

Community College CAMPUS NEWS

Serving Colleges
in New York (LI,
NYC and Upstate)
and New England.

Volume 6, Issue 2
Take! Free on Campus!

You're here. But will you finish?

October 2012

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You may have heard of something called Completion Day happening on your campus this month. It's a new initiative by all 37 SUNY and CUNY community colleges in New York state - a combined enrollment of 335,000 students. New England community colleges have similar concerns.

There is a reason for it. According to the Chronicle of Higher Education's terrific web site with such stats, only 19.6% of community college students in NYS finish in two years years. In Massachusetts, it's only 16.4%.

The planners of NYS Completion Day send a simple message: Students who complete an associate degree have better prospects for jobs, scholarships and transfer to four-year schools.

Sure, some students in community college merely transfer before graduating. Still others, estimated as high as 15%, may already have degrees but they are just taking enough courses to update skills or change jobs. But, still, practically everyone agrees that completion numbers need



Rockland CC's May graduation. Photo by Dyana Van Campen

to improve. The workforce of the near future will require more and more people to at least have technical degrees. Chancellor Nancy Zimpher was expected to visit Rockland CC for Completion Day festivities.

Some stats:

- Students who complete an associate degree can expect to earn \$400,000 more in a lifetime than a high

- school graduate. For those who transfer and earn a bachelor's degree, the figure rises to \$900,000. (Source: U.S. Census Bureau)

- An August 2012 report by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce finds that almost half of the jobs lost in the recession have been recovered and virtually all of those jobs required some form of

postsecondary education. (Source: "The College Advantage: Weathering the Economic Storm")

- New York residents who transfer directly from a SUNY or CUNY two-year college with an associate degree are guaranteed entry to a four-year SUNY college. (Source: SUNY Transfer Guarantee Program Guidelines, Document Number: 3303)

Just not getting the cult of iPhone

Darren Johnson
Campus News

It seems Apple has made it cool to sit and wait in line for things.

The ushering in of the latest iPhone recently was an event everywhere. I'm unsure what it means.

It seems a generation or two ago, one was considered a "tool" for worshipping an establishment, especially a corporation. Waiting in line for something like a phone seems a bit toolish.

Sure, before the Internet became big, people would wait in line for concert tickets. But stadiums only have so many seats. Apple surely can make more iPhones when supply is dwindling. Besides, why wait outside a store for hours, even days, when Apple also allowed people to order the phones online?

And while there is only one Bruce Springsteen, there are scores of different types of phones. Some actually work better than Apple products, believe it or not.

So why the fuss? There is something bigger going on.

I put the question out on Profnet, which is a site that hooks up journalists with experts, and got two distinctly different answers right away.

First, let's hear from April Masini, who writes a popular "Dear Abby" style column called "Ask April" on askspril.com:

"So much for the lines around the corner for rock concert tickets. College students and Gen X, Y and even tween-aged Z students are creating and carrying the buzz and the excitement about the new black - iPhone 5. Hipsters into their 50s are send-

Nyack College Division of Adult Education

"I felt a responsibility to the other students to keep up my end of the bargain, which was to be a vital part of the team and to give all I had so that we all succeeded."

Michael O'Halloran, Cohort 403

Find out more about Michael's story by visiting www.nyack.edu/dae

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iPads for all community college students

Darren Johnson
Campus News

I know I was a little rough on Apple in my page 1 article. Consider this my make-good.

Teaching my community college Technical and Professional Writing class the other night, I asked my students what they felt the future of technology and higher education was going to be.

I teach my class in a computer lab – it's very hands on – and while most of the students in the class said that they didn't have tablets, or many who did said that they had had bad experiences with them (citing Android models with less reputable brand name makers), they did concede that they picture practically all students bringing these items to class in the next couple of years. They agreed that my class would run just as smoothly if everyone had decent tablet computers as opposed to the bulky desktops currently in the class.

And if everyone had tablets, virtually every class would become a lab class, as students could share work via a class web site while the class is going on.

Several private colleges have started giving incoming students Apple tablets. LIU Post is one regional example. Granted, I bought a refurbished iPad 1 for \$299 last year, and average private college tuition is \$28,500, so this is a relatively tiny tchotchke in comparison.

The typical community college, mean-

while, is only \$3000-4000 a year in New York State and New England. Now we're talking about adding the equivalent of 10% – a number that is a little harder to swallow.

Still, think of the possibilities. An iPad could be given to each student. On it could be free open-source textbooks for all the core subjects. We all know textbooks are overpriced – many are \$150 or more EACH.

Why Apple vs. Android? Apple simply is a more consistent product. Some Android tablets are great, some not. All are foreign made. Who decides which Android to pick? Meanwhile, Apple is mostly an American company. For the same reason why government entities issue Fords and GMs as opposed to Nissans and Hyundais, public educational institutions in the US seem obligated to issue Apples.

Yes, most campus IT Departments are embedded in the PC/Microsoft world, but surely they can get over their Apple phobias. I see my 14 year old daughter and many of her friends have Apple products. They aren't impossible to figure out.

Private colleges are giving free tablets to all students. Will public colleges follow?

Students would have all of their records at their fingertips. They could register for classes, chat with academic advisers, via iPad. This would be great for retention – keeping students engaged and on pace for graduation. The main screen could be programmed to include key apps



– the free textbook library; school events listing, increasing attendance at school plays, basketball games and such; the school newspaper (this could save student journalism, as so many print school newspapers are dying); the college catalog and handbook; student/professor messaging and more.

Yes, most professors don't allow cell phones in the classroom for fear that students will be distracted, but the campus wi-fi could be configured to limit what "official" tablets can do on campus. No Facebook in the classroom, for example.

And, true, most community college students don't stick around long. What if they take their iPads with them after dropping out? Others, just like their private college counterparts, might find their iPads lost or stolen. Perhaps the colleges could buy insurance for missing/broken tablets. Or hold a deposit from students.

How will community colleges, most of which are cash strapped, seeing declining enrollments in the past couple of years and less generous state and local aid, afford equipping every student with an iPad?

Increasing tuition by \$300 per year probably wouldn't fly in our current belt-tightening political climate. Student activity fees also can't handle such a jump.

We're talking a lot of money. A college with 10,000 students would have to spend about \$3-4M to pull this off.

Would someone just signing up for one course get an iPad? Maybe part-time students could rent one.

Sure, the idea of free iPads for all students creates more questions than answers, but ultimately, this is where many colleges are going. Are public colleges going to lag behind private colleges in this important area?

Half of the world faces a serious water shortage soon

Tanya Parker
Scripps Howard Foundation Wire

By 2030, half the world's population will live in areas where water is scarce, a panel of water experts at the National Geographical Society said last month.

Speakers at the conference sponsored by GrowingBlue emphasized the need to solve the problem now by using global response strategies, rather than waiting until the problem peaks. An area is considered water stressed if the demand for water is higher than the availability.

The Western and Midwestern U.S. are the most at-risk locations, with more than five states at extreme risk of water scarcity in 40 years, according to data from the Natural Resources Defense Council.

"Water is a finite resource," Michael Sullivan, a global segment executive at IBM, said. "What we're dealing with is that there's a finite supply, and as the population grows and industry grows, we're stressing that finite supply."

Projections indicate the global population will increase from just over 7 billion today to 8 or 9 billion by 2050, leading researchers in the water industry to stress the importance of addressing water scarcity issues immediately.

"We are at the dawn of a very important era," Chairman and CEO of Environmental Financial Products Richard Sandor said.

Sandor suggested conserving water

by treating it as a commodity and instituting a cap and trade concept to alleviate the scarcity issue.

"If you can grade it, you can trade it," Sandor said.

Mary Keeling, manager of the Center for Economic Analysis at IBM, said pricing water may concern some Americans, but it benefits the economy and conservation as a whole.

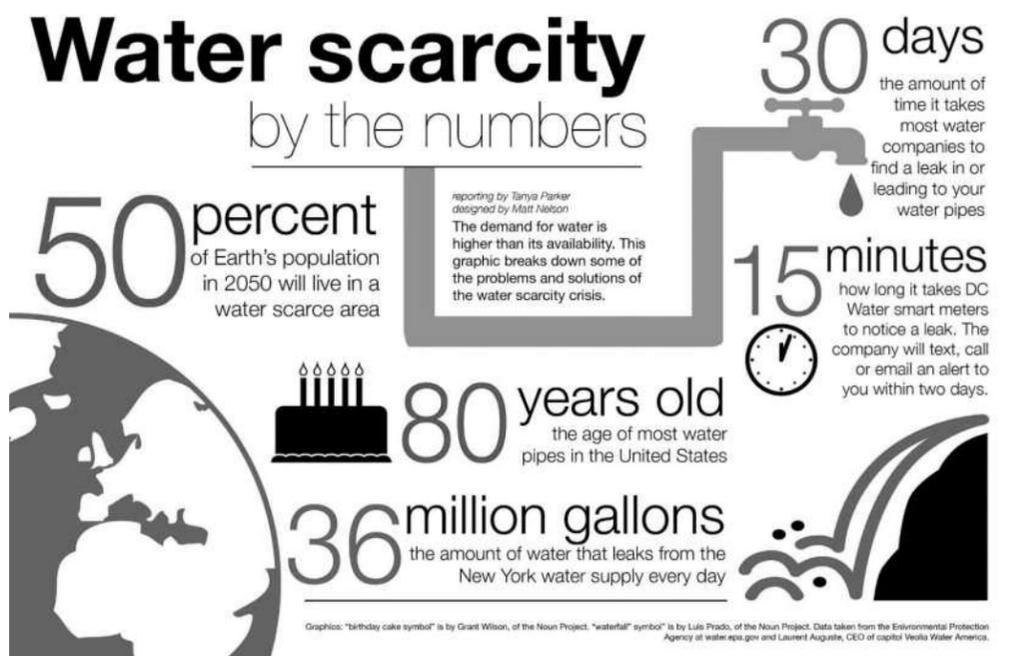
"There's a huge fear of having a national water policy, but you've got to have some leadership there," Keeling said.

One company that successfully conserves water is the Las Vegas Valley Water District in Nevada. Senior public information coordinator J.C. Davis said the agency uses about 36 billion fewer gallons of water than a decade ago even though population has increased.

"We are able to capture and recover virtually 100 percent of indoor water," he said. "So if it goes down a drain, we capture and recover it at almost 100 percent efficiency."

The water is treated and goes back to customers.

Indoor conservation is important, Davis said, but outside water use is also important. In response, the Las Vegas Valley Water District has landscape watering restrictions. Davis said customers are rewarded with rebates and coupons if they maintain low water use levels.



He disagrees with the idea of a national water policy. He said a national policy would disregard the individual fiscal needs of a community.

It is possible for communities to agree on a set of water use rules, Davis said. In 2003, all the municipalities in the Southern Nevada Water Authority agreed on one set of rules. However, Davis said a national policy is not realistic.

"We are opposed to any one-size-fits-all solution," Davis said. "We're more supportive of the idea of best practices that communities can look at adopting in water efficiency."

Water is also an essential element for a strong economy, Keeling said.

"Water matters for producing goods and services," she said. "If you don't have water, you can't do this stuff, which means you're not going to be able to have the same level of economic activity."

Leaky pipes contribute to millions of dollars in water loss. For example, the New York City water supply system leaks almost 36 million gallons per day.

Many urban water systems are old. In the D.C. system, many pipes are nearing 80 years old. Keeling said installing

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Frankson: Stop 'slut shaming' on campus

Marie Frankson
Campus News

You all have seen her — the beautiful girl who has no problem showing off her curves by wearing a short skirt and v-neck top, her exaggerated walking and swaying her hips more than the average woman does, the girl who always seems to have the guys' attention whether warranted or not...the girl who gets called a slut for being comfortable in her own skin and being confident in herself.

I am in a women's equality club on my campus, and I have witnessed slut-shaming first hand...by the president of the club against a girl she didn't even know! The group was walking around campus one day placing post-it notes that had inspirational sayings on them where people would see them and smile. While we were doing that, the president of the group saw this girl wearing what she thought was slutty clothes...tight jeans, v-neck shirt, thigh-high boots. After the girl passed us and was out of ear-shot, the president said that it's a shame the girl was dressed like that because society told her that if she dressed in tight clothes and was a little "slutty" that she'd get a lot of guys, attention, attention from a lot of guys, or whatever.

That struck a major chord with me and rubbed me the wrong way, especially since we were planning an event for Love Your Body Month, taking place this month, and were planning on organizing a popular nationally trending event known as the Slut Walk with other area colleges and our city.

