

THE COMMUNICATOR

March 11, 2013 The Student Newspaper of Bronx Community College Issue 2 – Spring 2013

Four BCC Filmmakers Are Finalists In the 2013 US Super 8 Film + Digital Video Festival

By Sebastian Rothwyn

For Bronx Community College Media Technology and Media Studies students, the Academy Awards and the Cannes Film Festival are always a dream. But four weeks before the Oscars, Bronx Community College was able to shine at the 25th annual United States Super 8mm Film + Digital Video Festival. This is the first time at the festival that films by four finalists from the same college were screened.

Three Media Technology students – Ian Findlay, Mark Jeremiah and Natalie Setoute – and one Media Studies student, Ricardo Faria, were selected as finalists. The nineteen finalists' works were selected from over 166 entries submitted by film and video-makers from around the world. The four five-minute films were produced in Prof. Jeffrey Wisotsky's CMS 62 Beginning Film & Video Production class and were premiered at the 19th Annual BCC Film and Video Festival held at Clearview Cinema in June 2012. Members of the Media Technology and Film Society club were in the audience on Feb. 17th when the films were screened at Rutgers University.

Now in its 25th year, the United States Super 8mm Film + Digital Video Festival is the largest and longest running juried Super 8mm film and digital video



Petits Details

festival in North America. The festival encourages any genre (including animation, documentary, personal, narrative, and experimental) made on Super 8mm/8mm film, Hi 8mm/8mm, or digital video.

I spoke with the filmmakers in the BCC television studio when they received their nominations. For Ricardo Faria, there was a moment after the screening of *Natal* when every member of the audience sat still and quiet with mouths open and the beauty and magic of a genuinely beautiful and magical story took hold. *Natal* is the story of a young boy who lives with his single mother and despite the love and care she provides, he feels a loneliness and desire for a father figure as he begins to grow into a young man. He meets someone who turns his life around, filling the void that was slowly growing in his troubled heart. The process of making the film echoed the theme when one considers that the film was created with a very small crew made up of family members alone. Faria maintained that he did not need many people in the creation process and only the essential elements were necessary. This happenstance lends itself to the subtlety of the beauty of the film. All it took was the few who genuinely desired



Natal

to help make something pure. Faria says that he will be forever grateful for their time and generosity, and that he will always make sure that they are fed. "Film, to me, is the most beautiful form of art and it is a true passion of mine. Creating stories and extending and challenging our imagination are the most fascinating things I can do. It's Magical!" Faria hopes to direct major motion pictures in the future and continue to improve his cinematography talent.

While casting for a totally different movie, an irresistible feeling took hold of young BCC director, Ian Findlay. After the passion to create a film burned inside him, this late arrival gave him pause because at that time something major happened in his life and he wrestled with being able to complete anything at all. Just before he almost cancelled everything, he took a long walk in Times Square, where the energy of the city could fill him up and reignite his desires. The following morning, at ten o'clock, was the first day of shooting for his award winning film *I2+2*. Findlay, a published author, majored in Media Technology and Filmmaking. *I2+2* won the Peter J. Rondinone Memorial Screenwriting Award, the \$2,500 Marie Nesbitt Promise Prize, Avid Editing Award, and the Eastman Kodak Third Place Filmmaking Award at the BCC 19th Annual Film and Video Festival. He has been quoted as saying this was a very proud and inspiring moment. The movie is about a twelve-year-old girl who has a two-year-old son. Her struggle is intense; her hardship is at times unbearable. However, her desire to succeed and overcome her obstacles is undeniable. The movie encompasses elements of taboo and controversy, and yet is inspirational. Findlay's filmmaking partner, Victor Burgos; Jacene Thomas and her daughter Keora (his twelve-year-old star); and his other half, Bernavela Valera, really assisted him in making it all possible.

BCC filmmaker Mark Jeremiah's favorite quote is from Barack Obama: "Success is found in the crucible of effort over time." When Jeremiah was in the grip of his most difficult semester of college he saw that despite the challenges of making a film, it had to be done. It would be his testament to all who would see, that no matter the cost, he could persevere. He took out a loan from school for production equipment and invested in his future. Born of this was his short film, *Rewind Poem*. With the aid of his Auntie Mag, who provided indoor locations for his scenes, and his cast and crew, artist and model Silvia Simon, and fellow filmmakers Anthony

Castillo, Anthony Wright, Kwame Richards, and Aubrey McFadzean, Jeremiah was able to create a work of true art and a blend of artistic disciplines, intertwined to create an abstract film which expressed the pain of domestic violence: an ever-present taboo which stains humanity on a daily basis. *Rewind Poem* has garnered the filmmaker two prestigious awards. It received both the Peter J. Rondinone Memorial Screenwriting Award and the BCC Film and Video Production Certificate Award. The future looks bright for Jeremiah, who sees his future in producing and directing many more independent film and feature length narratives. He also has a passion for photography and lends this diversity to music videos and other creative avenues in media entertainment BCC filmmaker Natalie Setoute said that even the best laid plans can be halted before their completion. What we choose to do after these setbacks is what defines us. When we persevere, we can have something even greater than we imagined. When Setoute received the call that the main actor in her film was hospitalized, she immediately ceased production. It felt as if her world imploded. However, she was able to



(From left to right) Professor Jeffrey Wisotsky, Faculty Advisor, BCC Media Technology and Film Society; Ricardo Faria; Mark Jeremiah; and Ian Findlay during the screening of their films at the 25th Annual United States Super 8mm Film + Digital Video Festival held at Rutgers University on February 17, 2013.

get a new story off the paper and onto screen within two weeks. With the help of her older and younger sisters, Setoute proved that she would not be stopped and could still be a strong contender. *Petits Details* tells the story of a young child's exploration of the city for the first time, where she discovers life and beauty in the little details. Melody Setoute does a wonderful job in expressing the youthful innocence and energy of the main character. With music by Rachel's "Water from the Same Source," found footage by Johnny Ramos, and the production assistance of Sonja Setoute, who collaborated on Natalie's previous award-winning film, *Petits Details* is a tour-de-force. Setoute's plans for the future include continuing her freelance work as writer, cinematographer and editor, but her primary focus is strong in the field of post-production.

All four films were well received at the festival, and it was a night all four BCC filmmakers will never forget.

Who Is Keeping Us Safe?

By Ivana Lazaroska

After the death of BCC student Edith Rojas I wanted to find out more about the services that our school provides for victims of domestic violence, sexual harassment and stalking. I have to admit I was a bit doubtful and even cynical about what I would find out. After all, when it comes to dealing with administration and seeking out information on campus, the experience hasn't been so positive for many students. I received the contact information from my incredible advisor and set up a meeting with Cpl. Alexandria Torres from the Department of Public Safety.

Located on the 5th floor of Loew Hall, the department has 60 staff members. When I arrived, to my surprise Cpl. Torres informed me that Mr. James Verdicchio, the Director of Public Safety, would be joining us for the interview. I have to say that I really underestimated the dedication and commitment that both of them, and, essentially the whole department, have for

the protection and safety of students and staff on campus as well as the local community. They were both keen about sharing information with me, but what really amazed me is their inclination to undertake ideas and suggestions from students on how to improve their services and *their appeal to students particularly*.

There is a well-known and foreseeable mistrust and skepticism when it comes to dealing with the police in the Bronx (and basically in New York City), and Mr. Verdicchio and Cpl. Torres are very aware of that. I realized through their workshops and programs on and off campus that they are working really hard to change that. *The Safe Heaven Program* was created by the Department of Public Safety to partner with several businesses on Burnside Avenue to provide safe havens for members of the BCC community. If a member of the BCC community feels unsafe, they can enter any of the participating businesses to seek help.

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The Communicator urges students to submit articles and editorials to the newspaper.

We also encourage students to respond to the articles and editorials found in this newspaper.

The views expressed in by-lined articles and in published letters are solely those of the writer, and they do not necessarily represent the view of *The Communicator*.

We reserve the right to edit any article or letter submitted due to space considerations.

No article or letter will be published unless the author submits his or her name, email address, and telephone number.

Please submit all articles and letters to the following email address:
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Notes:

No Word submissions will be accepted that are saved in Word 2007. Please save and submit in an earlier version.

JPEGs must be submitted as email attachments and should not be embedded in the Word copy.

