

# Community & College CAMPUS NEWS

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Take! Free on Campus!

February 2013

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## Succeeding at your next college

Campus News put a query out to college administrators at 4-year colleges who oversee admissions for transfer students from 2-year schools.

Chances are, you are a community college student who may want to transfer credits someday. SUNY credits transfer pretty well from between institutions, but many students go the private college route eventually.

Therein lies the rub. Each private college is its own entity with its own slate of rules. Some 4-year colleges, such as Adelphi, Mercy, Iona, Hofstra, LIU and others, get a lot of students who transfer in as juniors. They know how to handle them, and have transfer agreements with the various 2-year schools. Others get very few transfer students, and you may feel like an outsider suddenly joining a group of students who had already bonded as freshmen.

Here is the advice we received.



Photo by Danny Hooks

Donniece Cooper, Coordinator of Transfer Admission at the College of Mount Saint Vincent, told us: "Visit the campus. You want to get a good feel for the student life on-campus.

Set up an interview and tour with the College(s)/Universities that you are considering attending. You want to make sure you're choosing the best fit!

"Ask questions: Make a list of questions you can ask during the interview. Ask as many questions as possible. The whole purpose of the interview is make sure you are informed regarding your

options as a transfer student. Feel free to ask as many questions as possible about scholarships, financial aid, study abroad opportunities and academic programs. You want to get the most out of your transfer experience."

Kristina Ortiz, the Assistant Dean of Admissions at LIM Col-

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## Does the 4-year school work with 2-year transfer students?

## Gift ideas for that special someone

**Darren Johnson**  
*Campus News*

Our Holiday Gift Guide from December was quite popular, and since we got a good deal of response, we decided to try to again with February in mind.

Besides, it's fun testing the various products we might not otherwise buy ourselves.

February is punctuated by Valentine's Day, so most of the products we tried for this issue have that in mind. Personally, I have always found Valentine's Day to be the hardest holiday to buy for. Gifts range from the sappy to the expensive. I mean, a box of candy is about \$12. A diamond necklace? Hundreds or more!

I guess it's the effort that counts. On these mutual gift-giving holidays, though, it is good to come up with a price range and agree upon it with the other party. Most parties will exceed the range by 10 or 20 percent, but at least each of you will be in the ballpark. There won't be any unnecessarily heightened expectations. Your box of chocolates won't be followed by your special someone giving you a Mercedes with a giant pink bow on it.

(Don't those commercials piss you off? Why set the bar so high for us average schmoes? Who does that, anyway?)

The standby is Teleflora, a national company that easily and affordably lets you wire flowers anywhere. You get to pick the bouquet. I tried the Together Forever bouquet (\$40) for my wife, and she seemed quite happy with it. The red vase

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# The traditional 4-year degree doesn't fit everybody

**Jory Heckman**

*Scripps Howard Foundation Wire*

Dale Stephens, 20, dropped out of Hedrix College in Conway, Ark., before completing his second semester.

"It wasn't that big a deal," Stephens said, adding that his parents, a public school teacher and an engineer, trusted him with his decision.

"They believed in me enough to let me make my own decisions and said, 'Hey, you know, it's your life. The worst thing that could possibly happen is you might go back to school.'"

Stephens reflects a pattern of young adults who are looking to prepare themselves for the workforce without the cost of a four-year college degree.

"We are sending more people to college than can handle the work, or in many cases I suspect, want to go," Robert Samuelson, a columnist for the Washington Post, said at the University of Maryland Dec. 10.

Samuelson squared off with William E. "Brit" Kirwan, University of Maryland system chancellor, who advocated for college as the best means of social mobility but did not call for "college for all."

"I wrote a piece for the Post advocating, not college for all, but college for more," Kirwan said, acknowledging back-and-forth columns by the two in the Washington Post.

Kirwan said more people need to earn two-year degrees, if not four-year degrees.

"Many others are calling for the same thing, from President Barack Obama, to the National Science Foundation, to Bill Gates and the Gates Foundation," Kirwan said.

Monica Gray, director of programs at the College Success Foundation in the District of Columbia, said the value of sending undecided students to college benefits everyone.

"The value is that it opens up career opportunities that would be closed to them

without a bachelor's degree," Gray said. "It dramatically increases the career options that they have."

The foundation provides scholarships and mentorships to students from low-income backgrounds who are often the first in their families to go to college.

Students on foundation scholarships often study outside the District, but Gray said the program benefits the capital.

"It has, we believe, a great value for the city," Gray said. "Most of our young people are interested in coming back to D.C. and becoming productive members of society."

The foundation helps high school students research and apply to colleges that are the right fit for them, and it works with middle schools to foster a pro-college attitude among the most at-risk demographic: young male minorities.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that, of 2011 high school graduates, 68.3 percent were enrolled in college. That includes 67.5 percent of black students, 66.6 percent of Hispanic students, 67.7 percent of white students and 86.7 percent of Asian students.

That overall enrollment number is lower than in 2009, when a record 70.1 percent of that year's high school graduates went to college.

Women enrolled at much higher rates in 2011 – 72.3 percent, compared to 64.6 percent for men.

**'We are sending more students to college than can handle the work.'**

"One of main goals of the program is to make sure that young men successfully make the transition from middle school to high school, and then high school to completion," Gray said.

Along the way, these students are encouraged to sign up for a college-prep curriculum.

Gray said DC College Success Foun-

ation has about 800 students enrolled in 200 colleges across the country.

This year, the first 30 of its scholarship students graduated from college.

Brian Rosenbaum is a community engagement coordinator in Los Angeles for College Summit, a program that helps more than 30,000 students nationwide to decide what level of higher education works for them. Rosenbaum said 986 of the 1,474 high school students in Southern California who went through the College Summit program in 2011 have enrolled in college. Graduation rates were not available.

Citing a 2010 Georgetown University study, Rosenbaum said 61 percent of all jobs in California are going to require some postsecondary education by 2018. In 2011, the number of adults over age 25 with a bachelor's degree or higher in the United States reached a record 30.4 percent. In 2008, 27.7 percent of the country over age 25 had bachelor's degrees.

Rosenbaum said College Summit provides advice to schools that do not have the manpower to guide all of their students through the selection process.

"At our schools, especially in California, we have class sizes that are 300, 400, 500, up to 700 students," Rosenbaum said.

With crowded schools, Rosenbaum said individual attention with college counselors is limited.

"That means an hour meeting during the entire year," he said.

After dropping out of college,



**Brit Kirwan**

Stephens started uncollege.com, a website that guides young adults who are on the fence about the traditional college experience.

Work experience, Stephens said, applies to everyone – from those who go to college, to those who go to two-year schools for job-specific training. He said young adults should take advantage of opportunities, including internships and apprenticeships.

Stephens said young adults who are indecisive should take a gap year to better understand where their passions lie.

"The first thing is to take a step back, and take a step out of the system," Stephens said. "Spend a year volunteering on organic farms, spend a year doing manual work, go to South America – do something that's completely different from the rat race track."

Stephens said high school graduates who are unsure about spending four years in college shouldn't feel pressured into going.

"I think one of the biggest challenges is that you go through your life with this script of what we need to be successful, and most of the time we haven't written that script ourselves – someone else has," Stephens said.

## Are you a magnet to others around you?

**Prof. Jack Mandel**

*Nassau Community College*

As students were leaving my classroom on the last day of the Fall 2012 semester, one young man remained. He confessed to me that he should have done better than the C+ he had earned in my Marketing class.

He added that he was unable to concentrate on the lecture material because his attention was elsewhere – looking at the female student in the next row.

I smiled and asked if he had ever approached her – either before or after class. Might he have brought up something they had in common (for example, the midterm, class projects, even Hurricane Sandy)? He shook his head no. I encouraged him by saying that he had established some groundwork, and there was always the Spring 2013 semester to follow up. I hope he does.

This end-of-semester chat got me thinking about a timely column for this edition of Campus News. And then it came to me. In a word ... ATTRACTION. I think it is referred to as "the law of attraction." Ever hear of it? It's a kind of making ourselves a walking force of energy...like a strong magnet.

But is communicating one's feelings an art or a science? Well, perhaps it is a little bit of both. Certainly, on a personal level, each of us knows (at any age, I might add) that inner feeling in our gut that signals both an emotional and a logical thought process.

But to direct that feeling into action towards the other person can be a difficult undertaking. Rejection is a real fear that all of us have – especially during our teen and 20-something years.

Sadly, one's looks, winning personality or intelligence that you find so compelling will not always be reciprocated by the other person.

Just don't come down so hard on yourself. The key to your dating success is to ACT upon your feelings in a positive way. Approach, ask, believe and it will happen! While you are personally free to select anyone to your liking, the so called "law of attraction" may not be in the cards for the other person. You have to accept it and move on.

Even if you are rebuffed, so what? Time is on your side. You are still very much on the learning curve in life. Enjoy the journey.

Think of dating as a wintery challenge. Imagine getting caught in a raging snowstorm. If you face the storm

in the wrong direction, it can be a terrible struggle, and you will get nowhere fast. But, if you turn around, the winds seem to carry you along almost effortlessly. Get the picture?

Meanwhile, it is a new semester... Give some time to your college studies, too!

*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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# US reconstruction in Afghanistan ‘failing’

Amer Taleb

*Scripps Howard Foundation Wire*

U.S. reconstruction in Afghanistan has been so poorly managed that, in some cases, American troops may have died because of it, according to the inspector general overseeing the effort.

At \$28 million dollars a day, the United States has spent more money rebuilding Afghanistan than it has re-vamping any other nation, John Sopko, special inspector general for Afghanistan reconstruction, told an audience of 60 last month at the the Henry L. Stimson Center.

“We are at a risk now of wasting billions of dollars,” he said, “if the agencies charged with implementing new programs and constructing new facilities do not first answer some basic questions.”

Sopko said his comments were aimed at agencies working in the South Asian country, but not one in particular.

As of March 2012, U.S. spending on Afghan humanitarian and reconstruction aid had accrued to nearly \$90 billion dollars, according to the SIGAR’s website. Sopko’s office conducts audits and investigations to ensure projects are done well and that money was not misused.

Last month’s audit revealed \$12 million in Department of Defense equipment was sitting idly in a storage facility and that the U.S. Agency for International Development paid a contractor for work that wasn’t done. Hundreds of pages of audits, dating to 2009, detail project successes and failures.

Halfway through his talk, Sopko described one of the “worst examples” of reconstruction lapses.

A multimillion-dollar program intended to protect highway pipes from being made into bombs, also known as improvised explosive devices, wasn’t effective because quality control procedures were not followed.