All of the girls who come to the meetings are frumpy, geeky girls who look like Amy Farrah Fowler from "The Big Bang Theory," and I'm the only one who has ever even had a relationship with a guy and knows what it's like to have attention from males, so maybe it's my calling to be like, "You guys are wrong," and "You can't think like that. What happened to equality and unity?" Maybe it also struck a bad chord with

me because I like to wear tight jeans, v-neck shirts, and boots in the fall (accompanied by a cute beret and sometimes a scarf as well).

When asked about her thoughts on the matter, Chloe Williams, a student at SUNY Adirondack, said, "I honestly don't care what people wear, I mean obviously some clothes don't look good on some people, but my preferences don't mean anything when it comes to the clothing choices of other people, and it

Body policing is the idea that a person's choice in clothes could be judged by anyone other than the wearer.

shouldn't. Some days I like to wear cute clothes, other days I pile on my baggiest, frumpiest, least flattering T-shirts and hoodies. That should be my choice."

To me, a Third Wave Feminist who was raised by a Second Wave Feminist, feminism is about choice.

What being in this women's equality group has shown me was how prevalent woman-on-woman misogyny (the hatred or dislike of women and girls; according to feminist theory, misogyny can be manifested in numerous ways, including sexual discrimination, denigration of women, violence against women, and sexual objectification of women) is.

Michael Flood, an Australian profeminist sociologist at the University of Wollongong, stated in his book "The International Encyclopedia of Men and Masculinities": "Though most common in men, misogyny also exists in and is practiced by women against other women or even themselves. Misogyny functions as an ideology or belief system that has accompanied patriarchal, or male-dominated, societies for thousands of years and continues to place women

in subordinate positions with limited access to power and decision making. Aristotle contended that women exist as natural deformities or imperfect males. Ever since, women in Western cultures have internalized their role as societal scapegoats, influenced in the twenty-first century by multimedia objectification of women with its culturally sanctioned self-loathing and fixations on plastic surgery, anorexia and bulimia."

So, what is slut-shaming and what does this have to do with it? Slut-shaming is the act of making someone, usually a woman, feel guilty or inferior for having strong sexual desires, having "too many" sex partners, or acting or dressing in a way that is deemed excessively sexual, often by calling them a "slut" or other derogatory terms, sometimes just by implying that a person's sexual "standards" are "too low."

Slut-shaming is based on the idea that there is something wrong with being sexually promiscuous. Slut-shaming can occur privately or publicly, between people in all types of relationships. The term "slut" is often applied to women who have sex with multiple partners, are sexually active at an early age, or deviate in any way from the sexual norm.

As I witnessed first-hand, women are subject to a type of slut-shaming known as body policing. Body policing is the idea that a person's choice of clothing can be dictated or judged by anyone other than the person wearing the "slutty" clothes. Examples of body policing include dictating whether someone should or should not shave, wear makeup, wear a certain color or style of clothing, wear a certain type of shoe, or style their hair in a certain way. What

many people don't realize is that body policing is a form of control. For an extreme example, when you think of body policing, think about the Taliban's restrictions placed on women.

I'm not going to sit here and say that I'm innocent and I have never participated in slut-shaming in some way, because it's not true. Just by seeing a girl or woman and thinking or saying, "Ew, I can't believe she would wear that! She is such an attention-seeking slut!" you have taken place in the act of slut-shaming.

Why is slut-shaming not okay? Slut-shaming can contribute to harassment, sexual harassment, rape culture, and a culture of rape victim blaming by asserting that the victim was "asking for it."

Unfortunately, we live in a world where women are not allowed to express themselves sexually without being scrutinized by men and other women. This is a big deal. This is sending the message to young girls and women that sex is bad, sex can never be good, and having sex more than one person is the worst thing you could ever do. This is sending the message to boys and men that girls and women who have sex are sluts and if you come into contact with one of these "sluts" you can do whatever you want to her because they are not real human beings, just sexual objects. Slut-shaming is in itself an objectification of women's bodies and sexuality and that women are nothing more than sex objects.

Since October is Love Your Body Month, I am writing this in hopes that we may see an end to slut-shaming...that woman-on-woman misogyny will come to an end...that all misogyny and sexism will come to an end. To me, sex and sexuality are both pieces of love and life. Neither are something to be ashamed of, and no one should make you feel ashamed if you want to dress in a way that makes you look and feel sexy.

RCC hosts business boot camp, awards

Attend six Saturday morning sessions from 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and gain the practical skills and knowledge needed to launch and build a successful business in today's market. The cost is \$250 and enrollment is limited to provide a high level of individual attention. Open to all aspiring entrepreneurs and business owners seeking higher profitability or growth. Veterans who successfully complete the course will receive a full tuition reimbursement.

The Business Boot Camp series begins on October 20, offered by RCC's Center for Personal & Professional Development (CPPD) in partnership with the NY State Small Business Development Center. The "boot camp" metaphor is intentional, as the series is designed to quickly and effectively provide practice as well as pragmatic information, to hit the ground running and efficiently start a new business or grow an existing one. And, the instructor is a West Point graduate with several years of military experience. Patrick Curran, MBA, is the founder of American Business Strategies at www.absinsights.com. He is a Director for Investment Operations for Pfizer's Worldwide Research &

Development organization and a Lean / Six Sigma Black Belt. Curran is a certified, experienced business trainer and his education includes an MS in both Human Resources Education and Business Administration - Finance. Learn how to plan, organize, and deliver your business idea to the market. Strengthen your business skills and maximize your learning experience. Successful completion of the course requires an individual or team to deliver their business pitch presentation with an eye toward raising capital. Please call 845-574-4151 or go to www.sunyrockland.edu/go/cppd to learn more.

Foundation Update

The Rockland Community College Foundation is a charitable organization that provides scholarships and offers other supports for the College. Its members are alumni, parents, business leaders, and others from the community who want to make a difference in people's lives. They award approximately \$300,000 each year to deserving RCC students.

Seven new scholarships for veterans were added this year, sponsored by local

chapter 333 of the Vietnam Veterans of America. At an awards ceremony on May 16, over 250 students received awards. Many people are surprised to learn that awards include scholarships for continued education at four-year institutions, including one for full tuition at Mount Saint Mary College that was given to Ronald Lawyer, an international student from Ghana. Another full tuition scholarship, for Pace University, was awarded to Abraham Taub of Spring Valley. Both Taub and Lawyer are pursuing medical careers.

On August 21, the Foundation held their major fund-raising event, an annual golf outing, at Spook Rock Golf Course. The event was co-chaired by RCC alumnus Howard Hellman, owner of All Bright Electric, and John Wickes of Wickes Arborists. This event raised over \$38,000, a 40% increase over last year.

At the dinner that evening, Patty Maloney-Titland, chair of Performing Arts, was named as the Foundation's Person of the Year. The Foundation is currently working on a project to complete the new brick walkway for a 9/11 Memorial Garden. Some of the inscribed bricks offer touching



Abraham Taub

tributes to those whose lives were taken on 9/11 and some express people's hopes for the future. To make a donation and inscribe your personal message please contact Don Cairns of the RCC Foundation at 845-574-4576. The donations are funding scholarships dedicated to students in first responder programs at RCC: Emergency Medical Service, Fire Protection Technology, Emergency Management, and Criminal Justice.

CCs get tech grant

State University of New York Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher announced last month that the SUNY community colleges have received a \$14.6 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to design, implement, and deliver a strategic approach to job training and education for high-need industries such as nanotechnology and advanced manufacturing.

"This federal support will help grow SUNY's already powerful capacity to prepare students for careers in high-tech and advanced manufacturing fields where there is such a high demand in New York and across the country," said Chancellor Zimpher.

U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer said, "This multi-million dollar federal investment is a game-changer that will connect unemployed New Yorkers with the state's top employers that are ready to hire skilled workers in their own backyard. As I toured the state this year and met with business leaders across upstate, company after company told me that they were ready to hire workers, but that there was a mismatch between the workers out there and the skills these companies needed. This grant speaks directly to that need, and it's just what the doctor ordered to help more upstate New Yorkers get back to work."

The grant, issued as part of the federal Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) program, will allow a consortium of SUNY community colleges, led by Monroe Community College, to design standardized curricula to directly address the needs of industry employers.

The Manufacturers Alliance of New

York (MANY) and the Manufacturers Association of Central New York (MACNY), along with 150 other industry associations and employers across the state, have joined with the SUNY collaborative as key partners to validate curricula, develop and implement learn and earn strategies, raise awareness of the industry sector, and facilitate job placement.

Student services, prior learning assessment, workforce readiness assessments, and fast-track developmental education based on best practice models will be offered to help students successfully complete their training and education in two-years or less.

Johanna Duncan-Poitier, SUNY Senior Vice Chancellor for Community Colleges and the Education Pipeline, said, "We are so pleased that the collective work of our 30 community colleges has resulted in such a big win for New York State. The real beneficiaries will be the thousands of SUNY students who will receive education and preparation leading to high-wage, 21st century advanced manufacturing jobs, and our extensive network of industry partners, who will strengthen our state and local economies by hiring here at home."

Anne M. Kress, president of Monroe Community College, said, "Monroe Community College is proud to lead this initiative coordinating all 30 SUNY community colleges in preparing more New Yorkers for viable advanced manufacturing careers. This investment by the U.S. Department of Labor in our system will help us develop innovative educational programming along career pathways so that individuals can find good jobs today and even better careers tomorrow."

A Time to Debate

Presidential	Vice Presidential	Presidential	Presidential
Oct. 3	Oct. 11	Oct. 16	Oct. 22
Location:	Location:	Location:	Location:
University of Denver	Centre College	Hofstra University	Lynn University
Denver, Colorado	Danville, Kentucky	Hempstead, New York	Boca Raton, Florida

Colleges ready for the big debates

Jory Heckman
Scripps Howard Foundation Wire

At the University of Denver - the site of the first presidential debate between President Barack Obama and former governor Mitt Romney - Chancellor Robert Coombe said the campus has been a flurry of activity, but is ready to go.

"It's been an incredible ride," Coombe said, outlining the difficult process of accommodating more than 500 media outlets - nearly half of which are foreign press.

Coombe said the global attention has been great for the private university's international student body of more than 1,500 students. For them, he said the debate has been a learning opportunity.

"They get to see American democracy happen right in front of them," Coombe said.

For the vice presidential debate on Oct. 11, Michael Stysick, director of communications at Centre College in Danville, Ky., said the campus is looking forward to rehosting this event. In 2000, Centre, which has 1,340 students, hosted the vice presidential debate between Joseph Lieberman and Dick Cheney.

"The risk factor is so high, not losing is sometimes more important than winning - and for Obama this year in particular," Kathryn Olson, professor of communications at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, said.

At Hofstra University in Hempstead, N.Y., Aaron Calvin, an entertainment editor at the Hofstra Chronicle, the student newspaper, said student media have been busy covering political events - such as

speeches delivered by former Florida governor Jeb Bush and Cornel West, a prominent scholar of African American studies.

Calvin said outside media coverage has yet to make much of an impact on the campus, but security has been more wary. "There hasn't been a lot of activity on campus so far, but the campus police have been more active," he said. Calvin said the Chronicle staff will have credentials to be inside the David S. Mack Sports Complex, where the event will be staged.

For Lynn University in Boca Raton, Fla., Joshua Glanzer, director of public relations, said the new performing arts center on campus was one of the most attractive aspects of its application to the Commission on Presidential Debates.

After hosting the 2010 congressional debate between Republican candidate Allen West and Democrat Ron Klein, Glanzer said administrators sought more high-profile political events.

"They knew they wanted to repeat that as much as possible," Glanzer said, explaining the college's bid for this presidential race.

However, Glanzer said overhauling the Keith C. and Elaine Johnson Wold Performing Arts Center has also been one of the most challenging tasks. "You basically have to turn it from a theatrical stage to a television studio," Glanzer said.

The conversion process involves a change in stage lights, scaffolding to accommodate the TV networks and removing seats for press pool cameras.

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42°	53°	47°	46°	50°	46°	

MAYAN FORECAST FOR THE WEEK OF DEC. 17-23
Hey, the weekend looks good!

Two films that could have ended differently

Darren Johnson
Campus News

Welcome back to “It’s New to You!,” my irregular column on finding hidden movie and TV gems that may be a bit older, but, because you’ve likely never seen them before, they are, for all intents and purposes, “new” to you.

What I’m trying to convey is not just purely informational. Having an ethos of enjoying the obsolete or forgotten can be as much fun as getting the latest iPhone or whatever – and is much cheaper. That’s part of the fun of being a “new to you” type – finding hidden gems in the bargain bin. It’s a lifestyle.

That’s exactly the mentality Sean Pelletier shares in the excellent documentary “Last Days Here,” which recently hit Netflix.

Pelletier is a geeky guy with long hair who has a love for old vinyl records and spends his last dollars on rare finds in thrift stores and garage sales, going to and from them via his bike.