If you are interested in having an article, editorial, letter or announcement included in *The Communicator*, it must be received by the following dates:

Please note that *The Communicator* reserves the right to refuse publication of any submission due to space considerations or if the submission is deemed inappropriate because of profane language, verification problems, and/or slander.

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Parental permission required for 16 years old donors (New York Blood Center form available at drive).

Editorially Speaking

Damien Sneed Shares His Talent During Convocation By William Murray

Photo by Luis Lopez.



I was first exposed to Damien Sneed as a music director/arranger/vocal arranger when, on Friday December 11, 2009, as part of the *Singers over Manhattan Series*, Kim Burrell performed at The Allen Room in the Time Warner Center. Jazz at Lincoln Center's (JALC) own artistic director, Wynton Marsalis (and music director of JALC Orchestra) has since gone on to say, "Damien works well under pressure and is a very natural performer who is capable of performing a startling range of music from baroque and classical pieces to romantic warhorses to contemporary gospel songs. In addition to his stellar musical credentials, Mr. Sneed also possesses a sterling heart. He is an ambassador for classical and gospel music who brings positivity, optimism and thoroughness to every occasion. His talent stretches across traditional divisions. In the realest sense, he uses his artistry to make our world a better place.

Then, on January 1, 2011, I attended Sneed's *Introspections "LIVE"* CD release concert in the Bronx, at Greater Faith Temple Church of The Living God. The concert featured such incredible singers as Melonie Daniels-Walker and Chrystal Rucker and was overseen by Pastor Michel White. I experienced on that New Year's Day that Sneed's musical ministry was not only anointed, but also dedicated to encouraging members of the Christian faith towards devotion through evangelical worship. There is a calling on Sneed's life to spread the message of love in the gospels through song.

Recently, Bronx Community College has had the pleasure of hosting Sneed during the 2012 Rotunda Music Series held in Gould Memorial Library and, more recently, during this semester's Freshman Convocation where the gospel choir Chorale Le Chateau was featured.

Among other places, Sneed's itinerary lists him as having a residency with Trinity Broadcasting Network's *Praise the Lord* show, a chief production of Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN.) If you would like to see him, tapings are free to all ages and located in Union Square (111 E. 15th Street) or visit: www.damiensneed.com.

Who Is Keeping Us Safe?

Continued from Page 1

Cpl. Torres conducts "domestic violence, sexual harassment and stalking info sessions" with the OCD and FYS classes. There is also the monthly *Crime Prevention* newsletter which provides a lot of additional information and tips about other programs such as: *Operation ID*, *Cellphone Applications*, *PcPhone Home Software*, and *Operation Car Watch*. We can access it online, but they also distribute it throughout campus. I learned from the director that he is also looking to hire ten additional peacekeepers on campus by June.

The Department of Public Safety works closely with the local police precincts as well as with violence victims' service agencies such as safehorizon.org, various homeless shelters, and siglestopusa.org. Their highest priority is keeping the privacy of the victim and providing her/him with the needed services. When it comes to domestic violence, sexual harassment and stalking, the department and Cpl. Torres deal with the cases with commitment and consideration because of the nature of the crime. But the only way they can be effective and preventive is if students/staff come forward with these issues.

So, the next time you find yourself questioning and/or feeling uncertain about *if* and *where* to seek out help, know that, there are wonderful and dedicated people on campus who are here to help you. All you need to do is make the first step. For more information you can visit the website: <http://www.bcc.cuny.edu/PublicSafety/?page=home>.

Public Safety Department: 718.289.5923
Emergency Number: 718.289.5911
Domestic Violence Crime Prevention
Officer Cpl. Alexandria Torres
Loew Hall, Room 512
718.289.5100, ext. 3730

Stop Making Children Criminals By Angelica Colon

We generally see criminals as psychotic and monstrous adults, but there are an increasing number of minors getting involved in these kinds of crimes as well that are being overlooked and are becoming more dangerous to society. Juvenile crimes have a great impact on our society. They can also make members of the community feel unsafe; they are in fear of being robbed, their property being vandalized or destroyed and others are harmed and/or murdered. There is a connection between juvenile delinquency and drug use, gang involvement, and alcohol abuse. All of these issues challenge communities by making neighborhoods unsafe and costing large amounts of money to be spent on law enforcement and school safety. Now people are left worrying if the amount of youth violence in the community will begin to rise. By including crime prevention programs as a mandatory course in school, the juvenile crime rate will decrease.

Not only does juvenile crime affect the community's safety but it also affects the community's image, their families, and the juvenile him/herself. When the crimes of the destruction of one's property have been committed, it creates extra work for the people who have to clean and repair the damage. Reoccurring crimes can create a bad image now calling it an 'unsafe community' or a 'bad community' in which people would either not take any pride in their neighborhood or want to move out.

The problem with having a family member who is a juvenile delinquent is that it can create instability for the other relatives. Not only does the family have to deal with the needs of the child who is in trouble, but they may also have to raise large amounts of money to pay for lawyers. The juvenile who commits a crime also encounters a great amount of loss. He/she may lose his/her freedom while being incarcerated or placed on probation and they may lose their chance to obtain an education as well. Although putting them in residential detention centers is the suitable consequence for the minor's criminal actions, it also puts him or her in relationships with other delinquents, who may be a negative influence on them.

How can a class on crime prevention help lower the crime rate if there are kids who barely pay attention to their immediate classes right now? This topic is a very interesting and relatable to the students. With the right professor and helpful materials, even if it may not directly stop the next kid from doing a crime, it will make them aware. A student who takes this class may think twice before doing something that will have negative consequences afterwards.

Schools are a great location for crime prevention programs. They provide regular access to students throughout the years and may be the only consistent access to large numbers of potential delinquents. School-based prevention programs are directed to a variety of problematic behaviors, including theft, illegal acts of aggression, violence, alcohol or other drug use, rebellious behavior, defiance of authority, and disrespect for others. With crime prevention programs in school, there will be a division of categories for each type of crime. First, you will have to instruct the students on the kind of crimes there are and make them aware of what's going on in our society. There will be different groups that talk about different crimes such as alcohol and other drug education, broader social competency development curricula, violence-prevention instruction, law-related education, modifying behavior and teaching thinking skills, peer counseling, peer meditation, and peer leaders, and counseling and mentoring.

The different categories of prevention activities have been shown to reduce delinquency and/or substance abuse in at least one study such as alcohol and drug use. We overlook juvenile delinquency but how can we ignore these numbers; 11% (1,740) of all murder victims were juveniles. In 2008, over 93,000 young people were incarcerated and states spend about \$5.7 billion each year imprisoning youth. In 2010, the total numbers of gang homicides are 2,020 people. In 2011, 9,196 juvenile delinquents were charged with crimes against persons, crimes against property, drug offenses, and offenses against public administration.

We need to stop making children criminals. If there's a way to stop it then we should do all that we can to prevent higher statistics and to make our community a safer place. Not only will the community benefit from this but also the youth. They will have a future ahead of them instead being behind bars.



Bronx Community College

Department of Public Safety

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"SERVICE, INTEGRITY AND PRIDE" Crime Prevention Programs

Operation ID

An etching program where *any electronic device can be registered with the public safety department / 46 precincts. In the event that your property is lost or stolen and is found* with the unique number you are given when you register we will be able to contact you to return your property.

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Safe Haven

A program designed for any member of the college community that travels to and from the college thru Burnside Ave. This program works with the business owners on Burnside to allow any member of the college community use their establishment as a *SAFE HAVEN in the event they are a victim of a crime or feel that they might be in danger. The store owners will not turn the individual away and contact public safety immediately.*

Operation Car Watch



The Department of Public Safety would like to introduce *Operation Car watch*. Operation Car Watch is a program that uses *proactive policing to discourage the instances of car break-ins of our student vehicles*. The program utilizes patrolling officers to be observant of vehicles park off campus that have an *Operation Car Watch* decal on them. Each sticker has its own unique identification number that is registered to only one person. If an officer finds a vehicle with the operation car watch decal on it and the vehicle has been tampered with, we will be able to contact the owner immediately. The decal will be issued to any student that is interested in registering, however it will not give a student access to park on college property without a student parking decal.

