

# Community & College CAMPUS NEWS

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Volume 6, Issue 4  
Take! Free on Campus!

## December 2012

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today!



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## Winter session and fast credits

**Darren Johnson**  
*Campus News*

A cohort of classes between Fall and Spring semesters, usually about two to three weeks long, that offer the same number of credits as the traditional 15-week courses, has been gaining popularity at community colleges. About half of the community colleges in the Campus News coverage area now have what are termed Winter Session, Winterim, or Intersession courses, typically starting soon after Christmas and ending around Martin Luther King Day, give or take.

Students see the courses as a way to either catch up from the previous semester – say they had originally signed up for 15 credits but had to drop a 3-credit course – or to get ahead for the next semester, bettering their odds of graduating on time.

And it seems that students

### 3-credit courses run between Christmas and spring semester.

aren't too picky as to which campus they attend for these sessions. They can take the shortened courses at their current

campus, a neighboring campus or online, say at SUNY Canton (at lowered New

York

**WIN THIS  
LAPTOP!**  
see page 8

to our on-  
line re-

porter's query:

"Oakton Community College has offered a Winterim term for the past four years. It begins at the end of fall semester final exams, and it ends by the Friday of faculty Orientation week for spring

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## Gift ideas for college students

**Darren Johnson**  
*Campus News*

We at Community College Campus News have gone beyond the usual Black Friday fliers and TV ads to find some more unique – but still practical – holiday gift ideas that would be great for college students.

If you are a college student, leave this paper opened to page 12 with the items you like circled for that special family member, boy/girlfriend or other loved one to happen onto. Maybe leave it on the breakfast table or in the bathroom reading pile.

If you know a college student, perhaps these ideas will inspire you to pick out a present for him or her. We considered several factors in selecting the items for this list: Popularity, affordability, quality, uniqueness and practicality (will it arrive in time for the holiday after you see it listed here?), with a combination of wares from businesses large and small. Some items are more big ticket. Others are the type you could get for a Secret Santa.

### **High-End: Windows 8 Via a New Computer**

Let's start big ticket. As you can see on the cover and page 8, we are giving away a new laptop generously donated from the folks at Toshiba. Take a chance and try to win it! It's free to enter, and we won't put you on a spam list!

I can't stress enough that it's worth it to pay the extra \$50 or so for a name brand laptop. The whole Campus News em-

continued on page 12

## 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](http://www.nyack.edu/dae)

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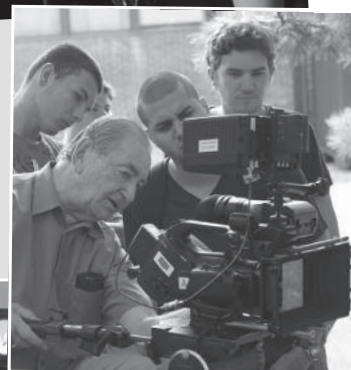
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# The trouble with New Year's resolutions

**Tiffany Hervas**  
*Campus News*

At the end of every year comes the renewal of hope and inspiration for change. Champagne bottles pop and glasses cling as the world welcomes in the New Year. Full of second chances, rekindled love and passions; people look forward to the setting of new goals and aspirations. Within a matter of 24 hours suddenly the world is filled with a renewed spirit, declaring, "This is the year for change!"

While the month of January sparks all the craze, gym membership's increase, smoking patches fly off the shelves and Staples' supplies run low as Americans makes their first moves towards a "better, healthier living". Top New Year's resolutions include losing weight by going to the gym and/or eating healthier, quitting smoking and becoming more organized. Although, it is also just as common for

results in lame excuses, procrastination and ultimately termination.

The common problem with New Years' resolutions seems to be the method utilized to complete them. When forming lengthy lists of goals to achieve by the end of the year can actually be a hindrance to success. Once confronted with a difficulty in a task, it is easy to begin to feel hopeless and discouraged. This mentality of feeling "set back," when goals are not efficiently met can have an effect on the effort put into other ambitions. Before you know it, yet another year passes without any accomplishment.

General unawareness of the differences between the term's product and process goals has an effect on an individual's productivity. These goals differentiate because some are naturally quicker and easier to accomplish than others that require more time and effort. Why lay on the load at the start of the New Year when all it takes is a

challenge you to step out of your comfort zone and look beyond the norm. Since the top resolutions consist of better, healthier living, why not chose to improve character instead of image? Why not aim towards something worthwhile, meaningful and fulfilling, not just for yourself, but also for others around you? Purpose to make a difference in your community and/or school by getting involved — help is always needed and appreciated. Plan to improve in some way each day by setting your own specific challenge. Purpose to be wholly patient one day, kind the other, perhaps unselfish, understanding, appreciative, encouraging and whatever other values that come to mind. It will be a resolution that is definitely out of the ordinary, but pregnant with the beauty of strong, admirable character. One who is strong in character is able to succeed in any goal purposed before him. This includes the commitment to lose weight, eating healthier, quitting smoking, getting organized and visiting family.

By surrounding yourself with positive, supportive encouragement you are already setting yourself up for success! Adjusting your mindset for daily goals instead of yearly ambitions helps for a daily focus. While fulfilling aims for each day disciplines the mind it also prepares to make them habits. Those habits along with the help of accountability partners will help keep you on track and goal oriented. Motivation, enthusiasm and purpose are essential to the fulfillment of any goal.

However, it is important that you

keep in mind the disappointments and setbacks that can and will come along the way. Do not become disheartened with slow progress — it is natural. Perseverance and patience are significant in the long road to success. Remember the more difficult the journey the more rewarding the destination. Make a list of your previous accomplishments and seek to add on to it as the year progresses. By the end of the year you would have realized you accomplished more than what you would have thought.

This New Year's Eve, cheer to the past memories made and lessons learned; then, turn your gaze on the possibilities of opportunity and achievements for the coming year. Keep in mind that it is the small steps between big decisions that bring great results. But if you do happen to slip up, do not hesitate to jump back on the bandwagon. Stand firm, stay focused and strive for success. Do not be afraid to set unusual goals because it is just that sort of thinking that will strengthen you physically, emotionally and mentally. Look toward what you can do today and not for what you are ultimately shooting for. Good luck and have a happy and safe New Year!

## Why lay on the load at the start of the New Year when all it takes is a small effort each day? Make the commitment for the year, not the day.

the craze to diminish during the following months as most people's vigor and ambition dissolves into the routine of everyday life and responsibility. The leaving behind of the once vibrant zeal

small effort each day? This year make the commitment for the year, not for the day. Change your mindset to alter an aim that benefits your own success.

While creating this year's list, I

# The Who hold presser to address teen cancer

**Kristopher Rivera**  
*Scripps Howard Foundation Wire*

At a luncheon held a day before The Who was scheduled to play a show at the Verizon Center, Roger Daltrey and Pete Townshend spoke about their program to help teens cope with cancer.

"What we're trying to do here is make you aware of the situation," Daltrey said at the luncheon Monday at the National Press Club. "You should build a community within your hospital at the point of diagnosis for teenagers with cancer."

About a year ago, Daltrey and Townshend launched the UCLA Daltrey/Townshend Teen and Young Adult Cancer Program, at the University of California, Los Angeles' Ronald Reagan Medical Center. The program serves patients ages 13 to 24.

Daltrey and Townshend also veered into music when members of the audience asked questions, including which musicians influenced them.

"Right back to the beginning, Elvis, first guy I thought had the best job in the world," Daltrey said. "Of course, I never ever thought I could actually do it."

Daltrey said he also drew inspiration from James Brown, Chuck Berry, Motown and Hank Williams.

Townshend said his inspiration first came when he listened to music with his father — including Frank Sina-

tra, Duke Ellington and Ella Fitzgerald.

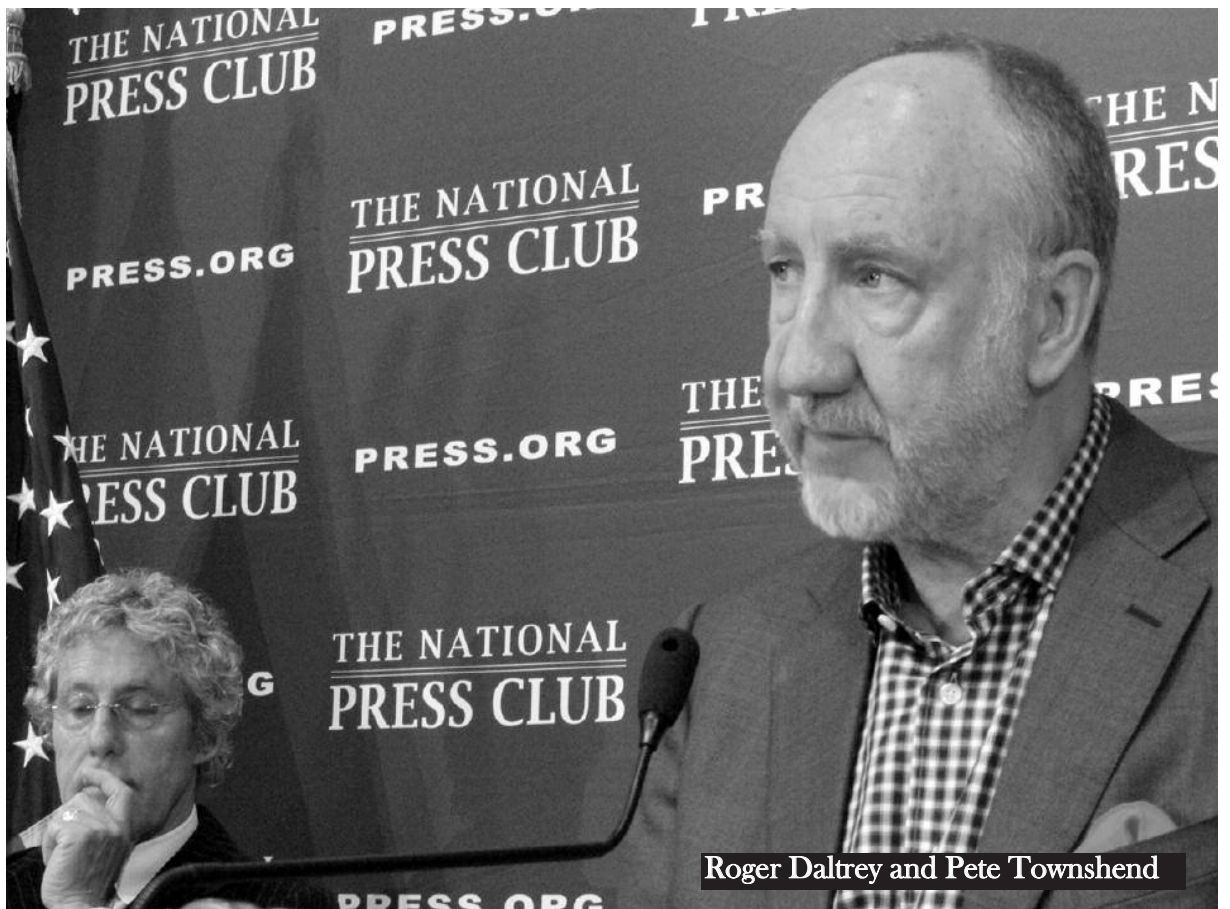
"I don't have any barriers whatsoever. I listen to everything," Townshend said.