“They failed to prevent IEDs from being put underneath the highway, and may have resulted in the death of U.S., coalition and Afghan forces,” Sopko said.

His talk comes a week after the military recommended that 6,000 to 20,000 American soldiers stay in Afghanistan post-2014, the withdrawal date for remaining combat troops.

The White House is considering a “zero option,” meaning all soldiers would leave, if the U.S. can’t reach an agreement with the Afghanistan government.

In addition to the corruption, inadequate planning and poor security that Sopko blamed as root causes, project management is diluted as it passes through the hands of one contractor to another, Malou Innocent, Cato Institute foreign policy analyst, said.

“The costs of operating in Afghanistan are extremely high, and so they end up subcontracting to local authorities who then subcontract out to other local authorities,” she said. “The mechanisms set up are almost doomed to failure, especially in the context of the country they’re operating in.”

With 206 recommendations for suspension and debarment of contractors or institutions since his office was created in 2008, Sopko said his team has been the most aggressive in the inspector general community.

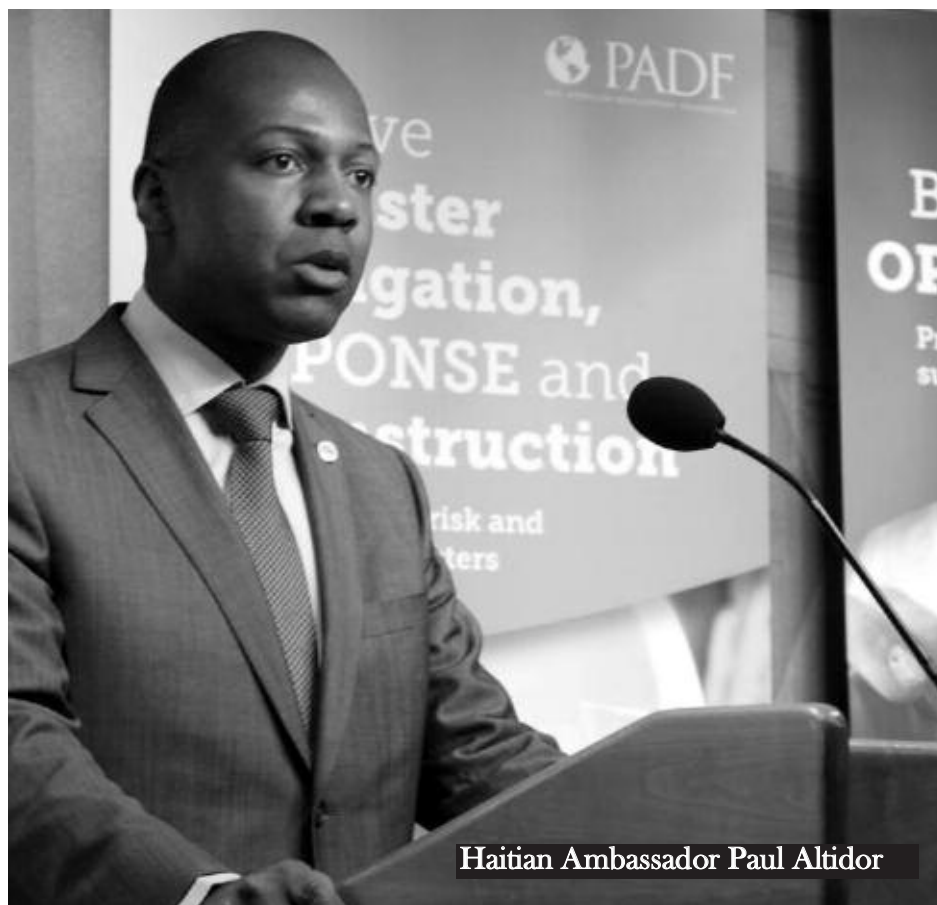
“Unfortunately, not every agency in the U.S. government has the same fire in the belly,” he said. “Many times, when we refer companies or individuals for suspension and debarment, those referrals are not acted on as expeditiously and as quickly as we want.”

Until the federal government supplements auditing with a more effective approach of clamping down on corrup-

## ‘They did not prevent IEDs.’

tion and disbarring ineffective or corrupt contractors, Innocent said no significant changes can occur.

“We have proposed granting SIGAR or the theater commanders independent suspension and debarment authority,” Sopko said. “That could allow us to get rid of bad actors as soon as we find them.”



Haitian Ambassador Paul Altidor

# Haiti also continues to struggle to rebuild

Jess Miller

*Scripps Howard Foundation Wire*

State Department officials say Haiti is progressing three years after the earthquake, but complete reconstruction remains a distant goal.

Last month marked the third anniversary of the magnitude 7.0 earthquake that rocked the small island country to its core, claiming 300,000 lives and leaving millions homeless.

“Almost everyone who visits Haiti on a regular basis agrees that, despite huge challenges, there has been tremendous progress over the past 12 months,” Eileen Smith, State Department deputy coordinator for Haiti, said.

She said Haiti’s inhabitants faced many challenges before the earthquake hit, and the country should not be expected to become a middle-income country overnight. But as medical relief, food supplies and government grants for temporary housing have dried up, the country remains in a precarious position.

At an event in December sponsored by the Pan American Development Foundation and the Woodrow Wilson Center, Haitian Ambassador to the U.S. Paul Altidor said the country still has much work to do.

“Let me say that we are not pleased with the pace of the reconstruction process,” Altidor said.

Altidor mentioned several issues complicating the process of rebuilding the country, whose destroyed infrastructure and political instability have made it difficult to disburse the nearly \$7.5 billion in international aid that Haiti has received. In addition, residents suffer from fast-spreading disease such as cholera, food insecurity and an unemployment rate that has remained at 90 percent. As of October, 370,000 Haitians still lived in tent cities, and 58 percent of the population does not have access to potable water.

“The issue we’re facing is not just an earthquake issue. We’re also addressing the housing deficit that Haiti has faced

prior to the earthquake,” Altidor said.

In addition, land tenure remains a huge obstacle, according to Liz Blake, senior vice president of Habitat for Humanity International, which has been operating in the country for 27 years. Only 5 percent of the land is properly titled, and the unstable government has been slow to process land grant requests. Former tent dwellers who have been lucky enough to find subsidized housing have discovered that without stable incomes, they can’t afford to pay rent and are soon back on the streets.

Questions regarding the pace of Haiti’s rebuilding process have been raised by donor countries, including Canada, which has given more than a billion dollars. A Canadian government official said this week the country is unhappy with the progress that the Haitian government is making and will review the Canadian aid program.

But Altidor said the country’s slow progress is not a result of the government. He blamed some of the nonprofit, or non-governmental organizations.

“More than 10,000 NGOs operating in Haiti were not, and in some cases are still not, being held accountable by Haiti or its people,” Altidor said. “That has to change.”

The Haitian government, which has drawn protests from residents after the contested presidential election in 2010, has also been criticized by the international community, which has been hesitant to donate directly to the government because of its reputation for corruption. Most have chosen to donate to NGOs, whose interests Altidor said may not be aligned with those of the Haitian people. He said the NGO’s direct participation in the rebuilding process has resulted in the misallocation of resources and duplication of efforts in some cases.

“With the majority of the assistance going to these NGOs rather than the Haitian state or the Haitian government, the Haitian state has actually become weaker in many cases,” Altidor said.



Special inspector John F. Sopko



# Dark horse movies shine on Netflix

**Darren Johnson**  
*Campus News*

Anyone in favor of the legalization of prostitution in the US should see the documentary “Whores’ Glory” (2011), now streaming on Netflix.

In general, Netflix has become the place for documentary fans. At \$8 a month, the service is a real bargain, and there are plenty of choices. You really won’t find this kind of collection anywhere else, including most libraries.

And some of the documentaries are amazing. “Whores’ Glory,” which is well shot and even has an excellent, original soundtrack, only grossed \$31,313 in the US, according to IMDB. The non-rated film, which definitely would be more than an “R” if rated, is shocking. It is amazing that director Michael Glawogger got so many subjects – prostitutes and johns in Thailand, Bangladesh and Mexico – to reveal so much.

The film starts in Bangkok, which seemed to have the most organized prostitution of the three places. Women got primped up, wore numbers, and sat in two rows behind glass, as johns, many wearing suits, came in and negotiated with a salesman as to what to expect for the price with each woman. The rates were about \$50 for “everything.” The place even took credit cards, and there was a checkout counter. Everything was neat and tidy. Of course, the women were treated as commodities, but the experience seemed more civilized than the other two. Some of the women reported that they

chose their profession and didn’t mind it. Many of them were religious. The johns spoke about their wives, who failed to be as receptive or give the same sexual effort as these women. Still, the whole scene seemed seedy and sad.

Worse was Bangladesh, where women were essentially born into a disgusting red-light district and men, who seemed like sexual addicts, frequently visited. There was a steady flow of men in and out. The women were regularly berated and often beaten. The language was vulgar. In one scene, a young woman is essentially sold to a new madam. The woman, who must be a teenager, seemed so resigned to her fate and only could muster one-word responses to her new boss, looking down the whole time. The district is filled with goats, waste, feral dogs having sex and unsupervised children as the johns stream in and out.

As bad was Mexico, which also provided the most graphic footage for the film. Like the other two regions, the women had many superstitions. They also were controlled by bosses, who were not seen on film. The johns were completely upfront with Glawogger, and very vulgar as to how they described their tastes. Drugs also seemed to be a prominent part of the culture. Addiction was used to keep the women hooking. Like the Bangladeshi women, the Mexican women reported that they didn’t feel pretty – that their johns probably had better looking wives at home – but the johns came to the

women for variety, and mainly just to use them as a tool to satisfy a carnal desire. The women have barren rooms in an outdoor complex that looks like a ramshackle motel. There are numbers over each room. Driving around with one john, he calls out all the various numbers and reports about his experiences with the woman in each room. The women don’t give their names. They are known by the numbers over their doors.

Sure, if prostitution were legalized in the US, some of it would be high-end, but most of it would likely be just as seedy as these international examples. Pimps and drug addiction would still exist. Some women would be born into the field because their mothers were pros. And more men would start acting like the johns in these movies, unable to restrain themselves.

In those red-light areas, it was totally acceptable.