Editorially Speaking

Their Lives, Our Obsession

By Denisha Davis

Celebrity obsession is rapidly becoming the new fad that isn't going to die out anytime soon. Chris Brown and Rihanna's relationship and Beyoncé's baby bump have become more important to most people than their own personal lives, I'm sure we are all guilty of picking up a tabloid and indulging in the latest Kardashian gossip, but why is it any of our business and why are we so concerned about people that we will probably never meet? And when did our admiration for celebrities' talents become an obsession with their lives?

Technology has driven a wedge in communication between people. We no longer sit down and have conversations with people; everything is via text, Facebook, or Instagram, and the internet is our most reliable supplier of all things celebrity. I believe the World Wide Web is the pulse of our obsession. It seems like a celebrity's every move is documented on the internet whether it's in the form of a picture or if its written and we sit at the computer like sponges waiting to soak it all in.

What are people lacking in their personal life that causes them to become completely engrossed in the lives of celebrities? We sometimes fear certain things in our own lives so much that we want to take a break from ourselves, And opening up a magazine or turning on the television to see what Brad and Angelina are doing temporarily takes us away from our own problems because then we can now live vicariously through them. A simple solution for this would be calling a friend to discuss what's going on in your life or theirs instead of worrying about someone who doesn't even care about you. There was a study conducted on Michael Jackson fans that suggests that celebrity obsessions may even be something healthy for us because it acts as a confidence booster for people with low self-esteem. A psychologist from the University at Buffalo suggests that "the human brain is not well equipped to distinguish between real relationships and Para social ones." According to them, this means that if we feel Jay-z and Beyoncé are our imaginary parents, we can get the same benefits from this relationship as we would from a real one.

There is never anything wrong with a little celebrity gossip but when it starts to consume your life that's when it becomes an obsession. My guess is that as a society we should collectively start worrying more about what's going on in our communities and in our families than what's going on in the wonderful world of Hollywood.

Fan's Disappointment

By Steven Caraballo

There are millions of sport viewers and dedicated fans who idolize numerous athletes, especially millions of kids. The athlete with the most fans is usually the one who knows how to play the sport the best. Among these players that hold the best statistics, ranks, and most recognition are the many who have gotten caught, and/or admitted to using steroids. Whether they disguise this abuse as "muscle enhancement," "performance protein," or "winning juice," these high-ranking players feel the pressure to play to their utmost potential, and will do whatever it takes to win the game, including jeopardizing their own health and disappointing fans in the process. Furthermore, this sets a bad example for kids and future athletes to come.

The most infamous athlete that has recently been stripped of all his titles due to the discovery of his steroid abuse during the majority of his cyclist career is the seven-time Tour de France champion Lance Armstrong. After proof that he had been doping before major events and competitions that have paved the way for his fame and titles, a lot of longtime fanatics were in complete shock and disgust that the "champion" they looked up to for so long was actually a fraud and had to cheat just to have enough stamina to compete. Armstrong lost it all, including all victories and affiliations, including his million dollar affiliation with LiveStrong. Not only was his career ruined but his reputation as well, along with the fanatic disillusionment that there are no longer any sport heroes, but rather sport cheaters.

Doping and steroid abuse have changed the dynamic of sports and athletic games for quite some time now. Now a player cannot keep on a winning streak without the ongoing suspicion that he is using. Random drug screening has helped discourage athletes, but this still doesn't stop all players from continual steroid use. Another example is the controversial Alex Rodriguez, who after the first time of being guilty and apologizing to the public for his use, now has been accused of using again, probably due to his lack of wins and poor playing quality.

Many athletes feel the pressure and desire to win so badly that they will risk anything to stay on top and keep playing the game. It is an ongoing paradox that causes athletes to defame their character just to continue their fame. Moreover, kids and future athletes look up to these stars; therefore, they will follow their footsteps even if it takes steroid use. This will discourage children from trying their best naturally but rather enhance themselves in order to compete. Whether it is accepted by fanatics or not the question still remains, are champions built or made?

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Editorially Speaking

Underpaid College Graduates

By Justin Davis

As many people know college is stressful and hard to get through sometimes. What is even more stressful, however, is after college when students look for jobs. For the past several years our economy has been in the gutter which limits the opportunities for many students who come out of college looking for employment. As stated by Mitt Romney in the 2012 presidential elections, about half of college graduates come out of universities with no jobs in their field of study.

There are several reasons why students after college cannot find decent paying jobs. One reason is the high volume of competition and very few available jobs in certain fields of study. According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, from 1994-2004 there was 9% increase of people that are 25 and older who had a bachelor's degree or higher. Another reason for this problem is that most of the jobs nowadays require some type of work experience which a lot of students don't have or they have to know someone already in the field to help them get a job. This in turn affects the student drastically because they move back home with student loans and credit card bills that have to be paid back.

I think it is sad that college graduates go through four+ years of cramming knowledge in their brains to go back home to live with their parents and work at McDonald's or any other minimum wage jobs. Although we would like to blame only the economy for job layoffs and businesses collapsing, the only people to blame are the students. Everyone out of high school is asked what they want to be in the future, and our job as students is to find a job you can live with and a job that can be obtainable. Doing research on the ideal job you want is always key so that you know what job opportunities there are and if a lot of people do get hired into that field. Another good idea is to always have another plan to fall back on just in case your ideal goals do not work out; it is always better to have more than one option.

There are several fields of study that have a high volume of employment and several areas of work to choose from. Some jobs are actually struggling to hire people because there are just not enough people going to school for them. These fields include engineering, nursing, and energy. A vast amount of our bridges, highways, and tunnels are old and in need of repair. This means that companies need more workers to fill these jobs such as the new Tappan Zee Bridge that is being reconstructed.

Nursing is becoming an expanding field of study because of the drastic increase of elderly people and the need for nurses to take care of them. According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, there will be a 26% increase in the amount of students graduating and entering the nursing field from 2010-2020.

Lastly, energy has become a big topic these past several years and in order to create these energy sources scientists are needed. A lot of these new energy sources that are being created are wind energy and green energy so that we don't have to use fossil fuels.

In today's society, without a degree in a specific field, finding a job can be very difficult. No one should have to go through college and not be able to find a job after all of their hard work.

Guns in America

By Stephen Rosas

There is a problem in the United States with the issue of gun violence. The issue of gun violence in America has and still is a very bad situation for which we still do not have a solution. The question is whether to ban guns or to promote them where everyone can legally obtain and have them in their possession. Such recent events such as the Sandy Hook Elementary School incident, the Aurora movie theater incident, the Virginia Tech University massacre, and so forth, have led with other events to the never ending issue of how to solve the issue of gun violence.

Guns should be banned in America and only used by the proper authorities. Should it be legal for all to carry a gun in their possession? The answer has and still is being debated in America today. Where there are some states which have legalized gun possession, others are still up in the air. They should not be legalized for many various reasons. Allowing the use of firearms to all will only increase our gun violence problem and create many more problems than we already have.

Gun possession will create more violence and, not only that, may and can create many Incidental casualties. The first problem of course is if everyone can obtain a gun legally; that means even criminals out in the street can possess one. This will increase crime rates and the issue will continue to grow and what will happen. It stops with the power to first not give all people the ability to possess a gun in America. Yes, those with private properties and proper authorities can and should have one.

Those with private properties such as my cousin who lives in Pennsylvania can have one legally. She should have one because she lives in an isolated part and needs to defend against any trespassers and animals that come from the woods. This would allow her to protect herself, her home, and above all else, her family. But everyone, NO.

Also, allowing all to possess a gun in such places like schools would just add to the problem we already have with the gun issue in America. Having a gun in your possession at home if you do not live in a place such as my cousin can be a problem with the kids that live at home with you. They see it and think it's a toy and decide to play with it. God forbid that a safety trigger is off and they fire it. They don't know; they're just kids.

There is a problem in the United States with the issue of gun violence. We haven't come to an ultimate conclusion in the United States that every state can agree on and laws can then be addressed to the public and then followed by everyone. It should not take horrific incidents to make the United States realize our issue with guns and force our hand to do something about it. God forbid that another accident/incident occurs.