Another questioner asked about the world of digital music. Townshend said that, for years, record labels gave an artist a "fair crack." It allowed them to "have a hit, and a miss, and a miss and another miss and another hit."

"None of the digital music parasites and vampires that exist at the moment, making money out of music, give money to developing artist," Townshend said. "And this is something that really does need to be looked at."

But the rock legends spoke mainly about the cancer charity group and how it fits with their rock- and-roll lives.

"You know what's so interesting is the continuum in our music where it



Roger Daltrey and Pete Townshend

talks about teens, our demographic are certainly not teens anymore, but there are teens that like our music," Townshend said. "The continuum, of course, is the teen that we all carry inside us, including the inner child we all carry inside us, in my case certainly that's what motivates the music."

About three years ago, Daltrey and Townshend met Sarah Sterner, a fan and cancer survivor from Atlanta at a

concert after her father posted a message on the band's website. Sterner was diagnosed with a brain tumor at age 15.

Daltrey and Townshend decided to raise money for a program in the U.S. to duplicate a program they sponsored in the United Kingdom, the Teenage Cancer Trust. It provides camaraderie for teenage cancer patients like Sterner.

**continued on page 15**



# Strange times, and surviving the Mayan prophecy

David L. Podos  
Mohawk Valley CC

It is an early November morning, and I am looking out my kitchen window. The sky is bright blue, perfectly cloudless, and the leaves on the tree in my neighbor’s yard, while sparse, are motionless. The sun has already begun its laborious climb from the East, and I see dozens of starlets and chickadees flying past my window to my backyard and the birdfeeder that is awaiting them. This is somewhat strange. As I crank open the window, I expect to see my breath, but as I breath in the early morning November air there is not a trace, not on this day. Today in the far northeastern part of New York State, I am actually catching a remnant of Indian Summer; a day that got lost, I suppose, and never showed up when we had our official Indian summer several weeks ago. But here it is, and a quick look at my digital thermometer confirms it — 60 degrees, and it’s only 7:45 a.m.! Strange times, I find myself saying.

I am now caught up in the moment and begin to think about how, indeed, things do seem strange (or stranger than most). This is not to say that at any given time things can’t be strange, if that makes any sense. I start to get into one of my reflective moods; you know, thinking about how another year is coming to an end. The weeks are ticking off; just a few more now before the end of the semester. Wow, how fast did that go? Pretty fast for me. Recent conversations with students ramble around in my head. Many of them had said, “Wow, how fast did all this go by?”

“Pretty fast,” I say.

## If you are reading this column after 12/21/12, I guess the Mayans were wrong.

Now it’s early afternoon and so warm. The digital thermometer shows 74 degrees, and so I head out to the back deck. Unfortunately, I have already taken in all the deck furniture and stored it away till spring comes around again. In this part of the woods, the first week of November is usually only in the high 30s and low 40s and, meteorologically speaking, it is our cloudiest month. We are lucky if we get one day of sun (and most of the time it is partly sunny at best), yet there it is this big bright yellow ball against a perfectly blue sky, and as I watch the birds feed I am actually looking for some hummingbirds, though of course I don’t see one; thank God because that would really be strange. (What is strange, though?) I have retrieved a deck chair from the garage and have on a sort sleeve shirt. After rummaging around in the attic, I found a pair of summer shorts and put them on as well, and now I’m on my deck sipping a good glass of Merlot (which is not so strange).

As I drink, the more I begin to think of other strange things. For instance, is it me, or does it seem that lately everyone is driving at hyper speed? Now before you think I’m one of those old farts who creeps along the road doing 20 miles an hour in a 30 miles per hour speed zone (whilst you wish you had a rubber car so you could ram me, all the time screaming

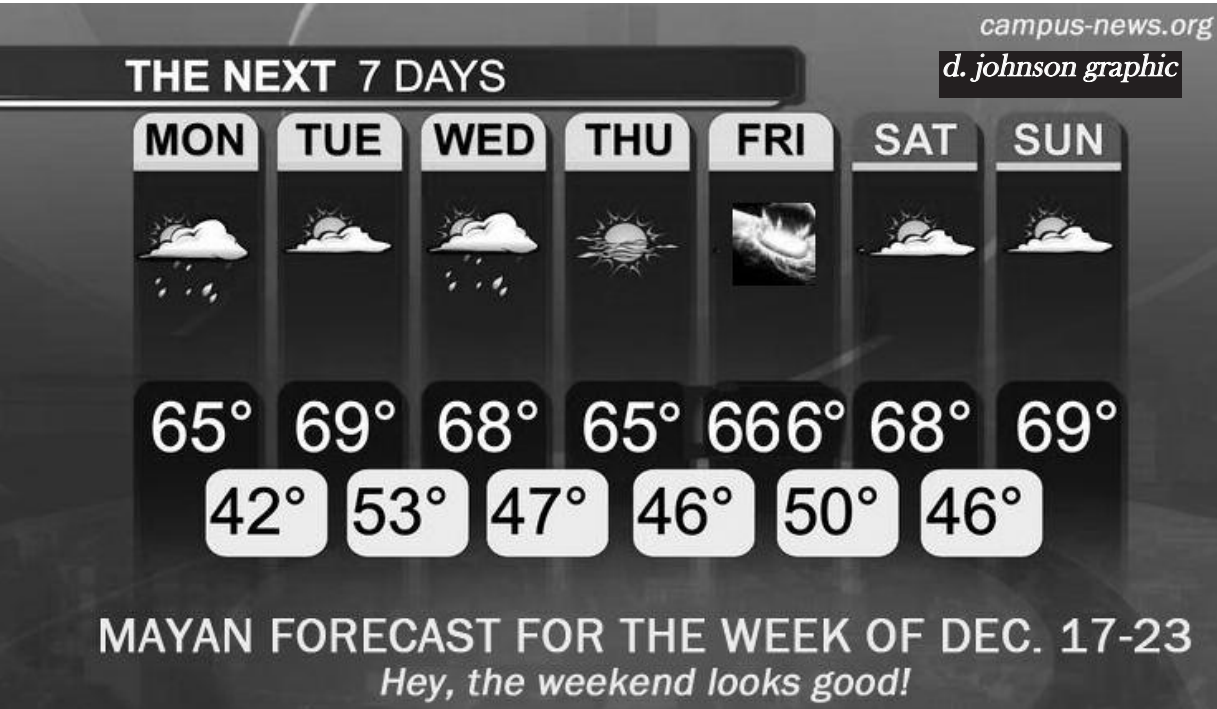
some very despicable words and using other body language), I assure you I am not that person. In fact, I am somewhat of a speed demon, deciding consciously or not to ignore all speed signs as I make up my own speed limits. That said, it does seem that no matter how fast I am rolling down the road there’s always an idiot right on my tail, and an idiot on his or her tail, and so forth and so on. I am not sure where these people are going, but no matter how hard they try to get me to go faster, we always seem to arrive at the same stop light at basically the same time, which, of course, makes the idiot behind me even more raucous with their behavior as they continue to scream obscenities.

Last night as I was winding down and enjoying another glass of Merlot (told you it wasn’t so strange), I happen to find a channel that was airing a program about the “end of days.” In case you haven’t looked at your calendars recently, December 21st is right upon us. The buzz is that the Mayans prophesied that the “end of days” for civilization will happen on December 21st, 2012. Without disrespect to anyone’s belief system, the Mayans are and have been the talk of the town, so to

say, when it comes to end of days rhetoric. Against my better judgment, I forced myself to watch but

not before I retrieved the bottle of Merlot from my kitchen cabinet. I had a feeling I would need it. Strange times, indeed.

According to Mayan prophecy, after a 25,000 year cycle, the sun and the earth are going to line up in some particular mathematical location in regards to our Milky Way galaxy (of course this date just happens to be December 21, 2012), and this phenomenon has been confirmed by scientists all over the world. This event, the Mayans said, will result in a global change, transforming the world as we have come to know it. But, who really knows what will happen, if anything? People say these are strange times, but as we look through the lens of history all times seem to have some strangeness to them. For instance, do you think the American Indians, upon seeing a white man step onto their land for the first time, didn’t see this as something strange? How about when we landed on the moon; how strange was that? When the Hubble telescope was first launched into space and the first batch of photos scanning our galaxy and other farther away galaxies came game back for interpretation confirmed (if you can believe the math) that there are at least 125 billion galaxies, how strange was that? I would assume that when the human race



began to become conscious of itself, when an awareness of “me” crept into the primitive mind of man, there was an awareness of strangeness. Strangeness has been with us from the very beginning of human self-awareness, and it will probably be with us perhaps until the end of the human race (December 21st, 2012?), or perhaps not.

But ... what if the Mayan prophesies along with so many other ancient prophesies are correct? There is historical records of many ancients talking about the return of the Annunaki, literally translating as “those from the heavens,” who will be coming back to Earth to set the record straight, or some facsimile of that, arriving on or around, you guessed it, December 21, 2012 . Well, I’ll still get ready for the up-coming holidays, look forward to the semester break, get together will family and friends and maybe, just maybe, one

early December morning I’ll look out my window and see a bright blue sky, see sparrows flying past to the back yard feeder, open that window and breath in the air, look at my digital thermometer and see that it is 60 degrees, head out to the garage, dig that deck chair out once again, get on my shorts, and when its past noon, uncork a bottle of Merlot, and sit back on the deck and think how strange this all really is.

Until next year???? Peace, Shalom, David.

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



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# Freshman readies in DC

**Kristopher Rivera**  
*Scripps Howard Foundation Wire*

Rep.- elect Beto O’Rourke, D-Texas, in the capital this week for new-member orientation, said he was surprised with the warm welcome veteran colleagues had for the freshman class of the 113th Congress.

“The surprise has been how nice everyone has been, including incumbent members, senior leadership, and they’ve been doing a great job taking care of us,” O’Rourke said Thursday in an interview outside the Capitol. “I hope that continues, and I’m under no illusion that it will. But for right now, at least this week, it’s been really wonderful.”

O’Rourke and his newly elected Democratic peers had lunch Thursday at the Smithsonian Institution, hosted by Rep. Xavier Becerra, D-Calif.

O’Rourke is one of 82 new House members, pending the outcome of a few close races, 47 of them Democrats. He attended some orientation sessions with all the new members and some just for Democrats.

“They really go out of their way to welcome you and try to make sure that you understand some of the challenges ahead,” O’Rourke said. “Like your family and making sure you spend time with your family, some of the hurdles you’ll have to jump over when you first get here, some of the things you need to know about managing your budget within your office.”