One day, he finds a 1985 self-titled LP from a band called Pentagram, gothic letters on a black background, and he rushes home to play it, only to fall in love with the quality of the recording. Why hadn’t anyone ever heard of this band?

The documentary shows us some brief demo sessions from Pentagram from the

1970s. Indeed, the band sounds very professional and the sound doesn’t seem dated. Directed by Don Argott and Demian Fenton, “Last Days Here” would be better served by having more examples of the band’s music, as it’s doubtful more than one percent of viewers had ever heard of the band before seeing this film.

Pentagram would normally be considered early masters of the Doom Metal genre, except, despite their incredible talent, the band never got big enough to really influence anyone.

What happened?

Wisely, “Last Days Here” follows Pelletier, the record nerd, and tells the story, a good deal, from his perspective. Pelletier may be the most reliable narrator in this piece.

After being wowed by the rare album, Pelletier does some investigative work and realizes that Pentagram’s front man, Bobby Liebling, lives nearby in Maryland. Pelletier goes for a visit. What he finds is a mid-50s man who looks like he is 100, strung out on crack and heroin, with festering wounds and weird phobias that he is infested with parasites, in the basement of his enabling parents’ home. Liebling’s eyes are bulging out of his head. His disheveled room looks like a hole to die in, and Liebling acts like a person on his death bed, thus the title of the film.

At one point in time, Pentagram could have been the next KISS, and



Glenn Close prefers an alternative ending.

now here is the heart and soul of the band looking like a corpse.

While Liebling is ultimately self-consumed and not the type of person to thank anyone, he most certainly owes Pelletier some thanks, as the guy believes so strongly in the power of the music that he helps Liebling get on his feet – even get out of the basement and live on his own. Pelletier helps get the

band back together and performing small gigs, with fingers crossed that Liebling will show up.

The documentary is good at going back in time, too, and talking to former bigwigs in the record industry to confirm that Pentagram was close to signing a megadeal and could have become a serious band, but Liebling kept sabotaging that success because of his unpredictability. It’s an interesting character study, and, like how “The Great Gatsby” is told not from the eccentric Gatsby’s perspective but instead Nick Carraway’s, we get an angle that’s easier to relate to by allowing common-man Pelletier to tell a good part of the story.

Fatal Flaw

Changing gears completely, sometimes a big blockbuster movie that got mondo media attention back in the day can still be “new to you.”

The most noted example is “Pulp Fiction.” Each year, Beloit College composes a popular list for professors everywhere to be mindful of which allusions they pick. A regular example is “Pulp Fiction.” Many professor-types came of age with that film; but, remember, the typical college freshman was just a tot when the film came out. Surely, their parents didn’t let them see it. Yes, it has been replayed on TV, but the movie is so bawdy, practically everything memorable about the film seems muted in between commercials for laundry soap and Mitsubishi.

As I’m a bit older than the typical

freshman, a film that got a lot of buzz and likely my parents saw but I was way too young for at the time was 1972’s “Deliverance.” I ended up just catching that a few years ago, so it was “new to me.” (Perhaps the redneck rape scene in “Pulp Fiction” was so inspired by “Deliverance,” where Ned Beatty was made to “squeal like a pig.” Awful. And Beatty swears the film didn’t hurt his future acting opportunities.)

Another film that fits this theme is “Fatal Attraction,” which has gotten more buzz recently as a Director’s Cut has come out with the original, now-alternative ending (instead, the Glenn Close character, Alex, kills herself, but Dan (Michael Douglas) ends up charged with murder because his fingerprints were on the knife). Close has said she likes that ending better, but the ending was re-shot after test audiences panned it. Netflix has the 1987 official studio release on its service still, where, instead, Close is killed in a grand finale.

In 1987, while I did get the gist of the movie – a man has an affair with a woman who goes psycho – I was still in high school and too young to get the nuances of the film, being unmarried and pretty carefree. The characters are sophisticated, have high powered jobs and live in New York City. The film was more like a horror film to me, what with Alex slashing everything and boiling the pet rabbit of Dan’s kid.

The ending we all know, with a

scene where Alex becomes a knife-wielding psychopath at the end – we think she’s drowned, only to rise out of the tub, to be shot unexpectedly by a third party, Dan’s dull wife who somehow suddenly has a gun – ends up being so recycled in later Hollywood films that watching the official version of “Fatal Attraction” in retrospect makes it seem formulaic, even though the film broke cinematic ground at the time.

Watching it many years later, as an adult, one sees this film with new eyes; and, indeed, Close’s character seems more three-dimensional (Close says the only villain she has ever played was Cruella DeVille). Perhaps Alex is a bit of a victim, too.

You can see the previously unreleased ending on YouTube by typing “Fatal Attraction Alternative Ending” in the search box. It may be more accurate – Close argues that a passive-aggressive psycho affair partner normally would not confront the wife, and she doesn’t in the YouTube ending – but it is a bit dull. In the popular ending, where Alex confronts the wife, cutting herself, and everyone else, one can’t look away from the screen.

Whether you have never seen this film, or haven’t seen it in decades, try queuing it up now. Even the gimmicky version we all know with the slasher ending may seem “new to you.” The movie may not have changed, but perhaps the lenses you watch it through have.



Pentagram’s Bobby Liebling during better times.

Romney stumps in key swing state

Tanya Parker
Scripps Howard Foundation Wire

Supporters arrived in waves at the Van Dyck Park in Fairfax, Va., in September to welcome Republican Presidential candidate Mitt Romney.

The Romney supporters donned T-shirts and hats to support the GOP candidate and his platform with slogans such as, "America's comeback team," "Coal=Jobs" and "Defeat Obama." Individuals waved signs that read "Virginia believes" in the air as Romney spoke.

Romney began by addressing a need to help returning veterans find jobs to bolster the economy, telling the crowd, "Things are going to get a lot better." Romney said he will reduce the deficit in four years by getting the country back on track to a balanced budget and restore jobs by helping

"I'm interested in balancing the budget and getting rid of debt. We're passing on a crushing debt to our children and grandchildren. It's ridiculous," said Theron Patrick, 64, of Springfield, Va., a retired U.S. Coast Guard commander.

Several Fairfax entrepreneurs took the stage ahead of Romney, announcing the importance of small-business practices in the United States. Romney is "pro-private industry," which will help improve the economy as a whole, and is an important aspect of life in Fairfax, Patrick said in response to the business owners.

Stephanie Spitz, 17, a senior at Fairfax High School, will vote for the first time this year and attended the rally to support her candi-



week when he condemned Obama's policies in Libya just as the administration was announcing that the U.S. ambassador had been killed. Romney said he would have done things differently and protected the diplomats, especially on the anniversary of the Sept. 11,

2001, attacks.

Virginia is considered a swing state, with polls showing Romney and Obama tied.

Michelle Obama was also in Virginia last month to campaign for her husband.

Slogans at the Virginia rally included 'Coal=Jobs' and 'Defeat Obama.'

small businesses stay afloat.

Supporters chanted, "U-S-A," as Romney assured the crowd that jobs will be made available for those seeking work and that "America is coming back."

Romney said that President Barack Obama's policies have failed, and those at the rally showed they agreed by cheering and clapping.

date-of-choice.

"Obama just made promises, but he didn't follow through," Spitz said.

One topic of discussion was avoided, however, when Romney's planned moment of silence to mourn the loss of the four U.S. diplomats in Libya was interrupted by shouts from the crowd.

Romney stumbled earlier in the

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Official says Afghanistan will be stable after the US leaves

Jory Heckman
Scripps Howard Foundation Wire

A former U.S. ambassador to Afghanistan says the Taliban saw poor security vetting as an opportunity to attack a NATO base in the region.

"They clearly knew what they were doing," Ryan C. Crocker said about the Taliban last month at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. "Our own vetting in the U.S. military is not that great, let's face it. We've got a lot of prison barracks and military facilities where people should have never gotten in in the first place," he said.

Insurgents dressed as American soldiers infiltrated Camp Bastion in Afghanistan and destroyed or severely damaged eight fighter jets.

Crocker said a greater percentage of these "green on blue" attacks, military-speak for attacks on U.S. and NATO troops by allied Afghan security forces, are being instigated by Taliban agents.

Crocker said the Taliban have carved out a defensible niche in Afghanistan to coordinate these attacks, but he has not ruled out

other variables, such as the American military's

Koran burning early this year and a video parody of the Prophet Muhammad that has led to mob attacks on U.S. embassies in Libya and neighboring countries.

"I don't discount the personal grudges and the cultural insensitivities and the rest of it. But I think we underestimate, at our peril, a resilient enemy," he said.

Crocker was the U.S. ambassador to Afghanistan from July 2011 to July 13. During 37 years at the State Department, he was ambassador to Iraq, Pakistan, Syria, Kuwait and Lebanon.

Crocker praised the Afghan national security forces, calling their development "an amazing achievement in a short period of time."

Though American and NATO forces have been on the ground for more than a decade, Crocker said this has been a recent development.

"It's really just the last three years or so that we've engaged in a truly serious effort to build a capable, multi-faceted set of security forces, both police and army," he said.

Crocker estimated the Afghan military's strength at nearly 352,000 soldiers and said that these forces have proven their competence.

"They have shown their abilities in action," Crocker said, referring to their task of suppressing mobs after Americans

burned several copies of the Koran at Bagram Air Base in February.

"The Afghans were on their own," Crocker said, since intervention by U.S. or

NATO troops would have been "gasoline on the fire."

The biggest challenge for the Afghan security force, Crocker said, is fighting against fellow Afghans.

"There is nothing harder to ask of an armed force than to go off into action against its own population. Yet, that they did," Crocker said. "They saved countless lives, and they saved American lives."

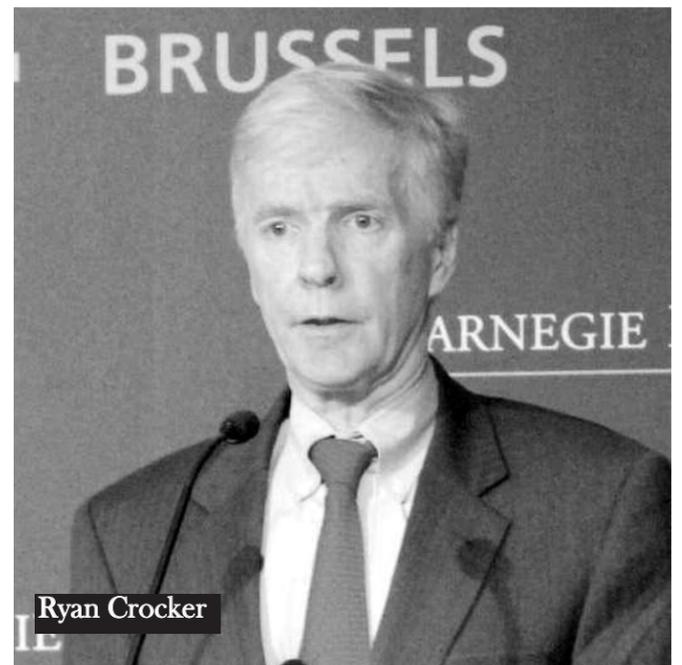
"They weren't prepared for that, they weren't trained for that. They weren't equipped for that," Crocker said. "We saw the curtain go up without a rehearsal."

Crocker said he remains optimistic about the country's ability to support itself after the drawdown of U.S. and NATO troops by the end of 2014.

"I don't think 2014 is going to be as calamitous as an economic development as many think," Crocker said, noting that most of the money spent by the West on contracting is offshore.

Crocker said Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai will play a crucial role in ensuring a stable future of the country.

"He has literally personified a post-



Taliban Afghanistan," Crocker said, noting his "incredible courage in taking on a job somewhere beyond impossible."

"Karzai is a committed Afghan nationalist," Crocker said. "He thinks in national terms," noting the president's effort to unite Afghanistan's disparate tribes and factions.

Crocker said he expects Karzai will peacefully hand over power to his successor by the end of his term in 2014.

"President Karzai is a lot of things, but he is not Vladimir Putin," Crocker said.

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David L. Podos
Mohawk Valley CC

One of the greatest things about our constitution is free speech. Now, in my humble opinion, free speech does not mean that we can say anything that we want at any time and at any place. I do not believe that our forefathers intended free speech to mean full throttle out, say anything, no matter how outrageous. For instance, you can't say "fire" in a theater just for kicks or "bomb" on an airplane just to see the reaction of your fellow passengers (which, I am sure, would not be pleasant). My mother always said, "Free speech does not give you a license to say anything you want. You must take responsibility and accountability for what you say, and say it respectfully."