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Poet's Corner

St. Patrick's Day
(poem for my Nana)
By William Murray (2010)

Grandma will go to church
Ultimately for
Coffee served sweetened
With Irish whiskey
And whipped cream, once
Her celebrant wafer's eaten

We will all shine like her
With the vigorous and fresh
Viridty of spring
The growing grass
The lasses and the lads, decked
In ivory cashmere clothing

A people, Gaelic
See to commemorate
Their Apostle, their patron saint
Fluent in blarney
With barrógs
So quaint

Grandma loves to watch them
After repast
With bagpipes, beanies
Shamrocks and pleated kilts
That each march pass
Multivious as a patchwork quilt

Editorially Speaking

Poe's Park: the People's Park

By Annie Molina

During my middle school days, I would sneak off to Poe Park with my friends to play on the swings and analyze his creepy cottage. And although we never had the chance to see inside, his writings gave us the ability to imagine. Edgar Allen Poe is one of America's most famous writers. He was the first to introduce the modern detective story using dark mystery and horror.

Although he was born in Boston, Massachusetts, he lived many of the last years of his life in the Bronx. This home still stands in what is now known as Poe Park in the Kingsbridge neighborhood. It was at Poe Cottage where he wrote some of his most famous works, like "Annabelle Lee," "The Bells," and *The Cask of Amontillado*.

"The Bells" is a poem inspired by the church bells that would ring at St. John's College (now Fordham University). It is known that Poe would walk down the hills of the Bronx towards the Botanical Gardens where he would enjoy nature and contemplate, or he would spend time in the college library alone or with others. Whether in the gardens or on the college grounds, every hour the ringing bells could be heard.

Although Poe died in October 1849, the park where his cottage resides was a place for cultural happenings and musical events, until at least the 1970's. If one were to visit the park now there would be no evidence of this. On the west side of the park is a lovely bandstand-like structure, which one could believe to have been used for such musical events, but it's weather-beaten appearance and metal fence is not warming or inviting.

Poe's cottage is open for tours at a reasonable price of \$5 per adult, including discounted tickets for students and children; however, there are no signs of the cottage being open to the public. Instead there are tall metal fences around and inside the park, blocking off all grassy areas, the bandstand and the cottage. By enclosing the small park and creating forced narrow trails that lead to unused broad space, the fences become more than physical barriers. On a trip to the park I was forced to ask myself if Poe would choose to live here again, or if he would even venture to this park to stimulate his creativity. All conclusions were negative.

Poe Park should be a praised landmark of the Bronx. His writings may be misunderstood; however, his boldness should be inspirational. His bust is displayed in the Hall of Fame of Great Americans at our very own Bronx Community College, symbolizing his significance in education during his time. The public space of a revolutionary man of history should be displayed as a place for creativity and revolution.

Poe Park is in the same neighborhood in which I reside; on the same avenue is a church that plays its bells signifying the hour. Every hour I am home and have the chance to hear the bells I say quietly to myself "Keeping time, time, time, In a sort of Runic rhyme, To the throbbing of the bells- Of the bells, bells, bells" (Poe 1849).

The Coin Machine is Empty

By Rafael Arias

Click clack, click clack. These are the sounds you would most likely hear in an arcade during the late nineteen nineties and in the early twenty-first century. Among those button presses you would hear loud, boisterous music in the background along with scores of people enjoying themselves. Since then, technology has caught up and has become affordable to bring the experience to homes across America. However, with that same advancement in technology we have lost a social foundation in today's America.

Growing up as an adolescent in the Bronx, my first escapes from everyday life were arcades. They were often the young man's bar or night club. A seedy hole-in-the-wall location filled with nothing but machines which lit up the often dim lighting found in the establishment. Some would say only social vampires would hang out in these locales due to their grim and poorly lit appearance. People will also think that society's dregs would flock to these small spaces and never speak to each other, but only spoke through our competitive spirit. Most of those are fallacies. The essence of an arcade was the social aspect of it. In them, we would meet those of common interest and began to connect on a level that you wouldn't with the day-to-day person.

The social stigmas that came with arcades involved that of people fighting over losses which, while true, were sorely exaggerated. One arcade in Manhattan was closed in 2003 due to violence, but it was gang-related and alcoholic beverages were involved. An isolated incident such as this one gave everyone the impression that game centers had a negative impact on the local youth. My experiences with them have never been negative, and as somebody that has traveled to many of the New York arcades, I can firmly say that these are not common incidents whatsoever. These virtual amusement parks were to be considered one's home and the regular attendees were family. Naturally, our politically correct term for said family would be 'community.' Establishing those were very important and helped to form events for the players of whatever game in which you excelled. As someone that enjoyed games such as Street Fighter, among many other fighting games, I was involved with the fighting game community (FGC). Through that community I met many awesome people that I know, and play with, to this very day.

The last arcade I would end up finding about would be Chinatown Fair on Mott Street in the slums of Chinatown. It was just as I described earlier in this editorial: a hole-in-the-wall. But, it was a hole-in-the-wall with lots of life and full of many different personalities, ranging from the Goths to even the homosexual crowd. We looked beyond all of each other's personal lifestyle choices and bonded over video games. There was a natural connection involved and many friendships were formed. While competition was fierce, the friendships were that of a buddy-cop movie. It was also an arcade that gave birth to some of the world's greatest fighting game players such as Arturo Sanchez, Eddie Lee, Justin Wong, and many more. Sadly, though, the good times had to come to an end. I did manage to ask one of the Chinatown Fair greats, John 'Flash' Gordon, what arcades meant to him: "You always had something different there. If it was too crowded, you tried a different that would catch your eye. Your favorite game has a long line and you have that last dollar to burn? Try something else and if you liked it, you came back to the next time to play that new game. Ah, the beauty of arcades."

Ryan Harvey, who operates one of the last arcades in America, Arcade UFO in Austin, Texas, gave me some further insight as to the business side of things. "Via the old model of arcade distribution, operators would do all business with a distributor. Distributors acquired the newest game cabinets and PCBs from the game publishers (Capcom, Taito, Sega, etc.) and these were sold directly to chains (Dave and Buster's, Gameworks, etc.) or to mom-and-pop operators. In the early 2000s, the business model suddenly changed. Distributors saw a decrease in the purchase of traditional arcade games and an increase in the purchase of redemption (ticket-based) machines. Distributors began committing to fewer units of non-redemption products, and Japanese game publishers took that as a sign that their products were no longer desirable in the U.S. market."

As home consoles began to progress in technology in the twenty-first century, the need for arcades began to falter. People began to adopt the logic of free to play at home rather than leaving their homes to play games with their friends. While this has been happening since the mid-to-late nineteen nineties the price of admission for those consoles were very expensive. NeoGeo introduced the MVS system which played all of their arcade hits such as Metal Slug and King of Fighters, but the price of the console was over six hundred dollars and the game cartridges were over one hundred dollars themselves. Since then, consoles have gotten cheaper and are much more mass produced for consumers. We have also been launched into the era of online gaming (otherwise known as 'netplay'). My belief is that the console and online gaming will never capture the essence of what makes my hobby of fighting games a fun and diverse one. There is no real social interaction involved and all you hear is a voice on the other end of the microphone. To me, that is a lifeless experience and gives me no real experience in return. Essentially, we all feel like we've been plugged into the Matrix and we interact with our online avatars.

If you have the time after reading this editorial, please visit Next Level Arcade which is located at 4013 8th Ave, Brooklyn, New York. It's a fine establishment with a nice staff, and although it is merely a console game center, it still has the essence of an arcade and is the last location in all of New York that is keeping the competitive spirit of games alive.



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Cardio Room	9am-11am	9am-10am & 5pm-6pm	12pm-1pm & 4pm-6pm	12pm-2pm & 4pm-6pm	2pm-5pm
Universal Machines	9am-11am	9am-10am & 5pm-6pm	12pm-1pm & 4pm-6pm	12pm-2pm & 4pm-6pm	2pm-5pm
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Editorially Speaking

Sagging Your Rite of Passage

By Antoine Butler

Sagging is rite of passage as a youth and your right as an American. Sagging is popular in the hip-hop community, mostly fashioned by black and Latino American youths. Sagging has been the polarizing fashion trend that has made news headlines and has even been criminalized in some countries.

Sagging is the layering of your pants with that outermost layer being the lowest the revealing the next layer, the undergarment. I can say from practice the next layer of undergarment can be boxers, long johns, basketball shorts, compression pants, sweat pants and sometimes even another pair of jeans. Sagging is literally a fashion statement saying, “I have my pants down but I’m not breaking the rules because I’m not baring nudity nan-a nan-a boo-boo.” This is meant to be rebellious, play with society’s norms and to bend the rules. If it didn’t it would not be a style of the youth, and even be considered un-American.