O’Rourke and his family plan to live in El Paso, and O’Rourke said he will rent an apartment close to the Capitol.

“What I think is important for me to do in this job is to come up here for the votes, certainly, to build relationships with other members,” O’Rourke said. “And then to be back in El Paso as often as I can to be hearing directly from my constituents and also to be holding myself accountable to them.”

Legislative priorities for O’Rourke include reducing the high unemployment in El Paso and creating economic growth.

The El Paso metropolitan area’s unemployment rate was 8.7 percent in September. It ranked 291 of 372 metropolitan areas – with Yuma, Ariz., the worst at 29.7 percent and Bismarck, N.D., the best at 2.2 percent. The national rate in September was 7.8 percent.

Part of improving the economy will start at the ports of entry and working with Customs and Border Patrol.

“Getting more CBP officers so that we can get people through our bridges more quickly and still securely, those things will

create more jobs, more economic activity in El Paso,” O’Rourke said.

O’Rourke’s agenda to have an adequately staffed border is also in the works with the Mérida Initiative’s mission to build a 21st century border.

“So my job, and I’m already starting on it right now as I talk to both senior members and incoming freshmen, is to let them know how an investment in our bridges in El Paso is really an investment in their home districts and in the U.S. economy,” O’Rourke said.

As O’Rourke completes his transition to Capitol Hill and is sworn in Jan. 3, he will seek to join several committees.

Living on the border where Customs and Border Protection, trade and security all come together, O’Rourke said Homeland Security is a place where he thinks he can be effective.

Because the El Paso region is home to Fort Bliss, one of the largest military installations in the U.S., O’Rourke will seek a seat on the the Armed Services Committee.

“We want to protect the investment that’s already there,” O’Rourke said. “We’d like to make the best case of continued investment, and then when the investment occurs, we want to make sure that the local community benefits from it, so making sure that our local small businesses have an opportunity to contract at Fort Bliss, which up until now has not really been the case.”

O’Rourke is also interested in the Veterans Affairs Committee.

“Veterans Affairs is a very important committee for El Paso, considering how many veterans live in our communities,” O’Rourke said. “So I would like to do what I can to improve the level of service at the VA, and I think sitting on VA would be able to help us do that.”

During his visit to the Capitol, O’Rourke did not meet with Rep. Silvestre Reyes, D-Texas, whom he beat in the primary. But he said he did meet with Reyes on a trip to D.C. during the summer.

“I told him ... I want to make sure that, even if he and I don’t have a closer or warm relationship, I’d really like to work together for the sake of the community,” O’Rourke said. “Make sure we don’t drop any constituent issues, make sure that we don’t drop any important project work that his office has been working on. I know that he cares about El Paso, I care about El Paso, so we need to be able to drop our personal differences and work together to that end.”



## New technology and old manuscripts

**Matt Nelson**  
*Scripps Howard Foundation Wire*

Meghan Hill knows how to operate a specialized camera that reveals the secrets of ancient manuscripts from Egypt’s Sinai desert, but she still has to deal with the occasional photobomb.

“We had a fly,” Hill said. “Since it was in the dark room, and we turned off all the exterior lights, it flew to the only source of light it could find. It landed on the document, stayed for the entire imaging, and then flew away right after. So when we were developing all these images, we had these incredible, high resolution images – of a fly.”

Hill, a hyperspectral imaging technician at the Library of Congress, had to repeat the photo-shoot, this time ensuring the lens was pest-free.

Her efforts are part of a project that is digitally capturing ancient documents from the remote St. Catherine’s Monastery, using specialized cameras and lighting conditions to expose text or images invisible to the naked eye. She and others talked about the first scholarly results from researchers’ photography of the Sinai documents Monday at the Library of Congress.

The imaging techniques are handy for studying documents at the remote St. Catherine’s, where it was historically difficult to deliver writing materials. To preserve pages, monks often reused paper by erasing it and writing over the old text. These pages, known as “palimpsests,” contain remnants of the former script

hidden between or beneath the lines of newer text. With hyperspectral imaging, researchers are in the midst of exposing invisible or illegible script on nearly 7,500 pages of palimpsests.

Because the cameras capture so much information, it takes three or four minutes to photograph each page multiple times, Hill said. The result is 630,000 high-resolution images, an enormous amount of data.

The Library of Congress has used similar imaging tools to examine famous American documents such as the Declaration of Independence. Fenella France, the chief of the preservation research and testing division at the Library of

**‘We don’t know what they did back then, but this tells us their thought process.’**

Congress, said the imaging is important because it captures a culture otherwise lost to history.

“We don’t know what they did back then,” France said. “This tells us the thought process. What were they thinking when they created this document? The palimpsests, the copies, the little inscriptions and changes ... this is a wonderful technique to pull out invisible information.”





# On TV, it's that retro, corny time of the year

Darren Johnson  
Campus News

I had sort of a retro Thanksgiving time off. It all started with what I thought was new technology, satellite radio. I was flipping around and the Howard Stern channel was pretty much playing random shows from the 1990s, give or take. These were from when the show was still on regular radio. Who listens to regular radio?

In any case, it was nostalgic. Topics included the Marv Albert trial (the hockey announcer who allegedly – I can't remember if he was found guilty or not, so will err on the side of caution and use the word "allegedly" – bit some woman on the back during a weird sex tryst), the Amy Fisher case (the Long Island Lolita, who shot the wife of some sleazy auto shop owner who she was dating – these people still pop up in pop culture once in a while still), Jerry Seinfeld before "Seinfeld," the death of the guy who founded Mad Magazine and other vague memories of mine, of news stories I kind of remember. Nostalgia...

The Hostess drama was unfolding in the media. Items such as Ho-Hos, Twinkees and Wonder Bread with their gaudy packaging really came of age in my early '80s youth. Back then food was food. You were hungry, you ate, without much thought. It's not like today, where people read labels.

Still, up until the company's collapse, when I found myself depressed I'd pick up a two pack of Hostess cupcakes at some gas station and a chocolate milk – with whole milk, of course – and let the meal soothe me back to simpler times.

The Hostess saga made me think that this is a company I won't miss; but the products shaped a lifetime of bad eating habits, along with Pepsi, McDonald's and the like. My parents would get us this kind of food all the time growing up. They often both worked, and I was usually a latchkey kid. It was quick. It was cheap. It was satisfying.

The company somehow kept the larger-than-life packaging from a bygone, gee-whiz era even when other companies went in a more subtle direction. Think of the rise of Entemann's with its simple packaging. That company has thrived. Meanwhile, Hostess packages have big bright colors and crazy fonts with cartoon characters. We would have to close our eyes to know we weren't eating something completely artificial. The end-of-the-world films where a few human survivors find Twinkees totally intact didn't help the product's image, either. Some film product placements aren't good. Whomever did Hostess's marketing all these years is the one to blame, not the unions and greedy CEOs.

Then, on the road, I holed up at a very out-of-date Econolodge motel. Even putting the word "Econo" in front of anything is dated and wrong. Ford ended its Econoline van series in recent years, for example. Yeah, everyone wants to save cash, but not advertise their frugality to the world!

I've stayed in a bunch of \$50/night motels over the years in my travel like this one. If I tell people after I stayed at a Day's Inn, they seem fine with that. But if I tell them it was an Econolodge, they act aghast, even though, typically, these places are often in the same price range.

In any case, the room was a horror show at this Econolodge. It was a smoking room – all they had left. And the smell of smoke takes me back to a bygone era. I was raised by smokers. I have extended family who smoke. Several relatives have died because of it. But it's rare in modern New York with all its laws for the typical person to be around tobacco smoke anymore. When I got home, all of my clothes stunk of it, just by being in that room.

Nothing was modern in the room. An old wall heater clanged noisily. The ballpoint pen on the nightstand had chew marks on it. There was an old tube TV encased in plastic with a fake wood

color. It had a remote that only had up and down buttons; no numbers. Bored, I scrolled through the channels, and happened upon a show that I have avoided for years – "Frasier." Somehow it seemed appropriate on a tube TV, as the last time I had seen an episode I doubt flat screens were commonly available. More retro.

The episode was very good – Frasier, who is host of a call-in psychology radio show, takes a call from a man (the voice of Joe Pesci) who is having issues with his girlfriend; Frasier advises him to break up with her, and then meets the girlfriend and has the ethical dilemma of whether he should accept her advances or not – and this interesting premise made me wonder why I felt I had hated the show so much.

Then another episode of "Frasier" came on and I remembered why. It focused on Frasier's strange brother's sappy, sexless relationship with Frasier's maid, and was totally finger-in-throat awful with awkward dialogue including several "I love yous" between the two. I won't watch that show again for at least another 15 years!

At home, my wife was away, and I wanted to queue up something on Netflix to watch with my daughter that was family oriented. She hadn't seen "Coming to America" before, and I hadn't seen it since it first came out – was it the early 1990s? But I had remembered it was rela-

tively clean, except that the Murphy character, who plays a royal African, is so wealthy that he has attractive female "bathers" to wash him. But that's only two seconds of boobies over two hours. Not enough to fast forward over.

I remembered the move as a bit pat – perhaps this was the beginning of the Eddie Murphy most people under 30 know today, who does horrible kids'

for some reason.

Of course, Thanksgiving itself is the ultimate retro event, what with the roast turkey and all dating back hundreds of years, even if turkeys today have a few more chemicals and hormones in them. And the networks keep playing those Charlie Brown cartoons. They inspired my cartooning as a kid, because they were relatively simple art I could also accom-

## Of Wonder Bread and Charlie Brown; comfort foods and shows we've seen many times before.

movies like "Daddy Daycare," likely just for the pay day. Not the funny Eddie Murphy from the 1980s.

But, seeing "Coming to America" with new eyes, I realized it actually was a really well put together film, with many great actors – Arsenio Hall, James Earl Jones and even the dad from "Good Times." Murphy himself has a sparkle in his eye he since has lost.

After my daughter fell asleep, I went for more nostalgia and put on "Eddie Murphy: Raw," also on Netflix, one of the best standup performances ever recorded for the big screen, and still as funny and topical 25 years later. I think I like Eddie Murphy again. He's all over Netflix now,

plish. Ah, childhood.

My daughter asked why the Peanuts never have parents around. I told her my childhood was kind of like that. Kids were more self-sufficient. She asked which character I related to the most. While her choice was Linus, mine was Charlie Brown, the reluctant leader who always seems underappreciated but plods on anyway.

"Yeah, but why is he bald? That's weird," she said. "Is he sick?"

I'd never thought about. Why is he bald?

Could it be from the chemicals in the turkey, and, maybe, Twinkees?





# Young adults helped Obama win reelection

**Tanya Parker**  
*Scripps Howard Foundation Wire*

The millennial generation provided at least 80 electoral votes for President Barack Obama on Election Day.

More than 22 million voters ages 18 to 29 cast ballots in this election.