And there is prostitution in the US, no doubt, but it being illegal – and the crackdowns with johns appearing in the news, trying to cover their faces – has created a certain stigma to “paying” for sex. An extramarital affair, paid or not, can still take down a high-ranking person in the US, and maybe that’s for the better. It’s the restraint that makes us stronger as a people, and the stigma that may lead to a bit less objectification of women. Supply creates demand, and in the case of prostitution, leads to a form of slavery that fosters an unequal society.

“Whores’ Glory” is a cautionary tale.

### Another Undiscovered Gem

While “Whores’ Glory” has a near 90% positive rating amongst reviewers on Rotten Tomatoes, the 2011 movie “Butter,” an ensemble movie starring Jennifer Garner, only has a 35% rating. Both movies did little box office. “Butter” only made a little over \$100,000 on screen.

It deserves much better, and Netflix viewers have given it nearly four stars. I agree with the masses.

Garner is spot on in this silly character study of a woman willing to do whatever it takes to further her political ambitions. The other characters are less fleshed out, but Garner steals the show. Maybe it would depend if one had ever met someone like the character Garner plays, Laura Pickler, if one could relate to this movie. I have. She is calculating, ambitious, paranoid, devoid of compassion



(though is good at faking it when others are looking) and lusts for the limelight.

There are several subplots. The movie begins showing Pickler’s husband, Bob (Ty Burrell), winning the butter sculpting competition year after year at some yokel fair in Iowa. His subjects include butter sculptures of “Schindler’s List” and “The Last Supper.” The people, albeit not literally, eat it up – a great source of pride (and power, she believes) for Laura.

The butter contest organizers talk Bob into laying down his sculpting knife so that others can have a shot at winning. He agrees, but Laura takes it as a personal insult. She takes to learning butter sculpting to win the competition. All that stands in her way is a talented, 10-year-old African-American foster child, Destiny (Yara Shahidi), who sculpts artistically. Meanwhile, Laura sculpts the Kennedy Assassination. Can she pull enough strings to win?

At PG-13, this movie is fine for family viewing if the kids are at that age or older – and it’s rare to find a movie that can appeal to everyone in the house nowadays. Also, at 90 minutes, it is just the right length to keep everyone’s attention.

### Edited for Families

Getting back to the documentaries queue, and speaking of family-friendly films, I was impressed with “Cleanflix”

(2009). It is about a video rental and sales company that edited out objectionable content from “R” movies so that families, especially Mormon families, could view them and not have to see nudity or hear dirty words.

For example, in the movie “Titanic” where Rose poses topless for a sketch, the second or two where a nipple appears is carefully cropped out and touched up. The quality of the editing was pretty seamless, though in other examples some dialogue is lost.

The debate itself is interesting. While big-time directors and studios sued the company for editing their films, it’s not as if they were losing money. What Cleanflix did was buy an original copy of each film it sold as edited. More people saw these movies, albeit edited, than would have otherwise. And are most movies “art,” anyway?

The Cleanflix folks also argued that studios regularly sanitized their own films; to be shown on airplanes, for example. Why couldn’t the Cleanflix rental stores get these versions?

Eventually, and ironically, Cleanflix and its related stores closed due to a sex scandal, along with the weight of all of the lawsuits. This documentary captures a moment in time that the viewer likely hadn’t heard of before.





# Veterans return to find problems in college

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

Retired Lance Cpl. Phil Lennon, 26, of College Park, Md., resembled Tom Hanks' character in the movie "Castaway" after he left the Marines in 2008. He let his hair and beard grow. He calls it his "wilderness days," when he withdrew from society.

"I got jobs, I went to school, all that, because I knew that I needed to provide an income for myself and my wife, but I didn't want to do it," Lennon said. "What I really wanted to do is buy a cabin with some land and just start growing my own food and hunting and just basically just shutting off, disengaging, getting off the grid, all that."

Lennon, who was deployed to Iraq in 2007 and 2008, said every day there were "broad, over-arching missions."

After he got out of the military, he assumed he would go back to the person he had been before he enlisted. Instead, post-military life was the beginning of another battle. He said emotional management, health issues and problems with the Department of Veterans Affairs are some of the issues

housing allowance.

Michael Dakduk, executive director of Student Veterans of America, said it takes time to create support for student veterans and student veteran organizations.

Veterans also face the difficult process of going through the university's bureaucracy and the VA's bureaucracy at the same time. An error or issue in the VA paperwork can delay tuition payments, rent and other living expenses.

"That becomes an issue," Dakduk said. "This is something I call universities to step up on. If there's an error, a student veteran shouldn't be dropped out of school for that. That's an issue we've seen, and we hope it doesn't become an emerging issue."

Dakduk said policy changes, such as priority registration for athletes at many universities, should be offered to student veterans. Early registration could help them get their benefits on time.

Petty Officer First Class Timothy Ortega, 26, now a junior communication major at San Diego State University, got help from the school's veterans office.

difficult position psychologically to trigger violent reactions," Martin said. "It can cause them to have a nervous breakdown, and a lot of military veterans feel that there is a need for awareness and sensitive training for faculty personnel."

Getting help from the VA can take months, and Martin said university counseling centers are understaffed.

Another challenge is the culture clash between veterans and other students. The Census Bureau's American Community Survey found that 36 percent of student veterans are 25 to 34 years old, and 40 percent are between 35 to 54 years old.

"They've gone out, they've seen the world, they've been in combat, and they come from a different mindset all together," Martin said.

After earning an associate's degree at Blue Ridge Community College in Virginia, Lennon and his wife, Lindsey Lennon, went to Florida State Univer-



sity where he earned a bachelor's degree in sociology with the help of his G.I. bill benefits.

While at the military-friendly school, Lennon joined the student veterans organization.

Lennon is now pursuing a master's degree in sociology at the University of Maryland. He is in a program in military sociology, where he is studying student veterans and their transition to higher education.

"Those initiatives are what brought me back into the community and re-engaged me with social life," Lennon said. "I am a much different person today than I was then, and it was largely because of the efforts that Florida State has taken on."

## 'They've seen the world, they've been in combat. It's a different mindset.'

he and other veterans have to balance along with the college bureaucracy.

"When you get out ... it's just a very free situation," Lennon said. "It's freedoms that you haven't felt in four years, so there's issues of time management, self-motivation and things like that."

The 2011 American Community Survey found that 4 percent of veterans were enrolled in college or professional schools.

Jim Humphrey, assistant dean of students and director of veteran services at Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tenn., said more than 30 percent of student veterans are dealing with some form of documented traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder or other stressors.

"Many of the colleges are doing a pretty good job of emphasizing their military friendliness ... and support of their veterans," said Humphrey, who served 22 years in the Army and Air Force, retiring as a lieutenant colonel. "But only 60 percent of those have instituted offices on campuses that cater specifically to the needs of those veteran students coming in."

Lipscomb's veterans services office recruits veterans to the school, works with them to get their veteran's benefits, connects them with the right counseling and resources and works to help them get jobs after they graduate.

About 800,000 veterans and their families benefit from the post 9/11 GI bill. The VA spent more than \$10.5 billion on education benefits in 2011.

The G.I. bill pays all tuition and fees for up to 36 months for in-state students at public universities and up to \$18,000 at most private universities. Most veterans also qualify for a book allowance of up to \$1,000 a year and a

After four years in the Navy with long deployments, he decided to join the reserves, go to school and take advantage of the post 9/11 G.I. bill.

"We just stepped off a ship or we just stepped off foreign soil that we've been living at for three or four years," Ortega said. "So we need someone there to walk us through, let us know what is available, first off, what is available to us on this campus, in the area, something more specific for that person and ... someone to listen because everyone has a different story."

Coming from a military life, where he was told what to do for four years, Ortega had a hard time finding his way through the college bureaucracy until he got involved in the veterans office and the Student Veterans Organization.

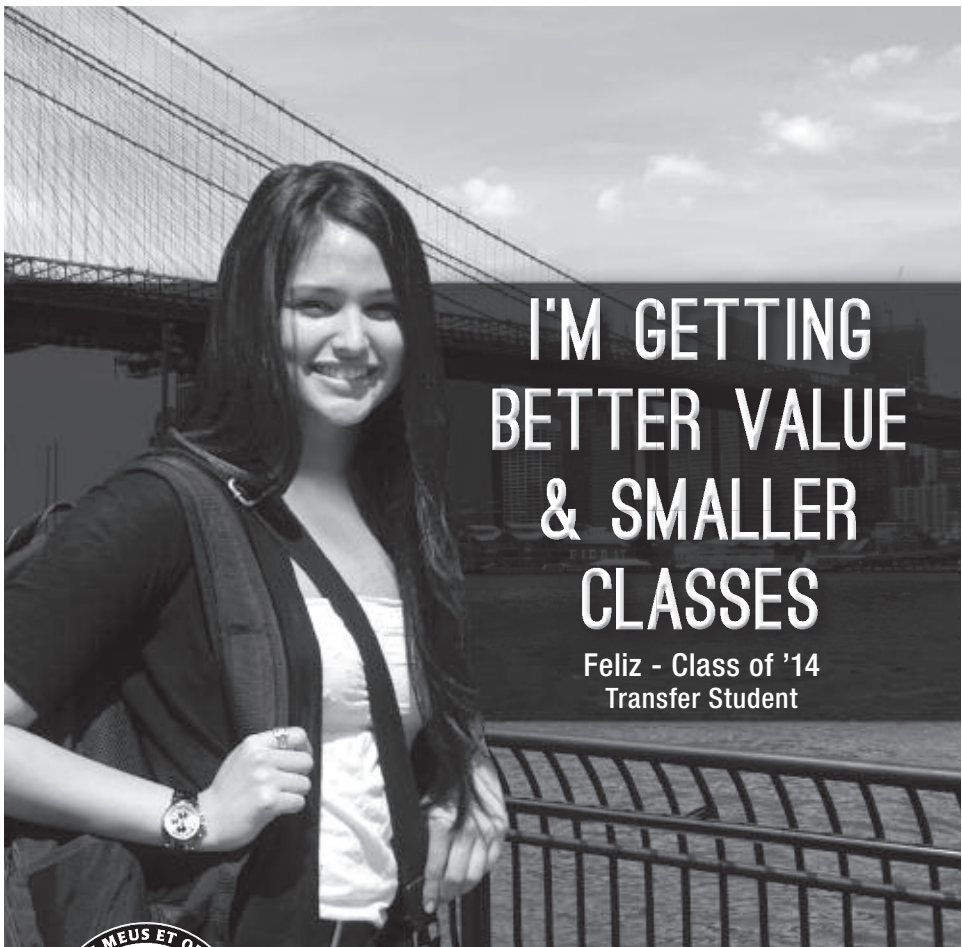
Cris Martin, 30, of El Paso, Texas, was a combat flight medic in the Army and deployed to Iraq in 2005. He enrolled at UTEP after leaving the military in 2010 as a sergeant.