As a youth, one of the first freedoms we have is being able to choose what we want to wear. Some place in the world they are limited in options but in America, the land of the free, fashion statements are a generational rite of passage for adolescents. As far back as the 1920s with flappers’ knee-length skirts and short haircuts, youth have been taking fashion risks.

There was hounds tooth in the 30s and zoot suits in the 1940s. Then there was the all-black everything, militant, natural hair movement branded by the Black Panther party in the 1960s. The 70s characterized hippies in their bellbottoms, silk shirts and large Afros. Move over to the 80s with Adidas track suits and shell tops and rope chains with no laces – which brings us to the mid-90s where sagging originated.

I can go on and on about fashion trends throughout the ages. It’s the role of the youth, generation to generation, to define itself through an unconventional fashion sense. These are the definitive actions in uncharted waters of independence. It would almost be considered antisocial behavior for the youth to concede to the norms. Every generation of rebellious teens pushes the fashion envelope, shocking their parents, as older conservative prophets proclaim their appalling, dreadful, horrendous behavior as the end of days. To the contrary, the anomaly that may show the true signs of the apocalypse may be when the teens want to be their parents.

So if the youth wilding out is as American as apple pie, why has sagging been demonized by the national media and local legislators, you ask? It’s not the sagging itself being that other trends are more revealing. It’s more so who’s doing the sagging. It’s not a solely a generational thing; however, since it’s mostly done by youths this does tip the scales to dissatisfaction. It’s not solely a race thing, but being that it’s mostly fashioned by Black and Latino youth, it does add more weight to the scales of disapproval. However, what is really being condemned when you attack sagging is the hip-hop community.

Sagging has been blasted by politicians. There have even been no sagging laws legislated by some counties in the United States. These laws that infringe on your civil liberties have been described by Obama describes these laws as “a waste of time.” In New York City the sagging smear campaign has been led by New York State Senator Eric Adams. There have been posters on billboards on highways and on mass transit depicting extreme saggings. Adams has gone on record describing the fashion trend as “symbolic of the erosion of basic, normal decency.”

What Adams doesn’t get is that its “mission accomplished” for this generation. The whole idea of sagging is to break the norms. That was the same mission of the flappers with their knee-length skirts in the 1920s, which was the same mission of Run DMC not tying their shoes on their shell top Adidas in the 1980s. Breaking the norms is an American generational endeavor of the youth.

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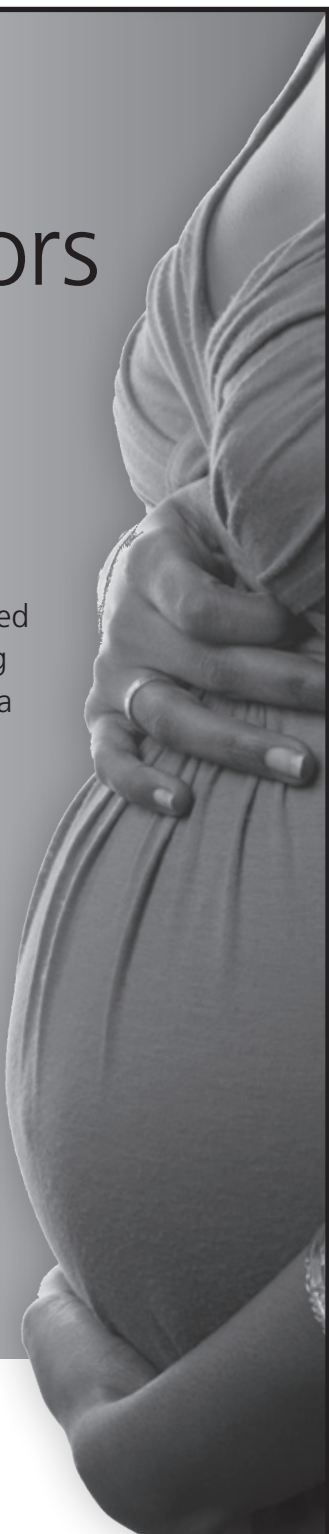
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Editorially Speaking

Technology. Heard of It?

By Massiel Bueno

We might say that living without technology is like living without air. In this technical world of today, therefore, we are much dependent on technology.

Technology? Perhaps you've heard of it. Perhaps you have spent every single day sitting placing your head in a fixed position in front of a bright laptop computer screen, clicking away as countless hours pass through your fingers. Perhaps you spent pondering over the conditions of your thumbs after ruthlessly throwing them about on your latest piece of phone technology, endlessly texting friends upon friends about useless subjects that could probably be forgotten in a matter of moments. Perhaps you spent days upon days indoors, almost relying your total attention span to the speed of your internet hoping to avoid that unsatisfied moment of your Facebook page unable to be completely loaded between the seconds of time you take to quickly glance at your undone homework assignment and back to the screen. Technology— perhaps you heard of it every phone, every laptop, every computer, every car, every flat screen TV, every video game console technology. Perhaps, we live it.

The United States has the best standard of living compared to other countries in the world with its accessible technologies and various education avenues. As America advances socially in the 21st century, Americans weigh the awards and consequences of progress. Within the 21st century, cell phones have become a “must have” because of their ability to gain access to email, Facebook, news, and bank accounts. It's like a 24-hour cycle of information with a tap on a screen or a push of a button. Technology has made connecting with people easier, maintaining tasks simpler and obtaining knowledge faster. Nonetheless, has this convenience made the nation too dependent on the advantages of technology?

Despite its ease, technology has caused people to become so reliant that, in a poll by CNET, 28 percent of people said they wouldn't be able to live without high-speed internet. The younger generation has lost its curious nature to explore the world. Instead, children are hiding behind a TV screen or Xbox game. Many people of my generation don't even know how to use a traditional can opener, search through the yellow pages to find doctors in the local area, or look up information in libraries and encyclopedias. Though technology has allowed us to improve and modify traditional tasks, it has also clouded our realization of the dependency we have on it. In the metro station and in study rooms nowadays we often see people with smartphones, tablets or netbooks everywhere and all the time. Technology has totally invaded our everyday lives.

According to many surveys, almost everyone uses a technologic gadget daily. Thus, people are becoming far more today than yesterday; at home we are surrounded by technology. We use television everyday to know the latest news, or ovens that tell us when the meal is ready. To this day we have been given countless opportunities to explore and learn through the usage of technology the Apple computers used at home and at school that provide us with access to work materials and applications now used on an everyday basis.

The world has changed through the introduction of the technological era that we live in. We are over reliant on our Facebook accounts and our text messaging and iPhones and androids as a tool for ways of communication. We are over reliant on spellcheck and technology itself to help solve basic errors of the English language; we are over reliant upon the idea that the internet can help us at anytime, anywhere.

Technology – perhaps you heard of it -- technology. Perhaps we're living it. As a result, using these gadgets has made us almost incapable of doing without them. In my opinion, therefore, technology has a negative side. On the one hand, it helps us in our lives and improves our efficiency, but on the other hand, we are too much dependent on it. So what happens when we run out of coal and oil and all this stuff: no more technology! We will have to do without it.

One of these features is the spell check tool, accessible within any Microsoft world application on any brand of laptop or desktop computer. Now as a passionate English student, I guess you could consider me to be a type of grammar Nazi; however, the constant accessibility of a spell checker and the fact that we as students rely on spell check to automatically correct every spelling and grammatical mistake immediately indicates a major dependency on technology, and is ultimately a concerning topic. Why? Knowing how to spell is a basic aspect of writing, essential to the progression of the language worldwide. Some people can't even survive without their cell phones or their iPods/ laptops, which is kind of sad if you ask me. I think it is important that we have technology in our lives today or else there would be many more lives lost, and much information lost to us. But we need to use technology wisely and sparingly.

Not all people are this dependent, but most people are fooled by thinking they need the newest and the best. And thus, that lead me to the question “have people become overly dependent on technology?” By all means I'm not complaining about technology itself; I myself am a tech junkie.

Do We Really Have a Right to Guns?

By Michelle Campos

Gun control has been such an immense matter in the United States that over many years people are debating whether or not there should be harsh laws enforcing gun control. Many people feel like it clashes with their constitutional rights, and those people feel like one cannot mess with constitutional rights, as it can lead to an even more oppressing government. It's very difficult to persuade readers and the pro-gunners to see a solution to this pressing problem. It may clash with people's rights to bear arms but at the end the Constitution HAS been amended before, and we have interpreted it as we see fit and secure for this country. So many people have died due to the lack of laws we have for gun control. Laws concerning gun control and gun safety are constitutional; they are in no way violating the Second and Fourth amendments if their sole purpose is to protect the people.