Peter Levine, director at the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement at Tufts University said voter turnout for young people tallied at least 49 percent, creating a new normal for voter demographics in the U.S. He said he expects the percentage to increase to as much as 51 percent as more results are released.

In 2008, youth voter turnout was 52 percent.

Youth turnout matched the turnout results of 2008 statistically, but youths also increased their electoral representation in this election, Levine said.

Although the percentage of young voters was similar to the 2008 election, young voters were able to create a more influential role in the electoral college, increasing youth representation as an electoral stronghold.

In 2008, young voters represented 18 percent of the voting population, which is 1 percent less than current youth voter share estimates.

Levine said the single percentage increase to 19 percent means young voters were more represented in the electorate this election year than previous years.

Heather Smith, president of Rock the Vote, said this year's election proves that the millennial generation cares about

the election and wants to be heard. "I think we've now established a very fairly decent pattern that this generation is different than their older brothers and sisters and can put those rumors about youth to bed," Smith said.

Levine said if youth voters did not participate in the election in Ohio, Virginia, Pennsylvania and Florida, or if former governor Mitt Romney had won half of the youth vote, these states would have flipped from blue to red.

He said losing the youth vote lost the election for Romney.

"It is because he lost the youth group pretty decisively that he is not going to be the next president," Levine said.

An estimated 17 million youths have turned 18 since the last election, granting them eligibility to vote.

Smith said she expected youth voter turnout to be lower.

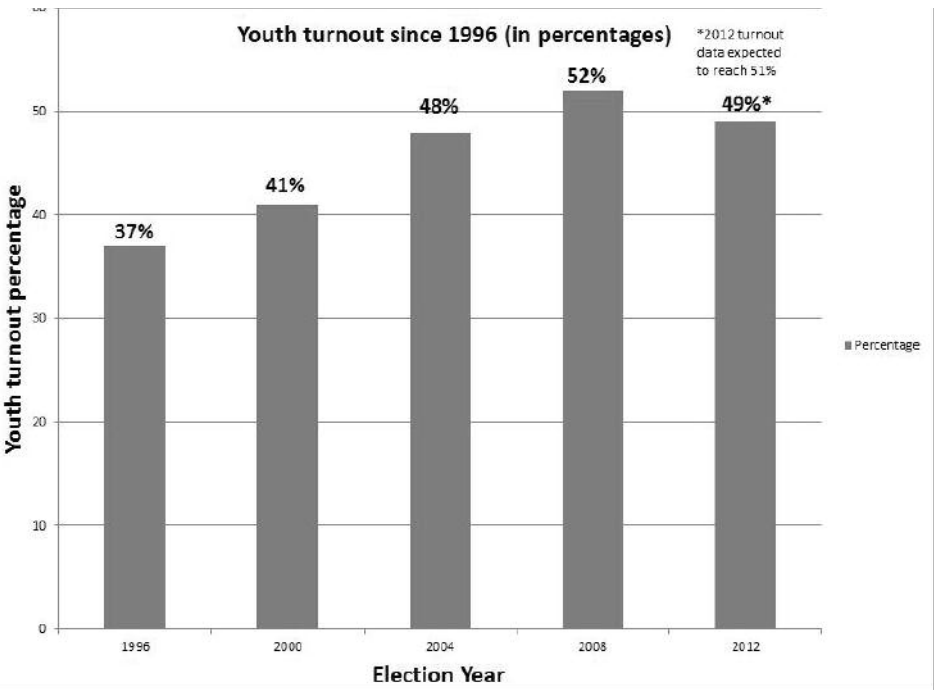
"We knew all along that they cared," she said, "but the campaign was just different than 2008."

Levine and Smith said some youth voters were confused about the election, and the campaigns didn't treat young people well.

"An awful lot of young people were confused about policy issues, and I think that this was a very confusing campaign to follow," Levine said.

CIRCLE polling data showed that there was a decline in youth voter enthusiasm in this election, Levine said. Despite possible confusion and lack of enthusiasm, voters still turned up.

"They may not have been enthusias-



tic or happy about the campaign, but they were persistent," Levine said.

From 2000 to 2004, youth voter turnout increased from 41 percent to 48 percent, indicating that voter turnout has consistently increased regardless of which candidates were running for presi-

dent. "Young Americans showed up, voted and made it clear that they are the generation that will take our country forward," Smith said.

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## Oxfam protesters urge congress to quit ducking out

**Tanya Parker**  
*Scripps Howard Foundation Wire*

What do Congress, the can-can and a giant, inflatable duck have in common? A lot, as it turns out.

With the 15-foot tall yellow rubber duck behind them, the Senate minority leader did a high kick, and the House minority leader swiveled her hips, all in the name of preserving poverty programs.

But the real congressional leaders were inside the Capitol. Outside on the lawn, Oxfam America activists donned giant masks of congressional leaders and danced around the duck to tuneful quacking to encourage members of Congress not to "duck their responsibilities" during the lame duck session.

Linda Delgado, director of government affairs at Oxfam America, said the stunt is intended to urge Congress not to cut the budget for poverty-focused assistance for fiscal year 2013.

But why the duck? Oxfam took a punny approach to a serious message.

"Well, you know, we wanted to come up with something that was positive, a little bit edgy, a little bit funny, and yet that had the key message," Delgado said. "And since this is a lame duck session and many lame duck members of Congress are going to be making key decisions, we thought, why not have a duck?"

The four party leaders were singled out at the demonstration. Oxfam volunteers wore masks of Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev.; Senate Minor-

ity Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky.; House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., and House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio.

After the demonstration, Delgado said, Oxfam activists would deliver packets of yellow, duck-shaped candies to each Senate and House office asking them to fund poverty-focused accounts before potential automatic cuts kick in.

She said global poverty assistance programs are often targeted for budget cuts because there aren't people fighting for them. Oxfam America is one organization fighting for the cause, and a giant duck certainly demands attention.

"It's a tiny part of the budget," Delgado said. "It's 0.6 percent of the budget and it often gets targeted with what, today, we're calling ugly duck cuts."

Capitol Hill visitors passed by the performance seemingly confused about Washington's new lawn ornament, but amused nonetheless.

As far as reaching the newly elected members of Congress who don't yet have offices, Delgado said they are doing the best they can.

"Obviously, we don't have the capacity to cover everybody, but we will work in coalition with many other organizations to make sure that every single new member gets a briefing on this issue, that their staff get a briefing and that we are educating them on this key issue," Delgado said.

In a press release issued by Oxfam America, Delgado said "the



leadership in the House and Senate must get their ducks in a row and support Senate funding levels for poverty-focused development assistance."

Oxfam America will continue its efforts throughout the lame duck session of

Congress. It is unclear if more ducks will be involved.



# Win This New Satellite Laptop!

*Courtesy of Toshiba and Campus News*



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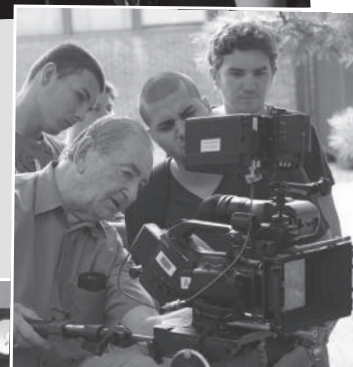


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## Is winter session worth it? (cont. from cover)

semester. We do not hold face-to-face classes from December 24 through January 1, though many instructors require online work during that time.

“Most Winterim offerings are standard three-credit courses, though some of the courses are one- or two-credit offerings. Clearly, this condensed format is not for all students or all instructors or all curricula. But it can and does work well for courses that combine moderate amounts of reading,

“Over the past four years we have learned that our Winterim students are highly successful. They have persistence, completion, and success rates higher than the general college population. Faculty often report that Winterim students are highly motivated and responsible. Our Winterim term is small, but it has an ardent following.”

Dr. Hamel added that about half of the students who take such courses at his college are “reverse transfer” –

**‘Roughly half the students are our own, and half are “reverse transfer” students from four-year institutions.’**

moderate amounts of hands-on work or collaboration, and both face-to-face and online interactions. The format also works well for curricula that depend on sustained or immersive study.

students from four-year colleges just getting some credits while home on break.

Though some four-year schools may stop taking credits from abbrevi-



A typical Wintersession ad.

ated courses. This summer, we reported that Hofstra was only taking Hofstra summer credits for transfer. Middlesex Community College in New Jersey warns students: “Generally, most all colleges do accept the credits earned for courses taken during the MCC Winter Session with one exception, Rutgers – New Brunswick Campus. Rutgers – New Brunswick, specifically the School of Arts & Sciences, has announced specifications for the transferability of courses in certain departments. These specifications speak to the length of time a class must

meet and the location where the class is presented.”

No expert responded to our query as to whether shortened courses were or weren’t as educationally enriching as longer courses, but an informal poll of about a dozen community college students reported that they all would take the courses if given the chance, and they saw no educational devaluation of such offerings.

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# Colbert book signing draws big crowd

**Jory Heckman**  
*Scripps Howard Foundation Wire*

The Colbert Nation showed up in force one recent day in November for seconds of face time with their late-night comedy hero.

Stephen Colbert drew the crowd for a book signing to promote his latest title.

After unveiling a wax figure of himself at Madam Tussauds, Colbert pulled up to the Politics & Prose bookstore in a black SUV, waving to the people in line.

Colbert mostly signed copies of his latest book, “America Again: Re-becoming the Greatness We Never Weren’t,” which was released in October, but agreed to sign copies of his other books, “I Am a Pole (And So Can

You!),” and “I Am America (And So Can You!).”

The store said it sold 800 copies of Colbert’s book. Many of those who lined up outside the store bought several copies.

“I love Stephen Colbert. I love everything about him,” Juliana Golden, 26, of Washington, a sexual health educator at Transmit Information, said about the fake news anchor.

Golden praised Colbert and his “The Daily Show” counterpart Jon Stewart, saying fake news is quickly coming people’s primary source of news.

“I really appreciated his honest reporting on the election, and I feel people turn to Colbert and Stewart for their news now. They don’t even tune into the regular news anymore,” Golden said.

“I’ve watched Stephen Colbert since 2006 - basically when they started it,” Evan Baumel, 20, of Washington, a student at American University, said as he walked out of the bookstore, freshly signed book in hand.

Baumel said he last saw Colbert at the Rally to Restore Sanity and/or Fear at the National Mall in October 2010. However, he wasn’t nearly as close to Colbert as he was today.

“It’s great to finally see him, and not see the little tiny dot at the Rally to Restore Sanity,” he said. “They’re both distinct memories, but I get to say to my friends, my family that I met and got my book signed by Stephen Colbert.”

A few fans weren’t even old enough to stay up for the 11:30 p.m. program.