The same year, he became the president of the campus Military Veterans Association, which has created a haven of unity and stabilization for veterans.

"A lot of us come back from our service to our country through the military with various ... I guess you could say ghosts that haunt us," Martin, now a senior, said. "It might not necessarily be PTSD, but a lot of us saw a lot of different things."


Sometimes professors hound students to answer questions during class, which Martin said can cause discomfort in student veterans.

"For someone who has a traumatic brain injury or for someone else who has stress and anxiety disorders, that can actually put them in a very



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# Does a long-distance relationship mean breaking up?

Marie Frankson  
*Campus News*

They say that absence makes the heart grow fonder. Well, whoever “they” are probably never had to endure the struggles of a long-distance relationship. My guess is that “they” were talking about moving out of their parents’ house and finally being on their own. Long-distance relationships are not anything new or out of the dating norm, in fact, long-distance relationships had become popular in the 1960s and 1970s as more women were entering the work force. In a world where nearly everyone is connected by the internet, meeting someone online and falling in love is no longer outside of the dating norm either. Why, then, is there so much stigma attached to long-distance relationships and is it possible to have a successful long-distance relationship?

According to statisticsbrain.com (reported to them in 2005), roughly one-third of college relationships are long-distance relationships and nearly 70% of long-distance relationships fail. That’s a staggering percentage, but there are several ways to having a successful long-distance relationship (which will be called LDR throughout the remainder of the article). However, the following tips will only work if you want them to work.

**1. Ask the important questions up front.**

Most LDRs in college don’t start off as LDRs, they usually become that way as one or both partners go off to college. No matter where you are in your LDR, whether it’s new or whether you’ve been in one for a while, it’s important to ask the important questions. Some of the questions may be but are not limited to: What are your intentions and goals for our relationship? How long do you expect the LDR to last? How often do you expect to be able to communicate/visit?

**2. Work towards a balanced relationship.**

It never hurts to create a set of standards for your LDR that you and your partner can both agree on. Your standards can include anything you two want, but should include things like promising to be trustworthy and faithful, to be honest and not keep secrets, to keep promises, and perhaps even come up with a designated time to communicate.

**3. Communication is key.**

In a LDR, you won’t be able to see each other as often as if you lived down the street from one another or gone to the same school. Even if you are not in a LDR, communication is important in all relationships. As I mentioned above, coming up with a designated time to communicate may be ideal for some couples. Keep in mind, though, there are many different ways to communicate that you can take advantage of. My favorite forms of communication are: Skype, email, instant messaging, texting, and phone calls. Don’t forget, even though it may be a dying art, receiving a love letter from your partner is an amazing feeling as well and can be a nice little memento of your relationship (I still have all of the love letters my fiancé wrote me when we went to high school tucked safely in the pages of one of my diaries).

**4. Be there for your partner.**

There will be rough patches not only in the relationship but in your lives as individuals. One of the most important things to remember is that you have to be there for your partner, although it may be understandable to not literally be there. It’s important to be an emotional crutch for your partner — tell them that everything is going to be okay if they are upset, support them and watch them succeed in something they’ve been striving after — things you would normally do if they were physically with you. It’s also key that you are emotionally open to them as well. Reciprocate the above actions, have empathy toward them. If you are emotionally distant from your partner while you are physically distant, there is a strong chance that the relationship won’t go anywhere.

**5. Talk about your future together.**

This goes in line with the first point I made about asking the important questions in your relationship. There is a certain point in every relationship where you may want to move forward and “go to the next level,” as they say. It’s important to talk about your future together; some points to cover may be discussing how long you plan on being in a LDR, if you are going to meet each other half way (if possible) and get your own apartment, or even just to reminisce about how far you’ve been and to plan out where you (as an individual and as a couple) would like to go. Unfortunately, the answers may not be the ones you would like to hear, but you must talk about them.

**6. Avoid the temptation to be controlling.**

Stuff happens. Try to look at every situation with trust. Maybe when he says he was studying late at the library, he was actually studying late at the library. Maybe if she says she was out with friends, she was actually out with friends. Do not try to control the other person. You are both doing your separate things, are individuals with your own lives, despite being a couple. Distance can take a toll on a couple, but it’s important to keep in mind that you two have your own lives and there will be moments where they forget to call you, their cell phone died, they had a late night study group session, or the person who was supposed to come in to work that day became sick and couldn’t make it in so your partner had to go into work that day. Communicate, apologize for any short comings, and trust your partner. Do not try to tighten your grip on your partner and control them from afar. Trust me, I’ve seen enough made-for-TV Lifetime movies to know that that is never a good thing to do and never works out well. If you feel as though you are in a controlling relationship, talk to your partner about it. Sometimes, you may have to talk to a school psychologist/counselor, or other trusted person to seek guidance about what to do in that situation. If you feel as though you are in an abusive relationship, whether emotionally or physically, seek help and don’t put yourself in a dangerous position.

**7. Visit often.**

You may not be able to see each other once a week or even once a month due to the distance between you and your partner, but visit as often as possible. This tip shouldn’t even have had to be written



down. It is imperative that you visit as often as you can; some things can only be done in person, can only be felt in person. After being apart for a month, an embrace has never felt warmer and so loving. While you visit your partner, try to do stuff together. Pursuing common interests is something that all couples should do. For example, if you both like miniature golf, go play a round together. You can bond as a couple and have some fun.

**8. Avoid jealousy and be trusting.**

Jeff Williams, a 23-year-old who is looking into going to school for law enforcement, said, “I have been in a long-distance relationship for three and a half years. I think my relationship is how it is because we are mature about it. When my fiancée, who was just my girlfriend at the time, was getting ready to go to college and move more than 50 miles away, we discussed that we would give the long-distance thing a try. We had already been dating for over a year, and we knew we loved each other and were in it for the long haul. However, no long-distance relationship is easy, and it’s not for the weak willed. Regular meetings when possible are a bit of a must, and makes things easier. Trust is also really big. Both people are going to be exposed to people of the opposite sex, so to trust is needed; and it’s not just trusting your partner, it’s trusting yourself, and you shouldn’t put yourself in situations where that trust can be broken because it can’t always be gained back, and then you may regret what happened for a long time, perhaps the rest of your life. Personally, I don’t really DO anything. I don’t put myself in any position, and I trust myself to not do anything to jeopardize our relationship, as well as trusting my fiancée.” In all relationships, you have to trust the other person, and you have to trust yourself. We all have impulses, we all look at and interact with other people, but having evolved into the men and women that we are, we should be able to control ourselves and to not do anything to purposefully lose our partner’s trust and the trust we have in ourselves. If something happens, if you are put into a position where you may break that trust and do, just keep in mind that time

does not heal all wounds and you may regret your actions for a really long time. However, there is hope and some things can be fixed and the emotional bonds may even become stronger over time.”

**9. Do something to defy the distance.**

As mentioned throughout this article, a LDR is not easy and can take its toll on a couple. Do something to defy the distance, like give your partner a personal object of yours. My fiancé gave me one of his zip-up hooded sweatshirts that I sleep in when it’s cold outside, and I made him a photo collage of pictures of us throughout the course of our relationship. Having something physical that belongs to your partner, or a few pictures of your partner, can help ease the tension that comes with a LDR.

With the tips I have given, I have one more word of advice to give. Entering into a LDR is overwhelming, scary, exciting, and many other emotions all wrapped up into one, kind of like Pandora’s Box. Being away from your home, your friends, and your lover for the first time may not be an ideal situation, but remember that, just like in Pandora’s Box, there is hope. Things will get better over time. You will meet new friends, enjoy going to a new school with new classes and a whole world at your finger tips. The best part of college is figuring out who you are, and a LDR can make your relationship or break it. However, if you and your partner truly want it to work, if both of you put in the work to make it work, then it will work out and things will get better and easier over time. No situation is permanent; what may be your darkest hour one day may not seem so bad once you see the dawn of a new day. Stay positive and things will be alright.

With February being the month known for giving flowers and chocolate in heart-shaped boxes, I’d like to wish all of you a happy Valentine’s Day regardless of what kind of relationship you are in.



# Success at a 4-year college (cont. from cover)

lege in Manhattan, writes:

“According to the National Center for Educational Statistics (2011), nearly 60% of all undergraduate students have enrolled at more than one college. This trend is growing, having increased 49% from two decades ago. In 2012, almost 40% of LIM College’s entering class was composed of transfer students.

“Students who attend a two-year college with the intention of transferring can do many things to prepare for transfer. As early as their senior year in high school, they can research their second college to see if their interests and expectations align with what the college offers. Students should also research their intended degree requirements at both institutions and contact their intended second school to receive course selection guidance. This eases the transfer process later on.

“Also, students should not assume that if a course title is the same that means it is equivalent at both institutions. They should consult with personnel on both campuses. Our Assistant Director of Transfer Services engages with many seniors in high school who intend on initially studying at their local community college and eventually applying to a four-year program at LIM College. The Assistant Director of Transfer Students guides them as to which courses will be equivalent to ours and to make their eventual transition as smooth as possible. Our transfer student retention rate has been consistently higher than our first-time freshman retention rate, largely because this population is generally more focused and has the goal of graduation closer within their reach.”

John Sullivan, dean of admissions at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Florida, adds:

“Go after an AA degree that’s transferable. The most important thing is to pursue credits you can use.

“Many colleges have a limit to the number of courses that are transferable. For instance, to earn an Eckerd degree, students can bring up to two years’ worth of

## Figure out how you will make friends.

credit, beyond that the courses won’t transfer. But that still speaks to the point: know how your courses will – or won’t – transfer, and plan accordingly.”

Have a long-range plan. “It helps to know where you want to go,” he says. “What classes should you take where? How deep in your major should you go during your first two years?”

Matt Eventoff of Princeton Public Speaking concludes:

“Communicate, communicate, communicate!”

“In preparing for a transfer, one of the most important things a transferring student can do is reach out to other students in his or her program, groups and campus associations that might be of interest, advisors, potential professors (and certainly T.A.’s), and not only for the purpose of finding out what life is like on campus, how classes are, etc.

“The reality is that one challenging thing for most people entering an environment where he or she knows very few peo-

ple is finding friendly faces and just having people to say hi to and talk to. Obviously, campuses know this and set up myriad programs for entering freshman, and usually transferring students, to meet each other. Having identifiable points of contact and friendly faces prior to coming on campus as a student can really make the transition much easier.