Every single citizen in the US has rights; they are listed in black ink on the Constitution, the Bill of Rights. Our Founding Fathers wrote those rights while they kept in mind that they did not want to be another Great Britain, who oppressed them to the point where they started their own nation in a land far away from the place they called home. Hence, the First Amendment states: Freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom to peacefully assemble. The Second Amendment: A well regulated military to protect the state as well as the citizens' right to bear arms. The Fourth Amendment: without a warrant or probable cause, citizens cannot be searched or seized, not in their house or personal belongings. There have been so many laws protecting citizens' rights, but there comes a time where the government needs to protect the citizens themselves. For the Fourth Amendment: Michigan Dept. of State Police v. Sitz, removes drunk drivers from the road for the safety of the people, and that's better than probable cause, it's not violating any rights whatsoever if the law enforcement decides to pull one over and see if they were drinking or not. However, Indianapolis v. Edmond is a Supreme Court case that prohibited roadblocks and car searches in order to “detect evidence of ordinary criminal wrongdoing. It was mainly to stop the transport of drugs, not specifically to save people.

The same with gun control, there are always two sides to every story, The NRA and the people who support the NRA claim that it is within their rights to own a gun; however, it is really not that simple. It all depends which state has what laws, and state laws contradicting another state are already tricky enough. Some states require a state permit to purchase and others don't. Some need to register their weapons and in other states they do not. Some states even allow an “open carry” law, which is to say a person can be walking around with their huge assault gun down the street in plain view. For example, www.nra.org states that the state of Louisiana does not require a person to have a permit to purchase a handgun, rifles or shotguns. In Louisiana it is also not required that owners; the only law there is they cannot carry a handgun without a permit. Louisiana also recognizes permits from 36 other states. Meanwhile the state of New York is heavily separated; on the website there are New York and New York City. New York state requires a person to get a permit to purchase, permit to carry and to register their handguns – as well as own a license. New York state does not require that for rifles or shotguns, whereas New York City requires their residents to get a permit to carry and purchase, to register their firearms and to have a license for all handguns, rifles and shotguns. Both New York state and New York City do not recognize any permits from any other state. Every single state has their own laws regarding guns and rifles, and each state has about five to seven laws regarding open/concealed carry, if they need a permit, if they need to register their weapon. There are laws to allow someone to shoot in “self-defense,” such as Florida. The statistics do not lie, according to Centers for Disease Control it shows that New York is one of the lowest in an annual death rate for guns whereas the highest is Louisiana with almost 47% of its population owning guns.

Over the years people have found how to do harm to others, the most notorious shootings were at Columbine High School in Columbine, Colorado on April 1999. Two teenage boys arrived at their school with firearms and opened fire on all. They injured approximately 21 and killed 13. The Virginia Tech shootings, in Blacksburg, Virginia, on April 2007, a student of Virginia Tech killed 31 and injured 20. A man showed up outside a movie theater in Aurora, Colorado and opened fire on an open crowd, injuring 58 people and killing 12. Most recently and most fresh in the minds of people would be the Sandy Hook school shooting, where a man walked into an elementary school full of children and opened fire on five, six and seven year olds. He killed 27 people that day of December 14, 2012 in Newtown, Connecticut.

The government is not perfect, there are clear loopholes in the system, there is no place for loopholes within our Constitution, everyone is entitled to their rights, and however the law and the government must intervene whenever necessary. There have been cases before where the Constitution has been amended for the sake and safety of their people. The utmost tragedy has occurred still fresh within the hearts of many people across the globe. It does not matter who kills and who pulls the trigger, it's a matter of who loads the gun.

These editorials were written by the spring 2013 students in the English 20: Journalism Workshop course.

JOIN A CLUB

Outside the Quad

Hail, Dancehall Queen Enthroned: The Coronation Continues

By William Murray

On June 25, 2012 dancehall reggae artist Patra phoned in an interview with me from Jamaica at my former office as executive secretary of Bronx Community College's Student Government Association. Though I don't listen to much secular music these days, I've held Patra in very high regard for many, many years. She was easy to strike up a rapport with and getting to interview her was like a dream that finally became reality.

Some may remember Patra's videos "Think," which was filmed in Brooklyn with the late Lyn Collins, or "Romantic Call" featuring rapper Yo-Yo and a guest appearance by Tupac Shakur. Patra's music brings the heat (which simply means her voice adds to the power of any track I've heard). That's why to me, she's still the reigning queen of dancehall deejays. An article in *Vanity Fair* once stated that "Jamaican dancehall music has its first international queen of the genre." More than twenty years later, she still holds the title. In recent interviews and press releases, Patra has mentioned that her former contract ended with Epic Records (Sony 550 Music subsidiary). She told me that she was negotiating publishing rights to her older songs which is reassuring to fans like me because we are going to definitely want Patra to sing all her hits at upcoming concerts. While waiting to learn if she will gain performing rights to her catalog of music from *Queen of the Pack* (1993) and *Scent of Attraction* (1995), she is back with her latest single called "Silly Little Walls."

Patra told me that "Silly Little Walls" was written by Bobby Treasure. When I asked if on her new album, any of the songs would speak to politics and/or religion, she referred to this "humanitarian" song. One of my favorite songs of Patra's is called "Poor People's Song," a more socially conscious song. She recreated that song for *Positively Reggae: An All Family Musical Celebration* (a various artist album) and called it "Free Di Youth." The lyrics are almost in the same manner of roots style. Patra spoke to me about how that particular song ministered to a woman from Somalia who she met in Minnesota, of all places, where there is surprisingly a large group of Somali immigrants. The woman was a victim of female circumcision, and the song offered her consolation. That is what I love about music; it attends to some of our deepest emotional needs.

Some who study the social and cultural aspects of music and dance, say that



stripping the local or global contexts away from certain talent, destroys its validity. When people listen to Jamaican dancehall that is blasphemous, violent, or homophobic, some might consider such content "slackness." I asked Patra: What makes the expression of sexual desire in her music, any different? In her Shang Records electronic press kit, she says that she wouldn't call slackness "slackness" but "hotness." I interpreted that to mean that Patra thinks of herself as spicy/fiery rather than a plain vulgar "rude gyal." From that same EPK, Music Director Millicent B. Shelton said, "[Patra's] image is something that little girls can admire and that men desire." Patra simply said "It is what it is." She assured me it is not about vulgarity but sensuality and taking control. She said some other Jamaican women from the island see everything she does as art (i.e., "whining," Jamaican patois for "wind," a slow and provocative dance/movement).

Years ago Patra wrote an open letter to Ms. Jamie Foster Brown, the editor of *Sister 2 Sister Magazine*, to point out the discrimination against the sexual content of her music and to state that Brown was wrong by distorting Jamaican culture. In fact, from my archives I read one article that gives an excerpt from a 1994 essay of Patra's where she wrote "I grew up in the church which instilled morals and values in me." It goes on to say she even sang in a Westmoreland Parish church choir.

I asked Patra if she remembered a particular hymn that was her favorite. She sang a bit of "To God Be the Glory"! From a recent interview by Keya Maeesha that was posted on Facebook and Twitter, Patra was quoted as saying "I depend on God to give me strength, even when I'm doing my whole sensual stuff. I know sometimes they don't mix, but if I think spiritual while I do what I do, I will always have something to fall back on because it is not like I'm going to be doing this forever." Patra told me about her faith. She is Christian. She believes in God and observes the Sabbath. "When I realized [God] was the only person I could go to in my darkest and deepest hour," she said, "I realized He is always there with you."

The street date for Patra's new album is April 30, 2013 and is tentatively titled *Patra, the Continuation*. She promises for it to be another sensual piece, "the right touch."

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Licensed Practical Nursing Program

OPEN ENROLLMENT FOR FALL 2013

Students interested in entering the LPN Program in the Fall 2013 Freshman Class are invited to send an email to:

Ms. Fay Bartlett at fay.bartlett@bcc.cuny.edu

For acceptance, all eligible applicants must meet the following criteria

- **Have obtained a grade of C+ or better in the four (4) pre-clinical courses on the first attempt**
 - **BIO 23**
 - **ENG 11**
 - **PSY 11**
 - **CMS 11**
- **Overall G.P.A. of 2.5**

Advisement for applicants meeting the above criteria will be held April 16, 2013.