**‘It was awesome. ... He looks much older than he does on TV. I wouldn’t tell that to his face, though.’**

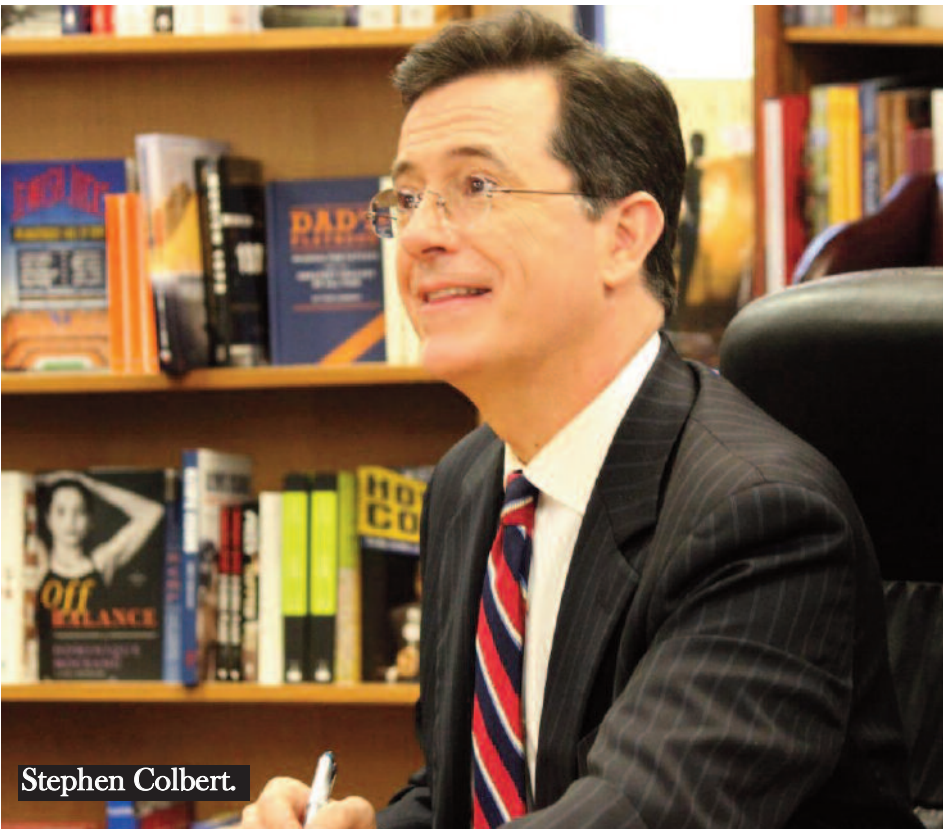
“It was awesome. ... He looks much older than he does on TV. I wouldn’t tell that to his face, though,” Sammy Schwartzman, 12, a student at Alice Deal Middle School, said after getting his book signed. “I ran a few blocks just to get here.”

“I wish I could watch his show more, it’s just really long sometimes,” Sammy said as he chewed on a chocolate chip cookie.

Sammy said he watches both “The Colbert Report” and “The Daily Show,” but said he prefers Colbert.

“I like his sarcasm,” he said. “He talks a lot about stuff that I understand more. I’ll bet you when I’m older I’ll like Jon Stewart better.”

Paula Gibbs, 26, a law student at



**Stephen Colbert.**

the University of the District of Columbia, found out about the event just minutes before it started as she was headed home from class.

“My classmate was getting off the bus to go home, and he put it on Facebook, and I got in line. I bought a book and got in line,” Gibbs said. “That was like, 10 minutes before I got here.”

Gibbs said making this detour on her route home was well worth her time.

“It was really cool, they kind of rushed because there’s such a long line, but it was really cool,” Gibbs said. “He was very nice. I was like, ‘Can you sign my book,’ and my friend wanted

me to get him something, so I said, ‘Can you sign my ticket?’ And he said, ‘Sure, no problem.’”


A sign outside the bookstore warned fans that Colbert wouldn’t have time to pose for photos or write messages in books.

Colbert was brief but polite with fans, greeting them and giving his autograph in a process that lasted seconds, occasionally adding the words, “No, sorry,” to people asking for photos with him or a personalized signature.



**Fan Juliana Golden with a signed book.**

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### TRANSFER INFO SESSION

Thursday, Jan. 10, 2013



# College student gift guide (cont. from cover)



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Toshiba Windows 8 laptop



Super socks



CardNinja

pire was built on a \$500 Lenovo laptop with Windows 7. We keep this machine going, having added a new keyboard and battery over our three-plus years. It's that valuable.

Now Windows 8 is out and students are giving it rave reviews. It has a cool new interface – it looks like a simple tablet interface, but is much more complex, being, in reality, a computer OS. So now, for the new OS, it may be the time to get a new computer.

Windows 8, by itself, is usually \$100 to \$200, depending on the version you get; and who knows if it will work perfectly with your older computer. It's usually worth it to just get a new computer, which comes bundled with the new OS, as opposed to upgrading an older one.

The **Toshiba Satellite L955** is just about right for the college student. It has Windows 8 and the two factors that matter to students, memory (4 MB), and screen size (over 15"). Students tend to regret it when they get a computer with less. Being from Toshiba, you know the hardware will be good. Like the Campus News machine that has lasted over three years, the Satellite could be the machine you use through community college and then take with you to a four-year college. The MSRP is mid-range, about \$580, and there are some sales on the various sites.

There is some argument over whether or not tablets will replace laptops. While desktop computers are definitely nearing extinction, the laptop, with its strong power, bigger screen and real keyboard, can't easily be replaced by a tablet of any sort, so it's still safe to get one.

The Toshiba Satellite L955 is available at Best Buy, Amazon and a lot of other places. You could also simply go to Toshiba.com.

**Somewhat High End: Electronics Accessories**

This item is cool and very useful. I have a

bunch of different devices and OSes. While I like my Apple products, I rarely sync them because I find iTunes to be a pain. Also, many of my movies were made for other devices and trying to get them converted for Apple is a big deal.

The **Seagate Satellite** (\$199.99) is ideal for people with multiple devices (iPads, iPhones, tablets) or who want to take more than 300 HD movies on-the-go and stream movies and music over wi-fi to as many as eight devices simultaneously. The company says: "With seven hours battery life, it's the perfect iPad companion for long road trips or plane rides, and will make you the most popular person on the trip."

The interface is simple. Just load a bunch of movies, music, etc., on the Seagate Satellite, turn it on, and access it from whatever device you want. And, yes, Apple products will be able to play the movies and shows you find for "free" on the web.

The Seagate Satellite can be purchased at Best Buy, Amazon, Seagate.com and other retailers

The new **NetZero 4G Mobile Broadband Hotspot** offers a portable way to access the Internet and can be used with laptops, netbooks, iPads and other tablets and can go anywhere you go – all with "an incredibly fast and secure connection" at an affordable price. These on sale for about \$50 on netzero.com as of this writing.

The **Sonos Play:3** (\$299) is a small player that delivers a great music experience. From your iTunes library, to your fa-

continued on page 17



Crimson aluminum case



Easy soda



'Seinfeld' shirt



Seagate Satellite



# An interview with author Nathan Tackett

**Marie Frankson**  
*Campus News*

**TELL ME A BIT ABOUT YOURSELF:** Let's see, how can I make myself sound interesting. I was born and raised in North Platte, Nebraska. I went on to achieve a Bachelor of Arts in Theater at some liberal arts college in the middle of nowhere. This degree landed me several fairly respectable gigs including a season at the Mac-Haydn Theatre in Chatham, N.Y. This theater degree also earned me a lifetime of low paying customer service jobs. These jobs have provided me with more than enough material for 10 novels , and I am currently back in the Midwest trying to write these novels. I have self-published three books; "Bad Poetry for Pretty Girls," "Apnea" and "The" (which is being released as a serial on my blog).

**WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO BECOME AN AUTHOR?** I started writing to pick up girls. I suppose I could expand on this logic just a bit more. Like any other introverted kid, I spent my developmental years going on adventures in a fantasy land I had created all within my head. I loved to read, draw, and tell stories to anybody that would listen. My social skills have never been all that great so I picked up on the writing habit in order to accurately convey my ideas.

As I grew up a lot of crazy things hap-

pened to me. Not all of them were rainbows and unicorns. Writing became a way to deal with the real life. It was my therapy. In a cheesy way, I guess you could say writing saved my life. It was a way for me to make sense of everything that was going on around me. In middle school I was exposed to all the greats like William Burroughs, Hunter S. Thompson, Vonnegut, Bukowski, etc., etc.; all those hip guys I keep on my bookshelf to look cool. I really related to them. With the exception of Burroughs, they all wrote in a down-to-earth style about real life things. Yet they did it in a way that made everything seem poetic. I wanted to do that.

**YOU HAVE A LITTLE PUBLISHING COMPANY, WHAT'S THAT LIKE?** One of the great things about being an “artist” is that you make some awesome company along the way. Ever since I started taking writing seriously I’ve wanted to “help out” my fellow creatives. My dream has always been to build a platform for all types of artists to share their work with the public. I’d rather be promoting other writers than talking up my own stuff. That’s just weird.

I know a lot of “small time” artists that keep full time jobs, raise families, and still find time to create. These guys are my heroes. This is what the whole indie scene is all about. Some day down the road I hope to collaborate with these artists and share

their dreams.

Right now “little” doesn’t even accurately describe my publishing company – it’s more like microscopic. However, I have a few local authors and visual artists that I’m trying to twist their arms into working with me. Once I get a few books under my belt, I’ll have some more time to develop these projects.

**WHAT IS YOUR LATEST BOOK ABOUT?** My latest book, “The,” is rather hard to explain. On one level it’s about a down and out mall security cop that is forced to save the world that he could care less about. Along the way he must solve the mystery behind his undead best friend’s murder, find out why he is the chosen one, and perform some show-stopping karaoke performances, all while keeping his job. On another level it’s about the everyman going to battle with evil that may or may not exist.

**WHERE DID THE IDEA COME FROM?** Honestly, the idea started out as a joke. We were discussing book titles in an online writers group and I thought “hmmm ‘The’ would make a great title for a book and nobody could really sue you over it.” Then, through the encouragement of the group, I started writing out off-the-wall scenarios within a very loose story structure. It grew into a horror satire almost.

A lot of the material comes from my love of over-the-top 80's horror flicks ("Evil Dead," "Phantasm," "Nightmare on Elm Street"). I wanted to pay tribute to the more fun side of horror. I have always been fascinated with the thin line between reality and hallucination and just how easily it can be jumped over.

When I started writing “The” I was having some pretty freaky nightmares and visions. Any normal person would’ve tried to forget them. Not the crazy writer guy. Nope, I would record the as soon as possible. Most of them wound up in this book.

Finally, some of the book is based on real life. One of the characters is solely based on my best friend who was killed in an accident. I figure writing this book gave me one last time to hang out with him.

**WHAT, IF ANYTHING, ARE YOU WORKING ON NOW?** Other than trying to answer these questions? Well, I'm going in a slightly different direction with my next book. Perhaps it's all the true crime programming I've been watching lately, but I'm realizing that the horror one finds in the real world can be far more terrifying than anything imagined. I'm writing a story that's loosely based on some local crimes and really digging up some evil stuff.