On all my syllabi, I clearly let students know that in my class they have the freedom to speak their minds, the free-

dom to either disagree or agree with me, to disagree or agree with their fellow students' point of view, and the freedom to voice disagreement or agreement with the author that I am lecturing from. However, we do this in a respectful way without insulting, belittling, or trying to destroy and humiliate any other person's point of view no matter how passionate or beholding we are to our own position. To me, that's free speech!

In less than 35 days from this writing, you will (if you are 18 and older) have the privilege to use your power of free speech in the voting booth. If you have something to say, then say it — vote!!! Free speech is how we convey new ideas, new ways of looking at something that perhaps needs changing. Free speech is the catalyst for innovation, inspiration, and transformation. Be a part of change, but do it with presence of mind, respect, and fairness.

If you want to be part of change in higher education and would like to voice your opinions, I ask you to take a look at a survey of mine called "Adjunct Nation." You can find the survey by simply going to this newspaper's web site www.campus-news.org. There you will find a link (through Survey Monkey) that will send you to my survey. I hope you will take a few minutes out of your busy day and respond. I know students across our campuses have something to say about higher education, so please exercise your right to free speech and let me hear from you. Your information will be included with other research for a book I am writing called "Adjunct Nation, How Adjuncts Are Changing Higher Education in America Today (For The Better)."

You will have the opportunity to



speaking your mind on a number of questions that I pose. Whatever you have to say, I will appreciate your time, your thoughts, your passion, and respect that you had something to say and that you said it. Free speech; isn't it wonderful!!!

Suffolk 'Dig Pink' Fundraiser

On Thursday night October 11 at 6 p.m. in the Brookhaven Gymnasium the Suffolk County Community College Volleyball Team will be hosting their 3rd annual Dig Pink Game for the Side Out Foundation and breast cancer awareness. The previous two events raised \$7980.00. Any person making a donation of \$20 or more will receive a Suffolk Dig Pink t-shirt. Donations will be accepted in the form of cash or checks made payable to the Suffolk CC Association. Donations can be sent or delivered to the Athletic Departments at both the Ammerman and Grant Campuses to the attention of Joe Kosina.

In lieu of admission, donations will also be accepted at the door. All donations are tax deductible and will go to The Side-Out Foundation, which was established in 2004 to unite volleyball players and coaches and to have them work toward the common goal of furthering breast cancer awareness, education and patient services.

The term side-out refers to a situation in volleyball when one team wins a point while its opponent is serving, thereby regaining serve or control of play. It is hoped that this foundation will do the same for breast cancer patients, providing them with the support, education and best available treatments to resume control of their lives. Through volleyball tournaments, clinics and other events, Side-Out raises funds to donate to organizations that share our idea of a cancer-free world.

3rd party candidates hope for more than the 1%

Emily Siner

Scripps Howard Foundation Wire

Gary Johnson doesn't agree with Barack Obama or Mitt Romney on most things, and he certainly doesn't agree that either of them should be president. The best one for the job, he believes, is himself.

He's running as a Libertarian, and that means one thing in American politics: A lot of people who might agree with him just won't vote for him.

"I'm not naïve. I know the odds are against us," said Johnson's running mate, retired California Superior Court judge Jim P. Gray, in a telephone interview last week.

A two-term Republican governor of New Mexico, Johnson worked on education reform and advocated for the decriminalization of marijuana use, but his most frequent tactic was to stop the New Mexico Legislature from doing anything. He vetoed a record-breaking 750 bills, earning him the nickname "Governor Veto." When he left office, the state had a budget surplus.

After a stint in the Republican presidential primaries last year, he turned to the Libertarian Party, one of the largest third parties in the U.S., and won its nomination in May. By Libertarian standards, he's doing pretty well. As of early July, he has a place on 30 state ballots, and he's expecting to be on almost all 50 by November.

Now, his goal is to attract 15 percent support in five national polls – the 12-year-old standard for participation in the televised presidential and vice-presidential debates in October. As far as goals go, it's a lofty one. An Investor's Business Daily/Christian Science

Monitor/TIPP Poll from early July ranked him at 2 percent, but in general, few of the polls even include him as an option.

Johnson and Gray need to get noticed in polls to be in the debates – but they need those debates to get noticed. A simple Google News search recently for stories published within the past 24 hours showed 24,400 results for "Barack Obama," 18,700 results for "Mitt Romney" and a mere 220 results for "Gary Johnson," not all of them for Gary Johnson, presidential hopeful.

"I think that we have a legitimate chance of winning – if we get in the debates," Gray said. "If we cannot get into the debates, we're dead."

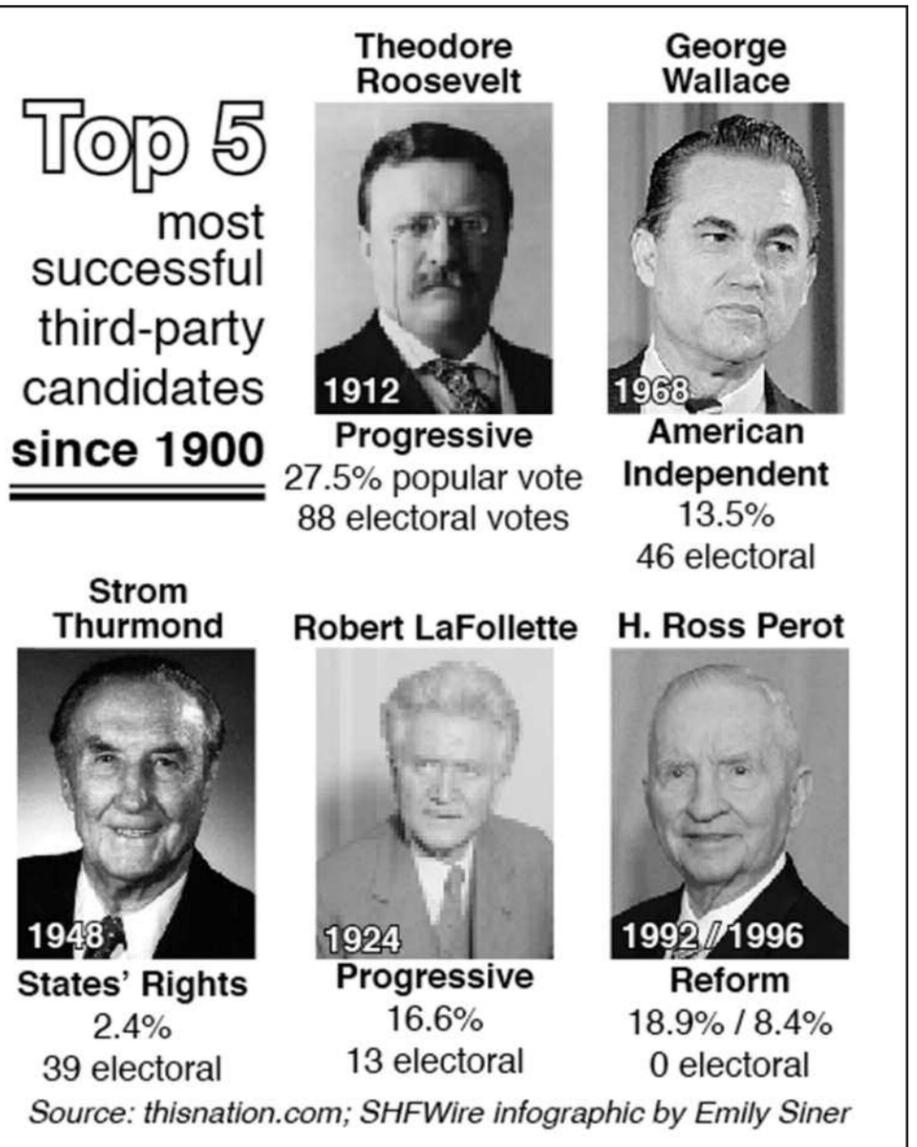
Some would say they were doomed from the start.

Little Room for Third Parties

David Crockett, a professor of political science at Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas, argues that almost since its foundation, the U.S. government has been divided in two. When fundamental issues arise – whether there should be a national bank, whether to allow slavery in new territories – politicians gather around one of two answers: yes or no.

These two issues were particularly potent. The Democratic Party became a coherent political force in the 1830s partially by opposing the national bank, and the Republican Party, with presidential candidate Abraham Lincoln, ousted the Whig Party in 1860 by opposing the extension of slavery. Although the parties' platforms have morphed, they have dominated U.S. politics since.

What happens to Americans who don't align with a party on every issue? If



there are enough of them, they might form their own party, which is why the Libertarian Party was founded in 1971.

But strategically, this isn't a rational way to gain power. U.S. elections are winner-take-all; the second-place candidate, no matter how popular, gets nothing. And the presidential election raises the odds even higher: All states except

Nebraska and Maine have a winner-take-all rule for their electoral votes, so a candidate has to win enough states to secure a victory.

If a third party is in the race, one that's new or not well known, voters probably won't have the confidence to vote for its candidate. They'll see it as "wasting their vote," even if they agree

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3rd party (cont.)

with that candidate, said Lara Brown, assistant professor of political science at Villanova University in Villanova, Pa.

Take Ross Perot, who ran as an independent against Bill Clinton and George H.W. Bush in 1992 on a platform of balancing the budget. He was in the debates – the most recent third-party candidate to be included – and he won a fifth of the popular vote, the most a third-party candidate has won since 1912. Ultimately, he failed to win any electoral votes.

A political group whose main goal is anti-terrorism might not agree with the group that supports hands-off economics, but in the end they have an incentive to form a coalition with one of the big players – in this case, the Republican Party. These factions decide it's better to be the backup player on a popular team than to be the MVP in a game with no one watching.

It's just as important for the big two players to make sure these factions either join them or leave the

game. In 2000, Ralph Nader ran against Al Gore and George W. Bush as the Green Party candidate. He won about 3 percent of the popular vote, but Crockett said that his environmental platform might have cut into the Democratic votes in swing states, including Florida – costing Gore the election.

Democrats and Republicans have an incentive to incorporate the key issues of popular independent parties into their platforms, as Clinton did when he emphasized the budget in 1992.

The major parties are happy because they dissolved their opponent's platform; the voters are happy because the issue is being addressed. Everyone wins except, of course, the third-party candidate. Perot might have thought about balancing the budget, but Clinton was the one who got to do it.

The Libertarian Hope

"If you're really serious about winning," Crockett said about Johnson and Gray, "you become a Libertarian-Republican. You become a Republican with Libertarian ideology."

But both men defied Crockett's logic. Johnson left the Republican Party in December, and Gray, who had an unsuccessful bid as a Republican nominee for a House seat in 1998, said he left the Republican Party after Bush signed the Patriot Act in 2001.

In this day and age, it is hard for them to be heard.

"I could not be a part of any group that would condone, much less assist, such a direct and frontal attack upon our liberties," Gray said. "It took me about 9½ seconds to realize that my home was with the Libertarian Party."

The Libertarian Party challenges the notion that the government should fix

the country's problems. The party's views aren't anarchist – otherwise, Johnson wouldn't be running for a government position – but it believes private individuals and the free market are more effective at finding innovative approaches to health care, stem cell research and other issues.

The party sticks to the Republican ideals of balancing the budget "exclusively by cutting expenditures, and not by raising taxes," according to its platform. Johnson wants to do away with the income tax and Internal Revenue Service and enact a consumption-based tax called the Fair-Tax, which Gray said would bring manufacturing back to the U.S., create jobs and minimize administration fraud.

Economically, the Libertarian Party runs close to the Tea Party, Crockett said. But the party's hands-off philosophy also extends to social issues – or, to quote Johnson's mantra in interviews, it is "fiscally conservative and socially tolerant." When it comes to abortion or gay marriage, Libertarians say the government shouldn't be involved. Johnson believes marijuana use should be regulated and taxed by the government, but not criminalized.

"A Libertarian is going to end the wars in the Middle East," Johnson said



Gary Johnson

on the Colbert Report in April, to cheers from the audience. "A Libertarian's going to balance the federal budget. A Libertarian's going to stand up for marriage equality."

Gray is confident most Americans would "flock" to Johnson's ideas if they thought he was a viable alternative.

"There are so many people that are voting not for Obama so much as they're voting against Romney. ... And there are lots of people that would put their X by Romney, but they're really voting against Obama," he said. "You know something? Vote in favor of someone. If you vote for the lesser of two evils, all you still end up with is evil."

Is your college 'Military Friendly'?

State University of New York Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher last month commended 33 SUNY campuses on being recognized as "military friendly" by top-rated national military publication, G.I. Jobs Magazine.

"The SUNY system is a recognized leader in assisting military personnel in the transition to civilian life after their service to our country," said Chancellor Zimpher. "As the largest system of public higher education in the country, SUNY offers extensive educational and career opportunities in more than 7,500 degree and certificate programs in every community in New York State. We take great pride in the fact that so many of our returning service men and women turn to SUNY for their education, and thank G.I. Jobs Magazine for this recognition."

