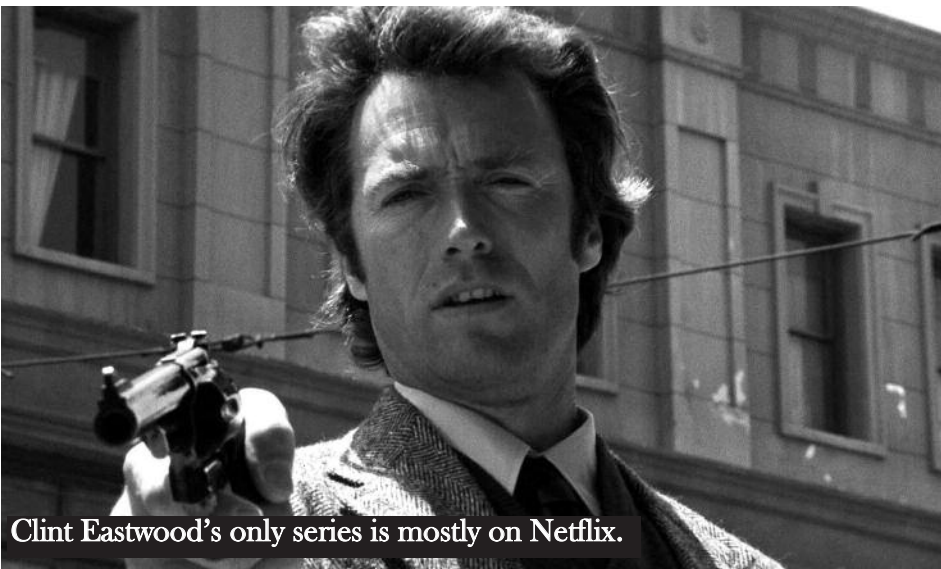
Unlike the five similarly retribution-minded “**Death Wish**” series, which have had marathons on the major cable networks, the five “Dirty Harry” films don’t have the same unity.

Perhaps because the “Dirty Harry” films all have different titles, unlike “Death Wish I,” “II,” etc., making the latter easier to market as a whole. Perhaps, also, it would be more marketable for a cable network to do a universal “Clint Eastwood Marathon,” as he has done lots of great films, while Charles Bronson really only found modern relevance as vigilante Paul Kersey. (Yeah, both Eastwood and Bronson did famous Westerns, but Westerns are pretty much on the other side of the dividing line between the older and newer movie eras. Rogue cop/vigilante films, that became popular in the high-crime 1970s as societal mores loosened, are the start of

the newer era of films.) But, while “Death Wish” employs a formula – Kersey’s kid and/or love interest is killed by inner-city thugs at the start of each movie, and he goes on a killing spree – the “Dirty Harry” films have a very engaging and successful formula as well. I did see the 1983 much-hyped “Sudden Impact” (with its famous line, “Go ahead, make my day”) on VHS back in the 1980s. The hype was that Eastwood was back in the role after so many years doing other projects. Though video stores (remember them?) didn’t typically carry non-Oscar, non-blockbuster movies from the 1970s and before, and the Internet wasn’t the resource it is now, so there was no easy way I’d be able to locate the other titles in this series. Perhaps they should have called them “Dirty Harry I,” “II,” etc.? Now, enter Netflix with the help of google and not only did the original 1971 movie “Dirty Harry” show up recently, but also the

1976 “**The Enforcer**” and the little-remembered finale to the series, the 1988 box-office dud “**The Dead Pool**,” which has a then-unknown Jim Carey (“James Carey” in the credits) over-acting and lip-syncing to a then little-know Guns N Roses, Patricia Clarkson as a TV journalist and a younger Liam Neeson as a sleazy horror film director. What casting!

So, considering I saw “Sudden Impact” with a zillion other people before, the only movie in the series I’ve yet to see is Magnum Force (1973). Maybe that will pop up on Netflix, soon, or I can just spend the \$3.75 to get it off half.com and get some Dirty Harry-style closure.



Clint Eastwood’s only series is mostly on Netflix.

Go ahead, take my Paypal!

Of the four movies I’ve seen, the two best-known ones, “Dirty Harry” and “Sudden Impact,” are the best in a mainstream way. The others are directed more like detective TV shows of past eras. Even the cliched car chases with cars going airborne over the hilly streets of San Francisco or foot pursuits with jumping over rooftops from building to building. During any chase, there’s sure to be bow-chicka-wow-wow funky music.