I've also been doing a lot of advocate/educational work in regards to people effected with Multiple Sclerosis. Ever since I



was diagnosed last year I've made it my goal to inform as many people as I can on the disease. I help run the local support group and also work with several MS educators. I'm working on a documentary about both my personal struggle and the fight of others against this disease.

Oh, and I guess I'm also working on a series of young adult paranormal books, I mean, isn't everybody?

ANY ENCOURAGING INSPIRATIONAL WORDS? If there is one writing rule I live by it is pretty simple: **WRITE THE TRUTH.** You have to write words that you can live with. Basically, write for yourself because at the end of the day your opinion is the only one that matters. I think a lot of writers are putting out stuff just to sell, and it shows when you read it. That's not writing the truth. If it's the story burning in your gut to get out then write it the way you want to. Don't worry about what your Amazon sales rank is, what's hot on Oprah's Book Club, or what genre is big at the moment. Just tell your story.


I think the self publishing boom has got a lot of writers dreaming about billion dollar book sales so they crash hard when they don't achieve such goals. If you're a writer at heart all you care about is the story and sharing it. We've been sharing stories for millions of years.

The other advice that's helped me along my writer's journey is: **BUTT IN CHAIR**. I can talk about my projects until I'm blue in the face, but it won't mean anything unless I actually put in the sweat behind them. That's probably the hardest part about being a writer – putting aside the time to write. I mean **REALLY** write. Turn off the Facebook, shut off the Hulu, put aside the cell phone and **WRITE**. People think it's easy to be a writer. They think one can churn out a bestseller at your convenience while sitting in your boxers. Writing can be pretty exhausting stuff even before you start to spellcheck. If you can stay focused on why you're a writer in the first place, shut out the critics, and put in the hours you've got it made.


Then again, maybe that's why I haven't sold squat.

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# What sports are really worth watching?

**Darren Johnson**  
*Campus News*

I have to admit, I don't really get the whole basketball thing. This must be a sport for people with poor attention spans. We're up 2-0, woo-hoo. We're down 4-2, oh-oh. We're up. We're down. Two hundred points later, the game is still close enough where the two teams call a complicated series of time outs and shoot free throws, and 39 seconds of game time in reality is like a half an hour, at least.

And how can anyone normal-sized relate to this game? The players are all gargantuan. Height matters because, simply, taller people are closer to the basket. It's not complicated. Sure, occa-

The D-I NCAA – March Madness, etc. – is a bit more homespun than the pros, but I still find myself having trouble rooting for one set of 18 year olds over another. Plus, I don't like the fact that most of these schools actually don't graduate many players. How can they play 30-40 games a year, traveling all over the country, and still concentrate on academics like the other students?

I did play a little D-III lacrosse at Southampton College (NY) back when. We only travelled regionally. About a dozen games in March and April, six home. An "away" game may be Queens College. We got pizza after and went home. That schedule was totally doable and helped round out my college experience. Though, I rarely watch lacrosse on TV today.

I do watch football – everyone does; the sport seems made for TV. Plus, I play in free, legal pools that local newspapers run and sometimes win cash and prizes based on my picks. I did play nine years of the

sport in grade school and high school, but am amazed at the athleticism of some of the players today – for example, how receivers keep two feet in bounds on a pass that clearly looks like it is heading for the stands. Amazing.

But a sport I have always watched but never formally tried is boxing (unless one counts the occasional school yard tussle as a kid). Queue up the

Ricky Hatton vs. Vyacheslav Senchenko fight that is currently on Showtime on Demand. I won't give the result here, and it's not necessarily a great fight from an athletic standpoint, but what excitement, nonetheless. Hatton is a working-class hero, with horrible English, even though he's English, and the fans at the Manchester, U.K., arena where he is fighting are his people. They sing and cheer wildly all match. The Daily Mail wrote after: "From the grotesque choreography of the ring walk to the all-action, fast-punching, not-a-backward-step style, he had demanded the applause of 20,000 Mancunians, many of them quite sober."

Hatton has had some personal and substance abuse problems in recent years, so this fight was supposed to be his big comeback. Does he succeed? No other sport has such drama, such back story, and add in the zealous fans, and I started to feel for Senchenko, a former champ and decent fighter in his own right with only one loss on his record coming in. He was being set up

to be a punk. Can he keep his composure and win in such a hostile environment?

So why can I relate to boxing and not basketball? I formally tried neither sport. Maybe it's that size doesn't matter much with the former. Boxers simply have to make weight. Hatton is 5-6. And the early rounds matter as much as the later rounds (if there are later rounds), whereas in basketball, teams tend to coast and keep it close until a flurry at the end. Plus, basketball has an actual league and a set number of teams and players. Boxing has a bunch of individuals at all levels. Champs, former champs, journeymen and tomato cans. And, while I can't imagine myself slam dunking a ball over some 7-foot center, I can imagine delivering a liver shot to some purse snatcher on the subway – should I ever encounter one, that is. He'll see.



sionally there may be a player who is ONLY 6-4 or something, and maybe the wild aberration of a guy under six feet, but, still, the average man in America is about 5-10. I'm 5-8. Not that the NBA is going to call an average man to service, but I at least like to imagine, if I tried really hard in my youth, maybe, I could have played D-II college basketball. But even those guys are way taller than me. Impossible.

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# Small toys and magnets put kids at risk

Jory Heckman  
*Scripps Howard Foundation Wire*

Nasima Hossain, public health advocate at the Public Interest Research Group, held up a toy bowling pin, then dropped it into a small cylinder – the size of a shot glass – with an audible clink.

“It’s obviously really easy for a child to choke on this,” Hossain said, having discovered a safety violation with this toy she found at a dollar store in Arlington, Va.

At a news conference recently, PIRG released a new report on toy safety hazards and urged the Consumer Protection Safety Commission to set a more stringent standard for toys that are choking hazards.

At the conference, Dr. Bryan Rudolph, a pediatric gastroenterology fellow at Children’s Hospital at Montefiore in New York, said he is particularly worried about children swallowing high-powered magnets found in some toys. He demonstrated this by sticking his index finger out and placing one magnet on top and one below – they stuck.

“These magnets will go through pretty much anything,” Rudolph said. “They go through my finger, they go through bone, they go through muscle, they go through tissue. That’s what makes them so dangerous. They’re not normal magnets you’d find on your refrigerator.”

PIRG urges parents to test toys that may present a choking hazard by passing them through a toilet paper roll. If it fits, young children should not play with it.

“If a toy fits in this tube, it is too small for a child under 3,” Hossain said.

Although the glass tube is the official measurement, the toilet paper roll is an easy way for parents to check.

Hossain said PIRG wants the CPSC to make the regulation test choke tube bigger.

Scott Wolfson, director of the office of communications for CPSC, said the measures for small parts are reliable.

“Small-parts standards have saved countless lives. It is one of the best child safety standards in the United States,”



Wolfson said. “We are open at CPSC to looking to improving our standards, but we will need the advocates to petition our agency. If they have data showing that the current standards can be improved.”

Randolph said ingesting small, high-powered magnets can have serious, sometimes fatal, consequences.

“It will eventually lead to something called pressure necrosis, where it will start ... eroding through the tissue. If you try and remove these things after a couple of

doctors what they’ve swallowed, so the intestinal damage only gets worse with time.

Joan Lawrence, vice president of standards and government affairs for the Toy Industry Association, said the small-parts standard has been working well for decades.

“Our U.S. toy safety standard for small parts has been around for about 30 years,” Lawrence said. “It was developed with government and input from pediatricians. On multiple occasions it’s been retested by our federal government and has been demonstrated to be an effective standard at protecting children under 3,” she said.

Stacy Leistner, vice president of strategic communications for the Toy Industry Association, said few products cited by PIRG have violated any safety standards.

“We think that they’re needlessly frightening parents,” Leistner said. “I mean, we share the concern for safety, but

if you read the fine print in their report, just about every one of the products that they listed is actually compliant with our very strict toy safety standards,” he said.

Liestner agreed with PIRG about the risks of having high-powered magnets in children’s toys, but said manufacturers rarely use the kind that Randolph used in his demonstration.

He said the toy bowling set should not have been in a store but that PIRG found few violations when the group searched toy shelves.

“We absolutely agree that high-powered magnets are a serious risk. There is a longstanding safety requirement that the magnets in toys be much less powerful than the ones that they showed in here today. If there is something on the shelves that does not comply with the standards, the toy industry wants that to be pulled just as much as PIRG does,” he said.

## If a toy can fit into a toilet paper tube, it’s too small for young kids.

hours, you’ll often see deep ulcerations in the tissue.”

The problem, Randolph said, is that the symptoms from swallowing magnets are usually written off as a stomachache. The children are often too young to tell

## The Who to donate \$1 per ticket (cont. from page 3)

“When your emotional health is better, your physical health is going to be better,” Sterner said at the luncheon. “Being a survivor of 2½ years, I firmly believe in that, because if I didn’t have the support that I have I don’t think I would be here today.”

Instead of being isolated, teenage cancer patients are surrounded by other teenagers who have faced the same challenges. The support is always there, and the casual environment looks like a recreational facility.

The objective is to make things as normal as possible for teenagers growing up with the psychological, emotional and environmental challenges of being a teenager during diagnosis and treatment.

By the end of next year the Teenage Cancer Trust will have 17 centers in the U.K., meaning every teenager who has cancer will have access to one of the centers.

“Without teenagers and their support, we would not exist,” Daltrey said. “So all you rich rock stars out there, get off your butts, get involved, raise

## ‘Without the support of teens, we would not exist.’

during the band’s current North American tour will be donated to the UCLA Teen and Young Adult Cancer Program.

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# Fiscal ‘cliff,’ Benghazi: Obama stays on course

**Jory Heckman**

*Scripps Howard Foundation Wire*

President Barack Obama made it clear that he is willing to compromise with Congress but will not back down from positions he articulated on the campaign trail.

“We should not hold the middle class hostage while we debate tax cuts for the wealthy,” Obama said at a news conference in late November. “We should at least do what we agree on, and that’s to keep middle-class taxes low. And I’ll bring everyone in to sign it right away so we can give folks some certainty before the holiday season.”

In his first news conference in eight months, Obama offered bipartisan cooperation on issues including passing a new budget to avoid sequestration cuts, appointing a new secretary of state and investigating the attacks on the American embassy in Benghazi, Libya.

Obama said he is still reviewing his options for a new secretary of state to replace Hillary Clinton, who has said she will leave the job when her successor is confirmed.

Obama defended United Nations Ambassador Susan Rice against

criticism from Republicans and said she would be a good candidate for the job.

“If Senator McCain and Senator Graham and others want to go after somebody, they should go after me,” Obama said. “And I’m happy to have that discussion with them.”

That morning, Republican Sens. John McCain, Ariz., Lindsey Graham, S.C., and Kelly Ayotte, N.H., criticized Rice for her remarks following the Benghazi attack, and said they would waylay her appointment as secretary of state.