The 33 SUNY campuses listed are: UAlbany, Alfred State College, Binghamton University, SUNY Brockport, Broome Community College, Buffalo State College, Clinton Community College, SUNY Cobleskill, Columbia-Greene Community College, Corning Community College, SUNY Delhi, Empire State College, Erie Community College, Farmingdale State College, SUNY Fredonia, Hudson Valley Community College, SUNYIT, Jamestown Community College, Jefferson Community College, SUNY Maritime, Mohawk Valley Community College, Monroe Community College, Nassau Community College, North County Community College, SUNY Old Westbury, Onondaga Community Col-

lege, Orange County Community College, SUNY Plattsburgh, Rockland Community College, Schenectady County Community College, Stony Brook University, Tompkins-Cortland Community College, and SUNY Ulster.

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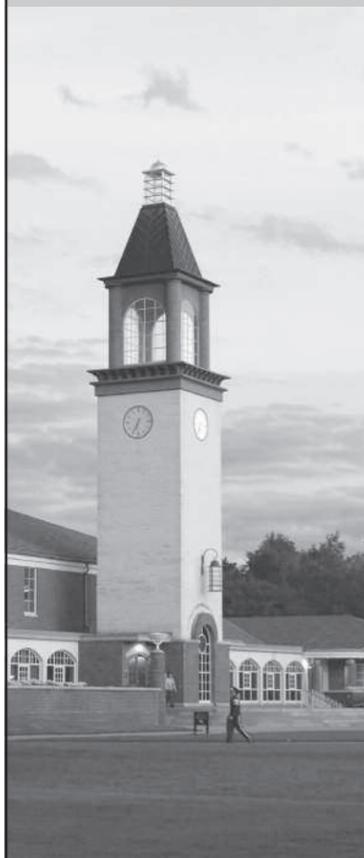
Another SUNY initiative also made the news recently. State University of New York Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher and the SUNY Board of Trustees announced the "SUNY Smart Track Campaign" to combat student debt throughout New York and set a national model as college students across the country are taking on more loan debt than ever before.

The SUNY campaign is the most proactive, comprehensive approach by any university system in the U.S. to address a growing national concern about the lack of transparency as it relates to college costs and financial aid, and the amount of federal loan debt accumulated by today's college students.

The six pilot campuses launching SUNY Smart Track this year are UAlbany, SUNY Fredonia, Niagara County Community College, Purchase College, Schenectady County Community College, and SUNY Ulster. The pilot campuses represent a cross section of SUNY colleges and the diverse needs of the various campus communities within.

These campuses will fine-tune each of the various components to bring the campaign to scale across the system's 64 campuses by Fall 2013.

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Will Mexican relations change with leadership?

Kristopher Rivera
Scripps Howard Foundation Wire

The election of Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) candidate, Enrique Peña Nieto, who will replace President Felipe Calderón in December raises the question of whether Mexico will continue to cooperate with the United States.

Calderón, in particular, has worked with the U.S. on the Merida Initiative to fight drug cartels.

“It is true we will face significant challenges, it is true that we also need to keep on working very hard on a systematic basis to resolve the issues that are naturally coming towards us in this very complex relationship,” Mexico’s Secretary of the Interior Alejandro Poiré said last month at a panel discussion. “But I think it is a testimony to the efforts of both administrations, President Calderón’s administration and President [Barack] Obama’s administration, that we are here and now speaking about all these enhancements on all these advances while we have a positive outlook on the future.”

Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano and Poiré spoke at the Wilson Center to reaffirm their intentions to sustain healthy ties between the U.S. and Mexico.

Calderón’s administration has been working with the U.S. in a security cooperation agreement. The 2008 the Merida Initiative is a plan to disrupt organized crime groups, build a 21st century border,

PRI was accused of working with organized crime.

In the past, PRI distrusted the United States. However, Peña Nieto has been telling supporters he respects the law, supports free markets and will not return to the past.

Howard Campbell, anthropology professor at the University of Texas at El Paso, said that, for the United States, it is a lot easier to have PRI in charge than Calderón’s party, the National Action Party. He said PRI is more predictable than PAN, which was new to the U.S. in the 12 years it has governed Mexico.

“The U.S. has dealt with leaders of the PRI before, for almost a century, so they’re used to it.” Campbell said. “The wild card of course is the drug trafficking. There’s no telling what’s going to happen.”

Poiré said it is important to transform and improve local police officers, prosecutors and the courts. A constitutional amendment passed in 2008 reformed Mexico’s judicial system at the federal and state level. The goal is to have judicial reform run by every Mexican state by 2016. Four have fully executed this plan, including Chihuahua, which includes Ciudad Juárez, and is across the U.S. border from west Texas and New Mexico.

Poiré said there is a much higher rate of conviction and tougher sentences, which he said is helping the federal government’s effort to lower the levels of violence and other crimes in Ciudad Juárez.

The PRI party hasn’t been in power in over a decade.

build strong and resilient communities and institutionalize the rule of law. The U.S. invested more than \$1 billion in this operation.

Peña Nieto’s election marks PRI’s comeback since it lost power in 2000. There has been speculation that the PRI may govern Mexico in a corrupt manner. For the seven decades it ruled Mexico,

Campbell said, however, that he has found that violence has shifted to other places,

such as the Gulf of Mexico region.

Napolitano said the U.S. is working with law enforcement in Mexico to help trace weapons from the U.S. that are recovered in Mexican crime investigations. She said DHS will accelerate the ability to trace weapons to see if the agency can identify a source within the United States that can be prosecuted.



Mexican Foreign Secretary Patricia Espinosa and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton

Fast and Furious, a failed gun-tracking program, allowed suspected gun smugglers to purchase large caches of weapons in the U.S. Law enforcement officials tried to track them to high-ranking Mexican drug cartel members. However, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives lost track of many of the firearms. Several of these firearms have been linked to crimes, including the murder of Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry in December 2010.

“In terms of illegal financial transactions, money laundering, it’s really one of the major enablers of narcotics trafficking in particular,” Napolitano said. “We have been working very closely on a joint project on money laundering and identifying suspect transactions that I think will really produce fruit over the next couple of years.”

At a press conference recently, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Mexican Foreign Secretary Patricia Espinosa said a close partnership between the U.S. and Mexico will continue.

“We believe strongly that presidential

administrations may change, elections will come and go,” Clinton said, “but we have established a firm foundation for cooperation that has already benefitted both of our countries and which will continue to benefit both of our countries for many years ahead.”

Clinton said she and Espinosa had reviewed the gains both countries have made on key priorities of the Merida Initiative and discussed lessons learned and the work that lies ahead.

“And we regret any incidence of violence, whenever it occurs, inside Mexico, on our borders or inside our own country. We will continue to work closely to investigate these tragic incidents and try to come to conclusions about who is responsible and use our legal systems to hold them accountable,” she said.

Espinosa said Calderón’s administration will develop a road map to give to the incoming administration as a recommendation.

Will I some day be driving this old car?

Darren Johnson
Campus News

Driving through Brockton, Mass., on my newspaper route, I passed by this car on a road my GPS took me on. After a half mile or so, I had the urge to U-Turn, go back, and snap some photos. I probably will have a use for one of the pics some day, other than for this chat.

I often write for publications, so perhaps this photo can be inspiration for one of my essays. A common theme of mine is “the changing media.”

Here, we have an old car that looks really old and on the roof an ad for Videos, DVDs (which are different than videos, I take it) and Books.

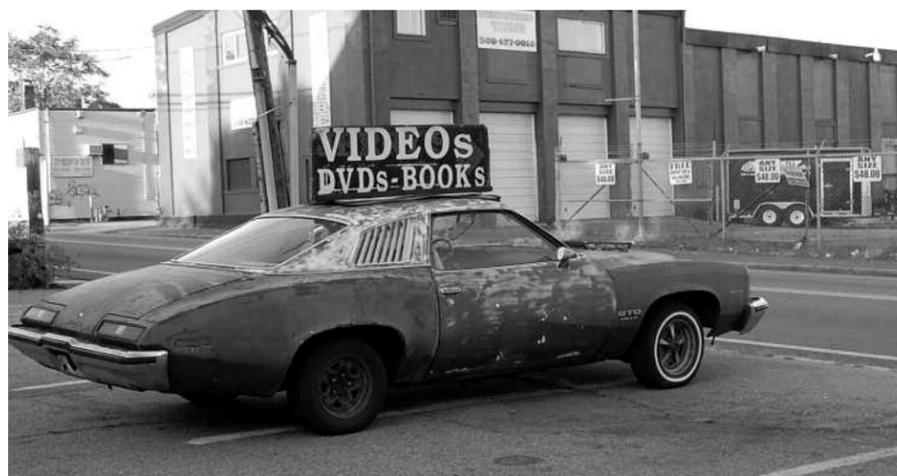
Will those three mediums go the way of the old car? Rusted and unwanted? Will they be physical objects

that you can actually buy, or just bits and bytes that show up on your device?

How does this change the business model?

As someone who writes and also plays around in other arts, I think I like the new business model better. Sure, there is piracy, but an author makes no money off of used books. Once a book is sold as “new” the royalty is over. Sell a new book for \$10, maybe get \$1.50 and that’s that – forever. That book can be sold a hundred more times at used book stores and the author doesn’t see a dime. Maybe it’s a first edition and becomes a collector’s item, worth \$500. Still, the author gets nothing from the resales.

This is pretty much true for hard copies of movies, video games, art, etc. Practically in all media, a sale only ben-



efits the creator once.

But in a future where everything is on a cloud, sales can be counted -- nothing is “used” – so the creator gets paid per set of eyeballs.

For the consumer, this can be better, too, in that prices in general are lower for cyber products vs. hard

copies. There is no middle man. No trees have to be ground to pulp, either. No cellophane packing. No shipping.

Part of me worries that I’m not keeping up with the times. That I will be driving this car some day...

Mastering a vintage art

Christine Barton
Campus News

In 2008 Crystal Hanehan, a native of upstate Schuylerville, N.Y., purchased the old Webster House where she now lives and works. Inside her home she has designed a personal gallery where she works to handcraft her own unique vintage creations. While she someday envisions her gallery as a boutique that will be open to the public, right now she is content running her business, Vintage By Crystal, from her new home gallery and selling her products from her website. Each piece of her merchandise is hand crafted and selling worldwide by way of the web. She currently fills orders for customers from Korea, Japan, Norway, Canada and the U.S.

Vintage by Crystal offers the sale of unique creations that are made from a mix of recycled, vintage and new items. Her spun cotton figurines are one of her specialty items, but she also dabbles in needle felting, paper craft, ornaments, collage and other mixed media items. Using bits of items that would have otherwise been thrown away, Hanehan creates her pieces with the safety of the environment in mind by using recycled materials whenever possible. Her use of cotton is one of the many things that make Hanehan's designs unique to look at as well as to touch. Cotton is a material that is normally used

for textiles.

"Spun cotton is an art form, it is also something that fits into the craft category," says Hanehan "It is a rare, lost art form. The number of spun cotton artists today are few and far between," she states.

Hanehan makes authentic pieces such as holiday ornaments and cake toppers. Her snow babies, animals and people are made from spun cotton and various mixed media designs. The body of the creation is made from spun cotton while other pieces of the design might be made from vintage materials such as cloth that would otherwise be discarded. The mix of cotton and vintage materials work to make an authentic hand-crafted design for each and every piece.

Her web site has served as a way to showcase her work. Hanehan was a guest on "The Martha Stewart Show" two years in a row. Show designers came across her web site and emailed her out of the blue, asking if she was interested in being a guest, to which she agreed. To add to the excitement of being showcased on "The Martha Stewart Show," her then-boyfriend, now husband, planned a marriage proposal that he delivered to her while she was on air. Her wedding celebration was held at her family farm. Their barn served as the reception hall, which was decorated with many pieces, that Hanehan made by hand.

Hanehan's family are longtime residents of Schuylerville and own and operate Hanehan Family Dairy in the area. Her mom was born in Germany and for as long as Hanehan can remember she had an interest in vintage German items. Mom's interest was passed onto Crystal who has found a way to celebrate her heritage through her novel art form.

Hanehan went to school at Schuylerville Central and later moved to Boston after attending SUNY Oswego, where she earned a degree in Graphic Design. She established her business, Vintage by Crystal, in 2007 and went full time with it in 2009 while living in the Boston area. Hanehan was recently married and returned to her hometown of Schuylerville to live because of the "many good qualities" that the town has to offer.

As the fall quickly approaches Hanehan finds herself in full-fledge Halloween mode, making pieces that are holiday focused.

"I can hardly keep up," she says.