And while the directors from movie to movie changed, the formulas are similar. The movies usually start with Harry happening upon a crime in progress and shooting up a place cowboy-style, saving

There’s usually a point where a killer – usually male, blond with blue, crazy eyes – kills a bunch of citizens and then demands money from the city to stop. Politicians get involved and fear that this will hurt their re-election chances. So they bring back Harry, give him some partner he grudgingly accepts (an Hispanic, an Asian, a woman) and who eventually will get shot, perhaps killed, and he goes off, blowing away thugs. They call him “Dirty,” he reminds us, because he’ll do the dirty jobs no other cop will.

But even though you know what’s going to happen in each film, they are all riveting and satisfying. Eastwood is the king of the retribution genre. Put some of

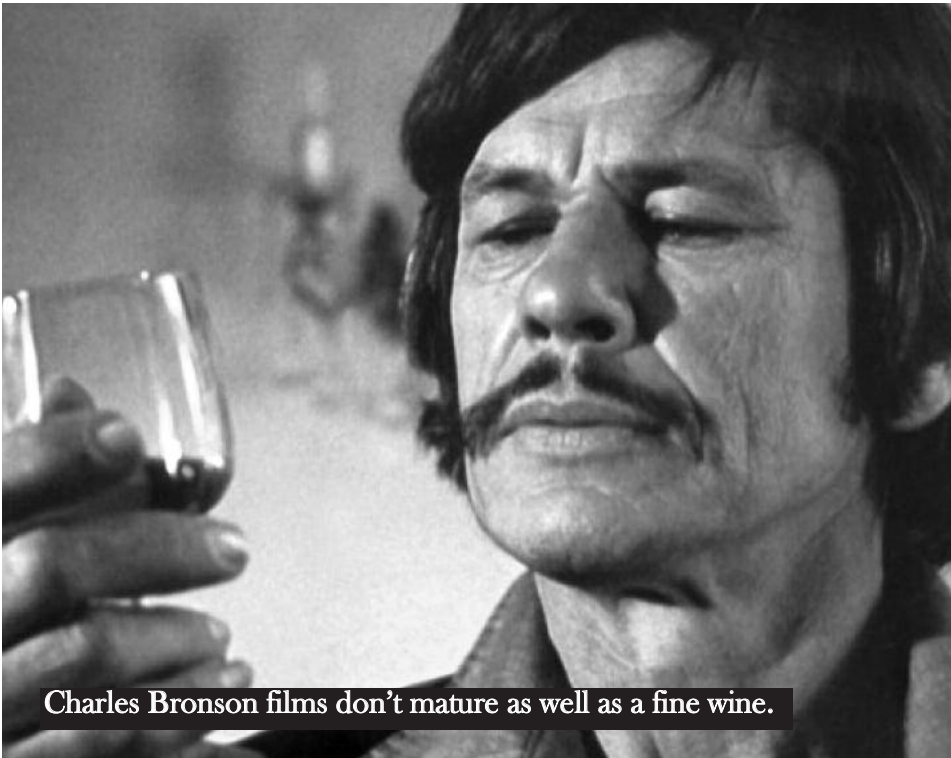
Harry reminds us that they call him ‘Dirty’ because he’ll do the jobs no other cop will.’

the day, only to be cursed out at the precinct for costing the city money for all the damage his rampage caused. He’s an old-style, tough-guy, politically incorrect cop in America’s most progressive city – in the ultra-liberal 1970s, no less. Eventually in each film, Harry will get punished for breaking the rules. To him, San Francisco is a city where the lunatics are running the asylum. The punishment is usually some type of desk duty.

these titles in your instant queue, before they get snuffed out.

If you prefer your vigilantism with a New York flavor, the original “Death Wish” just hit Netflix as well.

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



Charles Bronson films don’t mature as well as a fine wine.

Occupiers (cont. from page 4)

ical technician from New Orleans, said the marchers stayed at churches, people’s houses and community centers.

Carter was giving out hand warmers to the marchers after they arrived at the Rhode Island Avenue Metro station in a cold rain. Some Occupy DC members joined them there for the last 3 miles of the march.

Along the way to meet the marchers, Drew Goldsmith, 23, of Rockville, Md.,

and Occupy DC, protested at a Bank of America branch. He knocked on the bank door and demanded to close his account. The bank’s workers told him to get out, closed the bank and called to police.

Alessandro DeAnjelis, 33, a musician from Orlando, Fla., said police provided safety to the marchers and guarded them all the way down.

Paolo Marco, 24, of New York, said they saw many empty, destroyed buildings

and homeless people.