To sum:

1. Know in advance which 4-year college you may transfer to and communicate with them regularly.
2. Call or email an adviser at the 4-year college when filling out your registration at the 2-year college to be sure the courses will transfer.
3. Get your core courses, such as those that start with 101, out of the way at your 2-year college.
4. Also try to take some courses that will apply to your major at the 4-year school so that you are not overloaded with

the same types of courses at the next college.

5. Do get your associate’s degree. Your success is never ensured at the next college. Sometimes life gets in the way. At least you will have a 2-year degree to fall back on. For many careers, that is enough.

6. Find out if the 4-year school you are attending has transition programs for 2-year graduates.

7. Make sure you will enter your next college as a full-fledged junior.

8. Ask about transfer scholarships.

9. Figure out how you will make friends at the new college. This not only makes your transition smooth, but also these contacts may be useful down the road, when you are looking for alumni support in landing a new job.

**And the winner is...**

Congrats to Neil Vinberg, a Liberal Arts student at Nassau Community College who won last month’s contest – for a brand new Toshiba Satellite L955 laptop! Neil was one of scores who entered the free contest by liking our Facebook page at [facebook.com/schoolpaper](https://facebook.com/schoolpaper) and sending us an email. A winner was chosen at random. He says that the laptop will help him immensely with his studies as he plans to switch his major to Business and possibly pursue accounting or company manager as a career. Keep reading Community College Campus News – more contest to come!



## So you want to write?



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# Anti-abortion crowd descends on DC on 40th anniversary of Roe v. Wade

Jess Miller  
*Scripps Howard Foundation Wire*

Wind, snow and freezing temperatures did not deter hundreds of thousands of protesters from participating in this year's Right to Life march Friday to demonstrate against the landmark abortion decision, *Roe v. Wade*, which turned 40 this week.

"The issue of abortion has hit epidemic status," said Dan Pannell, a founder of the organization Life United, a coalition of anti-abortion Christian organizations, including the Family Research Council, The Justice Foundation, and the Duggar family, stars of the TV show "19 Kids and Counting."

The Duggars first became involved in the anti-abortion movement after a visit

to the Holocaust Museum, after which they became determined to stop what they saw as the current Holocaust: the 115,000 babies that are aborted each day around the world. Life United aims to educate young women about the options they can take other than abortion and to prevent young women from "entering the death halls of Planned Parenthood," Pannell said.

The site gives also biblical guidance and asks viewers for donations.

Plenty of young people were present at the march, and according to Jeannie Monohan, president of the March for Life Education and Defense Fund, these are hopeful signs for the anti-abortion movement.

"We are winning with young people," she said, citing the former president of the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League decision to step down as evidence that the pro-abortion rights movement is losing traction among youth activists.

According to NARAL's website,

Nancy Keenan, 60, stepped down after eight years as president so the group could choose a younger leader to appeal to young people who were not alive when abortion was illegal. Ilyse Hogue, who previously worked for campaign finance reform, is NARAL's new president.

A poll conducted for NBC News and the Wall Street Journal earlier this month found that 70 percent of adults nationwide want a woman's right to abortion preserved in the first three months of pregnancy.

One way the anti-abortion movement is growing is through youth recruitment, through organizations such as Students for Life of America. Kristan

## The movement is growing through youth recruitment, student activism and social media.

Hawkins, 27, of Manassas, Va., the group's executive director, uses a combination of student activism and social media to lead the charge on anti-abortion initiatives.

"We've saved babies just via Facebook," Hawkins said. "The most powerful thing you can do is tell your story."

Though Catholic Church groups and schools made up a large percentage of the protesters, for some, the protest was not just about abortion.

"It's bigger than just one issue," Adrian Britton, 34, a unemployed D.C. resident, said. "Right to life is not just for ending abortions. It's for living wage, for people who are living on the street and ending capital punishment."

Calling it "the civil rights issue of today," Britton said he believes the American political system often stratifies abortion and makes it harder for anti-abortion activists to deliver concrete results. "We need to recognize that life is God-given and that every one of us is born naked, homeless and



hungry," Britton said.

Activists Monica Kelsey, 39, of Fort Wayne, Ind., and Pam Stenzel, 48, of Minneapolis, members of the national anti-abortion group Save the 1, which seeks to overturn exceptions in the Hyde Amendment, also attended the march.

The Hyde Amendment prohibits the federal government from spending money to pay for abortions. But it also has exceptions for pregnancies caused by rape or incest or the health of the women.

Kelsey and Stenzel, who are full-time anti-abortion advocates, said they were born from rape pregnancies and have dedicated their lives to promoting

national anti-abortion legislation.

"Ms. Weddington's generation got it wrong," said Hawkins, speaking of Sarah Weddington, the lawyer whose argument won the Supreme Court *Roe v. Wade* decision. "Look at the polls. Planned Parenthood will see their lead slipping away."

"Be pro-life without exception," said Ashley Sigrest, 32, of Brandon, Miss., who said she had an abortion 14 years ago. "I have to live with that every day, knowing what I did. Stand up and speak out. Women deserve better than abortion. I deserve better than abortion."

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A group known as "The Pro-Life Avengers"



# February student gift guide (cont. from cover)

that came with it was also quite nice. The flowers lasted about a week. There are arrangements for \$30, as well. You could visit Teleflora.com and see the various options.

At least with **Teleflora**, you get to see the designs. If you call a florist and try to describe what you want, it's probably not going to go well. For a flower novice like me, I need pictures.

Now, guys don't want flowers. Two items on my wish list are the Crossley Tech Turntable (currently on RadioShack.com for \$64) and the General Imaging PJ205 ipico Handheld LED Personal Projector (currently on Amazon.com for \$110).

The **Crossley Tech Turntable** is a retro-looking record player (that also has AM/FM radio). The room I write in is purposely retro – to avoid distractions – and this would be the perfect addition to go along with my Type-O-Graph typewriter, tube TV with built-in VCR and Zenith DOS laptop.

And it seems how we listen to music is evolving. In the MP3, free-download era it was about quantity. Many of us have hard drives with hundreds if not thousands of songs. It's just a smorgasbord. But now many people are taking the time to carefully pick their music – and some even argue that the sound is better on vinyl. It seems romantic, going to thrift stores, and finding old records from the days when you could only play a few songs at a time. It was so much harder and more expensive to produce a record back when; so, on average, the quality of the musicians is better than today because of those hurdles. And maybe now the listening experience is

more about quality, thus Radio Shack has several record players to choose from.

On the other end of the spectrum, the **ipico** is cute and useful. We mentioned it in the December issue, but did not get a test model until now. In my house we have three iPads, an iPhone and an iPod. The ipico worked on two of the iPads (though we had to upgrade to iOS 5) and the iPod right away. I'd probably have to tinker with the other devices to get it to work on them. But it is an easy to use projector, allowing you to show photos and videos from your device on a wall. Now, sound is an issue, so you may need to pick up a small speaker, but this device would be great for presentations before a small group or in a class. The picture quality is sharp for the price.

The **Chapstick** folks sent us more samples (I assume they don't want them back), and the new Cookie Dough flavor was a hit with a Campus News staffer (my teen kid). She wasn't as fond of the Red Velvet Cake flavor. Of course, if you JUST give your significant other Chapstick as a gift for Valentine's Day, it may end up being your last together. But a fun contest could be to guess the flavor your mate is wearing.

Speaking of cookies, consider a **Cookie Pie** for that special someone. This lady named Barbara (no last name given) makes delicious "cookie pies" in her kitchen somewhere in the middle of New Jersey, but can ship them anywhere for a little over \$20. The size is good. You probably could get about five servings out of this. The taste was very good, too, and there are plenty of flavors to choose from. We went simple with the chocolate chip cookie pie. These cookie pies come complete with a wish bow, which are bows attached that the sender can individually make a wish for the receiver. It's a tasty and sentimental gift at the same time. Find these on

barbarascookiepies.com.

A company called **Therapeutic International** gave us a good idea – a two-person electric blanket with "his" and "her" (or "his" and "his"/"her" and "her") controls on each side. Geez, these type of blankets have improved a lot since when I was a kid. There are 10 settings and auto-off and pre-set features. I remember walking up in the middle of the night in a sweat after using an old-school electric blanket. This is modern. They start at about \$100 at Bed, Bath & Beyond and come in white, honey or chocolate colors. If your love is a cold fish, just turn up the heat on him or her! The only question is, who will get the blanket if you break up?!

Speaking of retro, I was impressed with the Native Union **POP Phone**. It's an old-fashioned looking phone, complete with curly cord, that plugs into your smart phone. The sound quality was excellent and the device had a good feel. It only took a few seconds to activate it, and it's a good idea for people who talk on cell phones a lot. This device, the makers say, reduces the amount of radiation you will receive from a phone call by 96-99 percent.

You just plug this into your cell phone's ear phone jack, activate Bluetooth, dial a number and just chat old school – like young lovers did in the days before Internet. Maybe you can elimi-



The Together Forever arrangement via Teleflora.com



Taylor Swift's Thunderstruck Enchanted

nate your landline, if you haven't already. These are \$30-50 on NativeUnion.com.

I found that doing the December guide that if you go the perfume route, adding a celebrity name to the bottle is an insurance policy as to the quality of the product (whether or not you think the celeb in question is an idiot). As with the lip glosses, I use my daughter for the

continued on page 17



Cookie pies shipped via barbarascookiepies.com



Crossley Tech Turntable via Radio Shack



The POP Phone



Masque oral strips



Britney Spears Twist Split perfume



Therapeutic International heated blanket



# Guns, violence and college campuses

**David L. Podos**  
*Mohawk Valley CC*

It is late in the morning on a fall day. My head is thumping from almost three solid hours of student advising, and I need a break. A cup of Joe sounds good to me, so I take off and head across campus to the café for some coffee. A group of students are mingling outside the Academic Building and a noticeable billow of white smoke slowly rises over them as they drag on their cigarettes. As I pass the students, I just catch a sliver of a conversation which goes something like this: “Yah, that a-hole professor gave me an F. I’m so pissed, I feel like smashing him in the face.”