According to Hanehan, when antique pieces are discovered, they are often times very pricey. An antique elephant might sell for \$400, while her stuff is similar and affordable with a modern twist.

"Thirty dollars a piece is affordable for people," says Hanehan. "Antique pieces like this are so rare these days."

Hanehan had to experiment to find her own special way to create authentic hand-crafted items with an antique flare. While she didn't share her "secret formula" for holding the cotton together, she was able to explain in detail her spinning process. First she makes a wire skeleton of each piece, then she spins the figure around the cotton by hand. Some might picture a spinning wheel that actually spins the cotton around the item, but Hanehan's method works a little bit differently to create a nice, soft, handcrafted design for each piece. She uses upholstery cotton that she orders from a little



Photo by Russ Heller.

mom and pop shop that she discovered while living in Boston. Upholstery cotton is not very commonly used anymore, so it is hard to find, says Hanehan.

Hanehan hasn't done local shows as of yet and hasn't advertised much outside of her Facebook page, her web site and word-of-mouth. The business continues to thrive and grow. She does have a few long-term loyal clients who carry her goods year round, which helps to promote the sale of her products. Hanehan does have plans to attend some holiday shows in the area and is eager to showcase her work to her hometown of Schuylerville. Hanehan hopes to plan an open house early next year to more formally introduce her business to the local community. Until that time, Vintage By Crystal can be visited at www.vintageby-crystal.com.



Photo by John Burke.

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Good-bye, Jeter; Good-bye, A-Rod – I'm done

Darren Johnson
Campus News

Good-bye Derek Jeter and your lame press conferences where you sound good saying nothing. Good-bye to the gift baskets you give myriad 10s as they leave your fancy apartment at 2 a.m.

Good-bye A-Rod and your private jets and jumbo sized narcissism and the big hits you never got when they mattered.

Good-bye you man children with the shaving cream pies in the face after winning Game 3 only to go on to lose the series. I find that even when you win now, I don't care.

I'm done. After a lifetime of following the Yankees, and knowing all their stats, through good times and bad, my interest in the team is now near zero. I'll probably watch a few playoff games this month, like the casual web surfer checking Facebook to see how his high school pals turned out, but, for all intents and purposes, the relationship is over.

My loss of interest in the Yankees didn't happen



THE MAN COLUMN

overnight. No, I'd say it happened slowly, over the past 10 or 15 years. Before that, I used to watch scores of games a year. I'd rush to get the morning paper to see the baseball stats, even though I'd watched the game the night before.

Before that, the Yankees weren't as good, but I had an interest in the players. Most Yankees fans are front runners, and when the team was bad, it was tremendously easy to get tickets – just show up at the box office that day and go in. It was as convenient as going to a movie.

I remember Don Mattingly playing catch with Dave Winfield before a game to warm up, the disparity in their sizes, their camaraderie and how they kidded around, and I felt like they were real people. Like I knew them.

But does anyone relate to A-Rod at all? Even Jeter seems like a bit of a tool. These are some of the events that slowly edged me away from being a Yankee fan (and thus a baseball fan, as I really have no desire to watch other teams):

- The removal of manager Buck Showalter for Joe Torre. Showalter currently has the previously hapless Baltimore Orioles near first place as of press time. He was the guy who assembled that Yankees team that ended up winning a good deal at the end of the 1990s, with young a Jeter, Andy Pettitte,

Mariano Rivera, Jorge Posada, Bernie Williams and a bunch of interesting role players, like Scott Brosius, Randy Velarde, Jim Leyritz and even current manager Joe Girardi. It can be argued that, perhaps, Showalter is a "builder," and Torre may be better for celebrity-style athletes, but, still, Torre came from the same public relations school as Jeter. A lot of just playing it safe – with words, as well as actions on the field.

- The Cablevision blackout of YES Network that lasted about a year in 2002. This was after the beautiful 2001 World Series that seemed to heal all of us in a way, played shortly after the events of 9-11 (even though the Yankees lost to Arizona). While, sure, sometimes in 2002 the Yankees had individual games on other channels, such as the Fox "Game of the Week," the blackout changed my seasonal viewing habits. I found other sports to watch. Whereas baseball used to be my most watched sport, today it is clearly the NFL, followed by boxing and perhaps

MMA in third. Something similar happened after the last NHL lockout with many hockey fans, and likely will happen again if there is an extended lockout

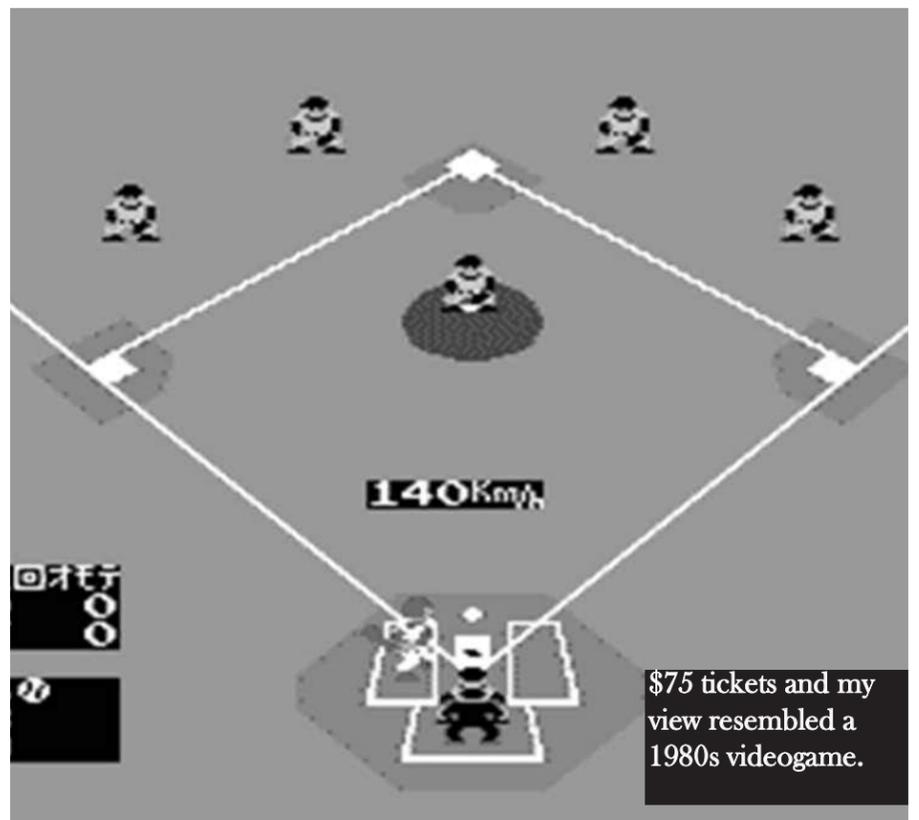
this year.

- The acquisition of A-Rod. This smarmy player personifies corporate greed; all style (May grand slams) and no substance (grounding into double plays in October), he is no hero at all. Add in the steroids and the Yankees sold their soul a little bit on this one. On a more philosophical point, I overheard a conversation at a college I'd worked for where a couple of janitors were talking loudly about the Yankees. A professor approached them and said, "Why are you wasting time arguing about these people? Do you think they sit at home and think about you?" He's right. They don't.

But the final straw was the new stadium. If you watch the games on TV, you will see those big, comfy looking seats in the bottom rows very empty. The hoi polloi have to sit up higher.

Recently, I was given a few tickets to a Yankee game. I hadn't been to the new (well, opened in 2009) stadium, so thought I'd give it a try. OK, great, I got tickets with a \$75 face value each, but I ended up in the second to the highest tier. It was like watching a video game version of baseball, you know, like the original Nintendo version from the 1980s; an aerial view of the tops of flat-looking baseball caps moving counterclockwise around a diamond.

This wasn't like the \$35 tickets I'd bought just a decade or so prior where I



could see the smirks on players' faces. What's the point in even sitting in these seats?

The people around me mostly weren't watching the game, either. They mostly seemed to be season ticket holders. One was an elderly woman who said her kids had moved away, her husband had passed and she had nothing else to do. Seems awful that this poor lady felt the need to shell out thousands of dollars for this lousy view of a game.

She revealed that her other expenditures were pretty mainstream, too. She talked about going to Disney World and staying in the top Disney brand hotels, and going to Vegas to stay at one of the Strip hotels and seeing Blue Man Group. Who says corporate branding doesn't work on consumers?

Another group sitting near us were uber-trendy teens, just there to get served beer and to eat chicken strips, pretending not to care about anything. Frail, hiding behind sunglasses, none of them even looked capable of picking up a baseball bat.

Everything inside the stadium had logos. Every announcement over the PA had a sponsor. The PC Richards whistle continually went off. Even in between innings, the guys who swept the field had SCOTTS in big letters emblazoned on their brooms. I could read it even from my nosebleed seats. Great, so all these corporate lemmings watching the game will go home and toss poison into their lawns.

I already had felt a bit hosed coming into the game. Parking was \$40. There were none of the little mom-and-pop shops nearby to get memorabilia, unlike the old stadium, so I had to buy the "official" Yankee crap for the kid. I mean, we go to a game once in a decade now, it seems, I couldn't get away with not buying keepsakes.

It was nearly 100 degrees. A hand-held fan that sprays water with an NYY logo was \$25. Water not included. Without the logo, this looks like an item from a dollar store. A pink Jeter

tank top was \$35.

It was some bobble head day, and even though we'd gotten to the stadium an hour early, all the bobble heads were gone. The Yankees staff had just thrown out random piles of them. I saw them in the distance like a mirage. In the time that I went through the turnstiles and bought the Jeter shirt, they all were swooped up. I saw plenty of overweight, middle aged professional-type guys with two or three of them while little kids had none. The workers at the stadium didn't care. Practically every worker I dealt with, in buying \$5 sodas or \$6 Carvel cups, seemed completely resigned to life. In their minds, they were somewhere else.

The stadium itself more resembled

After decades of fandom, I'm sick of rooting for a team full of spoiled millionaires.

a mall, with corporate style stores everywhere. This was Downtown Disney. This was Times Square.

I got something in my eye, but couldn't find eye drops in any of the stores. Eventually, I was referred to a first aid office at the other end of the stadium, winding through a mass of pushy people, and, there, a woman who seemed could not care less just said, "Uh-huh," when I told her my need, gave me a couple of pink vials, and quickly moved on to doing something else. Acting busy is a New York thing.

I poured the contents of one vial in my eye and was good again. Upon regaining my vision, I looked closely at the expiration date on these no-name vials. It said October 2008. So they brought these from the old stadium to the new?

I still have the other unbranded vial as a keepsake. Someone in the Yankees offices is asleep at the wheel. They missed a golden opportunity to get a big sponsorship from Visine™.

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Is HUD underestimating homeless kid stats?

Emily Wilkins

Scripps Howard Foundation Wire

When she was 5, Irene Saucedo and her mother, Yolanda, began house hopping after her parents divorced, living with friends and relatives in the San Antonio area.

They were often forced out when landlords found out that extra people were staying with their tenants or mother and daughter felt they had overstayed their welcome. One friend was evicted when the landlord discovered the Saucedos had been living there.

By the time Saucedo, now 19, finished elementary school, she had transferred six times.

But according to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Saucedos weren't homeless. Only those in what is considered the direst situations – living in a shelter, under a bridge or in a campground for a sustained period qualify for permanent housing assistance.

It's all part of an ongoing debate about who should be eligible for federal housing programs. Should HUD – with a budget that was flat lined for the 2011 fiscal year – try to target only the most needy groups? Or should the pool of candidates increase to consider more people like Saucedo?

Homeless advocates are focusing on the second group of children through the Homeless Children and Youth Act. It would expand eligibility for services to 762,000 children, tripling the 350,049 chil-

dren HUD served in 2010, the last year for which data is available. In the current fiscal year, 2012, HUD's budget for homeless housing and service program was \$1.9 billion.

"Those in the housing world say it's lacking funding," said Barbara Duffield, policy director at the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth. "They're making the assumption families currently eligible are more in need than those who are not eligible."

The bill lost traction after being approved by a subcommittee in February. Some advocates say they will reintroduce the bill in the next Congress and spoke of it during a U.S. House caucus meeting earlier this month. Saucedo, now a sophomore studying anthropology and social work at Texas State University, spoke to several members of Congress about her experiences. Although Saucedo is in college, her mother is still trying to find housing and lives with Saucedo's older sister in San Antonio.

While the bill would not require that all children get funding, HUD would have to determine if they were more in need than those getting services under HUD's current definition. Recalling her experiences of moving around versus her time at shelters, Saucedo said the shelter was a more stable environment with resources and information to help them.