“The homeless people were unbelievable,” Marco said. “This government is not putting them in homes. It’s a shame.”

Protesters go from NYC to DC. Next: Miami.

Marco said they went through the worst neighborhoods, where they “had more support than from anybody else.”

A few of marchers will continue the

march – via bicycle – to Miami for the winter. Some decided to spend a few days in Washington and then return home.

Lisa Kufs, 26, of Philadelphia, said she marched about 150 miles with the

Occupy Wall Street group. Kufs said she joined the movement because she has been unemployed for two years, even though

she has a master’s degree in sociology.

“If I can’t go ahead, how can other people who don’t have their master’s go ahead?” she asked.

Uncle Mel’s an idiot, but this flick is epic

Darren Johnson
Campus News

OK, this movie probably doesn’t fit that well into the “It’s New to You” category, as the film’s only five years old and grossed \$120M, but Mel Gibson’s “Apocalypse” finds itself in the virtual bargain bin known as Netflix, and I doubt many of the traditional-age readers of Campus News have seen it.

Around the time this movie was to debut in 2006, Gibson was arrested for DWI and spewed anti-Semitic remarks to cops. Last year, he made drunken, verbally abusive and rather scary calls to his former wife, which were recorded and released.

Gibson’s previous movie, “The Passion of the Christ,” many believe, showed Jews in a negative light.

So it’s no surprise that practically half of the critics who reviewed “Apocalypse” were negative. In writing this column, I’ve realized that political correctness can dictate reviews and, in the case of a movie like this, affect its historical stature.

Another movie that recently hit Netflix that falls into this category is “The Toy,” the 1982 comedy starring Richard Pryor and Jackie Gleason and only has an 11% positive reviewer rating on Rotten Tomatoes. At the time of the reviews, Pryor was at his peak and Gleason was a legend from his “Honeymooners” days, which were commonly in re-runs on independent TV stations at the time, such as WPIX in New York. Some critics decried that this slapstick film was a waste of talent. Others thought that a film where the millionaire Gleason “buys” the African-American Pryor as a toy for his brat child was racist, akin to a master buying a slave.

But looking at the movie today, it translates well to TV and is very watchable for the whole family. Pryor’s comedic genius provides many genuine laughs, and the formula that the film uses is dated and not really used anymore, so it would seem “new” to most viewers, and nostalgic to



Rudy Youngblood.

others. As for the potential of racism, watching an older film today, we sort of expect that people were less sophisticated 30 years ago, so can forgive it more, just like we forgive older, classic novels that today would seem out of bounds; sexist and/or racist. As well, judging Pryor’s career as a whole posthumously, we have to trust that he had enough comic integrity to choose roles he believed in.

Which brings us back to “Apocalypse,” entirely in Mayan language, set in approximately 1500 AD, and well over two hours – and entirely riveting.

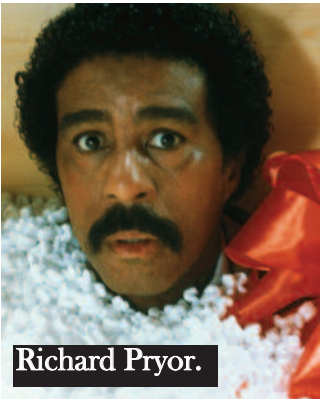
Critics contend that the film paints Mayans as savages, as the main character in the film, Jaguar Paw (Rudy Youngblood),

is a likable tribesman abducted by Mayans and brought to their grotesque “civiliza-

tion” full of superstition, slavery and human sacrifice. He has to escape to get back to his pregnant wife and child. He’s being chased all the while by Mayan warriors with very exciting forest footage. By the end of the film, the Spanish are arriving on the shores, marking the end of what would be the Mayan culture.

But while critics note that the Mayans also had science and the arts and a sophisticated political system, so did Europe and many a film or story depicting the Europe of old, from “300” on up to Shakespeare’s “King Lear” showed that everyday life there was full of superstition and the grotesque. Life wasn’t easy, even for the educated, and the masses were crude and omnipresent.

So, yeah, Mel Gibson is a horrible person all around. But somehow, he creates believable underdogs in antiquity (even his “Braveheart”) and has an amazing attention to detail. This may be one of the best subtitled movies of the past decade. Has five years been enough time for us to kind of just think of the director as that old, crazy, drunken uncle we all have and see occasionally, maybe during the holidays, who curses the world and all of its different populations for his troubles, and maybe once in awhile can captivate us with a story, too?



Richard Pryor.



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