Obama accused the senators of shooting the messenger, saying Rice made a presentation of the facts that were given to her by the White House.

“For them to go after the U.N. ambassador, who had nothing to do with Benghazi, and was simply making a presentation based on intelligence that she had received, and to besmirch her reputation is outrageous,” Obama said.

Switching to taxes, Obama said action is urgent.

“If Congress fails to act by the end of the year, everybody’s taxes will automatically go up – including the 98 percent of Americans who make less than \$250,000 a year and the 97 percent of small businesses that earn less than \$250,000 a year. That doesn’t make sense. Our economy can’t af-

ford that right now. Certainly no middle-class family can afford that right now. And nobody in either party says that they want it to happen.”

Obama said extending the Bush tax cuts for everyone except the top 2 percent of earners is the first major step to passing a new budget.

“If we get that in place, we are actually removing half of the fiscal cliff. Half of the danger to our economy is removed by that single step,” Obama said.

The second half, he said, includes tax reform, closing loopholes and cutting entitlements and discretionary spending.

The president and Congress agreed to extend the Bush-era tax cuts once before. Obama said he cut that deal as part of an immediate relief package.

“Two years ago, the economy was in a different situation. We were still very much in the early parts of recovering from the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. And ultimately, we came together not only to extend the Bush tax cuts, but also a wide range of policies that were going to be good for the economy at that point.”

Now that the economy has stabilized, Obama said he won’t make a bargain again that includes keeping Bush-era tax cuts for people making over \$250,000.

On the scandal surrounding former CIA Director David Petraeus and Army Gen. John Allen, the president said their conduct in no way compromised American safety. “I have no evidence at this point



from what I’ve seen that classified information was disclosed that in any way would have had a negative impact on our national security,” Obama said.

Petraeus will testified before the Senate Intelligence Committee, which is investigating the embassy attack in Benghazi that left four Americans, including Ambassador Chris Stevens, dead.

The president maintained his unyielding persona, even with reporters. As he left the East Room, Obama addressed a reporter who shouted a question about the fiscal cliff. “That was a great question,” Obama said, “but it would be a horrible precedent for me to answer your question just because you yelled it out.”

## Less perks for those who earn \$250k+.

# Middle East experts: US should cut its losses

**Monica Ibrahim**

*Scripps Howard Foundation Wire*

Scholars and experts on the Middle East agreed last month that the U.S. should start dealing with facts in the Arab region the way they are. They said some recent developments can’t be changed, and the U.S. should look out for its own best interests.

“Some things are simply too complicated to understand,” Nathan Brown, political science professor at George Washington University, said in describing the situation in the Middle East.

Brown encouraged the U.S. to look differently at Islamists in the Middle East: “Hoping that they will go away is not an effective way to deal with them.”

A series of panels was organized by the Middle East Institute for its 66th annual conference. Experts discussed recent developments in the U.S.-Mideast policy in transition.

“If Iran got a bomb, it is not the end of the world,” Lawrence J. Korb, senior fellow at the Center for American Progress, argued.

Korb strongly discouraged any military interference Syria. “If you like Iraq, you’ll love Syria,” said Korb, who was assistant secretary of defense in the Reagan administration.

Reuel Marc Gerecht, senior fellow for the Foundation for Defense of Democracies said he doubts American policy toward the Middle East will change much in the next four years, but

he thinks it should.

Gerecht, a former CIA employee, said U.S. officials pray that the Syrian opposition will be able to topple the regime of Bashar al-Assad so the death toll won’t rise.

“The administration came late and awkwardly to Egypt ... the president kept the ship from sinking,” Gerecht said.

“I don’t think the administration handled the Middle East terribly well,” he said. “The U.S. should not lead from behind. The administration has to be prepared to serve a fundamental role but not necessarily militarily.”

Scholars gave a set of recommendations to improve the U.S.-Mideast diplomacy.

“Iran, Iran, Iran” Gerecht said. He said the U.S. should put all emphasis on preventing Iran from obtaining a nuclear bomb.

Ellen Laipson, president of the Stimson Center, which focuses on international security, said civil society needs to find consensus with Congress to support the presence of nonprofit humanitarian and education groups in the Middle East.

A former National Security Council and State Department employee, Laipson said the U.S. needs to stop looking at the Middle East from a security and military perspective. She said money from the U.S. should be directed to educational empowerment, giving a voice to women and training journalists.

Another discussion group focused entirely on Egypt, bringing together renowned scholars and political analysts to discuss the country’s recent political developments.

Amr Hamzawy, president of Egypt Freedom Party, talked about how dangerous he believes the new draft of the constitution is. It was released to the public on Oct. 24.

“The current draft of the constitution eats away from the equality between women and men and between Muslims and non-Muslims,” Hamzawy said.

He was elected to Egypt’s parliament just after the revolution, but Egypt’s supreme court dissolved the parliament after six months.

Hamzawy said that the new draft constitution gives unlimited power to the president and diminishes parliament’s role. “We will continue to have an undemocratic presidential system,” he said.

Liberal forces in Egypt are struggling to reform the constituent assembly, he said.

Brown, the GWU professor, advised that the constituent assembly stop spending so much time on religious issues because other issues, such as forming the government and the political system, deserve more attention.

Hamzawy and Brown agreed that, when it comes to elections in Egypt, Islamists mostly win.

Naguib Sawiris, Egyptian business

tycoon and founder of the Free Egyptians Party, said that, after the revolution, people thought that all their dreams would come true and money would start to flow, which didn’t happen. Sawiris’s family owns the Orascom construction and telecommunications businesses.

Sawiris advised the Muslim Brotherhood that, “instead of concentrating on power taking, concentrate on building bridges.”

Sawiris, who is a Christian, said the Muslim Brotherhood is behaving like Hosni Mubarak’s regime when it comes to Coptic representation in the government. “We still don’t have a single Coptic governor,” he said.

Copts, who are Christians, make up about 9 percent of the Egyptian population and have faced recent violence and discrimination.

Sawiris said the new Coptic pope faces challenges but will be great for Egypt because “he is moving on the same path of the late Pope Shenouda, who protected the Christian minority.”

He said that the peace treaty with Israel is dead. He said, “nobody would venture into escalation in the situation with Israel.”

Egypt recently recalled its ambassador to Israel following Israel’s attack that killed a Hamas leader.

Sawiris said it is very dangerous for a businessman to go into politics. “Members of my family are paying the price of my positions,” he said.



# College gift guide (cont. from page 12)

vorite music services such as Pandora, to the 100,000 free Internet radio stations, shows and podcasts, you can stream a different song, station or playlist in every room directly from your device. These are at Target, Best Buy and sonos.com.

We like this idea from General Imaging: The **ipico** (\$129.99) is a hand-held projector that connects to your iPhone or iPod touch and instantly lets you share videos, photos and movies in real time. ipico makes it incredibly easy for college students to showcase their photographs to their friends and peers. With easy setup and no cables needed, students can simply slide their device into the ipico, focus on virtually any surface, and instantly project movies, photos, Facebook and the latest YouTube videos anywhere.

I'm fairly convinced that the **SodaStream** is going to become the next Keurig, except for soda instead of coffee. Yeah, coffee gets a lot of good press, and soda gets a lot of bad press, but people drink a lot more soda than coffee. It's a guilty pleasure most of us share and won't admit to.

And, sure, a 2-liter of soda is usually a buck or two, so I'm not sure if the savings are there with a SodaStream, but Keurig K-cups are also more expensive than traditional coffee, and Keurig has taken over the market.

The SodaStream redesigned itself and has a less costly model called The Source (\$129-149), which is about the same size as a typical Keurig and takes up as much counter space. Maybe "brewing" your own soda will be cooler, and thus more acceptable, than currently, what with those big 2-liter bottles. I tend to like fountain-style soda more than soda from plastic bottles, anyway, and my fridge produces crushed ice, so I can make my own Big Gulps in private. Take that, Mayor Bloomberg!

Buy these at major retailers or via [www.sodastream.com](http://www.sodastream.com)

## Bikes, Scooters and Boards

Here's another idea I like. **Pure Fix Cycles** ([www.purefixcycles.com](http://www.purefixcycles.com)) is "the premier line of quality-built fixed gear bicycles," and they have recently launched a line of glow-in-the-dark bicycles. I'm not sure why this idea hadn't been done before. It seems like a safer way to bike as night approaches.

The **Kilo**, **Zulu** and **Hotel** have various illuminating accents, including glowing wheels and bike frames. Pure Fix Cycles' Glow series is available for \$399 with free shipping across the U.S. The bikes are 85% assembled in the box, and the company says that they can get you a bike in time for Christmas if you give them at least a week.

Shaun White - you know, that X-games type guy who kind of looks like Carrot Top and was in the recent Olympics - has a line of high end transportation products, too.

The two-time Olympic gold medalist and skateboard champion has partnered with D6 Sports to create an action sports product line. The company says: "SWSC creates, produces and delivers authentic products at the highest specs at price point. Any of their products would be the ultimate gift for the action sports enthusiast, or someone just getting their feet wet, as it was important to White

that not only could products be used by him in competition, but that they could also be used by beginners. Also, a perfect transportation to and from class!"

Some suggestions:

**Series Skateboards** (\$59.97-\$69.97) are beautifully designed and sturdy. The Core Complete in black is the exact same ride as Shaun White's.

The **Hero Stunt Scooter** (\$99.97) is another well-made option. Tricks are easy on this elite scooter built to appeal to the novice, experienced and extreme rider. The Shaun White Supply Co. Hero Scooter offers the specifications any park veteran would want with a double welded frame, metal core wheels, and a re-enforced fork.

Shaun White Supply Co. **Amp 7.0 BMX bike** (\$699.99) specs: 100% chromoly frame, 1-1/8" fork and handlebar, tubular chromoly three piece cranks with alloy sprockets, sealed bearing 25 x 9T drive train, pivotal seat/post and alloy 36H double wall wheels. This is not the kind of bike you get at Toys R Us.

The site is [shaunwhitesupplyco.com](http://shaunwhitesupplyco.com).

## Stocking Stuffers and Secret Santas

The rest of the items on this list may be in the category of "stocking stuffer," or something you'd get for a Secret Santa.

A new company called ZingAnthing has a couple of health conscious gadgets: the **AquaZinger** (\$25.95) and **CitrusZinger** (\$15.95). The Aqua Zinger is the much better water bottle of the two, and looks like it can withstand everyday travel and the gym. It works by subtly infusing water with flavors. There's a little compartment where you can put your favorite fruits, for example.

## Smart Phones and Accessories

Last year was the year people rushed to get tablets and smart phones. Now, they are getting accessories. Try to casually find out what type of device your special someone has and get them a decent case.

Of the ones we sampled at Campus News, **Crimson** rated well. These are made of aluminum, so are light, shiny and durable. They also have stainless steel screws to further convey a feeling of security and safety. **Crimson products** retail for \$8.95 to \$69.95 and are available on [crimsoncase.com](http://crimsoncase.com).