"People walking house to house don't know what's out there because they're busy trying to figure out where they're going to



Rep. Don Manzullo, R-Ill., comforts Irene Saucedo, 19, after she tells the story of being homeless as a child during a briefing for the Congressional Children's Caucus.

go next," she said.

Not everyone supports the bill. Expanding eligibility for a department that is unlikely to get increased funding with more people needing help is "thinning the soup to the point where there is no nutritional content," Dennis P. Culhane, Dana and Andrew Stone Chair in Social Policy at the University of Pennsylvania, said.

"We have 250,000 people who are sleeping on the street any given night," Culhane's couch or spare bedroom, Duffield said. Instead of assuming an individual in a shelter is worse off than a child who sleeps on the floor of a housing project, officials need to analyze all cases.

"They're trying to dictate that from Washington, D.C.," Duffield said. "What we're saying is you can let the people on the local level do the triage."

But more eligible people means additional time and staff to review cases. To

hane said, quoting a report that he co-wrote. "From a pure prioritization standpoint, and just a human needs standpoint, I don't see why we should expand eligibility to those programs to people who are not literally homeless. We don't even have enough resources to provide basic emergency shelter."

But that logic assumes that those living in cars, on the street or in shelters are more in need of shelter than those crashing on a have an efficient program, the groups with the neediest members – those with no roofs over their heads – should be targeted first, Ann Oliva, HUD acting deputy assistant secretary for special needs, said.

"We can focus what we want do and what we want to accomplish more effectively," she said.

Water (cont. from page 3)

"smart meters" would help save money. These meters track water usage and infrastructure leaks every 15 minutes, alerting customers if water is not being conserved.

DC Water has installed automated meter reading equipment that tracks two readings per day. In 2006, DC Water also began using technology to notify consumers of high water use. DC Water may call, email or text a notification identifying high water use on any given day. A planned system upgrade will provide more details.

Many homes and businesses in the U.S. have water monitoring systems, but they collect data only once every 30 or 60 days. Sullivan said it is difficult to be

DC's technology warns customers of over-consumption by text.

water conscious during that length of time.

"The more readings you take, the better you can understand patterns of use, the better you can detect if leaks happens," Sullivan said. "If the only reading you get is once over 60 days, you're not going to notice it until your bill comes."

The Las Vegas Valley Water District has meters that collect data on a monthly basis. However, if a customer has high water use by the end of the month, warnings are issued. Customers must reduce their water use they are fined. Most customers make changes before a fee is necessary.

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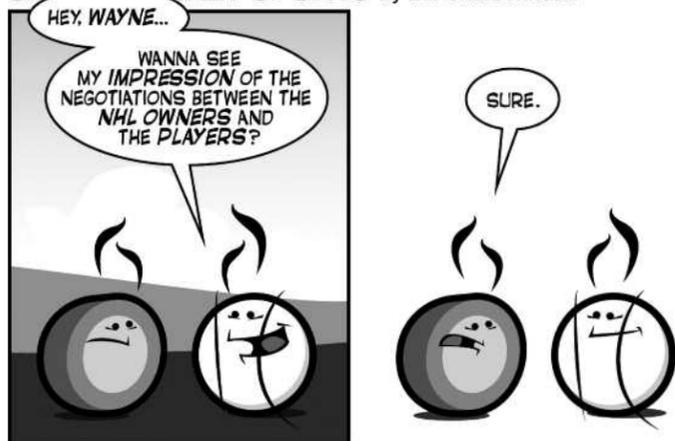
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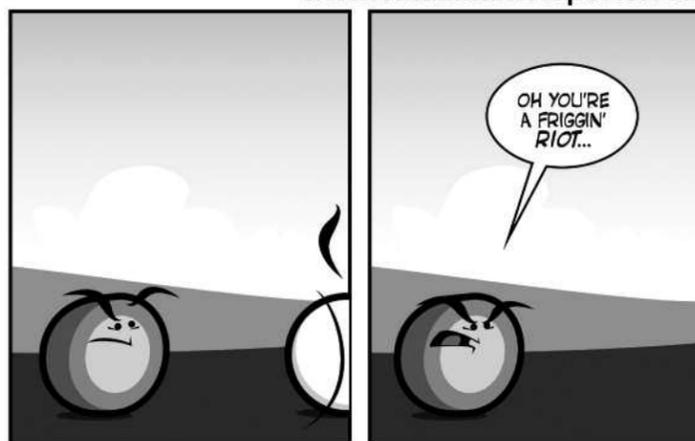
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Vets, families struggle to find piece of mind

Kristopher Rivera

Scripps Howard Foundation Wire

Dr. Tara Dixon, a trauma and critical surgeon in the U.S. Army Reserves, struggled to refrain from weeping in front of an audience of other veterans and their families.

"About six months when I got back from my second tour in Iraq I tried to kill myself and I ended up in the intensive care unit from an overdose of aspirin and Tylenol," Dixon said. "When I woke up in the intensive care unit I was very angry, very upset that that did happen. I felt lost, I felt hopeless. I couldn't get any better."

Dixon, 38, of Ocklawaha, Fla., saw three therapists to treat the PTSD she developed as a result of her overall experiences during her deployments in 2008 and 2010, but it had no effect on improving her mental health. She said she felt that, as a doctor, she should have the ability to beat it. Dixon said that because she hadn't been cured, she saw only one way out. Dixon said she felt like an embarrassment to herself, her family and the Army after she tried to take her life.

Stories like hers whirled in the conference room last month during the 2012 Warrior-Family Symposium hosted by the Military Officers Association of America and the national Defense Industrial Association. Wound veterans and

their families and caregivers told stories of their difficult paths to physical or psychological recovery.

Many veterans faced overwhelming obstacles during their transition back to civilian life.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics found that veterans from the 9/11 era had an unemployment rate of 10.9 percent in August, higher than the national rate of 8.1 percent. The root of this issue comes from soldiers that who developed post traumatic stress disorder, which is considered a disability.

Alvin Shell Jr., 35, of Fredericksburg, Va., a retired Army captain, said it is the biggest issue veterans have encountered.

"A job, that's the best deal you can hand out," Shell said. "It gives you a sense of worth, it allows you to provide for your family. And not so much hand out, but just make sure there are no doors closed in our way."

Shell was a military police officer and was severely burned when he and

his team were attacked in Iraq in 2004. It took two years and 30 surgeries before he recovered.

Shell struggled to get a job with his experience in the military, and he now works for the Department of Homeland Security and recently graduated from the FBI National Academy.

"Without really good, comprehen-

sive hiring bills that allow veterans to get jobs, we don't have that opportunity," Shell said.

The bill that would grant \$1 billion to help veterans find jobs was held up Wednesday when Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., started a filibuster. But the Senate voted 84-8 later that day to proceed with the bill.

At the event, Eric Shinseki, secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, told the audience, "We have not fixed everything, we know that, but you have had our very best efforts. We will continue to provide you our very best efforts."

In 2009, of more than 23 million living veterans 7.4 million were enrolled in the VA health-care system and 3 million were receiving compensation pension benefits, Shinseki said.

"We're going to have to adjust our stance, which we started doing three-and-a-half years ago, and gain some agility



Annette Slaydon

quickly," Shinseki said. "We had an outreach problem. Many veterans didn't know about VA or their benefits. We had an access problem, even if they know about us, there was evidence they had difficulty getting the needed services."

By the 2013 symposium Shinseki said he expects an increase in funding for Veterans Affairs programs. He said he expects an increase of 28 percent for spinal cord injuries, 39 percent for mental health treatment, 39 percent for long-term care funding, 59 percent for prosthetics funding and more money for many other needs.

'War of the Worlds,' the play, to be staged

Just in time for Halloween, the Schuylerville Community Theater, near Saratoga Springs, N.Y., will present a staged reading of a new adaptation of "The War of the Worlds." The play was written by award-winning writer Darren Johnson and is set in the village of Schuylerville. It is based on the 1898 HG Wells novel about an invasion from Mars.

"The War of the Worlds" will be staged at 2 PM and 7:30 PM on Saturday, October 27th and again at 2 PM on Sunday, October 28th, in the Schuylerville Room at the Town of Saratoga Building on the corner of Routes 4 and 29 in Schuylerville. Tickets are \$7 each or \$5 for students and seniors. Tickets may be ordered in reserved by calling (518) 695-5480. Proceeds benefit the SCT Production Fund.

Johnson's version of "The War of

the Worlds" is, like the famed 1938 Orson Wells adaptation, timed to coincide with Halloween. Johnson wrote it as a radio play and it premiered in his hometown of Riverhead on Long Island in 2002 where it was very well received. "My play is very different," Johnson said. "No one today would believe in a hoax Martian invasion, so I went back to the 1898 HG Wells book and tried to capture that more campy, innocent tone."

This updated "The War of the Worlds" takes place in the Schuylerville and Saratoga areas after a strange meteorite crashes near a mall. Adjunct community college professor and astronomy buff Doug Oglivly is dispatched to the scene on cell-phone remote as on-air personality Psychic Simone tries to manage harried and off-point calls at a small-town radio station. Tension - and humor - increases as the characters realize that

what crashed wasn't a meteorite but a spaceship. Mayhem follows at the mall as a Martian emerges. Soon, the US Army is called, but it takes something even mightier to stop the Martians.

"This play is more about the state of 21st-century radio than anything else," Johnson said, "but my ultimate goal is to entertain."

The radio play will feature local talent providing the voices of the radio personnel, on-site reporters, and callers into the station. Come sit in the audience and watch as the radio station responds to the devastating "invasion!"

A reviewer from the popular Dan's Papers in the Hamptons of Long Island had nothing but nice things to say about Johnson's adaptation after attending a showing. Dan Rattiner wrote: "I thoroughly enjoyed it."

Johnson lives with his wife, Eileen,

and daughter, Kaylee, in Greenwich. He moved to the local area from Riverhead. He was named the New York Press Association's Writer of the Year award in 1996 when he worked for The Sag Harbor Express. Johnson is a full-time administrator and part-time English instructor at Schenectady County Community College. He has received both a BA and a Master of Fine Arts in Writing and Literature from Southampton College's esteemed writing program, and his writing has appeared in scores of places, including The Sag Harbor Reader, Hamptons Shorts, Long Island Quarterly, Community College Campus News and The New York Times.

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From the Doctor: Curing self-diagnosis

Lee S. Shapiro, MD, FACP
Schuylerville Turning Point

“Could I have what my son has?” This was the question posed to me by a middle-aged man with the new onset of rash, numb hands, and joint pain. Truthfully, I hadn’t really considered that possibility. His six-year old son had a rash and fever, but no joint symptoms.

The son had been diagnosed with parvoviral infection. At that time, 25 years ago, I had never heard of parvoviral arthritis, but it had recently been described and a blood test to confirm the diagnosis was available.

I ran the test and my patient was correct. His question had led me to consider a diagnosis that had not even been on my list of possibilities. Shortly thereafter, I saw five more such cases and I wondered how many I had missed. I am forever grateful that my patient educated me while being such an active participant in his diagnostic process.

Lots of my patients propose a diagnosis and do so with a greater degree of certitude than this man. They are certain they have lupus, or Lyme disease, or fibromyalgia.

When they have such fixed ideas, I often wonder why they have even sought my opinion. They are making a mistake that I and many doctors have often made; jumping at what seems the most obvious answer without first constructing a differential diagnosis.

It is easy to be waylaid in the process. There are many common symptoms that are not specific for any one disease. But, when one reads through

a list of such symptoms and says “Yes, I have that” again and again, it is hard to disabuse the patient of the notion that he or she has hit the nail on the head. Individuals often have strong feelings about what they do or don’t want to have as a diagnosis.

A diagnosis should bring relief because, most often, it means the end of troublesome speculation and the start of treatment. But a wrong diagnosis just means delaying the process of recovery. We need to get it right as soon as possible. To do that, we need to operate as a team.

In this season, in this region, passionate attachment to a diagnosis of Lyme disease is rampant. Why is this such an “attractive” diagnosis? First, it is indeed common. Second, it is a dis-

ease that carries no stigma. Third, the treatment is a course of antibiotic therapy, not “hard stuff” like behavioral change. There is also great fear about the consequence of delayed or inadequate therapy and the risk of chronic Lyme disease. Finally, there is a great desire that it not be something else. No one wants to be dealing with the start of a chronic or untreatable disease.

Where do individuals come up with their own diagnoses? The most common sources are friends, family, and the internet. True friends are always looking for ways to express their affection and concern and getting someone on the right path can be immensely satisfying.

As a physician, I try to be both receptive and skeptical and I think this is a good approach for anyone receiving advice. Listen but don’t abandon your own thought process. Were your friend’s symptoms really identical to those you are experiencing? Did you share a full description of your illness with your friend, or is he or she responding to one strand of the story?

Recognize their eagerness to help, but, recognize, too, that their capacity to help is limited by their own education and life experience.