9:00AM – 2:00PM

2:00PM – 7:00PM

For further assistance please call

Nursing Advisor Ms. Alicia Hernandez 718-289-5256

LPN Secretary Ms. Fay Bartlett 718-289-5420 (1:30 PM– 5:00PM)

Director Prof. Ellen R. Hoist 718-289-5419



Nursing Station

Going Global



The Global Newspaper

By Ivana Lazaroska

So often, statements about values are made as though they are statements of fact. An important trap to avoid in global understanding is that this is not just a set of agendas about individual change and moral refrains. The global is not somewhere 'out there' – we are all part of it. Therefore, an important element of global understanding involves situating ourselves in the global. Recognizing and respecting difference in culture is becoming more important as the world is made smaller by the ever-increasing reliance across borders. The global environment is currently experiencing rapid change with particular upheaval seen with the rise of China, the continuing dependence on oil, escalating unrest in the Middle East and the Israel-Palestine ongoing conflict. It's crucial to understand these situations because a full and comprehensive agreement by all involved parties is highly unlikely and unfortunately probably impossible as of right now.

As China continues to grow as an economic, technological and military powerhouse, significant challenges are being and will continue to be faced both internally and with the countries' near and far neighbors. China is founded on a long history of internal division but ultimate unity, that is, China has always seen great success when brought together for a common goal. The Chinese government realizes this and, as a result, is seen to fight internal dissent, as with the handling of Tibet and the regional claims over nearby islands and disputed sea borders. These create issues within the global community as stifling dissent and military confrontations with neighbors is often looked poorly upon. China should realize this if it is to continue to grow and prosper both economically and culturally.

At the same time the global community should also accept, to some degree, the requirements of running a country with growing population of over 1.3 billion people. Both sides must realize they are dependent upon each other. China is not the singular Communist state it once was, while the rest of the world cannot turn its back on China at the risk of losing a huge economic, social and knowledge-based trading partner. Sides should always compromise. China should accept the differences within itself, while those dissenting and the broader critical community should understand the challenges China faces.

The Middle East has seen changes through the Arab Spring. While this is seen in many cases as a good thing, the far-reaching implications are only beginning to be felt, and unless all sides are cautious and understanding, the end result could be far worse than the previous situation. The Arab Spring saw popular uprisings in many countries and has to date resulted in the change of government in four countries: Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and Yemen. However, struggles still continue in the region, most notably in Syria where fighting occurs between government forces and opposition fighters. The broader aim of the Arab Spring has been touted as the end of oppressive rule by long-standing governments, and while this has been achieved, the new governments of these areas must be careful not to become oppressors themselves.

Egypt has moved from an authoritarian state to a country with a democratically elected government; while this is at large a good thing, religious hardliners have been given positions of power, and the country is heading towards a more religion-based government, where the previous rule was considered largely secular. This move towards

religious statehood is resulting in the persecution and oppression of non-majority religious groups, most notably the small Coptic Christian Community that's been the victim of various violent attacks. Religious leaders should understand and respect the views of others if they are to legitimately call for respect of their own religious beliefs. Unless more is done to promote understanding and acceptance of different cultural values, the upheaval that saw the overthrow of oppressive authoritarian governments in the Arab Spring uprisings threatens to result in similar oppressive conditions once again. This has a global impact; many of the nations where the unrest is occurring provide invaluable resources, most notably oil, to the rest of the world. Due to recent events, there is a growing fear of religious fundamentalism in the Arab states, which, while not altogether unfounded, should be treated as a sensitive issue. If Western states continue to trade and form diplomatic ties with the changing Arab world, they need to respect and understand the cultural differences that are being brought to fore, while many Arab states should understand that many facets of religious fundamentalism are not considered acceptable in more secular societies.

Religious and cultural understanding is also needed in the continuing conflict between Israel, the Palestinians and, at various times, other Arab neighbors. Israel was born as a Jewish state after the persecution of the Jews during World War II and has been involved in conflicts both internally and externally ever since. In the 64 years since the creation of the Israeli state, both sides have committed horrendous crimes against each other, be it the continued occupation of Palestinian territory or the bombing of Israeli civilians, and these years of bloodshed and violence have resulted in very complex social issues. These issues need to be better understood by the wider international community so that an effective peace process can be put in place. Traditionally pro-Israel states should understand the issues facing the Palestinian people from their perspective, while the traditionally pro-Palestine states should recognize Israel's right to statehood and the protection of its people.

Overall, a better understanding and a more 'global' perspective of individual world issues would be of great benefit to creating a more equitable and prosperous global society.

While it is human nature to defend what is inherently thought of as the best direction for one's self, a broader and less selfish perspective can actually lead to better outcomes for the individual as well as the wider community. This is becoming increasingly more critical as the wider community now encompasses more and more of the entire human race as we move to a more globalized, connected, and inter-reliant world. Global understanding should involve challenging ourselves to remain open-minded, and aware that change for a more just and sustainable world may well involve changing ourselves. All societies have understandings about what constitutes a good life, which go to the heart of our values. Young people, especially, should be given the space to explore what values they hold, where these values might come from, and where they might clash. There may be no easy answers, but by bringing to the surface the contradictions in the values that we all have and to challenge our own deeply held values and preference, would inevitably bring us one step closer to global understanding.

The Astro Corner: Your Monthly Planetary Forecast

By Miko Jeffries

Have you ever heard, "mercury is in retrograde?" Or "Jupiter is aligned with Pluto?" It means that we are just mere specks amongst great celestial powers that have been, and still are taking place. I am very excited and a bit nervous for March. Pisces has taken over nearly every planet that most closely affects us, meaning the ones closest to Earth. Mercury will be in Pisces for the entire month, Venus will hold the sign through the 22nd, and there will be a Piscean Mars until the 13th. Not to mention Pisces is remaining in its home in Neptune for quite a while. So what does this all mean? Let's see what the planets have in store for us.

Currently, Mercury is resting in Pisces, the romantic and changeable sign of the fish. With Mercury in Pisces, we can expect to express our feelings much better than usual. Although we will feel confused at times, Pisces intuitive nature should give us the push we need to show more empathy towards others. We might even find ourselves conversing or writing down things we would not normally think about and using less logic and more feelings. With the Piscean imagination influencing mercury, we will feel more sympathetic towards others; even to those whom we might normally think don't deserve it. Prepare to have your mind really open up this month and just let your imagination flow.

With Mercury also in retrograde this month, we should be careful about making plans! The planet of communication goes retrograde, or moves backwards about three times a year and it's not a good time to send mail, sign contracts or take trips. Does this mean if you do some of these things anyway, something awful will happen to you? Of course not, but it's very likely some things will go wrong. This is a better time to repair, remove, and reflect, which will be much easier to do while Mercury is in mellow Pisces. Try not to make any big decisions before the 18th; you might regret it later.

Until the 23rd, Pisces will hold on to the beautiful, lustful Venus. If you think you don't have a creative side, Venus in Pisces will definitely prove you wrong. This is imagination meets love, so enjoy that warm fuzzy feeling, but beware of becoming too self-sacrificing. The sign of Pisces is associated with illusion, so during this time we might find ourselves daydreaming and romanticizing our surroundings. Be wary of who you let into your circle, especially romantically, as our heads will be clouded by Pisces' dreamy clouds.

We are going to feel extra generous with others and more sensitive towards our environment. Use this time to tap into your artistic side, whether it is writing, artwork, or performing; it will help to release all the emotions within.

Through the 12th, dreamy Pisces will take over Mars, the planet of war. We will be much more passionate than usual and make our emotions known through our actions. We will be very in tune to those around us and be more able to

sense what they are feeling and perhaps even alter it! Be prepared to soak up every detail like a sponge and use what you've learned. You might find yourself taking on obligations, some of which aren't even yours to carry out in the first place, so be careful not to get taken advantage of. Get ready for some very sensuous feelings and bursts of inspiration!

On the 13th, Mars returns to its natural home in fiery Aries. Expect to be more confident than usual and really put your ideas into motion. Through the rest of March, we should feel a shift as Aries takes over and we become more forceful and honest. Use this time to try new and exciting things, like a new job or activity, the more competitive the better. You might find yourself a bit more aggressive than usual so be sure to use that energy into something positive, rather than take it out on others.