The smart phone and tablet cases from Marware also were of excellent quality. We especially liked the **SportShell Convertible iPod touch 4G Case**, which fits on an arm comfortably. The **SportGrip Edge** for iPhone comes in six different colors, including a shiny pink, and is a serious case that looks to deliver decent protection for active people. The **CEO Hybrid Contrast Case** for iPad in black is very classy with high-quality materials. It's the kind of case you'd see enveloping some rich kid's iPad at some near-Ivy private New England college. Prices are around \$20 - \$50 on [marware.com](http://marware.com).

We also tried a photography gadget called **Lightscoop** (\$29.95). This is for anyone who has a dSLR camera (Canon, Nikon, Fuji, Pentax, Olympus, Sony, etc.) - and wants a lightweight, convenient, inexpensive gadget that creates pro-quality light for indoor photos. We hooked one up to our Campus News



A unique perfume bottle.

Nikon D-40 and took before and after pics. The shots with the Lightscoop, while not as bright, were definitely more balanced and looked more professional. We are used to auto-tweaking brightness in Photoshop, anyway, so were grateful that the Lightscoop did the balancing work, which is much more difficult to do with software. Lightscoop is available for purchase online at [www.lightscoop.com](http://www.lightscoop.com).

Coby Electronics offers a lot of stocking stuffers: **Jammerz Sports X headphones** (\$7.99) are sweat resistant with decent sound. They provide enough in-ear isolation so you hear YOUR music - not the piped in Kenny G at the Planet Fitness. The Coby **CAM5005 High Definition Camcorder** (\$49.99) is great for recording in HD. Remember when such cameras use to cost \$1000?

The most fun stocking stuffers we examined were from a small company called 80sTees.com. They produce **super-hero knee-high socks** that have little capes on them and goofy T-shirts, like on titled "**Happy Festivus**" (a "Seinfeld" reference - but wasn't that from the 1990s?). The socks are \$15 and the T-shirt \$22.

We also tried out **The CardNinja**. It's a little pouch that attaches to the back of your smart phone, turning it into a wallet. We tried it and it worked well. This is great if you're staying in a hotel and going down to the pool and want to carry minimal items. My smart phone is rather average sized, and there was no way to attach the CardNinja without blocking the camera's flash when the pocket has a credit card in it. A bit annoying, as I'd have to take out the credit card to snap a picture, but the CardNinja still seems to be worth the \$17.99 MSRP, even if just used occasionally.

For the teen girl, the hot fragrances seem to be **Justin Bieber's Girlfriend**, **Nicki Minaj's Pink Friday**, which comes in a cool bottle shaped like the singer (think Mrs. Butterworth with a boob job), Juicy Couture's **Viva La Juicy** and **Pure Romance**. The company says: "A favorite of top celebrities, including Natalie Portman, Victoria Beckham, P!nk and Nicole Kidman, Pure Romance

wants to help you pamper your sweetie this holiday season. Three items that could work especially well are Burning Desire, soy massage oil candle, our edible Body Bling, and Lip Locked, our lover's lip balm (perfect for steamy kisses under the mistletoe)." These fragrances are usually in the \$50-100 range and are available everywhere.

As a writer and sometimes cartoonist, I'm asking Santa for a decent pen this holiday season. The "elegant and refined" **Metropolitan pen** from Pilot is a practical gift that doesn't skimp on style and seems to be just right for a Secret Santa gift - a good mix of quality, with a brass barrel, and price at \$16.75. They also have a fountain pen model for \$2 more.

The folks at **ChapStick** alerted us to a new holiday variety sold exclusively at Target. The ChapStick seasonal flavors, Apple Cider and Candy Cane, can be found in the cough and cold, seasonal or check-out aisles. The company tells us: "These decadent flavors will be a major holiday hit for college students who want to keep their lips mistletoe ready and kissable soft."

OK, we have had a lot of practical gift ideas, such as phone covers and socks on our list, but the good gift giver also tosses in a gift or two that can be played with right there on Christmas Day. My favorite memories of past holiday were playing with the items all day with family, with no worries of school or work, not memories of the sweaters I'd gotten.

One item that would work for anyone and is well priced is the "**Walking Dead**" **Zombie Hunter** game. It seems half of the world watches this end-of-the-world show, and the device, which includes a plastic light gun, hooks up easily to any TV. No console or software is needed. At \$39.99, the graphics aren't what you would get on a PS3, but the ease-of-use makes up for that. What better way to celebrate the birth of Christ than to shoot up the living dead before egg nog?



# Supreme Court may eliminate key part of Voting Rights Act

**Kamrel Eppinger**  
*Scripps Howard Foundation Wire*

The Supreme Court will consider eliminating a key provision in the Voting Rights Act of 1965, a pivotal piece of legislation that has outlawed discriminatory acts against minority voters for nearly 50 years.

Section 5 of the VRA requires states and localities with a history of racial discrimination to obtain federal approval, or “preclearance,” from the Justice Department or a federal court before making any changes to their voting laws.

During this year’s campaign, federal officials or courts used Section 5 to block voter-ID laws, prohibit reduced early voting periods in Florida and barred a new redistricting map in Texas. Three days after the re-election of President Barack Obama, the Supreme Court agreed to hear the case of Shelby Co., Ala. v. Holder. The case challenges whether Congress’ decision in 2006 to reauthorize Section 5 exceeded its authority under the 14th and 15th Amendments and thus violates the 10th Amendment and Article IV of the U.S. Constitution. Article IV says citizens of one state must be treated the same as those in other states.

“Section 5 served a critical and laudable function 40 years ago, and the court held that it was constitutional then. But Section 5 is not justified now, and its reauthorization in 2006 was not constitutional,” John Neiman, solicitor general for the State of Alabama Attorney General’s Office , said. “Section 5 currently serves only to allow federal bureaucrats to block good-faith and nondiscriminatory changes in state law and to impose unjustified costs on state and local governments.”

For more than 40 years, Congress has been using the same formula to determine which states are covered by Section 5. The

original formula required any state or jurisdiction with a minority turnout of less than half of the national turnout to obtain federal approval before changing voting laws.

States covered under the provision are Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia. Parts of seven states are also covered – Florida, New York, North Carolina, South Dakota, Michigan New Hampshire and California.

Laughlin McDonald, director of the Voting Rights Project at the American Civil Liberties Union, said if the Supreme Court removes Section 5 it would be devastating for minorities. He said there would be retrogression in their voting strengths and additional voting suppression measures.

“After it was first enacted in 1965, Section 5 was extended four times. After every extension it has been challenged as unconstitutional. All of those claims have been rejected. When one looks at the record that Congress has compiled, you would have to conclude there is a continuing need for Section 5 and it’s an appropriate measure to implement the 14th and 15th Amendments,” McDonald said.

Edward Blum, the director of the Project on Fair Representation, brought the suit that will be heard at the Supreme Court, and he disagrees with McDonald.

“Congress reauthorized the Voting Rights Act in 2006 based upon the black voter disenfranchisement in the Deep South that existed in 1965, but those conditions measurably don’t exist anymore,” Blum said. “The America that elected and re-elected Barack Obama as its first African-American president is far different than when the Voting Rights Act was first enacted in 1965. Congress unwisely reauthorized a bill that is stuck in a Jim Crow-era time warp. It is unconstitutional.”

Blum’s group was created to challenge



“racial and ethnic classifications” in laws, according to its website, and also is behind Fisher v. Texas, in which a white student claims she was denied admission to the University of Texas over a less-qualified minority student. The Supreme Court heard that case last month.

Christopher Mann, a U.S. elections expert and political science professor at the University of Miami, said each side in the dispute has a clear argument.

“The burden right now under the preclearance provision requires those jurisdictions to show they are not doing anything discriminatory. So the burden of proof lies on the state or county,” Mann said.

But, he said if the court throws out Section 5, “All of the same provisions about fairness and prohibiting discrimination will be in place, but the burden will be on people who believe discrimination is occurring to go to court to show that that there is discrimination.”

The Voting Rights Act is one of the signature legacies of the civil rights struggle. The act ended the use of literacy requirements for voting in seven southern states –

Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia. The act sparked immediate increases in voter registration by African Americans. The percentage of registered African American adults in Mississippi increased from less than 7 percent to more than 74 percent. In Alabama, the percentage rose from 19 percent to 68 percent.

Ronald Spivey, a professor of African American History at the University of Miami, said the VRA served as an enforcement tool.

“We shouldn’t have needed the Voting Rights Act in the first place after the passage of the 13th , 14th, and 15th Amendments to the Constitution. However, voting rights were still being denied for people of color and continue today. The problem was enforcing the amendments. The Voting Rights Act challenged the South’s efforts to disenfranchise the black vote and made it clear on what states could not do,” Spivey said.

The Supreme Court is expected to hear the case early next year and will likely decide it by the end of June.

## Who is more powerful, Mother Nature or human nature?

**Prof. Jack Mandel**  
*Nassau Community College*

As I write this column for the winter issue of Community College Campus News, the date is mid-November. There still are many of people without power throughout the tri-state area. Homes have been devastated and lives for residents will never be the same.

Hundreds of people who have lost most or all of their property are sleeping at my beloved workplace, Nassau Community College, in Garden City, Long Island, NY.

Yes, unless you have been in hibernation these last few weeks, you have to agree that Hurricane Sandy did a number on us.

In short, life is not as usual. And while we all like to think that we have total control of our lives, the truth is that we do not. Call it Mother Nature, call it Global Warming, or anything you would like ... the results add up to the same conclusion.

You can’t take anything for granted ... hot water, electricity, heat, cable TV, cell phone use and on and on. But what each of us can take for granted is the power that wills us to go on – espe-

cially in times of crisis situations. The stories that have appeared on national TV, local TV, newspapers, etc., all point to the fact that people of all ages, all faiths, have come together for the common good. This isn’t reality TV. This is LIFE.

By the time you read this column, I can tell you that my NCC students will have taken midterms (even if they were given a week or so late), term projects were completed (and graded) and final exams are upon us.

And that is a simple fact. Time does march on. Things do get better. For some of us, the realization that losing your trophies, cherished possessions, automobiles, and much more will never be forgotten, and is difficult to fathom. But we all need to regroup and refocus.

Every one of us was affected by what Governor Andrew Cuomo called “the storm of the century.” I only hope we don’t see another for a long while.

To all the students and faculty who read this newspaper, my best wishes go out to you, your families and your loved ones. May 2013 bring ALL OF US a more peaceful and successful drama-free year.

Oh, yes, don’t forget to study for finals!

*Professor Jack Mandel has taught marketing and public relations since 1978 at Nassau Community College. He has won the prestigious Outstanding Teacher Award, conferred by the NYS Association of Two-Year Colleges. His is also a Best of Long Island winner for 2010 in the Teaching category from the Long Island Press.*





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