Family input can be tremendously important. Those closest to you know where you were, what you did, and whom you encountered. They can fill in the gaps in your memory. They may be much closer observers of your health status than you are, and they may be the ones to more accurately

record when your appetite disappeared, you became less active, and when you stopped smiling or became irritable.

Infections often travel from one family member to another, so their recent symptoms may be very meaningful in explaining your own illness. The diagnosis your spouse or child was given may indeed be your own, even if you don’t present identically. Parents and siblings can also provide accounts of their own illnesses to which you may be predisposed by genetics or because of common environmental exposures years before.

The internet is a more problematic source of answers. You can certainly exchange queries with strangers, but they don’t know you and you don’t



know their agenda. Too often, we are drawn to information sources that only reinforce whatever bias with which we started our search. Yet, in that universe, somewhere, there is certainly the answer you seek.

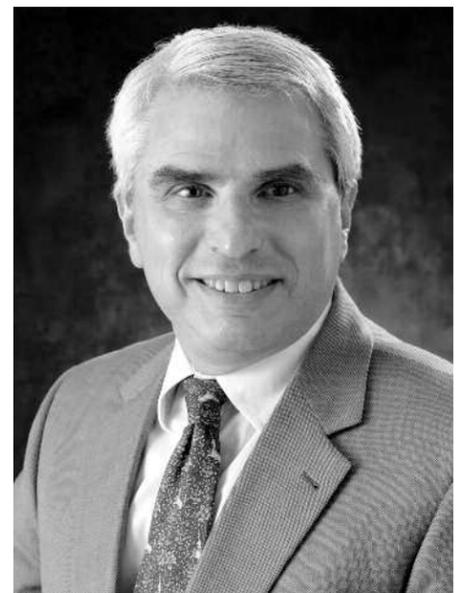
Most diagnoses made by physicians are generated by history alone, then confirmed or eliminated by subsequent physical examination and laboratory testing. So, if you can enter all the relevant information in your search, you may indeed arrive at the correct diagnosis or list of diagnostic possibilities.

But, there are pitfalls. Physicians are trained to ask questions that may expand or narrow the list of diagnostic possibilities. They are also trained to recognize which symptoms are helpfully specific and which don’t narrow the search. They may find information from habits or sources you might not even think to consider.

Interrogations by physicians, when we are most skillful, are directed rather than random searches. The questions posed are often as important as the answers provided. Putting yourself in a large library is not enough, for you may waste precious time looking for the right bookshelf and not knowing when you have passed it by.

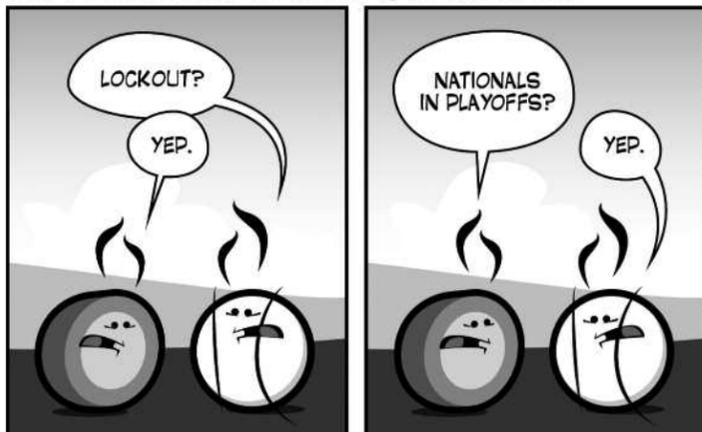
Yet, the internet is also comprehensive and up-to-date. New diseases appear and your doctor just might need your help with an update, like my patient with parvoviral arthritis. He never paid his bill, but how can I argue with that? He did all the work.

About the author: *Lee Shapiro, MD, FACP, sees patients at The Center for Rheumatology, LLP in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., and is director of the Steffens Scleroderma Center. He is co-director of the Pulmonary Hypertension/Scleroderma Clinic operated jointly with Albany Associates in Cardiology. Dr. Shapiro serves on the Medical Advisory Board of the Tri-State Chapter of the Scleroderma Foundation. He is clinical professor at Albany Medical College and an adjunct instructor at Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. His research activities are currently focused on vascular aspects of scleroderma and related disorders. He resides in Saratoga Town.*



‘They are certain they have lupus or Lyme’s.’

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Shaq says 'no' to college binge drinking

Jory Heckman

Scripps Howard Foundation Wire

Former professional basketball player Shaquille O'Neal has taken up a new cause: the campaign against college binge drinking.

"We know that his celebrity filled up this room," Rep. Emmanuel Cleaver, D-Mo., said as hundreds gathered in the Cannon House Office Building to pose and take photos with O'Neal. "But that's the whole point of getting someone like Shaq - because people will listen to him," he said.

O'Neal, however, had more to offer than a celebrity endorsement. While introducing the basketball star, Cleaver said both he and O'Neal share a personal investment in this cause. O'Neal's uncle, Tom Nelson - Cleaver's close friend - was killed in a single-car crash. He was a passenger in the car driven by someone who had been drinking heavily.

"We were best friends, we went to college together, played football together," Cleaver said.

The driver survived.

"He walked away without a scratch, and my best friend was killed instantly. He went right through the dash," Nelson said. "That had an impact on my life forever."

O'Neal and Cleaver spoke as part of a campaign sponsored by the Century Council to fight binge drinking at historically black college and universi-

ties.

Members of the Century Council organized the event around a new study by Linda Loubert, a researcher at Morgan State University, which found lower rates of binge drinking at historically black schools compared to universities with a predominantly white student body.

"It may be that when students at historically black schools go out, it is for a purpose," Loubert said, comparing this campus culture against "a casual style of 'let's go drinking'" that is not as prevalent at these schools.

Cleaver said binge drinking can be more deadly than alcoholism as many people may understand it, since many students don't know about the problems that binge drinking causes.

"People will generally shun alcoholics, but they won't shun binge drinkers - because on Monday, everybody's at work," Cleaver said. "Nobody is falling out on the campus.

Universities with a record of binge drinking have taken more steps to improve safety.

They're back in class, so obviously there's nothing wrong with them."

Colleges and universities with a record of binge drinking have taken steps recently to improve safety.

Ryan Lombardi, interim vice president for student affairs at Ohio University, said the campus has had a 51 percent decrease in alcohol-related judicial violations since the 2005-06



school year. Lombardi attributed this decrease to higher fines for drinking-related offenses, mandatory online classes on alcohol abuse for student offenders and a new public awareness campaign partnership with the city of Athens, Ohio, where the university is located.

In 2012, the Princeton Review named Ohio University the nation's top "party school."

At the University of Georgia, another top-ranking party school, spokesman Mickey Montevideo said the school's new Alcohol and Other Drugs program, which offers counseling and support groups for binge drinkers, has been an effective tool in managing campus drinking.

Jill Shockey, a spokeswoman for Penn State University, said the school's

Student Alcohol Advisory Committee, launched in October 2010, has been a great way of getting feedback from students about this problem.

Shockey also said the university's new PSU SAFE program, a mandatory online alcohol education session for all incoming students under 21 years old, has helped curb binge drinking. Tougher enforcement of existing policies has been effective against binge drinking as well. Referrals for alcohol counseling have risen by 158 percent, from 367 referrals in 2009 to 947 in 2010, and citations for supplying alcohol to minors have increased by 70 percent, from 44 cases in 2009 to 75 in 2010.

Apple cult (cont. from cover)

ing their assistants and pulling strings to get the iPhone 5. And yes ... Steve Jobs may be buried in his black turtleneck, which is how the world will remember him, but his cooler-than-school attitude lives on in the excitement, and the queues for the iPhone5."

I take it April has the latest iPhone. I think she scares me a little.

She continues: "Apple is the Michael Jordan sneaker of computers - and youth is what drives the need for the new technology from the company named for a fruit. Maybe it's no surprise that this was the forbidden fruit in Bible stories, because some would say that once you get hooked on Apple products, there's no turning back. The new Mountain Lion software allows you to sync up your other Apple products with iCloud."

OK, well and good, but if I were a hardcore Apple devotee, I could wait a few weeks for that. I mean, I used to have an Apple IIc with 128 kilobytes of RAM. I didn't drop everything when the 256k Apple IIgs came out.

Very caffeinated, seemingly, Masini went on: "Not having an iPhone to sync up is like having a yoga body without cool clothes to show it off. Once you get the MacBook or iPad, there's a feeling that you need the iPhone, too - and as each iPhone generation offers more features and a higher 'cool rating,' NOT having the

iPhone 5 can be a liability, socially."

So, she's saying a new iPhone can result in better dating opportunities? I dunno. If someone had a TracPhone, and I were single, that would not be a deal-breaker for me. Though I am not a hipster, granted. (I do have a refurbished iPad 1 - it's super, but I have no need for a matching phone and laptop; heck, my clothes often don't match!)

Masini concludes: "A recent 'Gallery Girls' episode on Bravo had a hipster 20-something saying she'd never date anyone who had anything but Gmail - she'd NEVER date someone who had hotmail or yahoo mail. It isn't much of a stretch to imagine her - and everyone following this TV star - saying the same about iPhone. Why date someone who's not compatible with your technology?"

Ouch. I have had the same yahoo address for 20 years! I feel like the Elephant Man now.

Thankfully, soon after April's bad news, Rob Frankel contacted me to cheer me up. He also has a website with his name in it, RobFrankel.com, appears as a talking head a good deal on Fox News, MSNBC, etc., and is author of "The Revenge of Brand X: How to Build a Big Time Brand on the Web or Anywhere Else."

In other words, he knows what he's talking about, April!



"I can help you here," Frankel reassured me. "Branding is my core skill set, so I pay attention to this stuff. And what you're witnessing is a major phase of generational consumerism, where more people 'buy without thinking' than actually 'think before they buy.' The device in play is consumers' buying into fashion rather than function."

Amen, brother. Tell it!

Frankel continues: "While 'being the first on your block' is nothing new, the devotion to a brand as a statement of personal worth is higher than ever before - and that's a totally different issue. For your readers, many of whom are forming their adult identities at this very moment, this effect is happening at a critical time."

Listen, readers, I hope you have made it this far into this article.

Frankel says of young adults: "It's at this point when they define themselves as individuals. The question is whether they'll define themselves or allow multi-national brands and trends to define them. The former requires introspection and thought; the latter is easier and simply requires a credit card. However, over time, allowing oneself to be defined through external influences results in a life crippled financially and spiritually."

See, these people are superficial. Me with my old phone and yahoo mail, well, I'm keepin' it real. Thanks, Rob!

Frankel concludes: "Nevertheless, this is the core reason why smart devices - especially iPads - remain hugely popular; these are devices built expressly for consumption, which is what this generation is being trained for."

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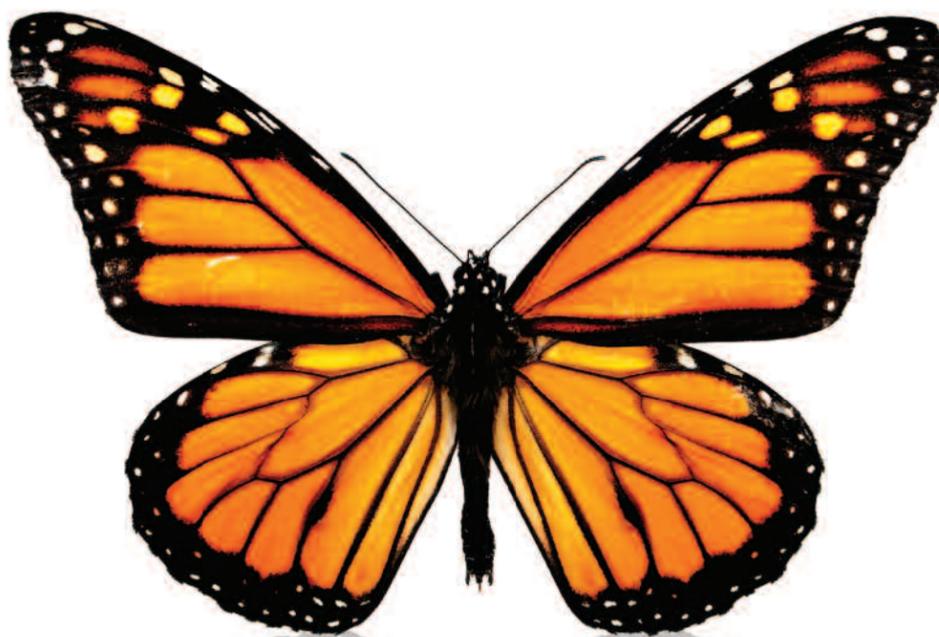
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