It should be no surprise to anyone who is a student on a college campus today that campus violence across America is on the increase. Just tune to any cable news channel, and there is yet another story of a violent act on our campuses. From the perspective of a staff employee as well as a faculty member, this is quite unnerving. Back in the 1970s, when I was on a college campus, there was a degree of protest going on for any number of social issues of the time but, for all practical purposes, it was relatively tranquil. What has happened? That is the \$500 question, and I do not pretend to know the an-

swer. In fact, I wonder if anybody really has the defini-

tive answer. Perhaps some of the violence can be attributed to the breakdown of the American family (high divorce rates?). Maybe the ongoing economic struggles that so many families are facing today has increased violent behavior. There certainly is enough statistics that clearly show a correlation of high crime rates with high end poverty rates. I’ll leave these questions to the sociology, criminology, and psychology professionals who are more erudite to tackle these very difficult problems to come up with better answers and possible solutions than I could. But, here is the sad truth; whatever is causing this growing wave of violence across our schools, community colleges and universities does not seem to be going away anytime soon.

This element of unrest has migrated into the whole gun debate, which is one of the hottest political topics for discussion today. At the time of this writing, my college is in negotiations on whether to arm our college peace officers. Many colleges throughout the country have already armed their security personnel, and several local colleges within the Utica, New York, demographic area have had armed security for some time now. As you would expect, there is much debate and passion on this topic. In fact, there are a number of politicians who are considering legislation that would allow teachers to carry a concealed gun into a school. Both Governor Rick Perry of Texas and Governor Bob Mc

Donnell of Virginia, for example, are suggesting such laws, while Governor Jay Nixon of Missouri is against it. The debate will go on.

I myself have a permit to carry a concealed weapon, and I do support our second amendment, which is the right to bear arms. And while I am a trained shooter, if the laws of New York State allowed me to carry my weapon onto a campus, I must say that I do not feel at all comfortable with that scenario and most likely would not do it. I struggle with a good dose of cognitive dissonance when I think of such things. On the one hand, I intellectually understand the logic of a politician, or anyone for that matter, who feels that an armed faculty member could possibly prevent a shooter from taking lives by “taking them out first.” On the surface, one might think that teachers could save any any number of lives if he or she had a weapon, but let’s examine this a bit closer, and I’ll use myself as an example. Several years ago, I was involved in a situation where a residence I was in was broken into in the middle of the night. Having my gun nearby and fearing the possibility of harm not only to me but to the other residents, I quickly armed myself. The intruder had assumedly broke into the back of the residence, and I swore that I heard footsteps com-

ing up the back stairs. After calling out that I had a weapon and would use it, and with no response, I fired in the direction of where I heard the noise. To this day, I have no idea if that bullet hit anyone. If an intruder was in that back hallway, they probably had the shock of their life when that gun went off (at least that is what the police said to me after they made a thorough search of the property). While I am sure the intruder would have been beside himself, well, so was I. It took me hours to calm down after realizing what had happened. I asked myself over and over again if I was too zealous in firing off a shot into a dark hallway? Should I have waited for the police to arrive (which only took a manner of minutes)? What if I had killed someone? Days later I was talking to my cousin who is a marksman in pistol and rifle shooting, a professional gun trainer, and someone who has taught me all I know about gun safety and shooting. I told him I was thinking about selling my guns. The incident just shook me up too much. He talked me out of this, and I have to say that now I’m glad he did. But, I hope I never have to fire my weapon again unless it is on a pistol range, which brings me back to the question: Should faculty members really be allowed to carry firearms on campus if New York State passes a law allowing them to?

If such a law were passed, a number of faulty would probably indeed arm themselves, and that would obvi-



ously be their prerogative. However, I still am feeling that cognitive dissonance, and I, for one, do not think I would come to work armed. Campus security and, more specifically, campus peace officers are well trained in handling a firearm. Many of them are retired police officers who have years of training on the use of a firearm and, even more important in my opinion, have experience dealing with violent situations. So, if my campus administration decides to arm our campus security, so be it. I will breathe a lot easier knowing that there are highly trained personnel nearby who if need be could step into a situation of potential violence with skill and experience. I am not convinced that just because a faculty member has a permit to carry a firearm gives them the ability to act responsibly and successfully in a situation that would call for a weapon to be drawn and a possibility to shoot another human being.

There are other non-lethal instruments that could be utilized by faculty and staff in a violent situation such as Tasers and or mace guns. Each state sets laws for the carrying of these self-defense weapons and most people could be trained fairly easily. But on a campus setting, do we really want faculty and staff armed with any potential weapon? What would stop a student from carrying a mace gun for instance onto campus if it were legal? Do we really want everyone on campus walking around with a potential weapon? We can apply this thinking to lethal hand-

guns as well. What would stop a student who legally could be licensed to carry a hand gun onto a college campus providing the state has passed laws allowing such a situation. Where is the line drawn? Some people believe that if everybody is armed, it would greatly reduce the potential of anyone shooting another person; others feel quite the opposite, which is that the potential for violence could actually increase.

No one wants to think that their life could be in danger just by going to school. Sad as it is, many students have become victims of horrific acts of violence doing just that, going to school. For now, though, let us depend on our trained security personnel whose job is to protect us. Let us hope that as a society can figure out how to decrease the violence that has plagued our country for far too long. I will continue to support the right for citizens to bear arms and support our constitutions second amendment. I will still carry my firearm into the public when I feel I need to, and I will continue to go to the gun range and shoot, and I will continue to pray that is the only place my gun will ever be fired.

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



# Debt ceiling raised; called ‘temporary solution’

**Ian Kullgren**  
*Scripps Howard Foundation Wire*

The House quickly passed a bill in January that would avoid a paralyzing default on federal debt, seeking to defer the partisan debt ceiling debate until after a budget is passed in the spring.

The bill passed on a 285-144 vote. It would eliminate the debt ceiling entirely until May 19. Until that date, the Treasury Department would be able to continue borrowing money to pay existing bills. The ceiling would automatically be raised to cover expenses during that period while Congress attempts to hammer out a permanent solution.

Although the compromise only temporarily dissolves the debt debate, it avoids the possibility of a near-term debt default. The federal government is predicted to surpass the current \$16.4 trillion debt ceiling

sometime in February or March.

Also rolled into the bill is a controversial condition that would require the House and Senate to pass a budget plan by April 15 or face having members’ pay temporarily withheld. Their wages would be placed in a separate account and returned to them when they pass a budget or when the 113th Congress ends.

“We know for certain that another debt crisis is coming in America,” House Budget Committee chairman Paul Ryan, D-Wis., said on the House floor. “This bill simply says ‘Congress, do your job.’”

Eighty-six Democrats in the House voted for the bill.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said the Senate would follow suit with the Republican plan once the House passed it.

But House Democrats were much more divided, favoring a one-time debt

ceiling raise over a temporary solution and showing distaste with the so-called No Budget, No Pay measure. One-hundred eleven Democrats voted against the bill, including Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and 33 Republican defectors.

In a series of fiery exchanges on the House floor, Democrats accused Republicans of manipulating the legislative process. Their complaints were also pointed at a Rules Committee amendment adopted Tuesday that stopped House members from offering amendments.

“This is not a solution – this is total political gamesmanship,” Rep. Louise Slaughter, D-N.Y., said.

In a stark contrast to House Democrats, Reid proclaimed the bill as “clearly a victory for the president” in a press conference. The White House gave the bill a reluctant green light a day earlier, issuing a statement saying President Barack Obama

would go along with the Republican plan.

During the daily press briefing that day, White House Press Secretary Jay Carney assured reporters that Obama “will not stand in the way of this bill becoming law,” although he would prefer a solution that includes raising the ceiling long term.

While experts say prolonging a permanent debt solution could cause uneasiness in world markets, most agree even a temporary solution is better than the threat of a default. Such a threat would be less likely if the House bill, which attempts to pass a budget before Congress takes up a long-term debt discussion, becomes law.

“You’ve agreed to the certain level of spending – it is illogical to refuse to pay the bills you’ve already authorized,” Jeffery Frankel, a Harvard professor who specializes in government spending, said.

## Happy 3rd birthday, Campus News!

**Darren Johnson**  
*Campus News*

We made it – made it to that magic point in a business where the future looks bright. The three-year mark. Only a third of businesses make it this far, according to a quick Google search. The first issue of Campus News hit 10 community college campuses starting February 1, 2010. Since then, we have grown to 20 campuses, half in the New York Metro Area and half in New England. We have a consistent pool of advertisers. The idea for this paper, the only

one of its kind in the country, came to me when I was advising a single community college paper. I was doing most of the work on getting it out, anyway, and was very horribly paid with no hopes for a raise beyond the typical austerity increases. I had saved the paper from extinction by hustling ads and nudging writers for copy. Why not use the model to go large? Ten campuses? I maxed out the credit cards, bought an old minivan (which ended up dying), worked with a former student on design templates, found student writers on the Internet, found a printer, had boxes and boxes of papers shipped to my door, filled up the van with the papers until the muffler practically touched the ground, printed out Yahoo Maps to get to each campus (this

was before I knew about GPSes and now, even better, Google Maps via a smart phone), got lost plenty of times, and gained acceptance at each campus. At first I sold the ads myself, and then I hired an ad firm, who ended up doing more harm than good in year two. In year three, I started organizing the ads again, and it looks like growth is imminent. Even though I am a writer by training, and an academic by trade, I guess I can sell ads. Who knew? The key is truly believing in the product.

What’s on my wish list for this paper? You can see we run a good number of stories written by the interns at Scripps Howard. They are college students based in Washington for a semester. I consider the stories important to the paper in a Weekly Reader kind of way for college students. You get the key stories from the past month – the debt ceiling, women on the front lines of the military, abortion protests – to remain aware of current events. You probably aren’t reading these stories otherwise. When I poll my own students, they

usually don’t know much about real current events (as opposed to “news” that includes a Kardashian or some other disposable personality). They say they read news on the web, but I doubt they are clicking on legitimate current events stories. But a print newspaper makes it easy to keep up with the times. And knowing current events can make you a better conversationalist (and citizen of the world). I’d like to create a news wire service run by students similar to that, but in New York or Boston. (If you run a college journalism program and would like to host this endeavor, just send me an email.)

Perhaps this is too grand an idea in this era of media shrinkage, but eventually it would be great to see this newspaper grow to more and more campuses. Maybe it can be the USA Today of colleges – you know, you get a USA Today in practically every hotel in America. We’d be just as ubiquitous to the college crowd. This could save print journalism, getting students used to the newspaper format, a habit they may continue after graduation.

### Get updates!



Our Facebook page is accessed via [facebook.com/schoolpaper](https://facebook.com/schoolpaper).

## RCC Library helps promote understanding of Islam

The Rockland Community College Library in Suffern will help foster understanding of Islamic beliefs and culture, thanks to a recent shipment of books, films, and access to online resources, provided by the Muslim Journeys Bookshelf Award.