Neptune, planet of illusion and imagination is in its home here, for it rules the sign of Pisces. It will remain here for another 12 years as Neptune is so far from Earth. During this time, the receptive and mystical qualities of Pisces will be exalted. Expect to think on a much deeper level and gain a better understanding of the meaning of life. This long period is a good time to really explore our inner selves because we will have more compassion and be much more philosophical. Materialism and the physical will not matter much for these next 12 years, as we will be more focused on spirituality. Our newly discovered inner peace should spread to others.

The first day of March seems very harmonious as the moon trines with Venus and Neptune. The sun trines with Saturn on this day too and, with no oppositions, we can expect our lives to run more smoothly. The moon will be in Libra on this day as well and, with all the Piscean action going on, a Libra moon will have us feeling extra romantic. As if we don't have enough romance this month as it is. On the 4th, the fourth quarter moon will be squaring the sun, mercury, and Venus. We will most likely experience much inner conflict on this day, but the squares between the planets will help us see where we need improvement. This is a great time to relax and do a bit of soul searching.

Everything will fall into place by the 6th. There will be a new moon on the 11th in, none other than, Pisces. Start making plans for things you want to do or develop in the future. Record your ideas and even your dreams, for Pisces rules the sub-consciousness. Remember that Pisces is also the sign of self-undoing and re-incarnation, so we can expect some suffering and possible heartache this month, but Pisces promises a better tomorrow as we go on this quest of self-realization.



UN Pathways Video Conference and Ambassador's Forum Presentation at FDU

By William Murray

Part of Bronx Community College's mission for its students is to make us a more community-focused and globally aware set of individuals. There are many opportunities that BCC undergrads can take advantage of through the academic curriculum (i.e., the global civics-themed section of English 12) that serve the university's objective. In addition, there are many functions related to world-political activity in the extracurricular. In February Bronx Community College students had the chance to take part in two events presented by Fairleigh Dickinson University: a United Nations videoconference (as part of the continuing UN Pathways series offered at BCC's video conference facility) and a presentation at FDU (off campus in Teaneck, New Jersey) organized by their Office of Global Learning on "Bhutan and Its Initiatives at the United Nations." Both events were in cooperation with The Ambassador's Club at the UN and were moderated by the club's founding president, Ambassador Ahmad Kamal.

I have taken part in many of the United Nations Pathways programs since enrolling at BCC. One of the first United Nations Pathways video conferences I attended was entitled "UN and Problems of Youth in Different Regions of the World." Several semesters ago, Egypt's Ambassador Maged Abdelaziz and Ambassador Abdallah Yahya A. Al-Mouallimi of Saudi Arabia dialogued with us about the pro-democratic revolutions presently broadening



H.E. Ambassador Lhatu Wangchuk, Permanent Representative of Bhutan to the United Nations, and H.E. Ambassador Ahmad Kamal opens UN Pathways video conference at Fairleigh Dickinson University, Teaneck, New Jersey, Wednesday, February 20, 2013.

in the Middle East and North Africa (The revolts referred to as "The Arab Spring").

Last April, the topic was "UN Department of Public Information Partnerships with NGOs: Rationale and Global Impact." The guest speaker was Mr. Maher Nasser, Director of the Outreach Division in the Department of

Public Information (DPI) in New York. Recently, I attended my first Fairleigh Dickinson University United Nations Ambassador Forum. It was a pleasure both meeting and hearing from Mr. Pedro Núñez Mosquera, Ambassador of Cuba to the United Nations. Since becoming involved I've enjoyed the video conferences moderated Pakistan's former Ambassador Ahmad Kamal, and it was great to finally meet him in person all while receiving firsthand information on global justice and ethics.

The United Nations Pathways video conferences create a foundation that brings to BCC an edifying and concrete education on issues at home and abroad. Taking part in these events will be counted toward your civic and political participation as a responsible global citizen.

For more information and related events, check the college calendar for *Global Perspectives* events such as Global Awareness, Tolerance and Understanding, Globalization and the Economy, Global Women, Global Health, International Culture, International Students, Literacy and Education, Sustainability and the Environment, and so forth.

"The next UN Pathways video will be held on Tuesday, April 16, 2013 from 12 to 2 pm in BCC's video conference facility.

You can also email Professor Andrew Rowan at andrew.rowan@bcc.cuny.edu for details.

Career & Transfer Services Career & Internship Fair



Thursday, March 21, 2013

11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Roscoe Brown Student Center, Room 211

Take the next step in advancing your career. Connect with local businesses, government agencies, and community organizations.

Employers will be on campus to recruit students and interview on site.

Join us and find out more about:

- Summer Employment
- Volunteer Projects
- Summer Internships
- Networking
- Career Exploration

For more information, visit the main office, Loew Hall, Room 330
Loew Hall 315 | 718.289.5759/5912 | careerandtrasfer@bcc.cuny.edu

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LEADERSHIP EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT

LeaderShopSeries

2013

Whether you are a "New" or "Continuing" student the Leadershops Certificate Series (LCS) is for you! LCS offers certificates to BCC students who are interested in enhancing their leadership skills and abilities. It is comprised of a series of workshops aimed at expanding and developing a student's knowledge of the essential practices and skills needed for effective leadership.

LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS:

In order to earn a leadership certificate, you MUST complete one of the following tracks:

TRACK 1: Platinum Certificate:
Complete ALL workshops

TRACK 2: Gold Certificate:
Complete FIVE workshops

Certificates will be awarded at the annual Student Life "Leadership in Action Awards" (May 2, 2013)

Workshop Topics

Leading Yourself

Leadership Insights from the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (1.0 hour) (Celebrating Black History Month)

In his speech, "I have a Dream" Martin Luther King, Jr. offered various insights as to how to be a "Great Leader."

Wednesday, February 20, 2013/ 2pm-3pm/ RBSC 310

Know Yourself: Lead Yourself (1.0 hour)

Learning to lead yourself well is one of the most important things you will ever do as a leader.

Tuesday, February 26, 2013/2pm-3pm/ RBSC 310

Ethical Decision Making (1.0 hour)

As a leader, you will often be in a position to choose between "what's right" and "what's easy". Find out the difference between the two, and how ethics plays a role in taking initiative and making decisions that are "right" for you. It will also help you gain the tools to use when faced with ethical dilemmas.

Wednesday, March 13, 2013/4pm-5pm/RBSC 310

Leading Others

Women LEAD! (Celebrating Women's History Month) (1.0 Hour)

This workshop will challenge women to lead with passion and conviction...becoming a catalyst for positive change in their lives.

Tuesday, March 19, 2012/2pm-3pm/RBSC 310

Professional Communication for leaders (1.0 hour)

It is often said, "it is not what you say...but how you say it." In this workshop we will examine the different communication styles and how to communicate more effectively.

Thursday, April 4, 2013/3pm-4pm/RBSC 310

Conflict Resolution (1.0 hour)

Conflict is part of everyday life; in this workshop we will explore conflict, our attitude towards it, and ways to manage it. Strategies for resolving both interpersonal and group conflicts will also be discussed.

Wednesday, April 17, 2013/4pm-5pm/RBSC 310

Leading in your Community

Working with Diverse Groups of People (1.0 hour)

Successful leaders understand and educate themselves on the changing demographics within their community and world. This workshop will explore the impact that a diverse community may have in your personal interactions with others and ways to embrace it. Techniques for building community will also be addressed.

Tuesday, April 23, 2013/2pm-3pm/RBSC 310

Forum on Civic Responsibility (2.0 hour)

This forum will explore the role of individual civic responsibility – defined as the moral, legal or mental accountability of each of us to leave our communities in a better condition than we found them. To achieve that, civic responsibility demands civic participation on the parts of individuals as well as government, communities, and institutions.

(This Forum is co-sponsored by "Global Perspectives" and Professor Catherine Mbewe, Department of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences)

Thursday, April 25, 2013/12pm-2pm/RBSC 310

Office of Student Life
Leadership Education and Development/LEAD
RBSC 301/718-289-5194
audrey.rose-glenn@bcc.cuny.edu
www.facebook.com/bcc.studentlife



Registration Information:

Right click on link to register: <https://www.research.net/s/2013LEADERSHOPS>