The Muslim Journeys Bookshelf was created

by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Library Association (ALA), to address the need for trustworthy and accessible resources about Muslim beliefs and practices and the cultural heritage of Islamic civilizations.

RCC received 25 books, three films and a subscription to Oxford Islamic Studies Online.

Books include Acts of Faith, by Eboo Patel and The Columbia Sourcebook of Muslims in the United States, edited by Edward E. Curtis. The “American Stories” category of books, for example, reminds Americans that while the large presence of Muslims in the US dates to the 1960s, Muslims have been a part of America’s history since colonial times.

Sarah Levy, Interim Library Director, said, “Our work has just begun as we create programs to promote community discussion and build bridges between diverse cultures and faiths. We will be

partnering with the Islamic Center of Rockland and other local institutions.”

Azeem Farooki, board member and trustee of the Islamic Center of Rockland, said, “In these turbulent times, we need resources to build lasting religious, political, economic and social systems. RCC is the right venue to promote interfaith activities in our culturally and religiously diverse county.”

For the list of available books, visit: [www.neh.gov/files/press-release/muslim\\_journeys\\_booklet.pdf](http://www.neh.gov/files/press-release/muslim_journeys_booklet.pdf). For more information, contact Sarah Levy, Interim Library Director, at [slevy@sunyrockland.edu](mailto:slevy@sunyrockland.edu) or 845-574-4472.

**Photo caption:** Azeem Farooki, board member and trustee of the Islamic Center of Rockland and Sarah Levy, RCC Interim Library Director, with books for the Muslim Journeys Bookshelf. Photo by Collette Fournier.





# Dave Matthews is the most famous person you probably do not know

**Laura LaVacca**  
*Campus News*

Coming out in the early 1990s with their “Remember Two Things” album, over 20 years later, the Dave Matthews Band has released their eighth studio album “Away From the World” and recently played a two-night gig at the new Barclays Center in Brooklyn.

The band is made up of the eclectic sounds of a classically trained violinist, a bass guitarist, a jazz saxophonist, a drummer and Matthews’ mellow, but at times rock, voice. The group of four came together in 1991, as a small band with profound lyrics and a unique sound. Quickly, their combination of jazz and rock gained great popularity. Their most notable records include “Satellite,” “Ants Marching” and

tuned artists and shows that have pyro and fireworks...this is honest music,” fan Colleen Cald notes. Cald picks up on what seems to be the appeal of this band, a concept all too rare, real music.

Bellmore resident Joe Giorgio piggybacks, “Their live shows are intense and their songs are unique. They don’t lip-sync, they don’t dance,” he continues. “This is my 28th show.”

Other concert goers have impressive numbers as well, “This is my 42nd concert,” Long Island native, Michael Bevilacq states, “And that’s nothing. Check the message boards...people have gone to hundreds of shows. “

Why 42?  
“They put on almost three hour shows, each show is different — you never know what the set list will be,”

## The set lists seem to be a game between the band and fans.

“Crash.” Beyond these mega-hits, the band is scarcely played over the airwaves and reserved for more niche radio stations that satellite radio only offers. The band does little promotion except for touring. Yet, practically 30 albums, compilations and live recordings later, they have a loyal following that can only be described as cult-like.

“Their music literally takes you to another place...you forget all your problems and just enjoy the show for hours,” superfan Beth Smith explains.

The show, literally, is hours. It’s pure music, jamming and instruments. There’s hardly any glitz or glam and absolutely no choreographed dance numbers.

And, they certainly don’t hold back in concert. Average songs are at least 10 minutes long with one of the longest being “Two Step” clocking in at over 27 minutes.

“They are refreshing among auto-

Bevilacq states.

This winter tour promotes their latest album, a return to using producer Steve Lillywhite, who produced their earlier, largely successful albums of the late 1990s.

The highlight of the Barclays Concert, played on the infamous apocalypse date of December 21, was band opener, “When the World Ends.” Fans cheered as Dave sang along with a knowing smirk. They continued with a 21 song set list, a combination of songs old and new.

The set lists seem to be almost a game to both the band and fans. There are apps for smart phones that superfans can download to receive updates about song set lists, receive notifications of what the band is currently playing and even offers a space to log in all concerts attended. Rare songs seem to be coveted and fans can receive a graphed version of how many times



# College students: Wake up your wardrobe

Amanda McElroy  
*Campus News*

While the end of winter means that Spring break and summer vacation are that much closer, it also means it’s time to chuck your Uggs and the Northface back into safe keeping until next year. During the winter and fall our bright colors and form flattering pieces tend to hibernate – and while on break from a strenuous semester how many times did you really have the ambition to wake up before noon and look your best?

The first step to waking up your wardrobe is to integrate color by pairing primary colors with typical naturals. Think a loose, silk, salmon or sea green colored blouse with a pair of fitted, black, ankle length cigarette pants. Also, don’t be afraid to mix materials like leather and denim to create a multidimensional look. Try pairing leather ankle boots with a printed high waist short, basic tank and cropped denim jacket for a casual, yet stylish look.

Thankfully, stocking your closet has become a whole lot easier with the help of Target, always the hot spot for the college student on a less than glamorous budget. Neiman Marcus for

Target, highlights designs from style icons like Marc Jacobs, Proenza Schouler, Diane von Furstenberg, and Jason Wu; so you can look like you stepped right off the runway, without the four figure price tag.

And while you’re shopping for the perfect laid-back look, don’t forget to arm yourself for those ever stressful interviews you’re bound to face this time of year. There’s no time like the present to begin your search for a summer internship to catapult your career—or at least improve your resume.

First, make sure your suit (yes, suit, ladies) is appropriate for the type of position you are applying for. A sleek blazer with slacks or pencil skirt are the go-to staples that never seem to fail. Here, while neutrals are a must, they can be paired with a subtle touch of color. A deep violet camisole under a black, fitted blazer is a great way to show just enough individuality. As always, a matching black pencil skirt (one that lays no shorter than the width of three of your fingers above the knee), or tailored slacks completes 90% of your look. The other 10? Your shoes! If you’re opting for heels, make sure they are closed toe with a heel no higher than 5inches. Kitten heels or

flats are also appropriate, just make sure they are also closed toe and solid in color. Again, neutrals are always your safest bet.

Next, accessories are a great way to add just enough detail to your appearance, if they aren’t too bold and “blingy.” Stick with basic studs, a gold or silver watch, a subtle necklace, and no more than one wedding style ring.

Finally, your functional and oh so sleek handbag will be the perfect touch to your put together look. Remember, you’re not a billboard, so little to no pattern or logos are always a good rule to abide by—and you guessed it, neutral (preferably the same color as your suit) is the way to go.

Simply put, keep it conventional. You’re personality and resume will

speak (and shine) for themselves.



Photo by Michael Jung

# Obama proposes \$500M gun reform package

Ian Kullgren  
*Scripps Howard Foundation Wire*

President Barack Obama unveiled an expansive gun reform package in January, calling on the public to ensure Congress quickly follows through on what he called “common sense” legislation aimed at curbing violence.

In a public announcement held next door to the White House in the Eisenhower Executive Office building, Obama signed 23 executive orders, the most notable of which will strengthen the existing background check system by requiring additional information for databases.

Federal agencies now will be required to review their records to add information for background checks under the order.

The plan has a price tag of roughly \$500 million. A progress report is scheduled for October.

Obama warned such measures were not nearly enough to lessen “the epidemic of gun violence in this country.” He urged members of Congress to take immediate action to ban military-style assault weapons, like the one used in last month’s massacre in Newtown, Conn., and ammunition clips containing more than 10 rounds, which were used in Newtown and in last summer’s movie theater massacre in Aurora, Colo.

Congress enacted a similar ban in 1994, but it was not renewed when it expired 10 years later.

Perhaps the most sweeping part of Obama’s plan would seek to regulate

private gun sales by requiring universal background checks, meaning buyers in gun shows and other non-dealer settings would also be subject to screening. Supporters say such a measure would prevent existing military-style assault weapons from falling into the wrong hands, even if their manufacture is outlawed.

The announcement came just over a month after the Sandy Hook massacre left 20 children dead. Obama was joined onstage by a group of elementary school students from around the country who had written him letters asking for changes in gun laws.

“This is our first task as a society – keeping our children safe,” Obama said, pledging “to use whatever weight this office holds to make it a reality.”

But he made clear he would leave it up to Congress to draft the bills. House Speaker John Boehner’s staff could not be reached for comment But his spokesman told The Washington Post the appropriate House committee would review the recommendations.

If Congress adopts the president’s plan, the gun reform bills would be some of the broadest legislation in Obama’s presidency, and arguably his biggest undertaking since the Democrats lost control of the House in 2010.

Last month, he used the public spotlight to challenge the National Rifle Association and members of



Congress from staunchly conservative districts. He acknowledged the battle to pass the plan will be a difficult one, and he said it cannot be accomplished without collective support from Congress and the public.

Obama asserted anti-gun control policies echoed by the NRA and other conservative factions do not reflect the views of most American gun owners.

The NRA was quick to blast the plan, discrediting it as an unrealistic solution to gun violence. In a statement, the association pledged to keep working to secure schools, improve the mental health system and support the prosecution of violent criminals.

“Attacking firearms and ignoring children is not a solution to the crisis we face as a nation,” the statement

said. “Only honest, law-abiding gun owners will be affected and our children will remain vulnerable to the inevitability of more tragedy.”

Vice President Joe Biden, who met with more than 200 groups during the last several weeks to help develop the proposal, also spoke to the audience, which included a victim of the 2007 Virginia Tech shooting and Newtown First Selectman Pat Llodra. “The world has changed, and it is demanding action,” Biden said.



# Agreement allows women on the front lines

**Ian Kullgren**  
*Scripps Howard Foundation Wire*

The nation’s top military officials repealed the barrier in January that prevented women from serving in combat positions, promising to cultivate an inclusive environment while maintaining the strength of military operations.

Addressing the media before signing the memo, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta and Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the measure was long overdue and assured the country it would strengthen the cohesion of military units.

Although neither offered many details about how the process will be carried out, they were not shy in detailing the difficulty of the task ahead. Perhaps the biggest hurdle, they said, will be designing a system of physical fitness standards that does not discriminate against women – consciously or unconsciously.

Such an issue is sure to be prevalent in high-intensity jobs like special operations forces and Navy SEALs. Panetta and Dempsey would not definitively answer how policy changes would include women in those areas.

“I think we all believe there are women who will meet those standards,” Dempsey said. But the challenge, he said, will be to make sure enough women make the cut during the several years for

self-sustaining gender inclusion to take root.

The two men cautiously – and at times vaguely – discussed the balancing act of implementing the policy: inclusion on one hand, and maintaining superior physical requirements on the other.

“Let me be clear: I’m not talking about the quality of the job,” Panetta said of readjusting qualifications for fairness.

“But if they meet the qualifications, there’s no reason why they shouldn’t have a chance,” he said later at the news conference.

About 237,000 additional positions will be available for women once the order fully goes into effect, according to Department of Defense estimates.

The order likely will be the last major act for Panetta, who is leaving the administration. He also oversaw the inclusion of openly gay soldiers less than a year and a half ago when Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell was repealed.



Defense Secretary Leon Panetta and Staff General Martin Dempsey

The military services are required to submit detailed plans by May 15, but the entire process isn’t scheduled to be complete for almost two years.

In reality, women already have been serving in dangerous combat zones in Iraq and Afghanistan post 9/11 – roughly 280,000 according to the Department of Defense. But officially, their job descriptions have listed them as support roles, even positions that require using weapons and possibly being in the line of fire.

“This is a proud day for our country,” Senate Committee on Armed Services member Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., said in a statement. “We need to recognize the brave women who are already fighting and dying shoulder-to-shoulder with their brothers in uniform on the front lines.”

President Barack Obama

said he called Panetta earlier in the day to give his support for the policy and said in a statement that women have become “indispensable” in the military.

“Many have made the ultimate sacrifice, including more than 150 women who have given their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan – patriots whose sacrifices show that valor knows no gender,” the statement said.

Women could be required to register for the draft in the near future, although it is too early to tell if that policy will change. A 1981 Supreme Court ruling reaffirmed that only men are eligible the draft, citing Congress’ decision to allow only men to serve in combat positions.

“I don’t know who the hell controls Selective Service, if you want to know the truth,” Panetta said. “Whoever does, they’re going to have to exercise some judgment based on what we just did.”

## Gift guide (cont. from p. 12)

guinea pig on these. She really appreciated **Britney Spears Fantasy Twist** and **Taylor Swift’s Wonderstruck Enchanted**.

Like the Nikki Minaj perfume we sampled in December, with the bottle shaped like the “American Idol” judge, the Fantasy Twist comes with unique packaging, with two different scents in a ball that twists open. I’d compare the ball to the Yin-Yang, but I doubt Spears herself would get that reference. Such perfumes are usually in the \$50-70 range.

Now, in case you are curious, here’s how writing a column like this works. I am a reporter, so put out a call for gift ideas via a web site. Hundreds of corporate PR people respond. I then reply to the dozen or so who might make the cut. They then send samples and product information, but I judge

for myself.

One item that had no chance of making my list was something called **Masque Sexual Flavors**. These are oral strips women (or gay men) are encouraged to use before giving, uh, well, you know. According to the company, these are supposed to “block the salts, proteins and bitter tastes sometimes associated with ...” I wrote back to their PR person, “This is the tackiest Valentine’s Day gift idea ever.” He didn’t disagree, but sent a box anyway. They normally run \$10 a pack. I guess if “salts and proteins” are an issue for you, you can visit my garbage can for a sample packet.

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# After over three decades, it may be time to bid Voyager good-bye

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

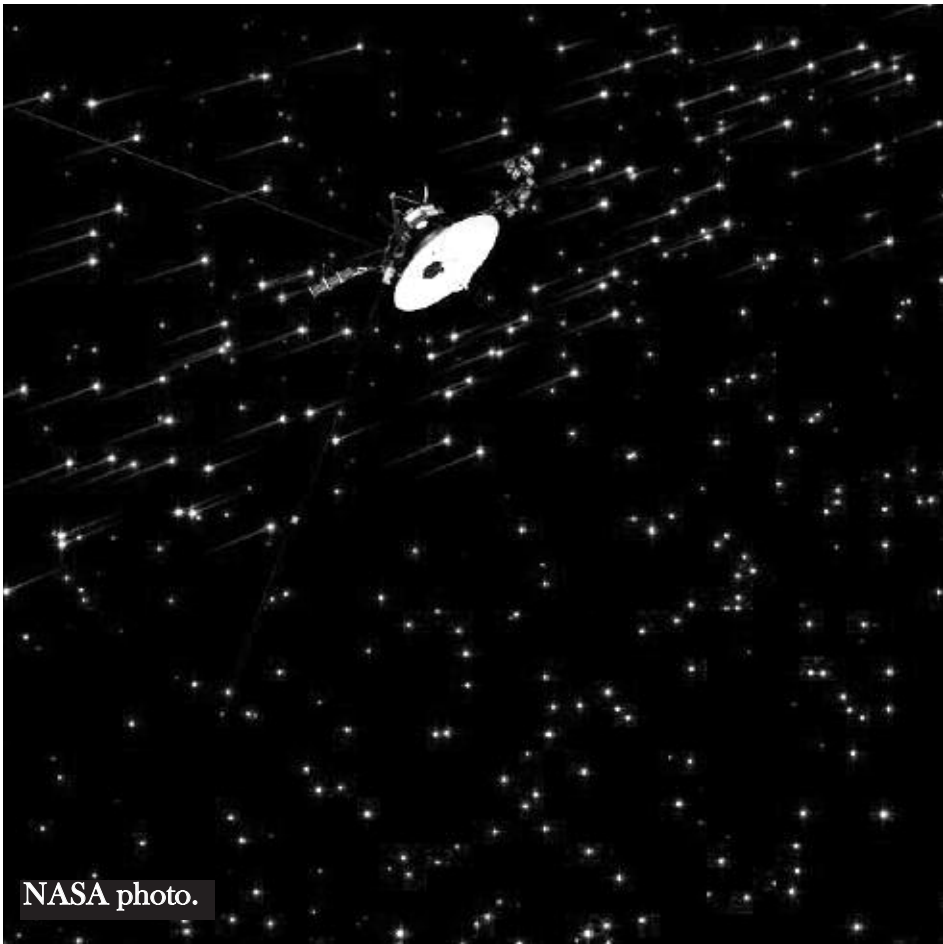
Deep in space, time is running out for NASA’s Voyager spacecraft. NASA scientists said recently in a conference call that Voyager 1 and Voyager 2 may soon travel beyond the sun’s magnetic field, a frontier where no manmade object has travelled. When power runs out after 2025, NASA will no longer be able to communicate with the spacecraft. Arik Posner, Voyager program scientist at NASA’s headquarters, called the Voyagers “the Rolling Stones of spacecraft.” The Voyagers are the longest-serving

expanding atmosphere - where the solar wind slows down after changing direction. Stone described the effect as water draining down a kitchen sink. “When the water hits the bottom of the sink, you may notice that in fact a thick ring of water forms,” Stone said. “Inside the thick ring, the water is very fast and thin and radial, and then it suddenly, abruptly slows down, piles up in a thick ring, and that’s when the water turns and goes down the drain. That thick ring is the analogy of the heliosheath in the heliosphere.” Voyager 1 is further ahead than Voyager 2, at the edge of the heliosheath. Once the spacecraft has passed through the he-

‘We won’t have enough power to run the spacecraft, so we will have to turn them off.’

spacecraft in the world, and have held public interest since they were launched in 1977. Ed Stone, Voyager project scientist at the California Institute of Technology, said Voyagers 1 and 2 have reached the outer limits of the sun’s powerful winds - a place called the heliosheath - in an interview after the conference call. The heliosheath is part of the heliosphere – a huge bubble created by the sun’s

liosheath, it will enter interstellar space — the region beyond the sun’s winds. Scientists have identified two signs that Voyager 1 has passed into interstellar space, but they overlooked a third sign – the sun’s magnetic fields. “[In the heliosphere], the magnetic field comes from the sun,” Stone said. “And because the sun is rotating, the field creates a giant spiral around the sun.”



This spiral moves from east to west. If the Voyagers moved outside the heliosheath, Stone said NASA would expect the magnetic field to have a different direction — north to south, influenced by supernovas instead of the sun. Stone said they’ve discovered a highway of magnetic fields, but it’s traveling in the same direction as the field inside the heliosphere. “It turns out the magnetic field direction in this new region – this highway region – is exactly the same as it has been,” Stone said. “That tells us that we have not left the heliosphere. We’re still seeing the solar magnetic field.” The highway allows particles from inside the heliosphere to zoom off into inter-

stellar space, and vice versa. Stone said this shows that the Voyagers are close to reaching interstellar space. While the Voyagers are on the cusp of reaching their goal, they won’t have long until the whole project comes to an end. “By the time we get to 2020, we won’t have enough power to run the spacecraft and all the instruments, so we’ll have to turn one of them off,” Stone said. By 2025, all instruments will have to be turned off to keep powering the spacecraft. Without power, Voyagers 1 and 2 will float away into space. They carry are two golden phonograph records, meant to encapsulate human culture, should they encounter intelligent life.

## Obama praises Miami Heat for last year’s title run

**Eddie Ameh**  
*Scripps Howard Foundation Wire*

President Barack Obama honored the Miami Heat basketball team on in January at the White House, praising their resilience and calling their 2012 title “well-deserved.” Obama said the team traveled a long road to success. In 2011, the team made it to the NBA finals, only to come up short against the Dallas Mavericks in Game 6 of the series “But when you fall, the real test is whether you can ignore the naysayers, pick yourself up, and come back stronger,” Obama said. “And that’s true in basketball, but it’s also true in life. That’s exactly what these guys did.” The Miami Heat put the 2011 defeat behind them, beating Oklahoma City Thunder to become champions in 2012. The team included the “big three” — LeBron James, Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh. Obama said it wasn’t just the big three responsible for the Heat’s success, citing team effort. “So that team mentality with everybody doing their part is what finally put the Heat over the top,” he said. Obama praised members of the team for maintaining fatherly roles. “And one of the things I’m proudest of is that they take their roles as fathers seriously,” Obama said. “And for all the young out there who are looking up to them all the time, for them to see somebody who cares about their kids, and is there for them day in and day out, that’s a good message to

send.” Erik Spoelstra, head coach of the Miami Heat, said the team is happy, humbled and honored to be at the White House. “We actually hope that this team serves as an inspiration to the nation of what a group can do

when you come together and sacrifice your egos for a greater goal,” he said. James presented a basketball autographed by members of the team to the president, while Wade gave him a No. 44 Miami Heat jersey.





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30 Minors.  
20 Miles from NYC.  
40,000 Alumni  
Connections.

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